

PLATING THE 10¢ 1847

THE FIRST VERTICAL ROW OF THE LEFT PANE AND OF THE RIGHT PANE

There follows a description of the peculiarities whereby the twenty positions comprising the first vertical row of the left pane and of the right pane may be distinguished. Four of the eight corner positions of the plate are included in these two rows as are also three of the four well known shifts, and five of the positions on which the so-called "short transfer" is strongly shown. Two or three of the positions on the plate which show top frame line most heavily recut are included among these twenty.

Of the 200 subjects on the 10¢ plate 180 have a position dot near the left trifoliate ornament, but none of the subjects which make the first (left hand) vertical row in each pane have the position dot. In this respect, stamps from these twenty positions are like each other but differ from all other positions on the plate. Several of these twenty positions have other peculiarities in common and some of them are so much alike that careful examination is necessary in order to distinguish them. Fortunately each has at least one "plate mark" which has been seen on a number of specimens and therefore probably is a constant for its position.

The "short transfer" in these two rows are Nos. 11, 21, 31, 61, 71, in the left pane. A stamp with pronounced short transfer and without position dot must occupy one of these five positions, unless, of course, the dot was on the plate but failed to print on the specimen. Sometimes the dot is difficult to see, but instances where it quite failed to print are excessively rare.

On all of the following twenty positions the left frame line is weak, ragged or broken, and the weak or broken parts constantly occur in about the same places, thus reflecting no doubt, a similar condition of this line on the transfer roll. Only one or two of the twenty positions show any attempts to repair or strengthen this left frame line recutting it on the plate. On No. 51L the lower end of the line was recut for a few millimeters, and on No. 51R, indications may point to slight recutting. On 91L, which occupies the lower left corner of the pane and of the full plate, the top frame line was very heavily recut. The top frame line was even more heavily recut on No. 11L, which occupies the left corner of the pane and of the plate.

LEFT PANE:No. 11L:

No position dot. Left frame line was not recut and is weak

and irregular for its entire length. The top frame line is characteristic, being very heavily recut except for lmm. at its right end. Right frame recut and irregular. See No.91L.

No.11L:

No position dot. Left frame line was not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame is characteristic. A pronounced "short transfer" from the right limb of "U" to the second "F" of "OFFICE" affects the frame as well as the background below it, and throughout this distance the frame appears as two fine parallel lines, the upper being weaker. Right frame recut, the lower half being noticeably crooked and irregular. A small dot of color may be found in the top margin, above the frame line, at a point over the middle of the "U" and a stronger dot almost severs the left end of the foot of the left "X." See No.71L.

No.21L:

No position dot. Left frame not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame is characteristic. The "short transfer" is evenly centered and a bit less pronounced than on No.11L, which this position greatly resembles. On No.21L there is a strong dot of color on the top frame line over the middle of "U" and the "short transfer" has weakened the frame further toward the right. Right frame line recut and is fairly regular, but is readily distinguished from No.11L.

No.31L:

No position dot. Left frame not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame is much like No.21L, but the "short transfer" is not so pronounced and there is no dot on the top frame line. Right frame recut, and is quite regular, except at the top where it bends outward slightly to make the corner with the top line, and at the bottom where it is a trifle weaker from the foot of the right "X" to the corner where it joins the bottom line. Often or always there is a short diagonal dash or smudge of color between G. Washington's eyebrows.

No.41L:

No position dot. Left frame not recut and is weak and irregular. There is a decided break for lmm. opposite the top of the "P" of "POST" and the frame line fades entirely away, just below the foot of the left "X" leaving the lower left corner of the

frame open and incomplete. The top frame is heavily recut. Right frame line recut quite evenly, except at its upper end from opposite the upper part of "S" to the corner, where it is weaker. The bottom frame line stops even with the horizontal lines of background at the left. See No.81R.

No.51L:

No position dot. Left frame weak or broken, especially for several millimeters above and below the upper arm of the left "X". This line was recut for 2 or 3mm. at its lower end and makes a perfect corner with the bottom frame line. No other position in this vertical row has such a well defined lower left corner of the frame. The top frame is heavily recut. Right frame recut irregularly, particularly so in the upper half. A fine horizontal line crosses the right trifoliate, just above its center, and may be seen between the trifoliate and the right frame and sometimes partially in the colorless oval at the left of the trifoliate.

No.61L:

No position dot. Left frame line not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame line was heavily recut, but is somewhat weakened by "short transfer." The right frame is recut quite evenly. This position greatly resembles several others in the same vertical row, but can readily be identified by the cluster of fine vertical scratches starting in the outer side of the right foot of the right "X" and continuing across the bottom frame, across the margin below and into the top of No.71L. Copies of No.61L showing sufficient margin at the left, are readily identified by a plain scratch about 4mm. long, roughly parallel to and about 2mm. outside the left frame.

No.71L:

No position dot. the left frame was not recut and is weak though more even than on other positions in the same vertical row. The top frame greatly resembles No.11L, the "short transfer" and doubling of the top line are practically identical on these two positions. No.71L, however, shows the continuation of the cluster of the fine vertical scratches from the lower right corner of No.61L, and on No.71L these cross the top frame to the right of "S" and can be traced in the upper right corner between the frame line and the background. The right frame is evenly recut. The bottom frame was recut more strongly than usual. The line is wider under the letters "R.W.H.&E," and tapers of slightly toward

the ends. The heavy recutting of the bottom frame stopped about 1mm. short of the lower left corner and the last bit at the left which forms this corner is much finer.

No. 81L:

No position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame is recut less heavily than on any other position in the same vertical row. The top frame line is widest at the left end and narrowest for 3 mm. or 4mm. at its right end, over "S." The right frame is a thin and quite even line. This position is easily identified by a plain scratch 2mm. long, paralleling the right frame, just outside and very close to it. The upper end of this scratch is opposite the lower leaf of the trifoliate.

No. 91L:

No position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame is very heavily recut throughout its entire length. The right frame is recut evenly but not heavily. A very fine horizontal guide line crosses the middle of the right trifoliate, and may be detected between the trifoliate and the right frame, crossing the oval at the left of the trifoliate and sometimes very faintly on Washington's nose and right cheek. This position is most easily identified by a small dot between the oak leaf and the left frame line about 2mm. below the lower tip of the left trifoliate.

RIGHT PANE:

No. 1R:

No position dot. This is one of the four well known shifts and was named shift "A" by Dr. Chase. Partial doubling of the design is most noticeable in the upper part of the "U" and "S," in the extension of the horizontal lines of the background into the white oval at the left of the portrait, and in the upper right arm of the right "X." The colorless part of this arm contains a diagonal line of color extending about 2mm. downward, toward the left. A very faint fine line may be found close to and inside the lower end of the left frame extending across the bottom margin and joining the left frame line of No. 11R.

No. 11R:

No position dot. The top frame line is evenly but not heavily recut. The left frame line was not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The right frame line was recut irregularly, being heaviest for about 6mm. opposite the trifoliate. This position is most readily identified by the fine guide line extending from the top of the left frame line upward to join No.1R, and downward from the lower end of the left frame line across the bottom margin to No.21R.

No.21R:

No position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is weak and irregular for its entire length. The top frame line was evenly but not heavily recut. The right frame line was recut and is characteristic. It is split near the top and the spur outside extends parallel for 3mm. opposite "S." This position may also be identified by the fine guide line extending downward like a continuation of the left frame line of No.11R. Traces of this line can plainly be seen along most of the upper half of the left frame line on No.21R, parallel to and about 1/2mm. outside the frame line.

No.31R:

No position dot. This is the well known "POST OFFICE" shift, (shift B), which is perhaps the most noticeable and remarkable shift occurring in the general issues of U.S. stamps. Duplication of the design is very noticeable in the letters "U.S." and "POST OFFICE," and in the extension of the horizontal lines of the background into the white oval, above the portrait. Duplication of the top and right frame line above the top frame also makes the upper right corner of the stamp appear doubled.

No.41R:

No position dot. This is another of the four well known shifts and was named "C" by Dr.Chase. Duplication of the design is very noticeable in the upper right corner of the frame, in the left "X" and along the bottom frame line, which line is completely doubled. The left frame is also duplicated for fully half its length, mostly from opposite the trifoliate downward.

No.51R:

No Position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is rather weak and irregular. The top and right frame lines were recut

quite evenly but not heavily. This position is readily identified by the faint vertical scratches between the left frame line and the background above the left trifoliate, and by the short spur of color extending diagonally upward and outward from the left frame line about 1mm. above the top of the left "X."

No. 61R:

No position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is rather weak and irregular. The top and right frame lines were recut quite evenly but not heavily. The most easily distinguished characteristic of this position is a very fine line, parallel to the left frame line, extending downward for 2mm. about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the upper left corner. Another very faint scratch may be found extending upward and outward for about 1mm. inside the other scratch at the same corner of the stamp.

No. 71R:

No position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is rather weak and irregular. The top frame line was recut evenly but not heavily. The right frame is recut weakly in the upper two fifths and more strongly in the lower three fifths. This position can be readily identified by the very fine line appearing here and there, outside the left frame line and closely paralleling it. This faint line is strongest opposite the "U" and the "P," and is very faint opposite the foot of the left "X." There is also a faint diagonal scratch in the white border, extending upward for several millimeters from the middle leaf of the left trifoliate, and another shorter diagonal scratch in the white border above the top of the left "X." At the edge of the background, to the right of the right "X," about 3mm. above the bottom frame line, there is a very short vertical line or dot.

No. 81R:

No position dot. The left frame line was not recut and is a fine continuous line, fairly regular in thickness from its upper end to within 2mm. of the lower corner, where it fades away entirely, leaving the lower left corner of the stamp open and unfinished. The top frame line is recut evenly but not heavily. The right frame line is recut unevenly, particularly opposite the right "X." The bottom frame line is recut evenly, but the recutting stops a fraction of a millimeter short of the left corner, leaving there a tiny bit of the original line as it probably appeared on the die. This position greatly resembles No. 41L, both having the lower left

corner of the frame left incomplete in much the same way. On No. 81R, however, the irregular recutting of the right frame line is characteristic, and there is also a fine scratch outside the left frame line. This scratch is about 2mm. long and parallels the left frame line about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside it at a point opposite the base of the "U."

No. 91R:

No position dot. The left frame line is not recut and is a fine continuous line, fairly regular in thickness. The top frame line is recut evenly but not strongly. The right frame was recut but is irregular in places. This position is readily identified by two small dots, which show clearly near the lower left corner. These are opposite the shading at the foot of the left "X" and are nearly on the same level. One dot is close to and just outside the left frame line. The other dot is placed a trifle higher on the inside of the frame line and touches that line. There is also a long faint vertical scratch in the white frame extending above the right trifoliate for perhaps 8mm. and two other short diagonal scratches may be found crossing each other in the corner of the frame at the right of the foot of the right "X."