

PLATING THE 10¢ 1847

This instalment comprises the six stamps at the lower end of the second, third and fourth vertical rows of the right pane, and all the positions in the fifth, sixth and seventh vertical rows of that pane. It includes all the positions which show the tiny spur of color projecting from the left frame line opposite the top of the left "X" and all the positions which show the large dot or blur of color on the top frame directly over the second "F" of "OFFICE." This section of the plate also includes a fifth shifted transfer (No.6R) which may be called shift "E;" several positions showing noticeable but not extremely pronounced "short transfer" at the top and a number of other interesting varieties, particularly one of the best examples of the split frame line (No.45R), and several excellent examples of the frame line being doubled and forming a loop (No.17R and No.26R).

The spur on the left frame apparently was caused by a tiny bit of metal adhering to the transfer roll. Sometimes there are slight indications of this on No.75R and No.85R, but it becomes quite noticeable on No.95R and is found on all the positions in the sixth vertical row. It is continued at the top of the seventh row with No.7R, on which position it is usually very distinct, but it is less distinct, or missing, on No.17R and never shows on 27R. Copies of No.37R and No.47R may show what looks like the stub of this dash, but the tiny mark occurs a fraction of a millimeter lower than the original spur.

Copies of No.56R may show a slight swelling on the lower side of the top frame over the second "F" of "OFFICE" which is repeated on No.66R and is usually quite distinct on No.76R. This dot or mark is stronger on No.86R and is very noticeable on the bottom stamp in this row - No.96R, and also on the top stamp in the next row - No.7R. It is entirely missing on No.17R and other positions below No.17R in the seventh vertical row. It seems probable that the dot was so noticeable when No.7R was rocked in that the transfer was examined and this dot and also the spur on the left frame line were removed before No.17R was rocked in.

As neither of these marks occurs elsewhere on the plate, stamps showing the spur on the left frame must belong in the sixth vertical row or else are either No.95R or No.7R; and stamps showing the dot on the top frame must belong in the lower half of the sixth row or are No.7R.

No.82R:

The position dot is crescent shaped and its upper corner

may extend slightly beyond the edge of the background. The top frame was quite evenly but not heavily recut and is slightly thicker over the left arm of "U." The right frame was entirely recut but the line is neither straight nor even. The upper quarter is thinner than below. It is a trifle thicker opposite the right trifoliate where it bends slightly inward, and again opposite the right "X" where it also is slightly curved inward. It is thinner from the foot of the right "X" to the bottom corner. The left frame was recut very carefully, if at all, down to a short distance from the top of the left "X." From this point nearly to the lower corner it is much heavier, but the recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short of the corner and the thick part of the line comes to a sharp point leaving a tiny bit of the original line to join the bottom frame and form the corner. This position is most easily identified by the irregularities of the right frame line and by the heavy recutting of the lower quarter of the left frame line. A very faint tiny dash may be found just inside and close to the left frame opposite the tip of the lowest section of the left oak leaf, i.e., a fraction of a millimeter higher than the top of the left "X." This dash is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long.

No. 83R:

The position dot is oval and placed midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was evenly but not heavily recut. It is very slightly affected by a "short transfer." The right frame was recut for its entire length. It is quite heavy from its lower end up to opposite the lower curve of "S," and at that point tapers off toward the upper end. It is noticeably heavy opposite the upper part of "E" of "OFFICE." The left frame was recut from opposite the "P" of "POST" to its lower end and is fairly even. The upper quarter is a much finer line and may be the original line of the die. The recutting is a bit heavier opposite the middle of the left "X." From this section to the end at the lower left corner of the stamp the frame line appears to curve slightly inward. The bottom frame was evenly recut except at the ends. It does not quite join the left frame line and there is a gap of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the lower right corner. This position is readily identified by the open bottom corner and by the blurs and scratches near the right frame. A cluster of these scratches crosses the margin from the lower right corner of No. 73R and continues into the upper right corner of No. 83R, extending downward inside and outside the right frame for several millimeters. There is also a cluster of scratches or blurs around the lower right corner of the frame and one faint vertical scratch enters the white border through the break on the bottom

corner.

No. 84R:

The position dot is rather large and pointed at its lower end, its left side almost touching the edge of the background. The top frame was heavily recut and is only slightly affected by the "short transfer." The right frame was recut very lightly and carefully, if at all. The lower two-thirds, however, are stronger than the upper third. The lower end of the line extends a fraction of a millimeter below the bottom frame. The left frame was recut lightly, if at all. It is strongest for a short distance opposite "P" and for about 3mm. at its lower end, but is weak for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the lower left corner of the stamp. There is a very noticeable weak place below "U" and another opposite the top of the left "X." The bottom frame was evenly recut except at its extreme right end. Here the line tapers sharply to a point where it joins the right frame to form the lower right corner of the stamp. This position is most easily identified by the lower right corner of the frame where the bottom line comes to a point and the right frame is slightly extended.

No. 85R:

The position dot is quite large and is placed midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was recut and is quite heavy at the right end. It is somewhat affected by a slight "short transfer." The right frame was recut and is characteristic. Down to opposite the middle of the lower curve of "S" it is quite thin, but from there down nearly to the trifoliate it is thicker and often considerably blurred. Below the trifoliate it is irregular and a bit crooked, and the last millimeter at the bottom is quite thin. The left frame is thin, weak or broken for most of its length, particularly the upper two-thirds. It is fairly strong for about 3mm. opposite the top of the left "X" and again for the lower 2mm. down to the corner. Recutting of the bottom frame stopped $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the lower left corner and left there a bit of the original line. This position may be identified by the irregularities in the right frame line, by the weak left frame line and by the weak lower left corner, caused by the bottom line not being completely recut. Copies of this position may also show a vertical blurry scratch $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame line, commencing opposite the lower curve of "S" and extending upward past the corner.

No. 86R:

The position dot is average size and placed midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was quite evenly recut and has a large dot of color almost semi-circular in shape projecting from its lower side directly over the second "F" of "OFFICE." The right frame was recut and is characteristic. For nearly 2mm. at the top the recut line passes to and just outside the original line, but does not meet the top frame, thus leaving the upper right corner slightly open. The left frame was quite evenly recut but is thinner for 2 or 3mm. at its upper end. Opposite the top of the left "X" a spur of color less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long projects diagonally outward from the left frame. Several other positions in this part of the plate show the heavy dot on the top frame and the spur of color on the left frame, but No. 86R is immediately identified by the prominent scratches at the upper right corner. Two of these scratches join to form a sharp point nearly 1mm. above the upper right corner of the stamp. The inner scratch extends downward $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside and parallel to the right frame for about 7mm. curving outward at its lower end which is opposite the "E" of "OFFICE." The other scratch extends downward diagonally outside the first scratch to about opposite the middle of "S." Another short diagonal scratch commences opposite the extreme top of "E" and extends downward for more than 1mm., parallel to the first scratch mentioned and just outside it. Copies of No. 86R which are cut too close at the upper right may be identified by a fine scratch which merges into the right frame opposite the foot of the right "X" and extends upward in the white border, ending in the middle of the border between the top of the right "X" and the right frame.

No. 87R:

The position dot is fairly large, oval shaped and rests snugly in the corner between the upper and middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut but is not especially heavy. The right frame is weak, ragged or broken for nearly its entire length, the most noticeable place where it is fairly strong being opposite the top and bottom of the right "X." The left frame appears to have been entirely recut but is not heavy and is regular. It is fairly strong between the "U" and "P" and beside the left "X." This position is not easy to identify. The unusual location of the position dot and the weak frame line at the right are helpful guides. Copies may also show a few faint blurs or scratches. Two of these are found about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the left

frame opposite the top of the "P" of "POST," these appearing as short dashes; the lower one being about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and slightly nearer the frame line than the upper one. The lower is directly opposite the serif at the top of "P" and the upper one is about 5mm. below the upper left corner of the stamp, which brings it opposite the highest point of "P." A very short faint dash may be found about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame 8mm. below the upper right corner of the stamp. Another faint scratch or blur is located in the white border close to the right frame line. This extends for 1 or 2mm. below the lower segment of the right trifoliate.

No. 92R:

The position dot is medium size and placed closely against the side of the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut evenly and is rather heavy. The right frame was considerably recut and is decidedly uneven. It is noticeably thicker for a few millimeters above and below the right trifoliate and there is a very noticeable swelling on its inner side for 2 or 3mm. opposite the top of the right "X." The remaining sections of the line are much thinner. The left frame was recut much more carefully and is quite even and there are pronounced variations. It is quite thin for 2mm. at the upper end and somewhat heavier opposite the left "X" where for about 3mm. it appears to curve outward very slightly. This position is not easily recognized. It may be identified by careful examination of the right frame, by the unusual location of the position dot and by faint scratches in the white border at the left. One of these is about midway between the left frame and the edge of the background and may be noticed above the top of "U" and again opposite the bottom of "U." The other vertical scratch is found in the white border close to the background very near the top of the left "X" extending upward for 2 or 3mm.

No. 93R:

The position dot is rather large and oval or tear shaped. It is placed about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the background, the lower end touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut evenly but not heavily and tapers sharply to a point at the extreme left end. The right frame was considerably recut and is characteristic. Commencing $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the upper corner the line is doubled for 2mm. and then the two parts merge. The two sections of this split are so close together that copies may show merely one very

thick line at this point. The left frame is also characteristic. The line is very weak at the top and is doubled for about 4mm. from opposite the upper arm of the left "X" upward. It would appear that the engraver recut this line in two directions forming a loop about 4mm. long. The end of each segment appears to merge into the other line thus forming a complete loop. The lines however are so close together that the ink sometimes fills in part of the loop. This position is at once identified by doubling in the upper part of the right frame and the lower part of the left frame.

No. 94R:

The position dot is medium in size, triangular in shape, and is placed about midway between the tip of the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The position of the dot is relatively much higher than usual. The top frame was heavily recut and tapers off slightly toward the right end. The right frame was entirely recut and extends nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the top frame. The left frame was also entirely recut and extends a fraction of a millimeter above the top frame. On stamps which have a margin at the top this position is at once identified by the extension of the right and left frame lines at the upper corners. No other position on the plate has this characteristic. On stamps cut too close at the top to show the extension of the frame lines, the position may be identified by examining the left frame line, which curves outward for about 2mm. at its lower end. There are also several fine scratches near the right frame. One of these about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. long is found in the margin $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the lower segment of the lower right oak leaf, its lower end being about 1mm. higher than the top of the right "X." Another fine scratch, which appears as a series of dots or short dashes may be found close to and just outside the right frame, commencing about 3mm. above the lower corner of the stamp and continuing upward past the top of the "X."

No. 95R:

The position dot is rather large and is located slightly nearer the edge of the background than the upper segment of the trifoliate. Frequently a smear of ink, extending from the position dot to the right, crosses the white oval and may cover much of the upper part of the trifoliate. The top frame is rather heavily recut but the recutting stops about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the left frame line. The right frame was considerably recut and is usually much blurred; especially opposite the "E" of "OFFICE." Two millimeters

at the lower end and 3mm. at the upper end are noticeably thinner. Commencing opposite the upper corner of "E" and extending downward for 2 or 3mm. the line was probably doubled, but usually appears as one heavy line. The left frame was also considerably recut but is weak for nearly 2mm. at its upper end. The bottom frame is also recut but shows a break about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long very close to the lower left corner of the stamp. This position may be identified by the peculiarities of the right frame line, by the break in the bottom frame at the lower left corner and by various other scratches and blurs, particularly outside the right frame. There is also a very small blur about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame at the upper left corner, and two faint scratches opposite the lower two segments of the lower oak leaf above the left "X." One of these scratches merges into the outside of the left frame line extending upward to a point 3mm. above the top of the left "X." The other scratch begins between the top of the left "X" and the left frame line and extends downward in the white border about 2mm. Copies of this position may show a short diagonal scratch crossing the white border at the top, directly over the "S" of "POST." This dash extends upward to the left at an angle of about 45%.

No.96R:

The position dot is rather large and is placed nearer the edge of the background than to the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut quite heavily and a large semi-circular dot of color projects from its lower side directly over the second "F" of "OFFICE." The right frame was extensively recut and usually is so badly blurred that it is impossible to state its characteristics. For about 3mm. at its lower end, however, the line was not recut and is very thin. The left frame was recut and is neither straight nor regular. For 3mm. at its upper end it is noticeably thin. A diagonal spur of color projects downward into the margin toward No.95R from opposite the top of the left "X" exactly as on No.86R and several other positions in this part of the plate. This position can be distinguished from other positions by the large dot on the top frame line and the spur on the left frame, by the blurred right frame and also by a fine scratch which merges into the left frame close to the spur of color and extends upward inside the border, close to the right side of the left frame for 2mm.

No.97R:

The position dot is rather large and placed nearer the edge

of the background than the trifoliolate with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliolate. The top frame was rather heavily recut and is quite even. It tilts upward slightly for a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the extreme left end. The right frame was recut to some extent and is noticeably irregular. It is stronger for 8 or 9mm. downward from about opposite the bottom of "E" and again for 2 or 3mm. from opposite the middle of the right "X," but is quite weak elsewhere. The left frame was entirely recut and is fairly regular. At the upper left corner it extends, slightly beyond the top frame and at the lower end it is very weak where it joins the bottom frame to form the lower left corner. This position is most readily identified by the extension of the left frame above the upper left corner of the stamp but as other positions have a similar extension the other peculiarities of the stamp must also be checked. This position and No.62R might be mistaken for each other. The position dots, however, are different and on No.62R the left frame extends further beyond the top corner, also the upper part of the left frame of No.97R is quite strong while this line is quite weak for about 2mm. at its upper end on 62R.

No.5R:

The position dot is rather large and tear shaped. Its left side coincides with the edge of the background. The top frame is heavily recut especially in the middle. It tapers off slightly toward the ends. The right frame is also strongly recut but is neither straight nor regular. The left frame was also considerably recut and is very characteristic. For nearly 1mm. opposite the foot of the left "X" it swells outwardly, and commencing about 8mm. above the lower corner a heavy spur merges into the frame and extending upward for $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. closely parallels the frame on the inner side and ends bluntly opposite the upper segment of the lower oak leaf. The frame is weak, ragged and broken for about 2mm. near its upper end, particularly opposite the top of "U" but the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the top, which forms the corner with the top frame line, is noticeably stronger by contrast. This position is at once identified by the doubling of the left frame line as just described.

No.6R:

The position dot is elliptical and placed very high, its lower end being even with the upper tip of the trifoliolate. The position was rocked in a full half millimeter lower on the plate than No.5R and no doubt this is the reason why the position dot

is relatively so much higher. The top frame is heavily recut and tapers off toward the right end. The right frame was also strongly recut, particularly opposite the "E" of "OFFICE," but the $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. at the lower end where it joins the bottom frame is decidedly weak. The left frame was quite evenly recut. This position shows a definite shifting or duplication of the design. Although it was not listed among the four shifts mentioned by Dr. Chase, a copy showing the characteristics clearly was obtained by the writer in the Chase collection. If we continue his classification on the shifts we name this variety shift "E." Duplication of the design is clearly shown in marks of color which reduce the colorless area in several letters of the word "POST OFFICE" and in slight duplication of parts of these letters, particularly the letter "T." A fine line of color is seen in the colorless serif of "T" at the left and another line in the colorless stem of the "T" closely parallels the left side of the letter. The slight shifting of the design had the effect of widening the colored lines so that the stamp, as a whole, appears blacker than other positions usually do. Other marks of identification on this position include a short heavy dash about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long on the inside of the left frame line a fraction of a millimeter above the lower left corner. For about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its upper end the right frame line is doubled but usually appears as being unusually heavy. This position may show a short diagonal spur extending downward from the outer side of the left frame line opposite the top of "X."

No. 7R:

The position dot is rather large and is placed close to or touching the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was heavily recut and is particularly wide over the "T" of "POST" and "OF" of "OFFICE." A large black dot projects from its lower side directly over the second "F" of "OFFICE." The right frame was considerably recut and is characteristic. It is very weak at the bottom, noticeably stronger for nearly 2mm. opposite the middle of "X," then bends outward for nearly 4mm. It is doubled and the upper part ends abruptly 3mm. below the middle point of the trifoliate. The line is single and much weaker from the middle of the trifoliate to about 2mm. below the top frame, the last 2mm. at the top being noticeably heavier. The left frame was entirely recut and is fairly even. For nearly 3mm. at the lower end the line inclines slightly outward. Opposite the top of the left "X" a short spur of color projects downward into the left margin toward No. 6R. At the upper left corner the left frame projects a fraction of a millimeter above the top frame. This position is readily distinguished from other varieties although several of

its very prominent characteristics are also found on other positions, viz., the large dot on the top frame, the spur on the left frame and the extension of the left frame at the upper left corner. The position resembles No.96R more than it does any other position of the group which have the dot on the top frame and the spur on the left frame, and as No.96R is usually badly blurred along the right frame the doubling of the right frame on No.7R might be mistaken for the blur on the right frame of No.96R, but No.96R does not have the left frame extended at the top and neither No.62R nor No.97R have the right frame doubled.

No.15R:

The position dot is medium size and located nearer the edge of the background than the upper segment of the trifoliate, the lower end almost touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut and is fairly even but not heavy. The right frame was recut and is neither straight nor even. It is particularly weak for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the upper end where it forms the corner with the top frame, and for fully 2mm. at the lower end where it forms the corner with the bottom frame. The left frame appears to have been recut very slightly or not at all. It is weak, ragged or broken almost everywhere except for about 2mm. at its lower end. This position is much like several others on which the left frame was not recut. It can be distinguished from these by the peculiarities of the right frame and by a very fine scratch and blur at the lower right corner. A small fraction of a millimeter outside the right frame is a very fine scratch which begins about 2mm. above the bottom corner and continues downward past the corner toward No.25R. The lower end of this line is hardly distinguishable from a blurry scratch which extends downward from the lower right corner of No.15R and which extends into the upper right corner of No.25R.

No.16R:

The position dot is medium size and placed close to the edge of the background. The top frame was not heavily recut and is quite even. The right frame was extensively recut and is neither straight nor even. It is particularly heavy for a distance of about 6mm. commencing 8mm. from the top end. It curves inward just above this heavy section. The peculiar appearance of the line from opposite the outside corner of "E" to a short distance below the trifoliate apparently was caused by the engraver strengthening the upper part of this section on the inside of the line and strengthening the lower part on the outside. The left frame was strongly

recut for about 2mm. at its upper end. The tip of the lower end is tapered and as the tip of the left and of the bottom frame is similarly tapered the corner where the two lines meet is characteristic. This position is difficult to identify when that part of the right frame extending for 10mm. above the lower tip of the trifoliate is missing, but no matter how much else may be missing on the stamp it can be identified if this section of the right frame line shows clearly. This position may show a trace of a short diagonal spur extending downward from the outer side of the left frame line about opposite the top of "X."

No.17R:

The position dot is average size and is placed rather nearer the edge of the background than to the upper segment of the trifoliate, the lower end almost touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was not heavily recut and is somewhat weakened by a slight "short transfer." The right frame was entirely recut and is characteristic. It is doubled, forming a loop for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. opposite the lower part of "E." Recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short of the top frame and is quite heavy for a little more than 1mm. downward. The loop begins about 5mm. from the upper right corner. The left frame was recut and is fairly even. A bit of the spur extending outward from the left frame opposite the top of "X" may show. There is a dot in the left margin 1mm. lower than the top frame line and less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the left frame, by which this position may be identified if the loop in the right frame does not show. (Compare with No.50L.)

No.25R:

The position dot is medium size, oval and with its outer side near the edge of the background. It does not touch the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut but is not especially heavy. The right frame was recut except for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its upper end making the upper right corner of the frame appear weak. The lower half of the line is quite even but bends outward noticeably opposite the middle of the right "X" and then curves inward down to the corner of the bottom frame. The left frame was recut up to opposite the upper part of "P." For nearly 1mm. at the lower end it is weak and bends slightly outward about 1mm. below the top of the left "X." The recutting stopped abruptly and the line is much thinner from opposite the upper part of "P" to the corner where it joins the top frame at the upper left corner. This position is not difficult to identify. The weak

upper right corner, the outward bends in the lower part of the right and left frame line and the heavy recutting of the left frame line for several millimeters below the upper part of "P," which starts or stops abruptly at that point, are excellent guides. There is also a faint scratch very close to and just outside the right frame, commencing opposite the foot of the right "X" and continuing downward across the bottom margin and alongside the upper right corner of No.35R.

No.26R:

The position dot is crescent shaped and appears about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliolate and the edge of the background. The top frame was recut but is not especially heavy. The right frame was entirely recut and is fairly strong but is not very even. It bends inward slightly opposite the trifoliolate. The left frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. A short spur of color extending diagonally from opposite the upper arm of the left "X" is similar to the spur found in this location on a number of other stamps in this part of the plate. Commencing opposite the upper part of the trifoliolate and continuing upward for 4 or 5mm. the line is distinctly doubled to form a loop. It is also noticeably heavy from opposite the outer corner of "P" as high as the bottom of "U" and bends outward slightly along here. The upper end of the line is much thinner. Copies on which the left frame is cut away may be identified by scratches in the white border between the right trifoliolate and the right frame and by a vertical dash very close to the inside of the right frame, commencing $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the lower corner and extending toward or to that corner.

No.27R:

The position dot is very small and is located about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliolate and the edge of the background. The upper frame was recut but is not heavy. The right frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. One-quarter millimeter at the upper end is missing, leaving the upper right corner of the frame incomplete. The line is much thinner from the top of the right "X" downward to the right corner and nearly all the last millimeter at the bottom is missing. It looks very much as though this bit of the line had been rubbed out with a dirty eraser leaving a blur or smear just inside the lower right corner. The left frame was extensively recut but is neither even nor smooth. There is a heavy place for about 4mm. opposite the upper part of the left "X" which is really a doubling of the line,

although the two parts are merged except at the upper end. The inner line stops about 1mm. above the top of the left "X." There is another poor joint appearing as a bulge or hump about 1mm. long, the upper end being 1mm. below a point opposite the outer corner of "P." There are one or two long faint scratches in the left margin about 3/4 mm. outside the frame. They start near the bottom of "U" and continue below the trifoliate. Another scratch is just outside and very close to the left frame. This begins a little lower than the lower tip of the trifoliate and extends to opposite the top of "X." This position is not difficult to identify, though other positions having a defective lower right corner do resemble this corner of No.27R.

No.35:

The position dot is rather large and is placed close to the edge of the background not touching the trifoliate. The top frame was recut but is not at all even. It is much heavier over "OFFICE," particularly over the second "F," and tapers off at each end of this heavy section. The right frame was strongly recut and is quite even except that the recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short of the top frame. The left frame was entirely recut and is also quite even. It stops a fraction of a millimeter short of the top frame. This position is at once identified by a slightly curved vertical scratch extending nearly 5 mm. very close to the left frame and with its lower part directly opposite the left trifoliate. Specimens of stamps on which the left frame is cut away may be identified by the fine scratch outside the upper right corner which extends downward from No.25R. This stops opposite the top of the "S" but commences again opposite the middle of "S" and extends downward very evenly for about 2mm. There is another fine vertical scratch just inside the right frame. This commences opposite the middle of the right trifoliate and extends upward about 5mm. As the recut frame bends outward along here the fine inside scratch or line may be the original line of the die. There is a heavier vertical scratch nearly 1mm. long close to the inside of the right frame line at the lower right corner. Around this scratch and the corner of the frame there is usually a blur of color.

No.36R:

The position dot is medium size and is close against the left side and midway between the tip and the base of the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut and is quite even though perhaps slightly heavier in the middle. The right

frame was recut but is not especially strong. The recutting stopped $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the bottom frame line, leaving the lower right corner incomplete. The line bends inward for a distance of nearly 2 mm. directly opposite the upper arm of the right "X." The left frame was extensively recut but often is not smooth. There is a thick section about 2mm. long opposite the outer corner of "P." The diagonal spur of color projecting downward from the frame opposite the top of the left "X" is similar to the same mark on other positions in this part of the plate. This position is likely to give trouble but if the cancellation does not cover the spur on the left frame line and the position dot can be seen, careful examination will identify most copies. Another guide is a very faint double vertical scratch in the middle of the white border at the right. This commences opposite the lower end of the right trifoliate and extends downward for about 4mm. Commencing near the lower end of this scratch is another vertical scratch which extends downward diagonally to or near the frame line. Below this scratch is another single scratch crossing the white border diagonally just above the top of the right "X." These scratches usually are very faint.

No. 37R:

The position dot is rather large and placed about midway between the trifoliate and the edge of the background, the lower end touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut but is not especially strong. It is a trifle heavier for about 2mm. at the left end. There is a slight "short transfer" at the top of the stamp which affects the top frame a little. The right frame was entirely recut and is quite straight though not very even. There is a weak or broken place about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long opposite the middle of "S" and it is also noticeably weak for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. opposite the upper part of the right trifoliate. Just above this section it is heavier for several mm. The left frame was entirely recut and is quite straight and noticeably uneven. Sometimes there is a weak place about 1mm. long opposite the upper segment of the trifoliate. There may also be a slight indication of a spur on this line opposite the top of the "X." This position is almost certain to give trouble. There are only two marks characteristic enough to be relied upon and these are both very faint. One is a series of very fine blurry dashes which begin outside the right frame opposite the foot of "X" and continues upward and slightly outward for 3 or 4mm. These dashes are about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame. Merging into the left frame 10mm. from the top corner there is a very faint scratch 1 or 2mm. long. This extends upward and slightly outward, paralle-

ling the frame line at its thickest part. Sometimes there are very faint indications of dashes along the middle of the white border from opposite the "P" down nearly to opposite the upper part of the trifoliate.

No.45R:

The position dot is rather large and oval shaped. It is located about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background and its lower end touches the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is quite heavily recut. The right frame was entirely recut and is characteristic. Opposite the "E" of "OFFICE" the line is doubled. It splits about 8mm. below the top corner and this split extends 3mm. The recutting was evidently done downward from the top on the inside and upward from the bottom on the outside and the split is not closed at the top. The left frame was entirely recut and is neither strong nor even. It is heavier and bends slightly outward from the top of the "X" upward for about 5mm. The line extends slightly beyond the top frame at the upper left corner. Copies of this position which have enough margin at the left are at once identified by the extension of the left frame line at the top corner and by many scratches in the margin between this position and No.44R. There are also two long scratches in the white border at the left, commencing about 1mm. above the top of the left trifoliate and extending upward through the middle of the white border, across the top margin and up into the lower left corner of No.35R. Copies on which the left frame is cut away may be identified by the split in the right frame opposite "E" and by two diagonal scratches in the white border at the right which begin a short distance above the top of "X" and, extending downward, merge into the right frame. These scratches appear to join about opposite the top of "X." The outer one merges into the frame opposite the middle of "X" and the lower one joins the frame near the foot of "X."

No.46R:

The position dot is tear shaped or nearly round and its opposite edge coincides with the edge of the background. The top frame was recut and is quite even. It tapers at its left end and there turns upward slightly. The right frame was entirely recut and is quite straight, though not very smooth. A weak place or defect may be noticed opposite the middle of "S." The left frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. It stops $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the top frame, leaving the upper left corner of the stamp

open. At the lower end it projects slightly below the bottom frame which is tapered to a point, where it meets the left frame. A short diagonal spur projects downward from the outer side of the left frame opposite the top of "X" as on several other positions in this part of the plate. This position may be identified by the open top corner, the slight extension of the frame line at the lower corner and the spur. There is also a wedge shaped smudge nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long in the left margin opposite the lower part of "U." This smudge begins at a point about 3mm. below the top frame and extends upward and outward diagonally toward the upper right corner of No.45R. There is a blurry scratch in the white border at the left, commencing close to the outer edge of the background and extending vertically downward to a point opposite the bottom of "U." Copies cut too closely at the left may be identified by a strong blurry scratch in the white border at the right. This begins opposite the foot of the right "X" and extends upward and inward for 2mm. The blur around this scratch often extends across the frame line and well out into the right margin. Two other blurry scratches can be found outside the lower right corner. The inner is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame and extends upward $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. or more from a point opposite the bottom frame. The other scratch is parallel to the first and is considerably longer. It extends downward, crossing the bottom margin and along the upper right corner of No.56R.

No.47R:

The position dot is long and tear shaped, and is placed about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background, with the pointed end downward. The top frame was recut and is quite even, though not especially heavy. The right frame was recut and is not very even and is anything but straight. It bends inward for about 5mm. opposite the middle of the trifoliate and is noticeably heavier from the bottom of this section down almost to the lower corner. The left frame was partially recut. It is noticeably heavy for about 2mm. just above the top of the left "X." This heavy section is caused by the recutting which practically doubled the line at this point, though both lines are merged in one. Commencing about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the top of the left "X" the line splits and continues as a very faint scratch in the white border, extending upward diagonally for about 3mm. From the heavy section upward the frame line is weak, ragged or broken for a distance of about 8mm. and then continues as a fine continuous line to the upper corner. This position may be identified by the irregularities of the right and left frame lines. There are several blurs and blurry scrat-

ches near the right frame. One of these crosses the white border diagonally commencing at the edge of the background about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the upper tip of the right trifoliate and extends toward the right frame for 2 or 3mm. Opposite the "E" the frame line is quite heavy and a blur about 1mm. long may be found on either side of the frame at this point. Another scratch or blur may be found just inside the right frame commencing near the foot of the right "X" and extending upward along the inside of the frame for 2 or 3mm.

No. 55R:

The position dot is long, narrow and placed in a slanting position about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was recut and is fairly even except for 2 or 3mm. at the left end, where it is heavy. The right frame is entirely recut and is fairly regular except for about 3mm. at the upper end where it is weak and broken. It may not show at all for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. opposite the middle of "X." The bottom frame is weak for a fraction of a millimeter at the extreme left end and sometimes the lower left corner of the stamp appears incomplete. The left frame was quite strongly recut but is weaker for about 1mm. opposite the lower part of the trifoliate. At its lower end the line tapers sharply to a point. This position is most easily identified by the weak right frame in the upper right corner. There are light blurs around this corner and extending upward to the corner of No. 45R. There is also a faint scratch or blur appearing as a continuation of the left frame line from the upper left corner toward No. 45R, and the lower end of scratches in the margin between No. 44R and No. 45R extending downward to or below the point opposite the "P" of "POST" in the margin between No. 54R and 55R. One of these scratches is nearly 1mm. outside and nearly parallel to the left frame line. A faint scratch may also be found in the white border at the right. This begins opposite the top of "X" close to and just inside the right frame and continues upward diagonally for nearly 3mm. close to the edge of the background.

No. 56R:

The position dot is crescent shaped and placed about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background, its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut and is noticeably heavier in the middle tapering off toward each end. On its lower side a slight buldge or blurry dot may be noticed, directly over

the second "F" of "OFFICE." The right frame was extensively recut but is fairly even. It is weak at the extreme upper end and bends to the left, there to meet the top line to form the upper right corner. The lower end is decidedly weak for 1mm. above the bottom corner. The left frame was extensively recut except for $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the upper end, where it is decidedly weak. Projecting downward diagonally from opposite the top of the left "X" is a short spur, as on several other positions in this part of the plate. The bottom frame is weak for a fraction of a millimeter at its extreme left end so that this corner is not strong. This position has several characteristics of others in the same vertical row, but may be distinguished by the weak right frame and the lower right corner, the weak left frame and the upper left corner and by vertical scratches at the upper right corner. The stronger of these is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. and 1mm. outside the right frame opposite the top of "S." There are also two blurry scratches in the lower right corner. The stronger of these starts a fraction of a millimeter above and outside the corner of the frame and extends downward, crossing the bottom margin toward and nearly to the upper right corner of No.66R.

No.57R:

The position dot is medium size and close to the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut and is quite even, though somewhat heavier toward the left end. The right frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. It is heavier and bent inward opposite the upper part of the trifoliate and is doubled to form a loop from about opposite the top of "X" upward for 3 or 4mm. The two lines forming the loop are very close together and sometimes appear as a single heavily blurred line. The frame is weaker from opposite the bottom of "X" to the lower right corner. The bottom frame is weak at its extreme left end for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. so that this corner of the frame may appear open. The left frame was extensively recut and is fairly straight, though not very even. It is noticeably weak for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its upper end. This position may at once be identified by the loop in the right frame line just above the right "X" and by its strong diagonal scratch or blur which joins the upper corner of the background to the corner of the frame in the upper right corner of the stamp. Traces of a faint vertical scratch about 3mm. long may also be found $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame opposite the lower part of "E."

No.65R:

The position dot is medium in size and placed near the

upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is recut evenly but not heavily. The right frame is recut and is quite straight and even, as is also the left frame. The upper left corner of the frame, however, is not strongly joined. This position is most easily identified by several vertical scratches on the outside of the right frame opposite "S" and "E." One of these merges into and crosses the frame opposite the middle of "S" and continues upward at an angle stopping at a point near the top corner $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside. Another scratch is very close to this one and parallels it just outside. Still another scratch is found in the white border at the right. This begins 8mm. below the top frame and extends downward in the middle of the white border to a point about 2 mm. above the top of the right "X." A very faint scratch or blur may also be found projecting downward diagonally from the left frame opposite the foot of "X." Another blur is found $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the upper left corner paralleling the left frame for nearly 2mm.

No. 66R:

The position dot is crescent shaped and located about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was recut and is quite even and fairly heavy. A slight dot or bulge may be noticed projecting from its lower side directly over the second "F" of "OFFICE." The right frame was recut and is uneven, being noticeably stronger for about 12mm. from the top of the "X" upward. The left frame was extensively recut and is uneven. Just below the foot of the left "X" there is a short swelling which tapers sharply to a point at the junction with the bottom frame. The line is noticeably weak for nearly 5mm. downward from the upper left corner. Extending diagonally downward from a point opposite the top of the left "X" is a short spur similar to that on several other positions in this section of the plate. This position is readily identified by very plain scratches at the lower right corner. One of these begins at a point on the outside of the right frame opposite the top of "X" and continues downward diagonally beyond the lower right corner of the stamp passing the corner about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside. The other scratch begins in the outside corner of the shading under the foot of the right "X" and, continuing diagonally downward crosses the lower frame and the bottom margin. The extension of this line is found on No. 76R. Copies too closely cut at the right may be identified by a series of dots or short dashes about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame opposite "P." At this point the frame line is noticeably thicker and the dots parallel this thick place about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

No. 67R:

The position dot is oval and located about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame is heavily recut and is quite even, except at the extreme left corner. Here the lower edge tapers upward nearly to a point, where the left frame is joined to make the upper left corner. The right frame is recut and is fairly strong and even. The left frame is also extensively recut and is somewhat irregular. This position may be identified by a strong dash or smear of color projecting horizontally from the right frame 4mm. below the upper right corner. There is apt to be a fainter blur at this point. The fainter blur is wedge shaped with the pointed end uppermost and this point crosses the horizontal blur. Another characteristic of this position is a cluster of dashes or blurs just above the lower left corner of the stamp. Close to and inside the left frame there is a vertical dash about 1/2mm. long opposite the foot of the left "X"; just above this dash a double dash or blur about 1mm. long crosses the white border diagonally, slanting upward to the right from the left frame line. A longer dash parallels this one outside the left frame and its upper end merges into the frame about opposite the middle of "X." Two other short vertical dashes, the inner of which is longer, may be found about 1/4mm. outside the left frame opposite the upper part of "X."

No. 75R:

The position dot is rather large and its outer edge coincides with the edge of the background or may project very slightly into the white border. The lower end touches the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top line was recut but is weakened in the middle by a "short transfer" and is a trifle heavier from over the second "F" of "OFFICE" to the upper right corner which is very strong as the right frame line was also recut strongly for 1mm. at the corner. The right frame is weaker for about 1 1/2mm. opposite the middle of "S" and again for a short distance opposite the outer corner of "E." It is quite strong from opposite the middle of "X" to the lower right corner, but although there is usually a series of vertical blurs in and around this corner careful examination shows that the right frame and the bottom frame do not quite meet and the corner is incomplete. The left frame is weak for 3mm. below the upper left corner but is quite even from there to the bottom corner. This stamp may be identified by the characteristics mentioned and also by three blurs or scratches in the white border at the right. One of these is opposite "E," another is opposite the lower part of the right trifoliate and the third extends

upward along the inner side of the right frame for 3 or 4mm. from opposite the top of "X."

No. 76R:

The position dot is about medium size and is placed a little closer to the edge of the background than to the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was quite strongly recut and is thicker over the middle of "OFFICE." A smear or dot of color projects from its lower side directly over the second "F" of "OFFICE." The right frame was entirely recut but is not very even, being noticeably thicker for nearly 4mm. above the trifoliate and weak for 2mm. at the lower end. The left frame was entirely recut and is quite straight but is noticeably thick for about 3mm. commencing 3mm. below the top frame. Projecting downward diagonally from the outside of the line opposite the top of "X" is a short spur like that on several other positions in this section of the plate. This position, however, is easily distinguished from other positions that have several similar marks by a very plain vertical scratch in the white border at the upper right corner. The upper end of this scratch is in the shading under the lower right corner of the right "X" on No. 66R and extends downward across the margin between No. 66R and No. 76R and crossing the top frame of No. 76R, continues downward between the right frame and the background to a point opposite the lower part of "E"; i.e., for a distance of 6mm. below the top frame of No. 76R. Copies on which the upper right corner is cut close may be identified by the very short dash or blur about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long and less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame opposite the upper part of "P." The upper end of this dash is a trifle more than 5mm. below the upper left corner.

No. 77R:

The position dot is medium size and placed close to the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is heavily recut and is quite even. The right frame was entirely recut and is neither straight nor even. There is a noticeably crooked place about 3mm. long opposite "E" and the line bends outward slightly opposite the upper part of "X." The left frame was extensively recut and is quite straight, however, not very smooth. It is noticeably weak from opposite the middle of "X" to the lower corner. This position may be identified by a faint vertical scratch 3 or 4mm. long in the left margin 1mm. outside the frame line. The middle of this scratch is about opposite the top of "X" and the scratch is not quite vertical, the upper end being further from the frame line. A faint scratch or blur, continuous or broken, may be found about

$\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame with its upper end opposite the lower part of "P." Copies of this position cut to close at the left to show the scratch opposite "X" are quite difficult to identify and must be examined very carefully.