

PLATING THE 10¢ 1847

The forty-eight positions described below comprise the upper eight positions in the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh vertical rows of the left pane. Among them are found a number of the more interesting varieties, in particular the "stick pin" variety (No.52L) and the "hairlip" variety (No.57L), also one of the minor shifts - No.2L.

Many positions in this section of the plate have a small dark area close to the left side of the upper part of the left trifoliate which mark frequently might be mistaken for a second position dot and which in some cases may indeed be a second position dot. There are a number of stamps showing a light area at the top which for the sake of convenience has been termed "short transfer." No.63L is one of the most marked of such varieties.

Stamps in the seventh vertical row usually show a small faint grayish dot at the right edge of the heavy stem of the right "X", which possibly was caused by a tiny bit of foreign substance adhering to the transfer roll, but as this mark is very close to the heavy shading at the right of the "X," it is not always clearly defined, and stamps from other parts of the plate may show a somewhat similar mark which is a mere accident of printing.

Frequently it happened that the line between a colorless area of considerable size and a colored area of considerable size is not sharply defined. Perhaps it might be said that the ink spread a little and caused what should be a sharp line of demarkation to appear ragged. Sometimes tiny specks of ink appear to have been splattered on the colorless area near areas of considerable color. This theory is believed to account for the many tiny marks on the plate which are not constant in the same location on the same position. Probably about nine times in ten a stamp showing the dot in "X" referred to, if in exactly the correct position, belongs in the seventh vertical row of the left pane.

Several positions in the left pane occur in two distinct states and it is apparent that these positions suffered a minor damage after an unknown number of impressions had been taken from the plate. Available information, however, is not sufficient to support a statement that these separate marks occurred at the same time or that they did not occur at the same time.

No.2L:

The position dot is an oval with its long axis vertical and

its outer edge coinciding with the edge of the background. Its lower end comes close to but usually does not touch the middle segment of the trifoliolate. Traces of a fine horizontal line may be found crossing the white border from the position dot to the left frame. This position is a minor shift which may be noted as shift "F." The fine horizontal line of the background between "U" and "S" are doubled. The top frame is characteristic. It is very heavy from over the "S" of "POST" to the "F" of "OFFICE" and tapers off toward the right end. This heavy section was caused by recutting and over the "S" and "T" of "POST" the line will appear doubled on clearly printed copies. The right frame is a thin straight line broken for 2mm. downward from the top of "X" and weak or broken for about 3mm. opposite the trifoliolate. The bottom frame is straight and even and much heavier than the right frame. The left frame is a thin straight line often showing many weak places and breaks. Opposite the top of "X" it is fairly strong for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and the section below this is very weak or entirely missing for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This position is one of the "AEF" group, so named by the writer; the characteristic of the group being the double break in the right frame line. No.2L is readily distinguished from other members of the "AEF" group by the slight double transfer in the background at the top and the peculiarities of the top frame line.

No.31L:

The position dot is an oval placed vertically with its left half extending beyond the edge of the background line into the white border. Its lower end touches the middle segment of the trifoliolate. One of the fine horizontal lines of the background crossing the trifoliolate extends into the white oval. The top frame was recut and is very heavy, especially in the middle, but is pointed at either end. The right frame is fairly straight and even but is stronger for 1mm. at the upper end and weak or broken for a fraction of a millimeter opposite the middle of "S." The bottom frame is fairly heavy, straight and even. The left frame is a fine straight line with many inequalities. It much resembles the left frame of No.2L, and has a similar broken place just below the top of "X," but is much stronger from the top of "X" upward to the trifoliolate than this section of the same line on No.2L. Copies of No.3L showing even a slight margin at the right are immediately identified by two vertical dashes just outside the right frame line. The upper dash is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and its upper end is 9mm. below the upper right corner of the frame which brings it about half way between the trifoliolate and the "E" of "OFFICE." It is very close to the right frame and its lower end may appear to touch the frame. The lower dash is $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long and $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame at a point about half way

between the trifoliate and the top of "X."

No.4L:

The position dot is an oval placed vertically with its outer edge coinciding with the edge of the background. This position usually shows a second and larger dot or solid mark of color along the left side of the upper point of the trifoliate. The top frame was heavily recut but tapers to a point at the left end and the corner there is usually weak. The right frame is rather thin, quite straight and fairly even. About 6mm. at the upper end is somewhat weaker and a stronger section below stops suddenly 4mm. above the lower right corner. From the foot of "X" to the bottom corner the line is rather weak. The bottom frame is straight and quite even and has no distinguishing characteristics. The left frame is straight and quite even, the weaker section usually being below the foot of "X." This position may give considerable trouble and if there is little or no margin at the left it must be compared very carefully with other copies showing heavily recut top lines. The double position dot will usually distinguish it. Copies having sufficient margin at the left show a long double scratch consisting of two very fine parallel lines commencing opposite the trifoliate 1/2mm. outside the left frame and extending upward and slightly outward for about 5mm.

No.12L:

The position dot is oval with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate and its left half projecting beyond the edge of the background. Close beside it in the white border is a smaller dot. A fine line may be found extending into the white oval from the right side of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut but is not specially heavy. The right frame was partially recut and is characteristic. For 8mm. at the upper end it is fine and straight. The section below this is noticeably heavier and quite straight down to the top of "X." Below this point the line is heavier on its inner side and is very weak for 1/2mm. at the lower end. The bottom frame is straight and even without noticeable characteristics. The left frame is quite straight and is not very even, being particularly weak at the lower end to above the upper arm of "X" and ragged opposite the lower part of "U." This position is most readily identified by the small dot in the white border beside the position dot and by the peculiarities of the right frame line.

No.13L:

The position dot is oval and placed relatively high with its left side projecting beyond the edge of the background. The top frame is straight and even but not heavy. The right frame is a fine continuous line a trifle weak where it joins the top frame to make the upper right corner, and thinner for about 2mm. at the lower end. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame was partially recut and is characteristic. There is a slight break about 1mm. above the top of the trifoliate but from there downward the line is quite strong to opposite the middle of "X," and the lower 3mm. to the bottom corner is very weak. Copies of this position showing the right frame line are at once identified by a dash nearly 1mm. long inside and very close to the right frame with its upper end $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the lower tip of the right trifoliate.

No.14L:

The position dot is oval, placed vertically with its outer edge coinciding with the edge of the background and its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut and is quite even though not specially strong. The right frame is a straight and fairly even line without marked characteristics. It is slightly heavier for about 3mm. opposite the lower part of the trifoliate and again for 2mm. or 3mm. opposite the upper arm of the right "X." The bottom frame is straight, even and without marked characteristics. The left frame was entirely recut and is weaker for about 1mm. at the upper end. Just above the top of the left "X" it bends inward and tapers off to a finer line extending for 2mm. to the lower corner. Unless this position shows the left frame with at least a slight margin opposite the upper part of "X" it is very difficult to identify. Copies showing any margin at the point indicated, however, can be immediately identified by a short dash only about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long close to the outer side of the left frame line directly opposite the upper arm of "X." This dash is in the bend formed by the heavy section of the frame line at this point.

No.22L:

The position dot is rather small and placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. One of the horizontal lines of the background crossing the trifoliate is continued across the white oval nearly to the background of the medallion. The top frame is straight and even but not heavy, tapering off to a fine line $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the right end. The right frame is a fine continuous line show-

ing slight variation. It inclines outward slightly from the lower part of "S" at its upper end toward the upper right corner. The bottom frame is quite straight and even, being perhaps a trifle heavier toward the left end. The left frame was not heavily recut and is quite straight but noticeably ragged, particularly in the lower half. The 3mm. at the lower end are noticeably weak. Stamps from this position are not easily identified. A careful comparison with other copies showing similar characteristics is usually necessary. The background at the top is somewhat weaker over "T" and "OF" than to the right and left of that area, indicating a slight "short transfer," so called.

No.23L:

The position dot is a long oval placed diagonally between the upper and middle segment of the trifoliate and not touching either segment. The left half of the top frame is quite heavy but it tapers off toward the right and the last 3mm. are noticeably weaker. The right frame was partially recut. It is a very thin fine line for 10mm. at its upper end and for 3mm. at its lower end, the section in between being decidedly stronger. The bottom frame is straight and even, but not heavy. The left frame was partially recut and is characteristic. Commencing abruptly 3mm. from the lower end it is strong up to the lower tip of the trifoliate, then broken, ragged and thin up to opposite the "P" of "POST," while the upper and lower ends are each a fine continuous line. This position is identified without trouble, but if both the right and left frame lines are not complete it may still be identified by a dot in the middle of the white border at the left 4½mm. below the top frame.

No.24L:

The position dot is a long narrow oval placed vertically at the edge of the background and not touching the trifoliate. The top frame is straight and even but not specially heavy. The right frame is a fine, continuous line showing little variation except at the upper and lower ends. The ½mm. at the top is weak and makes a weak corner with the top frame. There is a noticeable stronger section commencing about 1mm. above the lower corner and extending upward about 2mm. A recutting of the right and bottom frames stopped just short at the lower right corner, leaving the corner weak or open. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is not quite straight and is noticeably uneven. Recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short at the lower corner, leaving this corner weak or open. The frame is somewhat heavier

for about 7mm. in its middle section. The left frame is also weak for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its upper end. This position is most easily identified by the two lower corners and by a faint scratch or blur commencing close to the outside of the right frame opposite the foot of "X" and extending upward and slightly outward for 3mm. or 4mm.

No. 32L:

The position dot is a medium sized oval, placed near the edge of the background not touching either segment of the trifoliate. A line of color crosses the white border, runs through the lower end of the position dot and extends across the white oval nearly to the edge of the medallion. A scratch $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long in three sections, crosses the white border diagonally from the left frame line to the upper segment of the lower oak leaf and near its lower end in the white border close to the inner side of the left frame is a dot of color. This dot is $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the bottom frame. The top frame is straight and even but not heavy. The right frame is fairly straight and even, but is weak for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its upper end. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame was entirely recut and is without noticeable characteristics. On carefully printed copies the line is seen to taper nearly to a point at its upper end. This position is easily identified by the scratches and marks at and near the left trifoliate and also by two diagonal marks which cross the left border extending from upper right to lower left. The lower of these commences 4mm. below the top frame, the upper one is half way between the lower mark and the upper corner of the stamp - opposite the middle of "U."

No. 33L:

The position dot is an upright oval placed near the edge of the background but not touching either segment of the trifoliate. Traces of a fine line passing through the dot are found in the white border and in the white oval between the trifoliate and the background of the medallion. The top frame is rather heavily recut, especially in the middle. It tapers off toward both ends. The right frame was partially recut and is noticeably irregular. It is a thin straight line for nearly 8mm. from the top corner, then very weak for about 1mm. and then noticeably strong but bent slightly inward for about 2mm. and weaker and then stronger again toward the bottom corner. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame is a continuous line not quite straight and somewhat irregular. It declines outward slightly at the lower left corner and the last half millimeter at the bottom is quite weak.

Stamps from this position are apt to give trouble. The line through the position dot will afford a clue and copies showing such marks should have their frame lines compared until one agreeing in all particulars with No.33L is found.

No.34L:

The position dot is oval and placed vertically at the edge of the background not touching either segment of the trifoliate. Traces of a fine horizontal line may be found crossing the white border and extending through the position dot and across the white oval to the edge of the medallion. The top frame was recut and gradually grows heavier toward the right end. The right frame makes a strong corner with the top frame but is then weaker down to a point about 9mm. from the top frame. It is stronger but irregular from there downward to within about 1mm. of the lower corner, the lower end again being weaker. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is very weak for 1mm. at its upper end and for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end. Between these sections it was carefully recut and shows little variation. This position is most easily identified by the weak left frame at the upper and lower corners and by the line running through the position dot. Copies may also show a diagonal mark extending from upper right to lower left in the lower curve of "S" and two very faint scratches crossing the bottom frame close to the lower right corner, and extending downward toward or into the upper right corner of No.44L.

No.42L:

The position dot is a narrow oval placed at the edge of the background and not touching either segment of the trifoliate. A short line projects from the dot into the white border and another line extends across the white oval nearly to the edge of the medallion. The top frame is rather heavily recut but the recutting stops $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short at the right corner, leaving this corner weak or open. The right frame is continuous and fairly straight and even. It inclines outward slightly at the upper end and is weak from the foot of "X" to the lower right corner. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is almost entirely recut and is characteristic. The recutting stops $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the bottom corner and the new line ends in a point outside the original line of the die. Another irregularity is found on the left frame about half way between the "P" of "POST" and the trifoliate. In recutting the line at this section an error in direction was apparently made and corrected but still shows as a thickening of the line extending downward and commencing opposite the lower corner of "P," diverges into

the white border. This characteristic, together with the imperfect lower left corner and upper right corner of the frame make this position identifiable without trouble.

No.43L:

There appears to be two position dots. One is quite small and nearly round and touches the middle segment of the trifoliate. The other is longer and narrower and projects upward diagonally from the upper segment of the trifoliate. Stamps from this position may show faint traces of a continuous or broken line crossing the white border and in the white oval opposite the upper part of the lower position dot. The top frame is quite heavily recut but is slightly thicker in the middle and tapers off toward the right end. The right frame is quite straight and even but the recutting stopped $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the lower right corner, leaving a tiny bit of the original line of the die to complete the corner. The bottom frame is even and fairly straight. The left frame was entirely recut and shows few noticeable characteristics. The strongest section extends upward for 7 or 8mm. from opposite the middle of "X" and projecting outwardly and downward diagonally from the frame line at the lower end of this section is a tiny spur. Copies of this position may show a tiny dot in the white border at the upper left corner of the frame but the position is most easily recognized by a short dash or dot $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame, not quite 3mm. below the top frame.

No.44L:

The position dot is a medium size oval placed at the edge of the background not touching either segment of the trifoliate. Traces of a fine horizontal line in this part of the design remain and may be seen as a slight projection from outside of the left frame, a dot in the white border and a dot in the white oval between the trifoliate and the background of the medallion. The top frame was entirely recut but is not specially heavy. It is a trifle stronger over "U" and not quite so heavy over the "S." The right frame was entirely recut and the work very carefully done. The most noticeable characteristic is a slightly heavier section perhaps 3mm. long, the lower end of which is 10mm. below the top frame. A very faint line crosses the white border from the tip of the right trifoliate to the right frame. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame was recut down to the lower part of "X" but the work was very carefully done and shows no characteristics in the recut section. From the upper part of "X" to where it ends at the lower corner of the frame, the line

gradually becomes thinner and is very weak or entirely missing for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end. Stamps from this position are very likely to give considerable trouble. There are no strongly marked characteristics but the peculiarities of the right and left frame lines together with traces of the original horizontal guide line crossing the middle of the stamp, found near the trifoliate, are helpful. Copies may also show a very faint scratch in the white border opposite the upper part of "S" and copies with sufficiently wide margin at the top are likely to show traces of the two fine scratches that cross the bottom frame of No.34L, close to the lower right corner of that position.

No.52L:

The position dot is a large oval placed midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. Traces of the horizontal guide line may be found in the white border level with the lower end of the position dot. The top frame was strongly recut and is noticeably heavy in the middle, tapering off toward either end. The right frame is a thin continuous line slightly heavier opposite the trifoliate and bending outward a trifle at this point. The bottom frame is straight and even without noticeable characteristics. The left frame is a fine continuous line fairly straight but not even. It is weak for about 1mm. opposite the "O" of "POST" and for 1mm. at the lower end and strong for a short distance opposite the "P" of "POST." All stamps examined by the writer and identified as coming from this position have a comparatively large irregular dot or mark of color almost exactly in the middle of the colorless stock or neckband at the front. This dot looks like a mark intended to represent the head of a stickpin, hence the name "stickpin variety" by which this position is usually known.

No.53L:

The position dot is nearly round and placed at the edge of the background not touching either segment of the trifoliate. Parts of the original guide line crosses the white border and extending through the position dot and upper segment of the trifoliate crosses the white oval to the background of the medallion. It appears again as a fine line or a few dots between the top of the middle segment of the right trifoliate and the right frame. The top frame was evenly recut but is not heavy and may be somewhat weakened in the middle by a "short transfer." The right frame was carefully recut and is quite straight but not very even. One and a half millimeters at the upper end and 2mm. at the lower end are

weaker while a short section opposite the lower curve of "S" is noticeably strong. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is a fine continuous line very weak for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end but having no other noticeable characteristics. Stamps from this position are not easy to identify. Copies should be compared with other stamps showing "short transfers" until other possibilities are eliminated.

No.54L:

The position dot is rather large and nearly round. It is placed near to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate and close to the edge of the background. The top frame is rather strong, especially toward the left but tapers off somewhat at the right end. The right frame was almost entirely recut. The recutting stops about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the upper end and possibly as much from the lower end. A slightly stronger section opposite the trifoliate tapers to a thinner place below the trifoliate and makes the frame appear to bend inward a trifle at this point. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame is a fine continuous line unusually even. It is slightly heavier for several millimeters from the lower tip of the trifoliate to about opposite the "P" of "POST" than above and below that section. Single copies of this stamp can be identified with difficulty. The most certain way is by comparison with a pair or strip which includes No.54L.

No.62L:

The position dot is oval, placed diagonally with its upper end coinciding with the edge of the background. Another dot or mark may appear along the left side of the upper segment of the trifoliate, or in the corner between the upper and middle segments. A dot or line may appear in the white oval opposite the position dot. The top frame was carefully recut and is not especially strong. The right frame was recut all the way down to the shading below the foot of "X," leaving but little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. of the original line below that point. The bottom frame was recut but may be weak $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the left. The left frame was entirely recut and is somewhat uneven and irregular. It is weak or broken $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the upper corner. Stamps from this position are almost certain to give trouble. Very careful comparison with other copies showing a similar right frame is necessary.

No.63L:

The position dot is often crescent shaped with its outer

side coinciding with the edge of the background, and its lower corner resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was evenly recut but is not heavy at either end and is badly weakened in the middle by very pronounced "short transfer." The right frame was carefully recut and is quite straight and even but tapers to a point just before reaching the top frame, so that the upper right corner of the frame is not perfectly joined. The bottom frame was carefully recut but stops $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short of the left frame at the lower left corner. The left frame was partially recut and is a bit heavier for 3mm. or 4mm. opposite the lower part of the "P" of "POST" and noticeably weak for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. opposite the upper curve of the "P" of "POST." The lower half of the line is thinner especially opposite the upper part of "X." This position is soon identified by the imperfect upper right and lower left corners in conjunction with the very pronounced "short transfer."

No. 64L:

The position dot is rather large and usually does not touch either segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is quite heavy. The right frame was entirely recut and shows few characteristics. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was recut except $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the lower end where very faint trace of the original line may be seen. Unless closely examined, however, the corner appears open. Commencing about 1mm. above the upper arm of the left "X" there is a vertical dash about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long extending upward parallel to the frame line $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside it, and a heavy dot may appear on the outer side of the frame line at the lower end of this scratch. If the upper part of the left frame line is complete any stamp from this position may be at once identified by a dash $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long very close to the inside of the left frame with its lower end 5mm. below the top frame, that is to say, opposite the top of "P" and the bottom of "O" of "POST."

No. 72L:

The position dot is oval and placed close to the edge of the background. The top frame was heavily recut and is especially strong for $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the left end and slightly weaker for 1mm. at the right end. The right frame was carefully recut. There is a noticeable swelling opposite the upper part of "X" and opposite the lower part of "X" the line inclines inward and goes closer to the foot of "X" than usual. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was recut down to the foot of "X." It is weaker from that point to the corner. Stamps from this position may be identi-

fied. without difficulty. There is a vertical scratch or mark nearly 1mm. long very close to the outer side of the left frame line a little higher than the middle of "X." A small dot or mark may also be found close to the outer side of the left frame not quite 4mm. below the upper corner. There is a long vertical and very faint scratch in the middle of the white border at the right. It commences about opposite the lower tip of the trifoliate and extends upward for perhaps 5mm. Another scratch extends nearly parallel to and just outside the right frame line for 3 or 4mm. commencing near the foot of "X."

No.73L:

The position dot is a rather small oval placed diagonally at the edge of the background. The top frame was strongly recut but is much weakened from near "O" to "I" of "OFFICE" by a very pronounced "short transfer." The right frame is straight and continuous and is a bit weaker toward the lower end. It is heaviest opposite the upper edge of the background and then tapers to a point and turns inward to join the top frame at the upper right corner. The bottom frame is straight and even but tapers slightly at the left end. The left frame is continuous and quite straight but is weaker from the top of "X" to the lower corner and recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short of the top corner. Careful examination shows that this corner is not well joined. Stamps from this position showing the upper right corner may be identified by the "short transfer," and a tiny dash in the white border just inside the right frame and opposite the top line of the background in the upper right corner. A faint diagonal mark may also be found in the white border at the top and not quite 5mm. from the left frame -- directly over the left side of the "S" of "POST." Stamps showing considerable margin at the right but with the upper corner of the frame cut away may be identified by two vertical scratches in the right margin. One of these commences about opposite the outer corner of "E" and extends downward $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame for over 10mm. The other scratch commences opposite the upper part of the trifoliate and extends upward 3mm. or 4mm. It is 1mm. outside the right frame of No.73L and slightly less than 1mm. outside the left frame of No.74L.

No.74L:

The position dot is oval shaped and placed midway between the middle segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was strongly recut but is somewhat weakened in the middle by a noticeable "short transfer." The right frame is a

fine continuous line which is thinner for about 9mm. downward from the top corner and thicker most of the distance to the foot of "X." It appears to curve inward slightly opposite the top of "X" and is swollen a little on its outer side opposite the lower part of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is a fine continuous line heavier downward to the outer corner of "P" and from about opposite the upper part of "X" to the lower corner of the frame and weaker for 4 or 5mm. below the outer corner of "P." Stamps from this position with wide margins at the left may be identified by one or both of the long vertical scratches in the valley between this position and No.73L but other copies are more difficult to identify. The peculiarities of the left and right frame lines, particularly the lower part of the right frame line in conjunction with the pronounced "short transfer" at the top, will help in its identification.

No.5L:

The position dot is oval and placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut but is not quite so heavy as other top frames in the top row. The right frame was very carefully recut and is a straight and even line a trifle thinner for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame is straight and even without noticeable characteristics. The left frame was carefully recut and is quite even and straight. It stops a fraction of a millimeter short of the bottom frame, leaving the lower left corner not perfectly joined. Stamps from this position showing a margin at the right are at once identified by a strong vertical dash $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame line. The upper end of this dash is $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below a point opposite the lower tip of the right trifoliate.

No.6L:

The position dot is oval or crescent shaped with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate and its left side projecting beyond the edge of the background. The top frame was heavily recut but is stronger in the middle and tapers off toward either end. The left end tapers off sharply to a point. The right frame was carefully recut and is a strong and fairly even line, being slightly thicker for 4mm. downward from opposite the lower part of "E" of "OFFICE." The bottom frame is straight and fairly even, but is thinner for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the left end and a little more at the right end. The left frame was carefully recut but the recutting stops $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the top and bottom frames,

leaving the upper and lower left corners not well joined. A short dash extends part way across the white oval between the left trifoliolate and the left edge of the medallion background. There is a faint diagonal scratch crossing the white border at the right from upper left to lower right directly opposite the lower part of the "E" of "OFFICE." This scratch is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and a very short scratch about 1mm. long may be found in the middle of the white border a fraction of a millimeter above the scratch first mentioned. Stamps from this position showing even a slight margin opposite the upper part of the right frame may be identified by a vertical dash nearly 1mm. long outside and very close to the right frame opposite the middle of "S" but as two other positions on the plate, viz. No.28L and 95L also have a very similar dash in almost exactly the same position, No.6L might be mistaken for one of those other positions. Careful examination, however, will show all these dashes are shaped like long thin wedges and on No.6L the thick end of the wedge is at the top, while on No.23L and No.95L the thick end of the dash is at the bottom.

No.7L

The position dot is wedge shaped with its sharp end downward and projects slightly beyond the edge of the background. Along the left edge of the upper tip of the trifoliolate is another dark area which may be a second position dot. On clearly printed copies a faint trace of the horizontal guide line may be seen as a succession of fine dots or very short dashes crossing the white border or trifoliolate and into the white oval between the trifoliolate and the edge of the medallion. The top frame is very heavily and evenly recut. The right frame is quite straight but slightly irregular, being noticeably thinner for about 5 mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame is carefully recut and is straight and even. The left frame was also very carefully recut but often presents a dot and dash effect and is thinner for 3mm. at the lower end. Stamps from this position require very careful examination. Copies which have sufficiently wide margin at the bottom will show a short wedge shaped dash less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. below the bottom frame line directly under the left end of the left foot of the right "X." The thick end of this little dash is at the left and it occupies a nearly horizontal position about midway between the bottom of No.7L and the top of No.17L, but slightly nearer the lower stamp. Copies of No.7L with insufficient margin at bottom to show this dash may be identified by a dot of color in the upper right arm of the right "X." This dot is very close to the upper right corner of the triangle between the upper arms of the "X."

No.15L:

The position dot is oval and placed near the edge of the background with its lower end extending into the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is quite heavy. The right frame was carefully recut and is fairly strong but slightly thinner for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame is quite straight and has no pronounced irregularities. There is a slight swelling opposite the middle of "U" and 10mm. below the top frame there is a weak section less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long. There is slight indication of a "short transfer" over the "OF" of "OFFICE." Very careful examination is necessary in order to identify stamps from this position. The best clue is the peculiar location of the position dot - only a few positions on the plate have the dot extending into the trifoliate. If stamps showing a position dot of this character have their left frame lines compared with No.15L it is possible to recognize and identify this position.

No.16L:

The position dot is oval and placed much lower than usual. Fully half of it penetrates the middle segment of the trifoliate near the edge of the background. The top frame is straight and even but not very heavy, and is not always continuous, possibly having been affected by a slight "short transfer." The right frame is quite straight and even, except for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the upper end where it inclines outward slightly so that the upper right corner of the stamp is not perfectly square. The line projects a fraction of a millimeter beyond the top frame at the upper right corner. It is weaker $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end. The bottom frame was carefully recut and is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is quite straight but somewhat irregular. It is noticeably weak for 1mm. at the lower end. Stamps from this position which show the middle section of the left frame are readily identified by the short vertical dash of color in the white border at the left 11mm. below the top frame. This dash is nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and is closer to the left frame than to the edge of the background. Two fine scratches may also be found at the upper left corner of the stamp. These extend from a point on the top frame $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the left corner and cross the margin between No.16L and No. 6L, ending at the lower left corner of No.6L.

No.17L:

The position dot is an upright oval placed near the edge

of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is straight and even but not specially heavy. It may show some weakening owing to a slight "short transfer." The right frame is a fine continuous line quite straight and noticeably strong for 1mm. at the upper end. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is a fine straight line with several weak or broken places, particularly for $3/4$ mm. opposite the shading under the upper arm of the left "X." Unless stamps from this position have sufficient margin at top or bottom they are quite certain to give trouble. The dash between No.7L and No.17L is 1mm. above the top frame of No.17L and directly over the right corner of the top of "I" of "OFFICE," that is, $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to the left of the right frame. Copies showing sufficient margin at the bottom may be identified by a diagonal mark extending from upper right to lower left to the top frame of No.27L. This line or dash begins $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the bottom frame of No.17L at a point $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the left frame - , that is to say, directly below a point midway between the "R" and "W" of "R,W,H,& E."

No.25L:

The position dot is rather small and crescent shaped. It is placed near the edge of the background and rests on the upper edge of the middle segment of the trifoliate. In the corner between the upper and middle segments of the trifoliate and along the left edge of the upper segment is another dark area which may possibly be a second position dot. The top frame is straight and even and rather heavy. The right frame was carefully recut and is straight and quite even. One and a half millimeters at the lower end are a bit thinner and 3mm. or 4mm. above this section are a trifle heavier, specially toward the lower end. The bottom frame is straight and even without noticeable characteristics. The left frame was carefully recut and is quite straight, though somewhat uneven. At its lower end the line inclines outward slightly and stops a fraction of a millimeter short, leaving the lower left corner of the frame imperfectly joined.

Stamps from this position on which the lower left corner is cut away can be identified only with the greatest difficulty, if at all. Clearly printed copies showing the lower left corner, however are readily identified. There are several fine scratches and marks, one of which begins opposite the foot of "X" just outside but very close to the frame line and extends downward across the bottom margin and close to the upper left corner of No.35L. Another mark is a series of fine dots or dashes $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the left frame line and extending vertically about 2mm.

opposite the middle of "X." Clearly printed copies may also show a few short dashes touching or very close to the inner side of the left frame opposite the lower part of "X."

No.26L:

The position dot is rather small and placed close to the edge of the background not touching either segment of the trifoliate. Opposite the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate is another dark area which may be a second position dot. The top frame is fairly strong, straight and even. The right frame is a fine continuous line slightly heavier for about 6mm. in the middle section. The bottom frame is straight and quite even but is slightly weak at the right end and does not quite join the right frame, leaving the lower right corner of the stamp open. The left frame is not quite straight or even. Commencing 2mm. below the lower tip of the trifoliate it inclines inward slightly and for 2mm. appears slightly closer to the design. There is a faint vertical scratch extending parallel to the left frame line for about 5mm. opposite the lower part of the trifoliate. Stamps from this position showing even a slight margin at top are immediately identified by a dot of color $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. above the top frame and directly over the left arm of the "T" of "POST." Stamps showing this dot and the open lower right corner certainly come from No. 26L.

No.27L:

The position dot is a short oval placed at the edge of the background and does not touch the trifoliate. There is a dark area in the corner between the upper and middle segments of the trifoliate and beside the left edge of the upper segment which may be a second position dot. Traces of a fine horizontal guide line may be found crossing the white border at the left and in the white oval between the trifoliate and the left edge of the medallion. The top frame is straight and even but not heavy. The right frame is fairly straight but somewhat uneven, the lower half being heavier than the upper, especially for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. opposite the lower part of "X." The last $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the bottom is rather weak and thin. The bottom frame is straight and even with no pronounced variations. The left frame is a fine continuous line noticeably thinner for $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its lower end and slightly thicker above this section. This position is likely to cause trouble and especially if there is no margin at the top. A short diagonal dash will be found extending upward about half way across the white border from a point on the left frame 1mm. below

the top frame. One quarter millimeter outside the left frame and opposite the bottom of "U" there is a faint curved vertical dash about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long. Copies with a margin at the top may show a diagonal scratch about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long extending upward to the right from the top frame line at a point $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the upper left corner - that is, from a point between the "T" of "POST" and "O" of "OFFICE." At least one copy which agreed in other details with this position has been seen but which did not show this line in the top margin and this line therefore may not have been on the plate when the earlier printings were made.

No. 35L:

The position dot is an oval placed diagonally with its upper end coinciding with the edge of the background and with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. In the white border to the left of the dot are two short diagonal lines both of which slant upward to the right. Another line extends part way across the white oval between the trifoliate and the edge of the medallion. The top frame was strongly recut and is heavier in the middle. At the left it tapers to a sharp point. The right frame was carefully recut and is strong and quite even except for $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. at the lower end where it is much weaker. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame was also carefully recut and shows only slight variations. The recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short of the top frame, leaving the upper left corner of the frame not strongly joined. Stamps from this position require careful examination. The best guides are found in the upper left corner. Close to the inner side of the left frame line opposite the middle of "U" there is a faint dash. On clearly printed copies traces of a very fine line may be found very close to the top of the left frame extending upward across the top margin toward and along the lower left corner of No. 25L.

No. 36L:

The position dot is a narrow oval placed at the edge of the background and not touching the trifoliate. Against the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate is another dark area which may be a second position dot. Extending part way into the white border at the left from the outside position dot a short spur of color may be found. The top frame was carefully recut and is quite straight and even. The right frame was also carefully recut. Opposite the upper part of the right trifoliate it bends inward slightly and for about 3mm. below the lower part

of the trifoliate it is noticeably heavier. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame is slightly waved and somewhat uneven. For about 5mm. in the middle section it curved outward slightly and is a trifle weaker about 4mm. at its lower end. Stamps from this position which do not show the left frame line are extremely difficult to identify and this is also true of copies on which the cancellation covers the position dot. Clearly printed copies on which the left frame shows in the vicinity of the position dot may be identified by three vertical dashes on the inner side of the left frame line opposite the trifoliate and often touching the frame line.

No. 37L:

The position dot is rather a large oval placed at the edge of the background but not touching the trifoliate. In the corner between the upper and middle segments of the trifoliate is a dark area appearing like a second position dot. The top frame was entirely recut and is heavier over the "FIC" of "OFFICE." The right frame was probably not recut at all and shows the characteristics by which stamps belonging to the so-called "AEF" group are recognized. This characteristic is a double break in the right frame line. Ten millimeters below the top frame the right frame stops abruptly. Below this point it gradually becomes visible and continues as a weak line down to opposite the top of "X." For 2mm. further it is thin, extremely weak or missing, commencing again at a point a little below the middle of "X" it continues as a weak line to the lower right corner. Early printings from this position can be distinguished from some other "AEF" positions with great difficulty, if at all, but later printings are very easily identified. Later printings will show some or all of the following marks. Six and a half millimeters below the top frame - beside the lower corner of "E" - a blurry horizontal dash crosses the white border and the right frame line and extends into the right margin. A diagonal dash $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long extends upward to the right from the top frame line directly over the "T" of "POST." The most peculiar mark of all, however, is entirely different from any other mark, scratch, blur or other accidental peculiarity of the entire plate. This is a strongly marked curved line, faintly grayish in color, which instantly suggests a depression in the surface of the stamp as if a dirty thread had been pressed into the paper and upon being removed left a soiled but fairly sharp depression. The line begins in the right margin between No. 37L and No. 38L. Opposite the right trifoliate and extending inward diagonally to the left crosses the right frame and continues through the lower right oak leaf to

the top of "X," then curving to the right it extends through the "X" and gradually becomes fainter as it crosses the right frame again just below the right foot of "X." Some early printings of No.37L which do not have the curved mark or the dash across the right frame opposite "E" or the dash above the top frame opposite "T" may be identified by a dot of color in the right "X." But the writer is not certain that this mark occurs on all printings from the plate, although it does occur on some early printings and probably on all the later printings which show the other marks mentioned. This dot is at the extreme right edge of the curved colorless stroke of "X," 1mm. to the right of the apex of the triangular shading between the lower arms of "X" and just a trifle higher than the tip of that triangle. Later printings of No.37L may also show another mark which is very useful in plating. This greatly resembles the "V" shaped check mark one makes with a pencil when going over accounts. The point of the "V" extends into the top of No.47L but the right hand member, which is much longer, crosses the margin between No.37L and No.47L, and extending upward diagonally terminates in the shading under the extreme left end of the left foot of the right "X" on No.37L. This mark is usually present on stamps which show the long curved mark and other peculiarities noted in the later printings of No.37L, but may not always be present on stamps which have those marks.

No.45L:

The position dot is oval and placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. There is a faint line extending from the left frame to the position dot and another crossing the white oval from the trifoliate to the left edge of the medallion. Both of these lines decline downward slightly to the right. The top frame is straight and even but not heavy. The right frame is quite straight and fairly even. It is a bit swollen for a few millimeters above the upper arm of "X" and again for about 2mm. opposite the lower part of "X" and inclines inward for about 2mm. at its lower end which tapers to a point. The bottom frame is straight and even but is weaker at the extreme right end and the lower right corner of the frame is not always strongly joined. The left frame is quite straight and even except that it tapers off slightly for several millimeters at the upper end and recutting stops sharply 1-3/4mm. above the bottom frame line, this distance at the lower end of the left frame being the original fine line of the die. This incomplete recutting at the bottom of the left frame is the best clue by which to identify this posi-

tion, but as several other positions on the plate have a similar characteristic it is necessary to compare stamps suspected of being from position No.45L with those other positions - particularly with No.90L.

No.46L:

The position dot is a small oval placed between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Often there is a dark area along the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate which may possibly be a second position dot. Traces of the fine horizontal guide line may be found in the white border between the left frame and the position dot and crossing the white oval between the trifoliate and the left edge of the medallion. Clearly printed copies will also show two very faint scratches in the white border opposite the trifoliate. These are nearly vertical but incline slightly from upper right to lower left. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight and even, except at the extreme left end where the lower edge is slightly hollowed out in the corner of the frame. The right frame was very carefully recut and is a straight even line. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was carefully recut and shows very little variation. The recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter above the bottom frame and the lower left corner of the frame is not completely joined. For about 1/4mm above the open section the left frame is quite heavy and is a trifle thinner for 2 1/2mm. above this section. At the upper end the line tapers to a point. Copies showing a slight margin at the bottom are easily identified by a small dot of color 1/4mm. below the bottom frame directly under the "W" of "R,W,H,& E." Other copies may sometimes be identified by a vertical scratch in the right margin. This scratch is about 1/2mm. long and nearly 1/2mm. outside the right frame opposite the upper part of "E" of "OFFICE."

No.47L:

The position dot is a short oval placed at the edge of the background and not touching either segment of the trifoliate. Faint traces of the horizontal guide line may show in the white oval between the trifoliate and the left edge of the medallion. The top frame is even and fairly strong but may be somewhat affected by a short transfer. The right frame has the same characteristics as other positions of the so-called "AEF" group, that is, a 3mm. break in the frame from opposite the middle of the

trifoliate upward and another break not quite so long from opposite the top of "X" downward. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was very carefully recut and shows little variation. It inclines outward slightly for 3mm. or 4mm. at the lower end and recutting stops $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the bottom frame. This position may show one or more of the following characteristics but it is not certain that these are all constant in both early and late printings. There is a tiny dot of color in the white border at the left $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the bottom frame. There are two diagonal scratches placed close together in the white border at the left 7mm. below the top frame, or a little lower than the lower end of the "P" of "POST." These incline at about 45 degrees from upper left to lower right. The lower is sharper and does not touch the frame line or the background. The upper is not so clear and may touch both frame line and background. Directly over the right end of the second "F" of "OFFICE" is a "V" shaped mark crossing the top frame and the top border and extending slightly into the background. The left member is nearly vertical and about 1mm. long. The right member slants upward to the right and crossing the top margin extends into the bottom of No.37L. As early printings of No.37L do not show this mark probably it is absent on early printings of No.47L also.

No.55L:

The position dot is pointed at the lower end and this point rests on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Traces of the horizontal guide line may be found crossing the left frame and the white border but are usually very faint. A much stronger trace crosses the white oval between the trifoliate and the right edge of the medallion. This often appears as a short stub stopping in the middle of that space. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight and even but not heavy. Recutting stopped about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from the left frame and this is very noticeable on some copies. The right frame was entirely recut but is not very even. It is weak opposite the lower part of "S" and swollen opposite the upper part of "S" but tapers off to join the top frame at the upper right corner. The line is also heavier for about 3mm at the lower end. The bottom frame was carefully recut and shows little variation. At the upper end it may extend a tiny fraction of a millimeter beyond the top frame. This position can often be identified without difficulty. A trace of the horizontal guide line may be found crossing the right frame opposite the middle segment of the right trifoliate. There is a line of dots or dashes about 2mm. long in the white border at the left opposite the upper arm of "X," the stronger dash being at the bottom and

opposite the shading under the upper serif of "X." On copies showing sufficient margin at the upper left corner a vertical dash will be found $3/4$ mm. outside the upper left corner of the frame, the upper end of the dash being nearly even with the top frame of the stamp. This dash is a little more than 1mm. from the upper right corner of No.54L. On copies showing sufficiently wide margin at the right a number of dots, noted in the description of No.56L, will be found.

No.56L:

The position dot is oval and placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Traces of the horizontal guide line may be found in the white oval between the trifoliate and the left edge of the medallion. The top frame was strongly recut and tapers to a blunt point $1/2$ mm. at the left end. The right frame was entirely recut but is not very straight or very even. The recutting stopped a tiny fraction of a millimeter short of the top frame leaving the upper right corner of the frame not completely joined. The line is heavier for 3mm. or 4mm. downward from opposite the upper segment of the trifoliate and appears to curve outward slightly in this section. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was entirely recut but is weaker for 7mm. at the lower end and noticeably strong for 6mm. above the weak section. The most easily recognized guide to this position is the tiny dash of color extending downward from the right edge of the medallion background into and about half way across the white oval at the right. This mark is a little lower than the lower tip of the right trifoliate. On stamps showing sufficient margin at the left a series of dots may be found nearly 1mm. outside the left margin. The lower dot is opposite the middle segment of the trifoliate and the upper dot is about 5mm. higher.

No.57L:

The position dot is nearly round and is placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. Traces of the horizontal guide line may be found extending across the white oval between the trifoliate and the edge of the medallion and extending from the position dot into the white border at the left. The top frame is straight and even but not specially heavy and is only slightly affected by a pronounced "short transfer." The right frame has the characteristics of positions in the so-called "AEF" group. Recutting stops abruptly $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the top frame and

the frame line is broken or very weak for about 4mm. below. The lower break in the line is about 1mm. long opposite the upper part of the body of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was very carefully recut and it tapers to a point at the extreme upper end and stops less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from the bottom frame line, leaving the lower left corner of the frame not perfectly joined. Stamps from later printings of this position are at once identified by a strong diagonal mark of color starting beside the tip of Washington's nose at the right and extending downward to the left across his upper lip and giving this position the name by which it is commonly known - "hairlip variety." Early printings do not show this mark. Both early and late printings show a vertical scratch which commences in the white border at the right close beside the shading at the foot of the right "X" and extending downward crosses the bottom frame line and the bottom margin and ends beside the upper right corner of No. 67L. Clearly printed copies may show an additional shorter scratch in the bottom margin at either side of the one first mentioned.

No. 65L:

The position dot is rather small and nearly round. It is placed close to the edge of the background and does not touch the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was recut and is rather strong. The recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter short of the left frame leaving the upper left corner of the frame not properly joined. The right frame was entirely recut and is fairly straight but not specially even. It is stronger for about 7mm. at the upper end and somewhat weaker below this section to the middle of the trifoliate. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was entirely recut except for $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. at the lower end. This position is not always easily identified. The incomplete upper and lower left corners are the most satisfactory guide. There is also a faint vertical scratch in the white border at the right opposite the "S" of "U.S." and extending downward about 5mm. or more. Stamps which are believed to come from later printings may also show two heavy blurred dashes in the white border at the top. One of these is directly over the "T" of "POST" and the other is over the left side of the "O" of "OFFICE."

No. 66L:

The position dot is a long oval placed vertically between the upper segment of the trifoliate and edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoli-

ate. The top frame is rather heavily recut but the recutting stops $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the left frame, leaving the upper left corner of the stamp not perfectly joined. The right frame was partially recut. It is heavier for about 3mm. above the foot of "X" and inclines inward and is thinner at the lower end. Another weaker section about 1mm. long commences 7mm. below the top frame. The bottom frame is straight and fairly even but not heavy. The left frame is neither straight nor even. The line is thinner opposite the lower part of "X" and inclines outward not making a perfect right angle at the lower left corner. In the middle section the line was apparently recut upward and appears a trifle closer to the background. The other section 7mm. long was recut downward and is further from the background. The recutting overlaps for a short distance opposite the lower end of "P" and forms a noticeable swelling at this point. Stamps from this position showing the left frame line can be identified by this peculiarity and the incomplete upper left corner. Copies showing a margin at the right may be identified by a faint scratch in the right margin not quite $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame. This scratch is about 1 mm. long and commences $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the top frame. Another faint vertical scratch may also be found in the right margin about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame. This commences about opposite the top of "X" and extends upward for nearly 5mm.

No. 67L:

The position dot is oval and placed diagonally with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is rather heavy. The right frame was entirely recut and is somewhat bent and uneven. There is a heavier section about 5mm. long between the lower tip of the trifoliate and the top of "X" and the line appears slightly further from the background in this section. For about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the lower end the line is closer to the background. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was carefully recut and shows little variation except at the lower end where, commencing opposite the middle of "X," it tapers off gradually and is very fine where it joins the bottom frame at the lower left corner. This position is apt to give trouble. The best clue to its identity is a faint scratch less than 1mm. long which extends downward and slightly outward from the outer side of the right frame directly opposite the outer corner of the "E" of "OFFICE." Stamps from this position usually show a faint dot in the main stem of the right "X" 1mm. to the right of the upper tip of the triangle of color which forms the shading between the lower stems of the "X", but as this dot is very close to the shading beside the right

edge of the main stem of "X" and sometimes merges into that shading, it is not always helpful. Furthermore as it frequently occurs on all positions in this same - seventh - vertical row of the left pane it is helpful merely to identify a stamp as belonging in the seventh vertical row.

No.75L:

The position dot is triangular with its outer corner coinciding with the edge of the background and its lower corner resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut but is not specially heavy and may be somewhat weakened by a slight "short transfer." The right frame is nearly straight and even. Recutting stopped $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the top frame and the bit of line not recut appears to incline inward toward the top frame. The line also inclines inward for nearly 2mm. at the bottom and there is a noticeable swelling or thicker section which curves slightly outward opposite the lower part of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was entirely recut and is fairly straight and even. There is a swelling about 1mm. long opposite the upper part of "U" and from the upper part of "X" to opposite the lower tip of the trifoliate the line inclines slightly inward. Opposite the trifoliate it is bent slightly outward. This position is difficult to identify. On copies showing the middle section of the left frame line a very faint intermittent scratch will be found close to the outer side of the left frame opposite the trifoliate and extending upward above the upper tip of the trifoliate. A trace of a fine vertical scratch may be found extending for about 3mm. in the white border above the trifoliate.

No.76L:

The position dot is triangular with its outer corner close to the edge of the background and its lower corner resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Along the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate is a dark area which may possibly be a second position dot. The top frame was entirely recut but is not specially heavy. A thicker section is found over the "FFI" of "OFFICE." The right frame was partly recut and is characteristic. It stops abruptly $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the top frame and only traces of it can be seen for about 3mm. below that point, then gradually becoming heavier, the heavy section stops 2mm. above the lower right corner and the remaining 2mm. to the corner are weaker. The bottom frame is quite straight and even. The left frame was carefully recut and shows little variation. Stamps from this position can

be identified by the peculiarities of the right frame and by a number of faint scratches or blurs. There is a long vertical scratch in the right border at the right commencing opposite the foot of "X" and extending upward above the top of "X." Opposite "E" there is a cluster of fine diagonal scratches in the white border. Opposite the upper part of "E" $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame there is a vertical dash $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long. One half millimeter outside the right frame and opposite the upper part of the right trifoliate there is another vertical scratch $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long. A long vertical dash in the white border at the left commences below the top of "X" and continues intermittently to a point above the trifoliate. On clearly printed copies it is double at the upper end. Another vertical scratch $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame commences opposite the middle of "X" and extends upward for 5mm.

No. 77L:

The position dot is oval or crescent shaped and placed near the edge of the background. Along the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate is another dark area which may possibly be a second position dot. The top frame was entirely recut but is not especially heavy and may be considerably weakened by a noticeable "short transfer." The right frame was carefully recut and is quite straight. It is noticeably heavy for 1mm. at the upper end and projects a tiny bit beyond the top frame at the upper corner. The line is weak below the foot of "X" to the lower right corner. The bottom frame is even and quite straight but bends slightly downward for $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the right end; thus not forming a perfect right angle with the right frame at the lower right corner. The left frame was almost entirely recut. For about 3mm. at the lower end it gradually tapers off and is quite fine below the foot of "X." Opposite the top of "P" there is a thicker section nearly 2mm. long, apparently caused by an overlapping when the line was recut from two directions. The line is slightly further from the design above the thick area than below it and in this respect No. 77L greatly resembles No. 66L. These two positions can be readily distinguished, however, because the overlapped section of the left frame line is opposite the lower part of "P" on No. 66L and opposite the upper part of "P" on No. 77L. Stamps from later printings of this position are immediately identified by two heavy diagonal scratches near the upper part of the right "X." These scratches are 2mm. long and $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. apart, the outer being noticeably heavier than the inner. One commences in the white border close to the top arm of "X" and extending upward to the right crosses the right frame line. The other commences close to the outer side of the right frame opposite the top of "X" and

parallels the first but is entirely outside the right frame. Some stamps from earlier printings do not have these marks and are more difficult to identify. All printings, however, probably have a dot or a very short dash $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame directly opposite the top of "U."