

PLATING THE 10¢ 1847

The section of the plate described below contains the upper eight stamps in the eighth, ninth and tenth vertical rows of the right pane. Of these twenty four positions ten are marginal copies, one being the upper right corner stamp on the pane and plate, two others being from the top row and seven others being from the outside right end row of the pane and plate.

Among these positions are several of the more interesting varieties found on the plate; No.28R being an excellent example of an upward extension of the left frame line; No.68R being the position in which the second "F" of "OFFICE" may show an extra line, and Nos.29R and 30R being examples of careless recutting producing doubling of the right frame lines. Nos.19R, 29R, 39R, 49R and 59R are somewhat comparable to stamps from the ninth vertical row of the panes of the first 5¢ plate. On those 5¢ stamps there is a strong dot in the upper part of the "S" of "U.S." which is believed to have been caused by a bit of metal adhering to the transfer roll. On the five 10¢ stamps noted a similar result was probably produced in a similar way, but in the case of these 10¢ stamps the mark occurs in the margin between certain stamps and not in any part of the stamp design. Quite probably the mark was not noticed until No.59R had been rocked into the plate, but then the workman discovered the mark and removed the cause of it from the transfer roll so that no trace of it is found in the ninth row below No.59R. No.70R is one of the most remarkable varieties on the entire plate. No other position shows so pronounced a defect in the design, unless the most marked "short transfer" are considered such. The damage in the lower right corner of No.70R certainly could not have come from any kind of "short transferring" for it consists of both partial or complete erasure of lines of the design and the addition of lines or blurs which were not on the original die.

No. 8R:

The position dot is a long narrow oval placed diagonally with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoli-ate. The top frame is strongly recut but tapers off at the left end and is weak for the last half millimeter at the right end. The right frame was irregularly recut and is not very straight, it is particularly weak opposite a point just below the middle of the right "X" and noticeably strong opposite the foot of the right "X." At this point there are several noticeable vertical scratches; one of these, about 1mm. long closely parallels the frame

line on the inside, its lower end being opposite the shading at the foot of "X," another scratch about 1mm. parallels the lower end being opposite the shading at the foot of "X": another scratch about 1mm. long parallels the lower end of the right frame close to its outer side. Two fine scratches very close together and paralleling each other extend from the lower right corner of the frame downward across the bottom margin toward or to the upper right corner of No.18R. The bottom frame is quite even as usual. The left frame is quite straight but is irregular, being noticeably weak for several millimeters in its middle section and again from opposite the middle of "X" down almost to where it joins the bottom line to form the lower left corner of the frame: the last 1/4mm. at the bottom is noticeably stronger. This position is most easily identified by the scratches at the lower right corner and the long narrow position dot. A small lighter area resembling the so-called "short transfer" in the upper left corner of the background between the upper end of the left arm of "U" and the corner of the frame is also a useful clue.

No.9R:

The position dot is roughly wedge shaped with its pointed end downward and its outer corner even with the edge of the background. It is placed rather high, with its upper end level with the tip of the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is rather heavily recut but tapers off somewhat from over the "I" of "OFFICE" to the upper right corner. The right frame line is fairly straight but not very even, tapering off at its lower end. The bottom frame is quite even as usual. The left frame is quite straight but very irregular in strength. There is a noticeably weak section commencing opposite the top of "U" and extending downward for 1mm. and from the top of "X" to the lower corner it has a decided dot and dash effect, the strongest dot being slightly higher than the middle of "X." Copies on which the left side is complete are readily identified by the irregular left frame line and the high position dot. Copies which show the right frame can be identified by a strong dot or short dash touching or very close to the outer side of the right frame at a point slightly higher than directly opposite the point of the middle segment of the right trifoliate.

No.10R:

The position dot is roughly oval shaped with its outer edge coinciding with the edge of the background; it is placed a bit higher than usual and its upper end is as high, or a trifle high-

er than the upper tip of the left trifoliate. The top frame is fairly straight but is usually quite uneven. The bottom frame was carefully recut and shows no marked peculiarities. The left frame is characteristic although it resembles other positions in the same vertical row, particularly No.30R. It is apt to be weak from the upper left corner down nearly to a point opposite the "O" of "POST." This position is very likely to cause trouble. The sheets of paper when piled up after being dampened for printing would retain moisture better toward the middle than around the edges. If left for any length of time they would tend to dry out at the edges and the outer edges of the outside rows are sometimes imperfectly printed because the paper was drier and did not pull the ink out of the lines in the plate perfectly. For this reason the right frame of No.10R often varies considerably in impression and many of the copies examined by the writer did not check very well with carefully printed impressions. Copies of No.10R which show even a small part of the right frame of No.9R are at once identified by the strong dot noted beside the right frame of No.9R. Copies of No.10R which do not have sufficient margins at the top or right to give a clue to its position may be identified by a peculiarity of the left frame which shows distinctly on some impressions. This peculiarity resembles a poor joint and makes a slight dot, hump or thickening of the left frame line opposite the lower end of the position dot.

No.18R:

The position dot is oval in shape and placed diagonally about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its lower end close to or touching the trifoliate. The top frame is quite evenly recut and is rather strong tapering off slightly for several millimeters at the right end. The right frame is fairly straight but is very uneven. The two fine scratches which extend downward across the margin from the lower right corner of No.8R extend downward along the upper right corner of No.18R but instead of being two very fine but distinct lines they appear as a slight blur. The frame line is noticeably thicker for about 5mm. opposite the right trifoliate but is very weak opposite the foot of the right "X" and may be entirely missing for about 1mm. at this point. Very slightly above the broken section there is a strong vertical dash about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long close to the inner side of the right frame. This dash greatly resembles a similar dash on No.78R, located in almost the same position. On No.18R, however, the dash is placed slightly higher. There is usually a very noticeable scratch or blur outside the right frame commencing opposite the lower part of "S" and extending downward

and slightly outward for about 2mm. The bottom frame was very carefully recut and is very even. The left frame was carefully recut, is quite straight and has no very marked peculiarities, except that it is very weak downward from opposite the middle of "X" and almost missing from the foot of "X" to the lower left corner. This position is not difficult to identify. The short dash inside the right frame opposite the lower part of "X" readily distinguishes it from all other positions except No.78R and on No.78R there is no break in the right frame line below this dash and the left frame is not weak at its lower end. It might be well to state, however, that this position gave the writer a great deal of trouble which statement, no doubt, will seem puzzling to the reader. The difficulty arose from the fact that a copy loaned by a kind friend in the early stages of the work had a very large margin at the top. This margin was several millimeters deep and seemingly placed the variety in the top row. It so happened that for a long time very little material which would definitely locate several positions in this section of the plate was forthcoming and there was no definite evidence to show that "DLW," as the variety now known to be No.18R was then called, did not belong in the top row. When undisputable evidence that "DLW" occupied position No.18R did become available only one conclusion regarding the copy which caused the difficulty remained. The stamp must have been tampered with and had acquired a sheet margin at top which it did not possess when Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson printed it.

No.19R:

The position dot is oval in shape and extends into the white border opposite the middle of the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is very strong and even. The right frame is both crooked and irregular, being especially weak opposite the middle of "S" and at the lower end where it tapers off to a thin line. There is a noticeable heavy section from opposite the top of "X" upward for fully 10mm. and about midway between the top of "X" and the trifoliate there is a decided bulge on the inner side. Very clearly printed copies may show that this bulge is caused by a short line about 1mm. long very close to or merging into the inner side of the right frame at this point. The bottom frame is quite even and not heavy. The left frame is quite straight but rather uneven. It is weaker from the upper left corner down to the top of "P" and a bit ragged from the middle of the trifoliate downward nearly to the top of "X." This position is not difficult to identify. In addition to the unusual location of the position dot and the peculiarities

of the right frame there are several scratches at the upper right corner. One of these commences in a blur near the lower right corner of No.9R and extending downward bends slightly to the left and passing through the upper right corner of No.19R crosses the white margin toward the lower bend of "S." Two other very faint scratches extend for several millimeters parallel to each other, and to the right frame about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside it, opposite the lower curve of "S." Very faint vertical scratches may be found in the border between No.19R and 20R extending downward for several millimeters from a point opposite the lower part of "S." Another mark is a dot of color in the white oval between the upper segment of the left trifoliate and the background of the medallion. Still another mark at once identifies this stamp as belonging in the ninth vertical row of the right pane. This is a dot in the top margin midway between No.9R and No.19R under the "H" of "R, W,H&E" on No.9R and over the "O" of "OFFICE" on No.19R. Copies having sufficient margin at the bottom will show a similar dot in the bottom margin between No.19R and No.29R. The dot between No. 9R and No.19R is smaller than the dots between other positions below it in the same vertical row.

No.20R:

The position dot is a long narrow oval placed diagonally about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and edge of the background with its lower end close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was quite strongly recut and is heavier at the left end. The right frame was recut and is irregular, being quite heavy for 1mm. at the extreme upper end and rather weak for over a millimeter at the lower end. A fine continuous guide line extends parallel and very close to the outer edge of the right frame, commencing in the top margin near the lower right corner of No.10R and continuing downward parallels the right frame of No.20R very close to its outer side as far as the "E" of "OFFICE." It merges with the frame line from that point until very close to the bottom frame where it again appears on the inner side of the frame line and crosses the bottom margin toward along the upper right corner of No.30R. The bottom frame is quite straight and even. The left frame was recut and is noticeably irregular toward the lower end. It is quite thin for 1mm. above the foot of "X" and noticeably heavier for 1 mm. below this point nearly to the lower corner of the frame. There is a small dot in the margin between No.20R and No.30R slightly more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the lower frame of No.20R and slightly more than 1mm. inside the fine guide line at the right edge of the stamps. No.20R may be very easily identified by a plain

diagonal scratch about 1mm. long in the left border. This starts at the lower outside tip of the topmost segment of the oak leaf below the trifoliate and crosses the white border and the left frame line 8mm. above the lower left corner. This position has a slight "short transfer" over "OF" of "OFFICE."

No.28R:

The position dot is rather large and is placed close against the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was heavily recut, especially at the left two-thirds. The right frame is quite straight and fairly even, but is noticeably strong for about 1mm. at its upper end. The bottom frame is quite evenly recut as usual. The left frame was partially recut and is quite straight but decidedly irregular. It is very weak from the middle of "X" to the lower left corner and much stronger from opposite the upper part of the trifoliate to opposite the top of "U." It extends upward a fraction of a millimeter beyond the top frame and this very noticeable characteristic, together with the peculiarities of the left frame render this position distinguishable at once.

No.29R:

The position dot is medium size with its outer edge coinciding with the edge of the background and its lower end close to, or resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was quite evenly recut and is not specially strong. The right frame was also recut and is fairly even, though not very straight. It is decidedly weak from opposite the bottom of "X" to the lower right corner and is doubled for about 3mm. commencing opposite the outer corner of "E" up to nearly opposite the middle of "S." The loop here, however, is seldom distinct, usually being considerably blurred. Both inside and outside the frame there may be a wide vertical blur paralleling the frame line on the outside downward from opposite the upper corner of the stamp to opposite the middle of "S." Another blur or scratch is found in the white margin at the right extending for 2mm. or 3mm. upward from a point about 1mm. higher than the top of the right trifoliate. The bottom frame is even and not heavy. The left frame is a fine line quite straight and fairly even. Parallel to it for about 1mm. opposite the lower segment of the left trifoliate is a fine scratch along its outer side. A strong dot is found in the top margin over the "O" of "OFFICE" between this position and No.19R and a similar dot under the "H" of "R.W.H.&E." between this position and No.39R. These dots, or either of them, immediately identify the stamp as belonging in the ninth row of the right pane and the split right frame

line identifies its position in that row. There is indication of a very slight "short transfer" over the first "F" of "OFFICE."

No.30R:

The position dot is crescent shaped and located about half way between the upper segment of the trifoliate and edge of the background with its lower corner close to the corner between the upper and middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame line was recut and is quite heavy, especially toward the left end. The right frame was recut and is characteristic. For 1mm. at the lower end it is extremely faint or entirely missing. It appears as distinctly doubled from opposite the lower part of "E" of "OFFICE" to the upper corner, but the section below the "E" of "OFFICE" does not exactly join either of the upper sections, it terminates just between their lower ends. The outer of the upper sections is a bit the heavier and indicates the possibility that in recutting the upper section of the frame line the workman either accidentally missed that part of the original line or else mistook the faint guide line for the true frame and recut the wrong line. The bottom frame is straight and even except at the extreme right end, the last half millimeter being weak and crooked. The left frame line was recut irregularly and is noticeably heavy for 4mm. opposite the upper part of "X." This position is readily identified by the weak lower right corner and by the doubling of the right frame at the upper right corner. The background above and at either side of the upper part of "O" of "OFFICE" is a trifle weak indicating a very slight "short transfer."

No.38R:

The position dot is oval and is placed about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its lower side close to or touching the trifoliate. The top frame was quite evenly recut and is not strong. The right frame was recut and is fairly straight but is somewhat irregular. There is a short weak or broken place opposite the middle of "S" and for 2mm. at its lower end it is very faint, weak or broken. The bottom frame is quite even and rather heavy. The left frame is quite straight and was carefully recut. It is somewhat thicker for about 3 mm. opposite the top of the left "X" and noticeably weak for about ½mm. just above this heavier section. This position may give trouble. It resembles No.27R in several particulars but has several marks that distinguish it from the latter. A dot, or cluster of small dots may be found in the "I" of "OFFICE" about midway between the top and bottom of that letter. There are a number of scrat-

ches or blurs near the right frame line. One of these extends downward and crosses the frame diagonally opposite the middle of "S", another appears as a succession of blurs or scratches in the white border between the right "X" and the frame line; another parallels the right frame line about 1/4mm. outside extending upward 2mm. or 3mm. from a point opposite the lower right corner. Two other scratches parallel the right frame for 2 or 3mm. opposite the upper part of "X" between No.38R and No.39R.

No.39R:

The position dot is nearly round and is placed close to the edge of the background. Its lower side is near to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was lightly recut and is not heavy anywhere except about 2mm. at its extreme left end. It is often weakened over the "F" of "OFFICE" by a noticeable "short transfer." The right frame was entirely recut and is not very even though fairly straight. It is fairly strong from opposite the trifoliate to a point opposite the middle of "X" particularly opposite the upper arm of "X" and is very weak for 3mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame is not heavy and may be less even than usual. The left frame is straight but very irregular. A blur or scratch closely parallels it or merges into it for several millimeters from opposite the middle of "U" down to opposite the lower corner of "P" and it is very thin and weak from this point down to opposite the trifoliate, then stronger for about 3mm. and then weak again for about 2mm. For 3mm. opposite the upper arm of "X" it is quite strong and the 3mm. at the lower end are weak. This position is readily identified by the peculiarities of the left frame, by a diagonal dash or blur of color which crosses the upper section of the "P" of "POST" and extending from the shading under the upper serif of "P," from lower left to upper right. Over the "O" of "OFFICE" in the top margin and below the "H" of "R.W. H. & E." in the bottom margin there is a strong dot of color, as on other positions in the same vertical row.

No.40R:

The position dot is roughly triangular and is placed about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its upper corner nearly level with the upper tip of the trifoliate. The top frame line is heavily recut from left end to over the "I" of "OFFICE" and not so heavily to the right corner. The right frame was partially recut. It is quite straight but weak and uneven. It is very weak for 1mm. opposite the upper curve of "S" and for 2mm. at the lower end. Traces

of a very fine vertical scratch or guide line may be found $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the upper right corner extending downward to opposite the top of "S." There is a faint dot outside and close to the right frame line 1mm. above the top of the right "X." A much stronger dot is found in the top margin between No.40R and No.30R. This dot is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the top frame of No.40R directly above the "S" of "POST." The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame line was recut in a somewhat "happy-go-lucky" or "go-as-you-please" manner. It is thin here, heavy there and broken elsewhere. The strongest section is about 3mm. long and located opposite the upper arm of "X." The line is usually continuous for 9mm. downward from the upper corner and usually broken for about 1mm. just below this section. A noticeable heavy section $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long will be found opposite the middle of "X," and the lower corner is complete and well formed. Copies of this position with sufficient margin at the top to show the dot above the "S" of "POST" are readily identified. Copies too short at the top are more difficult to identify but may be located by careful study of the right and left frame lines and the position dot.

No.48R:

The position dot is medium size and rests against the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is somewhat heavier in the middle, tapering off slightly at each end. The right frame is a fine straight line showing little decided variation though slightly thicker for about 1mm. below the lower part of the right trifoliate and for about 5mm. opposite the upper arm of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was entirely recut and is quite straight and even. It is slightly thinner from opposite the top of "P" to the upper left corner. This position is very likely to give considerable trouble. There are no very marked characteristics but careful comparison with copies of other positions which also lack marked characteristics will identify it. The best clue perhaps is the location of the position dot, as few other positions on the plate have the dot resting snugly against the trifoliate.

No.49R:

The position dot is oval shaped and placed vertically close to the edge of the background with its upper end opposite the upper tip of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut and is quite even but not especially heavy. The right frame is fairly straight but is noticeably irregular. It is heavier opposite "S" and bends outward slightly opposite the upper edge of the back-

ground. This heavier section is joined to the upper frame by a lighter section which extends upward slightly to the left so that the upper right corner of the frame is not a perfect right angle. Another stronger section of the line extends from opposite the lower corner of "E" to the lower part of the trifoliate. For about 1mm. opposite the upper arm of "X" the line is very weak and the lower end of the line from opposite the foot of "X" to the lower right corner is also very weak or entirely missing. The bottom frame is quite straight and even except for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its right end where it is weak and forms a poor corner with the right frame. The left frame is quite strong and fairly even. A weak section may be found extending about 1mm. opposite the foot of the left "X," and the line is rather thin for about 2mm. at its upper end. Several scratches near the right frame will be helpful in identifying this position. One of them extends upward in the white border close to the background from opposite the lower curve of "S" to opposite the top of "S" and may be extended as a blur across the top frame and into the top margin. Another fine scratch or blur is found outside the right frame opposite the lower curve of "S." Another scratch extends upward in the white margin from the lower part of the right trifoliate for about 3mm. There are several small scratches or blurs in the white border near the right "X" and another may appear as two fine lines in the lower right corner of the frame; the inner may cross the bottom frame and extend into the bottom margin. This position may be identified as belonging in the ninth vertical row of the right pane by one or two strong dots of color. If the top margin is wide enough there will be a dot over the right edge of the "O" of "OFFICE" about midway between No.49R and No.39R, and if the bottom margin is wide enough there will be a strong dot of color in the bottom margin under the "H" of "R.W.H.&E.," about midway between No.49R and No.59R.

No.50R:

The position dot is oval shaped and placed diagonally between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its lower edge resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is rather heavy. The right frame shows careful recutting, being quite straight and fairly even, but is very weak for 1mm. at the lower end. 2mm. above the lower end there is a thick section about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long, which on some copies appears like a short dash merged into the inner side of the frame line. The bottom frame is straight and even but the recutting stopped $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from the right end and the lower right corner was formed by the original lines of the

die. The left frame is fairly straight but not even. It is noticeably heavy for 4mm. opposite the upper part of "X" and is apt to be quite weak for about 3mm. at the upper end. A very faint tiny scratch less than 1mm. long extends upward diagonally from the outer side of the left frame commencing $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the lower left corner of the frame. In the margin at the right opposite the upper part of "S" is a series of faint dots in a vertical row $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame. There is indication of a slight "short transfer" above the "OF" of "OFFICE." This position is likely to give trouble; the best clues are the dots outside the upper right corner and the short dash on the left frame opposite the upper part of "X."

No.58R:

The position dot resembles a wedge or crescent, point downwards, and is placed diagonally with its top a bit higher than the upper tip of the trifoliate. The lower end is close to or touching the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut and is quite straight. The right half is heavier than the left half. There is a noticeable "short transfer" which weakens the background above the "T" of "POST" and "O" of "OFFICE", but does not weaken the top frame. The right frame is quite straight and fairly even. There is a short break opposite the middle "S" and is somewhat heavier for about 4mm. opposite the right trifoliate and again about 2mm. opposite the upper part of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was carefully recut and shows little variation. It is thinner for about 2 or 3 mm. at its upper end. This position may be identified by the peculiar shape and location of the position dot and by blurs and scratches near the right frame line. There are several faint scratches or blurs which may be found in the upper right corner of the frame which may extend across the top margin and sometimes into the lower right corner of No.48R. There are several vertical scratches in the white border at the right commencing about 1mm. above the top of "X" and extending upward for about 3mm. Another very faint scratch parallels the frame line about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside at this point. The most noticeable mark, however, is a strong blur in the white border at the right which commences opposite the upper part of "S" and extends downward below the bottom of "S."

No.59R:

The position dot is a long narrow oval which extends downward diagonally to the right and into the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is fairly heavy and does not quite meet

the right frame at the upper right corner. The right frame is fairly straight but is not even, being faint, broken or missing for 2mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame is quite heavy and fairly even. The left frame is a fine and nearly continuous line showing little variation, the heaviest section extends from opposite the lower arm of "X" to the lower right corner. A short weak or broken place in the line may be found 5mm. below the top. There are several scratches in the border at the right. Some of these are found opposite the lower part of "S" paralleling a thick section of the frame line at that point. Another scratch or cluster of fine scratches crosses the white border diagonally from upper right to lower left between the right trifoliate and the right frame. There is a large dot in the top margin over the right side of the "O" of "OFFICE" about midway between No.59R and No.49R. This position is immediately identified by the very unusual size, shape and location of the position dot which usually shows clearly as a black gash cutting into the trifoliate.

No.60R:

The position dot is a short oval located between the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its lower end resting on or in the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame line was entirely recut and is heavy especially toward the right end. The right frame was partially recut and is very weak for 3mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame line was recut and is fairly straight though somewhat irregular. It is rather weak for 4mm. at its upper end. One scratch 6 mm. long and more or less continuous parallels the left frame about 1/3mm. outside commencing below a point opposite the bottom of "U." Another scratch 2mm. long extends upward and slightly outward from the left frame commencing about 6½mm. above the lower left corner. The scratches close to and outside the right frame opposite the right "X" are not parallel to the frame line but extend inward and outward at angles and several of them meet and form "V" shaped points. Copies of No.60R showing the right margin are at once identified by these scratches, which, excepting only the very extensive scratches in the vertical valley between No.44R and No.45R form the most noticeable cluster of such marks on the plate.

No.68R:

The position dot is a small oval placed vertically with its lower end extending into the middle segment of the trifoliate and and its right side close to the upper segment of the trifoliate.

The top frame is quite straight and even but is not heavy. The right frame is a fine continuous line nearly straight and showing little variation in thickness. The strongest section is about 3mm. long opposite the upper part of "X." The bottom frame is straight, even and not heavy. The left frame was entirely recut and is fairly strong but somewhat uneven. A section of the line commencing opposite the middle segment of the trifoliate and extending upward for 2 or 3mm. is somewhat heavier and appears as if bent outward slightly. This appearance may be due to the line having been strengthened a little too much along its outer side. The background at the top along the upper part of the letters "T-OF" of "POST OFFICE" is a trifle faint, due perhaps to a slight "short transfer." There are two distinct varieties of this position. These varieties presumably were produced by and indicate separate states of the plate. One variety has a clearly defined line of color in the second "F" of "OFFICE" which extends from the top to the bottom of the letter parallel to its vertical axis and almost in the center of the main stem. As all copies of this position seem either to show very distinctly or else do not show it at all, it is believed to have been produced by a scratch or similar mark which was made in the plate accidentally after an unknown number of sheets had been printed. Copies showing the line in "F" are at once identified as being from position No. 68R because no such mark is known to occur elsewhere on the plate; but copies without the mark which-in the writer's experience-are somewhat scarcer, require careful examination. The unusual location of the position dot is perhaps the best clue. Perhaps it would also be well to state that very careful examination and comparison of a number of copies, both with and without the line in "F," was made before arriving at the conclusion that they certainly came from the same position. Copies of each variety when superimposed so that the frame lines are parallel and very close together showed identical variations in the frame lines and other details.

No. 69R:

The position dot is oval in shape and is placed close against the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was rather strongly recut and is somewhat heavier from the "F" of "OFFICE" to the right end. It is tapered off to form a sharp point at the left end. The right frame was entirely recut and is somewhat heavier than usual. Quite frequently it is blurry especially for about 4mm. at the upper end. It is noticeably heavy from about opposite the upper arm of "X" to the lower right corner. The bottom frame is straight and even and not heavy and may appear to be a trifle short at the right end, where clearly printed copies do

not show a well formed corner. The left frame is straight but quite irregular. It is very weak from the corner where it joins the top frame down to the upper part of "P." This position is not especially difficult to identify. The left frame line offers an excellent clue and there are many vertical scratches around the upper right corner which is apt to be somewhat blurry. A long blur or scratch extends downward in the right border from the top frame to opposite the outer corner of "E" and there is a fine scratch which commences in a thick place in the right frame opposite the lower curve of "S" and extends upward and slightly outward beyond the upper corner of the stamp in the right margin. Several fainter scratches may be found outside the upper right corner paralleling the one mentioned.

No. 70R:

The position dot is of medium size and located between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. It usually appears in a small white area roughly oval shaped which makes it stand out clearly. The top frame was evenly recut. The right frame was recut and is irregular. The bottom frame is straight and fairly even. The left frame line was also recut quite evenly. It is rather heavy. A faint diagonal scratch 1mm. long, starting opposite the middle of "U," extends outward and downward from the left frame line. The prominent characteristic of this position is in the lower right corner where the impression in the plate was damaged, partially erasing portions of the design. Two curved scratches extend vertically upward from the right foot of "X" - the outer scratch terminating close to the top of "X." The left hand scratch continues upward several millimeters through the oak leaf and at its right the horizontal lines of the background and ribs of the large outside lower segment of the oak leaf between the scratch and the edge of the background are almost entirely obliterated. This is the only position on the plate where the stamp design shows serious damage other than the traces of "short transfer" so called.

No. 78R:

The position dot is roughly oval and is placed against the upper segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is fairly even but appears slightly curved, being a trifle heavier and appearing slightly further away from the background over the "O" of "OFFICE." A very slight indication of "short transfer" may be found in the background over both "F"s of "OFFICE." The right frame is fairly straight but quite uneven. It is noticeable weak from opposite

the bottom of "S" to opposite the lower part of "E" and noticeably strong for about 2mm. opposite the middle of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was very carefully recut; it is quite even and rather stronger than usual. This position may be at once identified by a very short vertical dash close to and inside the right frame 2mm. above the lower right corner of the stamp. The size and position of the dash are very similar to the dash noted on No.18R but on No.78R the dash is placed about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. lower and the right frame opposite the "X" is continuous with a noticeable heavy section opposite the middle of "X," whereas on No.18R there is no such heavy section, and the line is very weak or broken just above the foot of "X." Further identification of this position is found in several scratches near the right frame line. One of these is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame and commences 10mm. above the lower corner of the stamp. It continues downward paralleling the right frame nearly to a point below the top of "X." Another faint scratch is found in the white border commencing opposite the upper tip of the trifoliate and extending downward to or toward the upper arm of "X."

No.79R:

The position dot is oval and placed closely against the upper segment of the trifoliate, its upper end is about level with the upper tip of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is quite heavy, particularly over the "FFI" of "OFFICE." The right frame was recut but is irregular and characteristic. It is quite strong from the upper end down to opposite the middle of "X" and decidedly weak from that point to the lower right corner. The bottom frame is straight and quite even, though not heavy. The left frame is quite irregular. It is fairly strong from the upper corner down to the trifoliate but weak or broken throughout most of its lower half. There is a noticeably strong place extending downward for 1mm. or 2mm. below a point opposite the upper part of "X." There are several scratches or blurs near the right frame line. One of these is found very close to and just outside the upper right corner of the stamp. It commences opposite the middle of "S" and extends upward about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. beyond the upper right corner. Extending upward for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. as if it were an extension of the frame line there is another faint scratch close to and paralleling the one first mentioned. This position may be identified without much trouble. The peculiarities of the left frame and the scratches at the upper right corner give good clues, but a better clue may be found in a dot of color in the white border at the top of the stamp, not quite 4mm. from the upper left corner, which is to say, almost directly over the middle of "O" of "POST."

No. 80R:

The position dot is a narrow oval placed vertically near the edge of the background with its lower end close to the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was heavily recut. The right frame was partially recut down to the top of "X" and is usually a thin and fairly even line down to opposite the middle of "X." 3mm. at the lower are very weak if not missing. The bottom frame is straight and even but not specially heavy. The left frame line was recut quite even. It bends outward slightly for 3 mm., the top of the bend being opposite the middle point of the trifoliate. There are several faint scratches between the right "X" and the right frame line and a succession of dashes extends upward and slightly outward, commencing with a short dash close to the outer side of the frame line 4mm. above the lower corner of the frame. There is a strong dot in the lower margin 1mm. below the letter "H" of "R.W.H.&E." This position may be identified by the bend in the left frame line, by the very weak section at the lower end of the right frame and by the scratches inside and outside the right frame near the right "X." Copies may also show a dot or blur in the white border between the foot of "X" and the right frame 1½mm. above the lower corner-exactly opposite the line which defines the upper side of the foot of the right "X."