

## PLATING THE 10¢ 1847

The twenty-four positions described below occupy the upper eight positions in the 8th, 9th, and 10th vertical rows of the left pane and include ten marginal positions. One of these is an inside corner stamp of the top row - (No.10L) - two others are top row stamps, and the other seven are from the right margin of this pane. Several of these right marginal positions show traces of the fine vertical guide line placed on the plate before any of the subjects were entered that their proper position might be located. Evidently it was intended to erase such guide lines before rocking in the plate but the erasure often was incomplete and on No.70L practically the entire line adjacent to the area of that position remains and can be seen. On No.10L and No.70L practically the entire line adjacent to the area of that position remains and can be see. On No.10L and No.20L the right frame line is clearly split and another variety of special interest is found on No.50L which has a section of its frame doubled, forming a loop.

This section of the plate contains more than half of the "AEF" stamps including the particular variety to which that arbitrary letter-name was originally given. The double break in the right frame line which characterizes the "AEF" stamps was noticed very early in the plating work and at first many such stamps were dubbed "AEF." Later, when study proved that many of these must come from different positions instead of from the same position, those that could be distinguished from others were named "AEF2.", "AEF3" and "AEF4." When the number of different "AEF" stamps still increased those isolated were given other arbitrary letter-names.

In all, there are more than a dozen of these stamps and because of the great similarity between some of them they added greatly to the difficulty of re-constructing the plate. Though this suggestion may contradict statements made elsewhere in the articles the writer inclines somewhat to the opinion that before the plate was retouched by recutting the frame lines many more positions on the plate had the "AEF" characteristic. No.29L, for instance, shows by the manner in which its lower right frame was recut that originally its right frame had the familiar double break. The lower break was repaired by recutting, but not the upper. Note also how many positions on the plate were recut most noticeably just where these two breaks come on the "AEF" positions.

No. 8L:

The position dot is a medium sized oval placed vertically at the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Along the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate another dark area resembling a second position dot may appear. A very faint spur, which is probably a section of the horizontal guide line projects from the position dot about half way across the white border. The top frame was heavily recut but is somewhat thinner at either end than in the middle. On the under side of the frame line directly over the shading of the right serif of the right arm of "U" a tiny dot of color merging into the lower side of the frame line may be seen projecting very slightly into the white border. The right frame was entirely recut and is somewhat crooked and uneven. It is noticeably heavier opposite the lower "X" and for about 4mm. opposite the trifoliate. Part of the horizontal guide line, usually broken into one or more fine dots, may be seen crossing the white border between the middle segment of the trifoliate and the right frame line. The bottom frame was carefully recut and is straight and even, being of approximately the usual thickness. The left frame was carefully recut down to the upper arm of "X" and is quite straight and even above that point; it is straight but quite uneven from the top of "X" to the lower corner, having a noticeable weak or broken section  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long just below the top of "X," and another weak section nearly 1mm. long a little below the middle of "X." At the lower end it is apt to be weak but makes a perfect if not a strong corner with the bottom frame. This position may give considerable trouble. Stamps showing such a heavy top frame line are at once suspected of belonging in the top row of the plate. On No. 8L the background in the corner above and around the top of the left stem of "U" is a trifle weaker than elsewhere at the top of the stamp, but not so weak and noticeable as on No. 8R. On No. 8L there are indications of a very slight shift or re-entry. Careful examination of the fine horizontal lines in the background at the top of the stamp will show that these lines are too wide, or on very clearly printed copies may appear doubled.

No. 9L:

The position dot is nearly round and is placed close to the edge of the background with its lower side touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was heavily recut but is quite straight and even. The right frame is broken and shows the characteristic of other stamps in the "AEF" group. It is strongly



recut for nearly 10mm. at the upper end, but the recutting stops abruptly and the original line of the die continues for about 2 mm. Opposite the lower part of the trifoliate the line may be entirely missing for about 2mm. and again opposite the upper half of "X" it is very weak, or missing for about 3mm. The bottom frame was entirely recut and is straight and even. The left frame was entirely recut and is quite straight and fairly even. The lower 15 or 16mm., however, are not so heavy as the section from opposite the middle of "U" downward for about 6mm. Copies of this position showing the right frame and 2mm. or more at the upper end of the left frame are at once identified by the double break in the right frame line and by a tiny dot or dash of color very close to the inner side of the left frame not quite 1mm. below the upper left corner of the frame. Such a dot is not found constantly in this position on any other stamp belonging to the "AEF" group, nor on any other position of the entire plate.

No. 10L:

The position dot is about medium size and nearly round being placed at the edge of the background with its lower end close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is heavily recut and is straight and quite even. The right frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. It is weak at the lower end below the foot of "X" and much heavier above this point, particularly opposite the middle of "X" where it appears to bend inward. At the upper end it was recut downward for about 8mm. and below this point was recut upward. Commencing 6mm. below the top frame the line is double for 1mm. or 2mm. caused by the upward recutting bending inward slightly from the true line. There is no split in the right frame exactly like this on any other position on the entire plate. This characteristic of the right frame shows very clearly on the copy from the McDaniel collection, now in the Ackerman collection, which shows the complete valley or gutter between the panes and at the right is a complete copy of No. 1R. On No. 10L part of the horizontal guide line shows as a line or dot between the middle tip of the trifoliate and the right frame line and just outside and very close to the right frame line exactly opposite the middle tip of the trifoliate is a small dot of color. The bottom frame line was recut but is very weak at the extreme right end and this corner of the frame is not strongly joined. The line is sometimes weak or not clearly printed for about  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. at the extreme left end. The left frame was extensively recut and is quite straight but somewhat irregular, especially in the lower half; the dot and dash effect being quite noticeable. Below the foot of "X" it is usually very weak or missing, leaving

the lower left corner of the frame poorly joined. Copies showing the right frame line of No.10L are immediately identified by the split frame, the dots near the trifoliate and by the above noted peculiarities of the lower end of the right frame line.

No.18L:

The position dot is oval or nearly round with its axis slanting from upper left to lower right at about 45 degrees. The upper end is near the edge of the background and the lower end impinges on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is fairly strong. The right frame was recut down to the foot of "X" but below that point consists of the original line of the die. There may be a slight thickness or swelling in the right frame opposite the middle of "S." The bottom frame was carefully recut as usual and is straight and even. The left frame shows extensive recutting but is weak for perhaps 5mm. at the lower end and opposite the lower part of the trifoliate. It appears to bend outward slightly, this effect being caused by recutting below that point which brought the line a trifle closer to the background opposite the middle leaflet of the lower oak leaf. This position is almost certain to give trouble. The best clue is afforded by the position dot as on only a few positions does the dot extend into the middle segment of the trifoliate. Copies showing this characteristic should be compared until one which also agrees with the frame line of No.18L is found.

No.19L:

The position dot is nearly round and placed at the edge of the background not touching the trifoliate. In the corner between the upper and middle segment of the trifoliate another dark area resembling a second position dot may be found. The top frame was entirely recut but is not especially heavy. It tapers slightly for 1/2mm. at the left end. The right frame shows the usual characteristics of other positions in the "AEF" group. The line was recut downward for nearly 10mm. and then the recutting stops abruptly. For several millimeters opposite the trifoliate the line is very weak or missing. Again for about 2 1/2mm. opposite the upper part of "X" the line is also very weak or missing. The bottom frame was entirely recut and is straight and even. The left frame was also entirely recut and shows little characteristic. Below the foot of "X" it is a trifle weak and it tapers a bit for a fraction of a millimeter at the upper end. This position greatly resembles others in the "AEF" group. It may be distinguished from



them, however, by having a fairly strong "short transfer." at the top and by certain faint marks in the right margin. One of these is a faint vertical dash less than 1/2mm. outside the right frame opposite the upper part of "E", that is, 4mm. below the top frame. The other mark is a faint blurry dash or smear extending vertically for about 1mm. outside of and close to the right frame 8mm. above the lower frame line. Another mark frequently or always found on this position is a dot outside and close to the right frame opposite the lower curve of "S," that is, not quite 3mm. below the top frame. On some copies a smear of color resembling a blurry line may be found extending from this dot across the line and across the white border.

No. 20L:

The position dot is oval or pear shaped and rather large. It is placed near the edge of the background and does not touch the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut but tapers for about 1/2mm. at either end and may appear weakened by a very noticeable "short transfer." The right frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. Nearly 3mm. at the upper end are weak and a short section opposite the middle of "S" is very weak, broken or missing. For 1/2mm. at the lower end the line is also very weak. The line is split for nearly 2mm. commencing opposite the top of "X," the spur caused by the engraver running off the track, so to speak, being in the white border on the inside of the frame line. The two lines merge opposite the top of "X" but unless very clearly printed will appear as a thick single line for about 1mm. The upper end of the split, however, which is nearly 1mm. long is always clearly separated from the frame line. The bottom frame was carefully recut and as usual is without noticeable characteristic. The left frame was only partially recut, if at all. It is quite straight but is weak, missing or broken in many places, the most noticeable being for about 2mm. opposite the lower part of "X" and about 4mm. at the upper end, particularly for 2mm. opposite the "O" of "POST." Copies of this position showing the lower part of the right frame line are immediately identified by the split frame just above the top of "X." Other guides are two tiny dots of color opposite the tip of the middle segment of the right trifoliate. One of these is in the middle of the white border and the other is just outside the right frame line. They greatly resemble similar dots found in the same location on No. 10L but on No. 10L the outside dot is the stronger of the two, while on No. 20L the inner dot shows most clearly.

No. 28L:

The position dot is oval and placed diagonally with its upper end extending into the white border a trifle beyond the edge of the background. The top frame was carefully recut and is quite strong and even. The right frame was also carefully recut and is quite straight and even, except from the foot of "X" to the lower corner, where it is much weaker. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was extensively recut and is fairly straight but somewhat uneven. It is noticeably thicker opposite the middle of "X" and opposite the upper part of "P" and is usually rather weak at the lower end. Stamps from this position showing even a slight margin along the upper right side may be identified by a vertical dash fully  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long close to the outer side of the right frame opposite the middle of "S." The lower half of this dash is quite strong and nearly vertical. The upper half is much weaker and bends inward toward the frame line. Two other positions on the plate have a very similar dash in the same location. On No. 6L, however, the dash is a trifle closer to the frame line and is heavier at the upper end. On No. 95L the dash is very similar to the one on No. 28L. These two stamps may be distinguished by another characteristic of No. 28L which is not found on No. 95L. Commencing in the shading below the serif at the extreme right at the foot of "X" there is a cluster of scratches extending downward and slightly to the right. The stronger of these scratches crosses the lower frame line and the margin between No. 28L and No. 38L and continues across the top frame of No. 38L and into the white border at the upper right corner of No. 38L.

No. 29L:

The position dot is a long oval placed vertically inside the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight and even but no stronger than usual. The right frame was partially recut. The upper two-thirds is exactly like stamps in the "AEF" group but the lower third is quite different. The break in the frame line opposite the upper part of "X" so noticeable on the "AEF" stamps was repaired on No. 29L by heavy recutting and the line is very strong opposite "X" and swells outward quite noticeably. The bottom frame is straight and even except for a millimeter or less at the left end where it tapers to a sharp point. The left frame was strongly recut. It is usually heavy, straight and even, but recutting stopped  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short at the lower end, leaving this corner of the stamp noticeably weak.



This position may be identified by the break in the right frame line several millimeters long above and opposite the right trifoliate, similar to the upper break on "AEF" stamps; by heavy recutting of the right frame opposite the middle of "X" and by the characteristic lower left corner. The middle background at the top of the stamp is also noticeably weakened by a "short transfer," so-called.

No.30L:

The position dot is rather large and nearly round. It is placed close to the edge of the background somewhat higher than usual and may even extend slightly into the white border. The top frame was carefully recut and is strong, straight and even. The right frame was extensively recut but is neither straight nor even. It is quite heavy down to opposite the outer corner of "E" and again between the trifoliate and the upper part of "X"; also for about 1mm. opposite the foot of "X" and weaker between these sections and at the lower end. Just below the top of "X" there is a very noticeable swelling on the inner side. The bottom frame is straight and even but stops a bit short at the right end, leaving the lower right corner of the frame weak or open. The left frame was entirely recut but is noticeably uneven. Just below the upper arm of "X" there is a very noticeable swelling on the inner side which alone is sufficient to identify this position. A copy of this stamp with the upper two-thirds entirely missing could be easily identified by the peculiarities of the lower right and left frame lines, and there are other clues. From opposite the middle of "S" close to and just outside the right frame a very fine guide line extends upward paralleling the right frame and crossing the top margin toward the lower right corner of No.20L. Another piece of this guide line is found very close to the outer side of the right frame from opposite the upper arm of "X," extending upward for 4mm. or 5mm. This section of the original guide line is not continuous, being composed of very short dashes or dots.

No.38L:

The position dot is rather small and nearly round, being placed near the edge of the background with its lower side close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. Clearly printed copies may show a faint trace of the horizontal guide line crossing the left frame line directly opposite the position dot. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight and even. The right frame was not so strongly recut but the work was very carefully done and the line shows very slight characteristic. The

bottom frame is straight and even and of the usual thickness. The left frame was also very carefully recut. It is not quite so strong as the right frame and in several places is a trifle weak. A noticeably heavy section, perhaps 1mm. long is directly opposite the outer corner of "P." Copies suspected of being from this position should be very carefully examined in the upper right corner. The fine scratch which extends downward from the foot of the right "X" on No.28L may be seen crossing the top frame line of No. 38L and extending for a short distance in the white border opposite the upper right corner of the background to the right of the upper part of "S." About  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. to the left of this scratch a few other faint scratches may be seen extending from the top frame into or across the white border at the top, terminating in the extreme right end of the background. Copies of this position on which the upper right corner is missing, or not clearly printed, can be identified only with difficulty. They should be compared with other positions on which the frame lines have no marked characteristics.

No.39L:

The position dot is a large oval placed vertically near the edge of the background with its lower end close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut but tapers nearly to a point for about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the left end. The right frame was extensively recut but is neither straight nor even. It is noticeably heavy for perhaps 2mm. opposite the top of "X" and is bent inward for several millimeters opposite and above the trifoliate. The extreme lower end is rather weak. The bottom frame is straight and even but recutting stopped  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short at the left end, leaving the lower left corner of the frame open. The left frame was carefully recut and shows no marked characteristics. It is strong at the lower end and this makes the open corner there very apparent. Copies of this position showing the lower left corner may be identified by the incomplete corner. It is possible, however, to identify copies on which this corner is missing. A faint scratch 2mm. to 3mm. long will be found in the white border at the right - its middle being opposite the top of "X." Often there is a blur in the white border at the right, occupying much of the space opposite the "S" of "U.S."

No.40L:

The position dot is often a long narrow oval placed vertically close to the edge of the background, but not touching the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is straight and



even. The right frame was entirely recut and is unusually strong and quite straight and even. The lower half is a bit wavy with several noticeable swellings, particularly opposite the top of "X." The bottom frame is straight and even but not especially heavy. The left frame was also entirely recut and is fairly strong and continuous. Extending nearly 2mm. opposite the upper leaflets of the lower oak leaf is a thicker section apparently caused by an overlap in the recutting. This position may often be identified without difficulty. On copies showing a margin at the bottom a short diagonal dash about 1/4mm. long will be found a fraction of a millimeter below the bottom frame with its upper end directly below the right end of the "E" of "R.W.H. & E." Careful examination of the right frame will show occasional traces of a fine vertical guide line particularly along the inside of the right frame opposite the foot of "X," where it appears as a succession of dots very close to the inner side of the right frame line.

No. 48L:

The position dot is oval and placed at an angle close to the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Clearly printed copies may show traces of the horizontal guide line appearing as faint dots in the white border between the position dot and the left frame line and in the white oval between the trifoliate and the edge of the medallion background. The top frame was strongly recut but usually appears weakened in the center, possibly because of a quite noticeable "short transfer." The right frame is a fine continuous line not quite straight or even. It is thickened on the outer side for 3mm. or 4mm. opposite the top of "X" and this thickening makes it appear bent outward slightly in this section. The bottom frame is even and of the usual thickness. Toward the extreme left end it appears to bend downward slightly to join the left frame at the corner. The left frame was extensively recut. It is quite straight, continuous and even in the upper half, but the lower half is weaker and may appear quite ragged. Some copies from this position may easily be identified while others are quite certain to give trouble. Much depends upon the amount of cancelling ink deposited in the upper part of the stamp. Most copies from this position have a mark of color in the upper part of the right arm of "U." This separates the left serif from the remainder of that part of the letter. Another mark frequently found is a dot in the stem of the "T" of "POST" just above the serif. This dot is closer to the left side of the letter and is usually accompanied by a line or part of a line crossing the stem of the "T" about level with the top of the serif just under the dot mentioned. One or



more copies of No.48L on which the dash in the "U" and the marks in the "T" were absent have been noted. Therefore it is reasonable to suppose these marks were not on the plate when it first went to press. There is another mark which has been found on all copies identified as coming from this position. This mark is a long scratch commencing at or just above the top frame line in the upper right corner of the stamp. It crosses the white border at the top and continues downward, slanting slightly to the right through and along the edge of the background and in the white border close to the background, ending at a point about opposite the foot of "S." This scratch is rather blurry and traces of a parallel scratch at its right are often seen. It is much heavier and more extensive than the scratch found in the upper right corner of No.38L; on the latter the scratch is further to the right and does not run through the edge of the background.

No.49L:

The position dot is rather large and wedge shaped, placed about midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background with its lower corner resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was quite strongly recut, especially in the right half, this end being noticeably heavier than the left half. The line tapers for  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at its left end. The right frame shows the characteristic of the "AEF" group, that is, a weak or broken section about 4mm. long opposite the trifoliate and another 2mm. long opposite the upper part of "X." The bottom frame was carefully recut except at the left end where it stops short of the left frame, leaving the corner open. This corner is incomplete in much the same way as the left corner of No.39L, but on the latter position both frame lines stop abruptly while on No.49L they are tapered and the gap at the lower side of the corner is not so wide. On No.49L the gap may be closed by a trace of the original line of the die. The left frame was extensively recut. The most noticeable characteristic is found opposite the upper part of "P" not quite 5mm. below the top frame. There is an irregularity at this point caused by a short over-lap when recutting the frame line. Instead of continuing vertically for a short distance the line was recut at a slight angle toward the background. This position may be distinguished from other copies of the "AEF" group by the incomplete lower left corner and by the short crooked place in the left frame opposite the upper part of "P." Copies may also show a mark on the uppermost line of the background directly over the stem of the first "F" of "OFFICE." In the vicinity of this mark the background is weakened by a slight "short transfer" which in some peculiar manner seems to have



affected the adjacent lines of the background, except this tiny section about  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. long of the top line, which stands out prominently by contrast.

No. 50L:

The position dot is oval or crescent shaped and placed near the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is strong and even. The right frame was entirely recut and is characteristic. Commencing opposite the "E" of "OFFICE" and continuing downward for about 3mm. it is doubled forming a complete loop. The inner line of the loop is fairly straight, while the outer line bends outward. Opposite the upper segment of the trifoliate the frame line bends inward and it swings outward again toward the lower end of the trifoliate. In the white border close to the middle tip of the trifoliate is a dot of color. The bottom frame was carefully recut and is straight and even. The left frame is continuous but very weak from the middle of "X" to the lower corner. It projects a fraction of a millimeter below the corner. Clearly printed copies will often show traces of a fine vertical guide line particularly at the upper right corner of the stamp. This is a succession of dots very close to or merged into the outer side of the right frame opposite the upper part of "S" and extending upward from the right corner of the frame across the top margin to or toward the lower right corner of No. 40L. Copies with sufficiently wide margins at the top-about 1mm.- will show part or all of the diagonal dash beneath the lower frame of No. 40L. This dash is directly above the right end of the first "F" of "OFFICE" on No. 50L. Stamps from this position on which the right frame line is present are readily identified by the loop in the upper part of the frame line and other characteristics noted.

No. 58L:

The position dot is oval and placed near the edge of the background. Usually it does not touch the trifoliate. Part of the original guide line may be seen crossing the left frame line and the white border and continuing through the lower part of the position dot and part way across the white oval toward the background of the medallion. The line is usually broken in the white border. The top frame was strongly recut. It tapers slightly at the extreme right end. The right frame greatly resembles other stamps of the "AEF" group, having the usual weak section about 4mm. long opposite the trifoliate and another shorter weak section opposite the upper part

of "X". On No.58L the lower break is not so noticeable as on other positions of the "AEF" group. The bottom frame is straight and even and of the usual thickness. The left frame was very carefully recut, and is a continuous line quite strong and fairly even, showing very little variation. Stamps from this position may be distinguished from other members of the "AEF" group by a series of fine scratches inside and outside the right frame line, about half way between the lower end of "E" and the trifoliolate. Another series of scratches both inside and outside the right frame line is found opposite the lower part of "X" and terminates just above the foot of "X." Another mark useful in identifying this stamp is a section of the horizontal guide line extending from the tip of the right trifoliolate across the white border and the right frame line. A very similar line, however, is found on No.59L.

No.59L:

The position dot is nearly round and is placed at the edge of the background with its lower side resting on the middle segment of the trifoliolate. Part of the original guide line may be seen crossing the white border at a slight angle and passing through the position dot and trifoliolate, it extends part way across the white oval toward the edge of the medallion background. The top frame was carefully recut and is fairly strong but tapers nearly to a point at the extreme left end. The right frame has two weak or broken places similar to stamps from the "AEF" group but the stronger section of the line at the top, instead of stopping abruptly gradually becomes weaker and the weak section opposite the trifoliolate is not so noticeable. The weak section opposite the upper part of "X" also is perhaps less noticeable than on most of the "AEF" stamps. The bottom frame was entirely recut and is straight and even. The left frame was carefully recut and is a fairly straight fine continuous line, but not strong, especially toward the top and toward the bottom. This position is quite certain to give trouble. It much resembles No.58L but the scratches at the right found on No.58L are missing on No.59L and on the latter position the fine guide line crossing the right trifoliolate and the right frame continuous to the left and into or across the white oval at the right, whereas on No.58L no trace of this line is found in the white oval adjacent to the right trifoliolate.

No.60L:

The position dot is a long oval placed diagonally between the edge of the background and the upper segment of the trifoli-



ate with its lower end close to or resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Traces of a fine line crossing the white border diagonally from the left frame to the lower end of the position dot may sometimes appear. The top frame was carefully recut and is even and fairly strong. The right frame was extensively recut and is rather heavy, especially at the upper end and for several millimeters opposite the upper part of "X." Recutting stopped a fraction of a millimeter above the lower right corner. The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame is fairly straight but decidedly uneven. It is very weak for 3mm. at the lower end and much stronger opposite the upper part of "P" and at the extreme upper end. Directly opposite the tip of the right trifoliate and touching the outer edge of the right frame line is a small dot. A long blur or scratch, not continuous, commences near this dot and parallels the right frame downward nearly to the top of "X", less than 1/2mm. outside the frame line. Traces of a fine vertical guide line appear close to the right frame in several places. These may be either dotted or continuous and are most noticeable as a series of dots commencing about 2mm. above the top of the right trifoliate and extending upward close to the outer side of the right frame line as far as the bottom of "S." From this point nearly to the top corner of the stamp, the line is quite strong and continuous but crossing the margin to the lower right corner of No.50L the line is extremely faint and composed of short dashes. Stamps from this position show a fine horizontal line crossing the right cheek of the portrait, which undoubtedly is part of the original guide line which was not removed before the stamp designs were transferred to the plate. The weak section at the lower end of the left frame line, the line on the portrait and the many marks on or near the right frame line make stamps from this position comparatively easy to identify.

No. 68L:

The position dot is nearly round and placed rather high between the upper segment of the trifoliate and the edge of the background. The top frame was entirely recut but is not especially strong and may appear somewhat weakened at the middle by a slight "short transfer". The right frame was recut slightly if at all. It is a fine straight line with several weak or broken places. From a point about half way between the lower end of "E" and the bottom corner of the frame the line resembles the right frame of stamps in the "AEF" group, but above this point there is little resemblance. At this point a short section about 1mm. long is noticeably strong but the line is very weak for 3mm. above this section, and not especially strong from opposite "E" to the upper corner. The

bottom frame is straight and even and of the usual thickness. The left frame was quite carefully recut and shows little characteristic. It may be somewhat weaker from the foot of "X" to the lower corner. This position is most easily identified by comparison with other copies which have a similar weak frame line at the right. Some copies of this position - possibly all of them - have a faint diagonal spur extending downward to the left from the bottom frame line below the shading between the right and left foot of "X", that is to say, 2½mm. to the right of the lower left corner of the frame.

No. 69L:

The position dot is shaped somewhat like a thick crescent and placed rather high with its outer side at the edge of the background. It does not touch the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is straight and even. The right frame shows the usual characteristics of stamps in the "AEF" group; the upper section of the line stopping abruptly about 10mm. below the top frame and about 4mm. below this section, being very weak or entirely missing. Another weak section 2mm. or 3mm. long is found opposite the upper part of "X". The bottom frame is straight and even without noticeable characteristics. The left frame was extensively recut except about 1½mm. at the lower end, where the original line of the die appears. For 4½mm. above this section the line was heavily recut but then tapers off and the upper two-thirds is much weaker, particularly the last ¼mm. at the top which may hardly show at all, leaving the upper left corner of the frame not well joined. The double break in the right frame line at once identifies this position as belonging in the "AEF" group and the peculiarities of the left frame line enable it to be distinguished from other "AEF" stamps.

No. 70L:

The position dot is oval and placed very high, its left side extending beyond the background into the white border. A fine line crossing the white border from the left frame to the position dot may appear. The top frame was entirely recut but is not especially heavy. The right frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. The bottom frame is straight and even as usual. The left frame is a fine straight line, continuous on some copies but intermittent on others. Opposite the middle segment of the right trifoliate are two dots, one touching the inner side of the right frame line, the other close to but not touching the outer side of the right frame line and placed a trifle lower than the inside dot. A



fine dotted line closely parallels the right frame, at places merging with it, and continues upward across the top margin to the lower right corner of No.60L and downward across the bottom margin to the upper right corner of No.80L This line is very close to the inner side of the right frame and is particularly noticeable between the "E" of "OFFICE" and the right trifoliate, and opposite the right "X". It is also very noticeable between two heavy sections of the frame line, one of which extends downward for about 2mm. from the right trifoliate and the other of which extends upward, commencing less than 2mm. above the top of "X". Each of these heavy sections of the frame line appears as a swelling or thickening of the line on its inner side. Another curved section of the line is found opposite the lower part of "X". Although other marginal positions show portions of a dotted or continuous fine vertical guide line no other position on the plate shows as much of the line as is found on No.70L. Except where it is merged into the frame line at the top opposite "S", it is almost continuous from the top to the bottom of the stamp, and enables any copy from this position on which much of the right frame line is intact to be recognized at once.

No.78L:

The position dot is round or oval and placed near the edge of the background, close to but not always touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is perhaps a trifle heavier at the left end. The right frame shows the usual characteristics of stamps in the "AEF" group, the frame line being broken for about 3mm. opposite and just above the right trifoliate and quite weak for about 2mm. opposite the upper part of "X". The bottom frame is straight and even. The left frame was very carefully recut and shows little characteristic. Recutting stopped a small fraction of a millimeter short of the lower left corner and though sometimes the ink ran enough to fill this corner, on many copies careful examination shows the corner to be not perfectly joined. This variety was the one originally dubbed "AEF" by the writer, but owing to its similarity to other members of the "AEF" group its position on the plate was almost the last to be ascertained. Copies showing a margin at the right can be identified by a few faint marks in the right margin. One of these is a short scratch less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and located  $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the top frame line and  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the right frame. The upper end of this dash is turned slightly outward to the right. Another fine scratch may be found extending along the outer side of the right frame, commencing near the top of "X" and continuing upward intermittently to the trifoliate. The lower end of this

scratch probably merges into the frame line near the top of "X", but in most cases it is so faint that only traces of it appear here and there.

No. 79L:

The position dot is a rather small oval placed at the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut but is not heavy. The right frame was entirely recut and is characteristic. It is quite strong here and there, especially opposite "S", but weak for  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the upper end. Extending downward and outward from a point close to the upper right corner is a plain scratch 3mm. long, terminating about opposite the foot of "S"  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm outside the right frame. The bottom frame is straight and even and of the usual thickness. The left frame is a fine straight line showing little or no sign of recutting. Commencing opposite the lower part of "P" a very fine vertical scratch extends downward outside the right frame line for about 4mm. This scratch is scarcely  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the right frame. Ten millimeters above the lower frame line there is a faint vertical dash about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long in the left margin. This is  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside the left frame line. Copies of No. 79L showing the upper right corner are immediately identified by the diagonal scratch at that corner. Other copies may be identified by the scratches in the left margin.

No. 80L:

The position dot is a rather thick large oval placed at the edge of the background with its lower end touching or impinging on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut but is not especially strong. The right frame was extensively recut and is quite strong but somewhat uneven. It is noticeably heavy opposite the foot of "X" and the top of "X" and weaker below the foot of "X". The bottom frame is straight and even without marked characteristics. The left frame was carefully recut. It is weak for 1mm. or 2mm. at the upper end and noticeably strong from the middle of "X" to the lower end. It projects a trifle beyond the bottom frame at the lower left corner and the bottom frame is bent sharply downward where it joins the left frame, making a sharp point at this corner. Faint traces of a vertical scratch less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. outside the upper part of the frame may be found. One of these is a dot not quite 4mm. below the top frame. Another dot is a little more than 1mm. lower than the top frame and a few much fainter dots may be seen above or below the upper of the two stronger dots mentioned. The fine guide line at the right merges into



the frame line, but can be seen crossing the margin from the upper corner of No.80L to the lower right corner of No.70L and from the lower right corner of No.80L to the upper right corner of No.90L. On the outside of the right frame directly opposite the middle tip of the right trifoliate is a small dot. Slightly above and very close to this dot is another fainter dot, which does not touch the frame line. Copies of No.80L on which the lower left corner and one or two other corners show can always be identified by the projecting frame line at the lower left corner in connection with marks noted at the other corners.