

## PLATING THE 10¢ 1847

This installment includes a description of all the positions on the plate which have not previously been given. Eighteen positions comprising all of the two lower rows of the left pane, except the two marginal stamps in the first vertical row, complete the left pane, and the other six positions are in the two lower rows at the lower right corner of the right pane. Twelve of these twenty-four positions therefore comprise six positions in the lower right corner of the right pane and the corresponding six positions in the lower right corner of the left pane.

The twenty-four positions include many interesting and easily recognized varieties. Nearly all the stamps from the ninth horizontal row of the left pane show, more or less clearly, traces of the double horizontal line which is not found elsewhere on the plate. Twelve of the twenty-four positions are from the bottom row of the plate and stamps from these positions may occur with a sheet margin at the bottom. Four of the twenty-four positions may show a wide margin at the right as two are from the middle of the sheet and two are from the outer right side. Of these marginal positions two occupy corners and stamps from them may show wide margins at the right side and the bottom.

No.93L is one of the most strongly marked of the "short transfers", so called, on the entire plate. On No.84L both the right and left frame lines project slightly below the bottom frame and this is the only position on the plate showing this peculiarity. On No.99L the fine horizontal guide line is much stronger than on any other position on the plate and the line differs from all similar lines on other positions. No.100R has a very noticeable slit frame line at the right.

Comparison of No.100R with No.100L will convince any student that neither variety was produced by recutting the other. Copies of these two stamps with margins indicating they must come from a lower right corner afforded the first definite indication that all the 10¢ stamps of the 1847 issue were not printed from a plate containing 100 subjects. When further study by Dr. Carroll Chase and William B. Sprague proved the existence of a great many more than 100 varieties the further conclusion was reached that the 10¢ stamps, instead of being printed from one plate containing 100 subjects, were printed from two plates each of which contained 100 subjects and that the two lower right corner stamps were from position No.100 of each of the two plates. Now, however, we can demonstrate that the two varieties occupied position No.100L and No.100R on one plate of 200 subjects, divided into two panes of 100 each, therefore that the two varieties do not come from separ-

ate printings or from two separate plates, but were printed at the same time from the same plate.

No. 82L:

The position dot is crescent shaped and its lower corner touches the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut and is rather heavier in the middle than towards the ends. The right frame was very carefully recut and shows few characteristics. Commencing 2mm. above the lower right corner there is a slightly thicker section extending upward for two or three millimeters. The thickness is on the inside of the line and makes the line appear to bend slightly inward. The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame was very carefully recut and shows only slight variation. Traces of one or two diagonal scratches may be found crossing the right frame line near its lower end. The most noticeable scratch is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and extends upward and outward diagonally, merging into the frame line at the thick place a little below a point opposite the middle of "X". As on other positions in this same horizontal row of the left pane the stamps from this position show traces of two fine parallel guide lines crossing Washington's nose and cheek and at the right trifoliate. On No. 82L both lines cross the white oval at the right and the white border at the right and the lower one may extend slightly beyond the right frame line. At the left both lines cross the white oval and the lower one crosses the white border to the left frame line. The upper one is less distinctly seen in the left border.

No. 83L:

The position dot is oval and placed at the edge of the background with its lower end touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is quite carefully recut but tapers nearly to a point for  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the left end. The right frame was carefully recut and is quite straight and even. The bottom frame is also straight and even. The left frame was entirely recut and is fairly even though somewhat crooked. Commencing opposite the the bottom of "U" and extending downward for 3mm. it is bent outward there is a faint vertical scratch in the white border paralleling this curved section. There is a faint diagonal scratch in the margin at the right opposite the lower curve of "S". This scratch may commence at or near the frame line opposite the upper part of "E" of "OFFICE" and continuous several millimeters. Faint traces of the double guide line may be found on Washington's cheek to the right of his nose and in the white oval at the left



and right of the portrait medallion. The upper line also crosses the white border and extends a fraction of a millimeter beyond the right frame. The lower line extends part way from the tip of the trifoliate into the white border at the right. This position is readily identified by the traces of the double horizontal guide line and by the curved section in the upper part of the left frame.

No. 84L:

The position dot is pointed at its upper end and is placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was carefully recut and is not specially strong. It is definitely weakened by a slight "short transfer" over the "T" of "POST" and "OF" of "OFFICE". The right frame was entirely recut and is heavier than usual. It projects below the bottom frame a fraction of a millimeter. The bottom frame is straight and even but tapered slightly at either end and the last millimeter at the left is rather weak. The left frame was carefully recut and is free of pronounced characteristics. The lower 5mm. or more is a bit heavier and the line declines outward slightly for about 3mm. at its lower end and projects below the bottom frame line. Traces of the double guide line may be found on Washington's face and crossing the white oval at either side. The upper line also crosses the white border from the top of the position dot and the lower line crosses from the bottom of the position dot to the left frame line. Indication of one or both lines may also be found in the white border at the right. Stamps from this position which have even a slight margin at the bottom are at once identified by the slight projection of both right and left frame line.

No. 92L:

The position dot is nearly round and projects into the white border beyond the edge of the background, resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. A line crosses the white oval between the trifoliate and the edge of the medallion and a dot or vertical dash of color may be noted crossing this line. The top frame was carefully recut and is fairly heavy. The right frame was partially or wholly recut but is weaker for about 10mm. downward from a point opposite the "E" of "OFFICE" and for 1½mm. at its lower end. Between these two sections it is noticeably heavier. The bottom frame is straight and even and rather heavy. The left frame was entirely recut and is quite straight and even, though somewhat weaker for about 2mm. at its lower end. Stamps

from this position showing a margin at the bottom are at once identified by a strong dot about  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in diameter and  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. below the bottom frame,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to the right of the lower left corner. Stamps cut too close at the bottom to show this dot may be identified by scratches near the right frame line. The most prominent extends about 10mm. in the white border upward from the foot of the right "X". This commences in the shading of the "X", crosses the white border nearly to the right frame just above the upper arm of "X" and then crosses backward toward the lower tip of the trifoliate. Traces of the horizontal guide line may be found in the white oval at the right and crossing the right frame. It is usually well marked where it crosses the tip of Washington's nose and the right cheek and less so on the cheek to the left of the nose.

No. 93L

The position dot is a long narrow oval placed vertically at the edge of the background with its lower end impinging on the middle segment of the trifoliate. Traces of the guide line may be found in the white oval and in the white border at the left. The top line was very carefully recut, especially for 6mm. or 7mm. at the right end. It tapers sharply to a point at the left end and is much weakened in the middle by one of the most pronounced "short transfers" on the entire plate. The right frame was entirely recut and is quite straight and even. The bottom frame is also straight and even. The left frame was carefully recut and shows little variation except that the recutting stopped about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short of the top and bottom corners so that these corners are weak and not well joined. The very noticeable "short transfer" and the peculiar position dot enable stamps from this position to be identified without difficulty. Another guide is a long narrow blurr in the right margin paralleling the right frame about  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside. This commences about 4mm. above the bottom frame and extends upward about 7mm.

No. 94L:

The position dot is a narrow oval placed diagonally with its upper end close to the edge of the background and its lower end impringing on the middle segment of the trifoliate. There is apt to be a blur of color in the middle of the trifoliate to the right of the position dot and clearly printed copies may show the faint guide line crossing the white border at the left and continuing part way across the white oval between the trifoliate and the left edge of the medallion background. The top frame was



strongly recut and is quite heavy, but the last  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the left tapers off nearly to a point. The right frame was recut and is quite straight and fairly even but the recutting stopped  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short of the top frame, leaving the upper right corner open. The bottom frame was carefully recut and is quite even. The left frame is quite straight but the recutting stopped  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. short of the top frame, and the upper left corner of the frame is not well joined. Stamps from this position showing the upper part of the left frame are at once identified by a double section of the frame extending nearly 3mm. opposite the upper arm of "X". The extra line merges into the frame about 7mm. above the bottom frame and ends sharply  $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the bottom frame.

No. 85L:

The position dot is oval or pear shaped and placed midway 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. Traces of the double horizontal guide line may be seen crossing the white oval between the trifoliate and the edge of the medallion background and projecting into the white border at the left of the position dot. The upper of these faint lines passes through the upper end of the position dot and the lower passes close to the lower end of the position dot. The top frame is straight but not especially strong and is much weakened by a very pronounced "short transfer". The right frame is very carefully recut and is straight and quite even. The bottom frame was recut and as usual has no marked characteristics. The left frame was carefully recut down to a point one and three quarter millimeters above the lower corner. At this point the recutting stops abruptly and the remaining section is the fine original line of the die. This position may be distinguished easily. The double horizontal guide line crossing the position dot at once identifies it as belonging in the ninth horizontal row of the left pane and the strongly pronounced "short transfer", together with the weak lower end of the left frame line, completes the identification.

No. 86L:

The position dot is crescent shaped with its convex side coinciding with the edge of the background, and its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. The double horizontal guide line is clearly seen. The upper line passes through the upper part of the position dot and the lower line passes through the lower part of the position dot. Both lines extend from the edge of the medallion background across the white oval,

the trifoliate, the position dot, the white border and the left frame line. The top frame is straight and even but not specially heavy. It may be somewhat weakened in the center by a slight "short transfer" which much resembles the short transfer on No. 86L but is rather more pronounced though not nearly so strongly marked as the "short transfer" on No. 85L. The right frame is carefully recut and is quite straight and fairly even. It is heavier at the extreme lower end than at the upper end and the lower right corner is stronger than the upper right corner. The double horizontal guide line is clearly seen crossing the white oval from the edge of the background of the medallion, crossing the right trifoliate and the right border and ending at the right frame line. The bottom frame was carefully recut and is without noticeable characteristic. The left frame was extensively recut. It is quite straight but not very even, being much weaker for 5mm. at the upper end. This position is at once recognized as belonging in the ninth horizontal row in the left pane and may be distinguished from other positions in the row without difficulty. The frame lines on No. 86L differ from other stamps at its left which have "short transfers" and the positions to the right of No. 86L do not have "short transfers".

No. 87L:

The position dot is a narrow oval placed at the edge of the background and not touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. Along the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate is a dark area much resembling a second position dot. The double horizontal guide line is clearly seen crossing the white oval from the edge of the medallion background, crossing the trifoliate, the white border and the left frame line. The upper line goes through the upper part of the position dot and the lower line runs through the lower end of the position dot. Both lines project only the tiniest bit, if at all, beyond the left frame. The top frame is a strong line, straight and even except at the extreme left end, where it is slightly tapered. The right frame is carefully recut and is quite straight and even, but weaker for a fraction of a millimeter at the extreme lower end where it joins the bottom frame. The double guide line may be seen crossing the white oval, the right trifoliate and both lines extend part way across the white border toward the right frame line. The upper of these two very fine lines may reach the right frame on some specimens. The bottom frame is straight and even as usual. The left frame was entirely recut but is neither perfectly straight nor even. It is noticeably weak opposite the lower part of "X" and may be missing for a fraction of a millimeter at the lower end, so that the lower left



corner of the frame is weak or open a trifle. A blurry scratch, which on clearly printed copies may appear as two fine scratches close together, extends vertically in the white border opposite the lower part of "X". There is a series of dashes in the margin less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the left frame just above and below the top of "X". The upper scratch is  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long and the lower is about 1mm long, but may appear as three dots or very short dashes. All these dots and dashes extend over a distance of 2mm. This position is readily identified as belonging in the ninth horizontal row of the left pane and readily distinguished from the three positions at its left because Nos. 84 L, 85 L and 86 L all have "short transfers" at the top, whereas No. 87 L does not. No. 87L much resembles positions to the right of it, particularly the adjacent position - No.88L - but in most cases it may be distinguished from No.88L without great difficulty. The fine scratches outside the left frame of No.87L in the margin between No.86L and No.87L are not found in the margin between No.87L and No.88L.

No.95L:

The position dot is a rather large oval placed diagonally near the edge of the background with its lower end close to but not touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. On clearly printed copies, often a heavy smear of ink crosses the trifoliate to the right of the position dot. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight and even. It may be slightly affected in the middle by a very slight "short transfer". The right frame was entirely recut and is fairly straight and not very even. There is a noticeable swelling extending about 2mm just above the lower end of "X". The bottom frame is straight and even without marked characteristic. The left frame was very carefully recut and is quite straight and fairly even. There is a slight swelling or irregularity opposite the outer corner of "P" and at the extreme upper end the line is tapered from the inner side to form a point where it joins the top frame, making it appear to turn outward slightly at the upper left corner. Copies of this position showing a slight margin at the upper right corner may easily be identified by a short vertical dash outside and very close to the right frame opposite the lower curve of "S". This dash is  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long and is shaped like a very narrow wedge, the sharp end being upward. Two other positions of the pane have a somewhat similar dash in very much the same location. On No.95L the dash is placed slightly lower, being opposite the lower curve of "S", whereas on No.6L and No.28L the dash is opposite the middle of "S". On No.6L the pointed edge of the dash is downward. On No.28L the position dot

is placed further to the left than on No.95L and the left frame differs quite noticeably from that of No.95L.

No.96L:

The position dot is fairly large and roughly oval shaped. It is placed near the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. In the corner between the upper and middle segment of the trifoliate is a dark area-resembling a second position dot. Traces of a fine horizontal guide line crossing the position dot may be seen crossing the white border at the left and in the white oval between the trifoliate and the left edge of the medallion background. The top frame was strongly recut and is much weakened by a very noticeable "short transfer". The right frame was entirely recut and is quite straight and fairly even, except at the upper end. It curves inward opposite the middle of "S" and outward above the top of "S". The bottom frame is straight and even as usual. The left frame was carefully recut and is quite straight but not perfectly even. Two millimeters at the lower end are weaker and 6 or 7mm. the weak section are much stronger. At the upper end the line tapers to a point and is very weak for  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. where it forms the upper left corner, so this corner of the frame is not strongly joined. This position is apt to give trouble. It resembles other positions that show a similar "short transfer" but copies on which the upper right corner is intact and the cancellation favorably placed may be identified by a faint scratch which, extending downward and slightly to the right from the top margin, crosses the top frame  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the right end and continues downward across the top border and through the background between the upper end of "S" and the right border. Other copies may be identified by very careful comparison of the position dot and left frame line.

No.97L:

The position dot is roughly wedge shaped with the pointed end close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The outer corner is close to the edge of the background. The top frame is a strong even line pointed at the extreme left end. The right frame was very carefully recut and is quite straight and even and is somewhat weaker from the foot of "X" to the bottom corner. The bottom frame was recut but is not heavy and recutting stopped about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. short at the left end, leaving the lower left corner of the frame open. The left frame was carefully recut and shows no very marked characteristic. There is a slight swelling



opposite the lower end of "U" and it is a bit weaker for about 1mm. just above the middle of "X". Traces of the faint horizontal guide line may be seen crossing the white oval between the left trifoliate and the edge of the background. Most specimens from this position are easily identified by two parallel scratches on the right frame opposite the lower end of "E" of "OFFICE". The outer scratch commences about  $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the top frame and, extending downward diagonally to the left, ends at the frame line or in the white border. The inner scratch commences on the right frame 6mm. below the upper right corner and extends downward to the left for 1mm, or more, ending in the background. These scratches are very similar to the pair found near the top of "X" on the right frame of No.77L. As No.77L occurs both with and without these scratches it is possible that No.97L may also occur without the scratches, which are usually characteristic of it.

No.88L:

The position dot is of medium size and placed diagonally close to the edge of the background. The top frame was entirely recut and is fairly strong especially at the left end over "U". The right frame is fairly straight but not even throughout. There is a noticeable weak place for about 3mm. opposite the right trifoliate and another about 1mm. opposite the middle of "X". The bottom frame is straight and even with very few noticeable characteristics. This position is at once identified as belonging in the ninth horizontal row of the left pane by portions of the double guide line found crossing both the left and right trifoliates. At the left the lines cross the white border and the white oval and the upper one passes along the upper end of the position dot while the lower one passes along the lower end of the position dot. At the right both lines may be distinctly seen crossing the white border and extending about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. into the right margin beyond the right frame. They extend inward toward the medallion background but terminate about half way across the white oval.

No.89L:

The position dot is rather large and its lower end penetrates the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was strongly recut and is quite even except at the left end where is a slight swelling over the left serif of "U" and from this point to the corner tapers. The right frame is fairly even but not very straight. For about 3mm. opposite the trifoliate it bends outward slightly. The line stops just short at the upper right corner, leaving this corner not quite complete. The bottom frame is

straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is quite straight but weak or broken in many places, particularly for about  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. opposite the shading under the upper arm of "X" and for about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm opposite the middle of "X". Traces of the double guide line immediately identify this stamp as belonging in the ninth horizontal row of the left pane. At the left both guide lines pass through the position dot, and across the white border and the left frame line, terminating close to the outer side of the frame line. They may also appear very faintly crossing the white oval at the left. At the right a faint trace of one line may be found in the white oval and in the white border. A faint vertical scratch or blurr may also be found in the white border between the trifoliate and the bend in the right frame line.

No. 90L:

The position dot is a narrow oval placed close to the edge of the background with its lower end resting on the middle segment of the trifoliate. In the corner between the upper and middle segment of the trifoliate is another dark area appearing like a second position dot. The top frame is carefully recut but is not specially heavy. The right frame shows evidence of considerable recutting, particularly in the upper half where it is crooked and uneven. It is heavy opposite the "E" of "OFFICE" and there is a noticeable swelling 1mm. long on the inner side half way between the lower corner of "E" and the trifoliate. The lower end of the line is thinner and fairly straight. The bottom frame is straight and even without noticeable characteristic. The left frame was entirely recut except for 1mm. at the lower end where traces of the original fine line of the die remains. The lower left corner of the frame therefore is noticeably weak. On clearly printed copies having margins at the upper and lower right corner a very fine vertical guide line or traces of it may be seen connecting the upper right corner of No.90L with the lower right corner of No.80L. These corners are exactly in line and between them the guide line usually appears as a series of dots or short dashes. The very fine dotted guide line extending downward across the bottom margin toward No.100L passes just outside the upper right corner of No.100L, the latter position being placed slightly to the left of this vertical line. No.90L is easily distinguished from other positions of the 10th vertical row of the left pane and of the right pane by the weak lower left corner where recutting of the left frame line stopped a millimeter short. No.90L is distinguished from other positions on which the left frame was not completely recut at the lower corner by the presence of the vertical guide line at the upper and lower right corners. For



instance, on No.45L and 85L there is no vertical guide line at the right and on No.85L there is a very pronounced "short transfer" at the top, whereas on No.90L recutting of the left frame line stops opposite the foot of "X" instead of slightly above the foot of "X" and there is only a faint trace of a "short transfer" at the top. On No.90L traces of the double horizontal guide line so noticeable on most of the other positions in this ninth horizontal row of the left pane are extremely faint or entirely missing.

No.98L:

The position dot is wedge shaped and placed diagonally with its upper corner coinciding with the edge of the background and its lower corner slightly penetrating the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is evenly recut but is not specially heavy. The right frame is characteristic and immediately identifies this position as belonging to the "AEF" group. The line is very weak for about 4mm. extending from opposite the lower tip of the trifoliate, and the stronger section above ends abruptly at the upper end of the weaker section. Another weak section is found opposite the upper half of "X". The bottom frame was carefully recut and is quite straight and fairly even for its entire length except at the extreme top and extreme bottom. About  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the upper end may be noticeably weak and the section from opposite the foot of the left "X" to the lower corner where it joins the bottom frame is decidedly weak. Copies from this position with sufficiently wide margin at the bottom are at once identified because No.98L is the only bottom row stamp of the plate with "AEF" characteristics. The position dot is also helpful since on so few positions does it penetrate the trifoliate. Copies of No. 98L may also be identified by scratches in the right margin. A long double scratch extends parallel and close to the right frame for about 8mm. along its upper half and other scratches are found inside and outside the right frame opposite "X" and opposite the lower end of the right trifoliate.

No.99L:

The position dot is round and unusually large. It is placed partly on the middle segment of the trifoliate with its outer edge coinciding with the edge of the background. Often a heavy blur of ink extends across the trifoliate and the white oval at the left from the right of the position dot. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight and even. The right frame was extensively recut but is noticeably weak for 10mm. at the upper end.

The bottom frame is fairly straight and even. The left frame was recut irregularly and is noticeably uneven. There is a heavy section opposite the "P" of "POST" and above this place the line is much weaker. This position is usually very easy to identify. The fine guide line crossing the stamp can be seen near the left trifoliate and crossing the right trifoliate and the white border at the right. It can also be plainly seen crossing the portrait. It is unusually heavy and on clearly printed copies careful examination shows it to be composed of very fine lines very close together. No other position on the plate shows trace of a guide line having this characteristic. Copies of No.99L may also be identified by a vertical blur in the white border at the right opposite the middle of "S" and by a series of vertical blurs or scratches close to and just outside the left frame. This scratch is found intermittently except above the "P" of "POST" and for a few millimeters opposite the upper part of "X" and is most noticeable opposite the trifoliate and opposite the lower part of "X".

No. 100L:

The position dot is nearly round and placed at the edge of the background close to or touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. Along the left edge of the upper segment of the trifoliate or in the corner between the upper and middle segment another dark area resembling a position dot may appear. The top frame is straight and even but not specially heavy. The right frame was extensively recut and presents a very irregular or patched appearance. It extends upward nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the top frame at the upper right corner. For nearly 10mm. in the middle it is noticeably heavy and there is another swollen or heavy section just below the top of "X" and opposite the foot of "X". A spur  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. long extends downward on the outer side of the frame line opposite the shading at the foot of "X", the upper end of the spur merging into the lower end of the thick section of the line already mentioned. On the inner side of the right frame a short spur or dot of color extends into the white border directly opposite the point of the middle segment of the right trifoliate. Traces of the fine vertical guide line may be seen on the outside of the right frame along the upper half of the frame. At the lower end of this section the guide line is continuous; at the upper end it is dotted and opposite the upper part of "E" it is extremely faint or missing. The bottom frame is straight and even without special characteristic. The left frame was extensively recut and is fairly straight but decidedly uneven. It stops a trifle short at the top, leaving the upper left corner of the frame open, and is very weak for 3mm. opposite the middle of "X".



This position is readily identified by the peculiarities of the right frame line and the traces of the vertical guide line.

No. 88R:

The position dot is oval or crescent shaped and placed closer to the upper segment of the trifoliate than to the edge of the background. The top frame was carefully recut and is straight, even and fairly heavy. The right frame is quite straight but is noticeably uneven. The upper 8mm are very weak, and the lower section of the line is stronger, particularly opposite the upper part and middle of "X", but is quite weak for 1mm at the lower end. The bottom frame is quite straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is quite uneven and not very straight; 5mm or 6mm at the lower end are quite heavy and there is another heavy section for about 2mm opposite the lower end of "P". This position may be identified by the weak section of the right frame line and by a very faint vertical scratch about 2mm long in the left margin 1mm outside the left frame line, its lower end being about 2mm above a point opposite the upper arm of "X". Copies of this position may also show a dot in the left margin  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the left frame 4mm of this position may also show a dot in the left margin  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the left frame 4mm below the upper left corner of the stamp, and another dot in almost the exact center of the lower right "X".

No. 89R:

The position dot is rather small and triangular in shape. Its outer corner coincides with the edge of the background and its lower end touches the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame is quite even and not particularly strong. The right frame is not quite straight and is somewhat uneven, the stronger section extending from opposite the lower part of the trifoliate to the shading under the upper arm of "X". The bottom frame is straight and even but not heavy. The left frame is a fine continuous line, showing little variation. It is somewhat weaker for 2mm or 3mm opposite the lower part of "U" and may show two short heavier sections appearing as dots, or very short dashes, opposite the upper part of "P". This position may be identified by a vertical scratch which commences in the background close to the white border above the foot of the right "X" and extends downward, passing along the outer edge of the colorless foot of "X", crosses the shading under the foot of "X" and continues across the white border at the bottom, the bottom frame line and the bottom margin into the upper right corner of No. 99R. The upper section of this

line may be somewhat blurred.

No. 90R:

The position dot is oval and placed near the edge of the background with its lower end touching the middle segment of the trifoliate. The top frame was entirely recut and is straight and fairly even. The right frame was partially recut, its most noticeable characteristic being a short weak place opposite the middle of "S" and a very noticeable weak place or broken section 2mm long, extending downward from opposite the top of "X". The bottom frame was carefully recut and shows no variation. The left frame was extensively recut, and is quite straight but somewhat uneven, being weak for 4mm at the upper end and stronger for 7mm at the lower end. A very short weak or broken place may be seen at a point 2mm above the top of the trifoliate. This position is most readily identified by the broken section near the lower end of the right frame and by blurs and scratches at or near the upper corners. At the upper right corner are two fine scratches, the outer of which is probably a section of the fine vertical guide line. This is very close to the outer side of the frame line and extends downward below the middle of "S". The other scratch crosses the top frame and extends downward very close to the inner side of the right frame, ending opposite the upper part of "S". There is a vertical dash about 1mm long and  $\frac{1}{4}$ mm outside the left frame opposite the outer corner of "P" and several very fine blurs or scratches inside the outside the left frame from opposite the top of "P" almost to the top frame line.

No. 98R:

The position dot is oval or wedge shaped and is placed midway between the upper segment of the trifoliate and 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 but tapers off somewhat at the left end where it joins the left frame line. The right frame line is fairly straight but not even, being noticeably weak for 2mm below the outer corner of the "E" and noticeably strong for about 3mm above the upper arm of "X". The bottom frame is quite straight and even. The left frame is both crooked and irregular, being noticeably heavy from opposite the lower part of "U" down to opposite the middle of the trifoliate. This position may be identified by the peculiarities of the right and left frame lines and by several other marks which usually show. There is a line crossing the white oval slightly above the middle of the left trifoliate. Commencing opposite the lower



segment of the left trifoliate, a line of faint dots extends downward and slightly outward in the left margin for about 2mm, 1mm outside the left frame. There may be a diagonal blur or scratch crossing the white border at the left. This starts on the left frame line opposite the top of "X" and extends upward diagonally to or into the part of the oak leaf which rests on the upper arm of "X". Faint vertical scratches or blurs may be found in the white border at the right corner of the frame where sometimes there appears to be a diagonal line extending upward to the left from the corner of the frame.

No. 99R:

The position dot is rather large and wedge shaped; its outside corner is near the edge of the background, and the lower corner penetrates the middle segment of the trifoliate. Frequently there is a blur of color extending across the trifoliate from the position dot. The top frame was evenly recut, is not heavy and may be weakened toward the right end from a slight "short transfer". The right frame is neither straight nor even. A very short break may be noticed opposite the middle of "S" and the line swells considerably below this point down to opposite the lower corner of "E". It is also somewhat stronger opposite the upper and lower tips of the right trifoliate. The bottom frame is quite straight and even though not strong. The left frame was carefully recut and is quite straight and even. It appears to bend outward slightly from opposite the upper part of "X" to the lower left corner where it joins the bottom frame line. This position may give trouble. The unusual location of the position dot accompanied by a heavy blur of color crossing the upper segment of the trifoliate is a good clue. A better clue when it shows distinctly is the lower section of the scratch which extends downward from the lower right corner of No. 89R. This scratch, or traces of it, may be found in the background opposite the upper part of "S" close to the white border in the upper right corner of the stamp. Parts of two parallel vertical scratches may be found in the white border or in the edge of the background at this point. Another mark which may be helpful is a blurry scratch parallel to and about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the right frame line at the lower right corner of the stamp. This extends below the bottom sheet margin.

No. 100R:

The position dot is wedge shaped with its pointed end downward and placed midway between the upper and middle segments of the trifoliate and edge of the background. The top frame was

strongly recut and is straight and even. The right frame was extensively recut and is characteristic. It appears to extend upward beyond the top frame fully  $3/4$ mm but this extension may be part of the original fine guide line. The frame line was recut downward and stops abruptly  $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm below the upper right corner. For nearly 3mm at its lower end it is paralleled on the inner side by the middle section of the right frame which when being recut instead of meeting the top section passed the lower end of the latter and paralleled it on the inner side. The frame is very weak or broken for 2mm above the top of "X" and bulges outward slightly opposite the middle of "X". The bottom frame was recut but the recutting stops  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm short at the left end leaving the lower left corner of the frame open. The left frame was strongly recut, especially toward the lower end opposite the upper part of "X", and inclining toward opposite the left oak leaf turns outward slightly just below the lower tip of the trifoliolate. It extends downward a trifle beyond the bottom frame. In addition to the peculiarities of the right frame already noted there are several other readily distinguishable marks at the right side of this position. There is a dot of color in the middle of the white border opposite the middle point of the trifoliolate and nearly in line with this dot there are two much larger dots in the right margin. One of these is about 1mm outside the right frame and the other which is larger and placed slightly higher is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the right frame. A "V" shaped blur like the tail of a comet extends upward from a point just above the inner of the two outside dots. There is another faint dot located  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm directly below the lower right corner of the stamp and a much stronger dot  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm below the outside the lower right corner. A line extended downward and outward at  $45^\circ$  from the lower right corner of the frame would pass through this strong dot. There are two noticeable scratches near the lower right corner of the stamp. One of these is vertical and is found in the middle of the white border extending upward 2mm from the foot of "X". The other line is a series of faint dashes commencing about  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the right frame opposite the foot of "X" and curving inward extends upward paralleling the right frame for several millimeters. Another strong dash  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long is found  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the right frame opposite the top of "S". There is a faint blur paralleling the lower end of the left frame line opposite the lower part of "X" not quite  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm outside the frame.