



The Expert's Corner



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Double Impression vs. Double Transfer

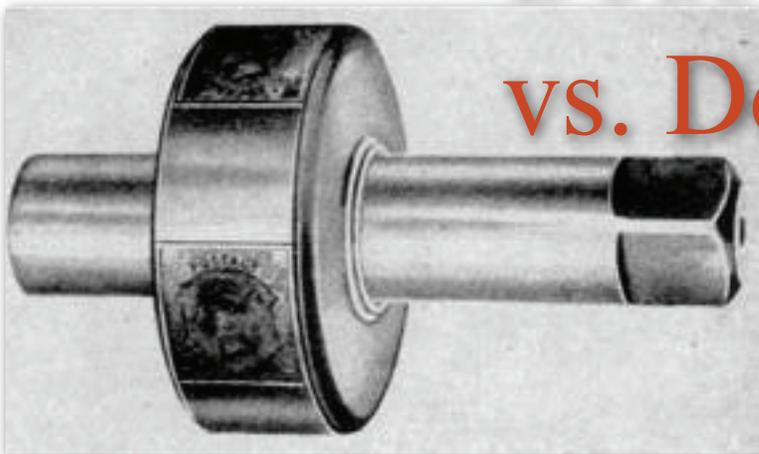


Figure 2.

Over the years I've had so many people ask me what the difference is between a double transfer and a double impression, I thought I'd take this opportunity to go over this one more time in our public forum here.

First of all, a 'double impression' in its basic form has had two design images printed by passing through the printing process one or more additional times. See Figure 1. A double impression shows two complete images of the same stamp. However, due to printing errors in registration, the second and or subsequent images may be off-centered or at an odd angle to the first impression.

A 'double transfer' has a totally different origin as I will explain. During the preparation of the printing plate, a 'Transfer Roll' (Figure 2) is used to place the image of the original Die of the design onto the soft steel plate that will be used after hardening to print the stamps. Under pressure, the transfer roll is rocked back and forth until the soft steel is forced into every line of the Die. A 'Transfer' is an impression entered onto the printing plate by this transfer roll. A double or even a triple transfer of part or all of the



Figure 1 . Courtesy of the Dan Harding Collection.

design occurs usually as a result of the slight change of the registration between the transfer roll and the plate. Close studies of the printing plates show very minor misregistrations rather commonly. Theoretically, the preparation should be exact registration of the



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

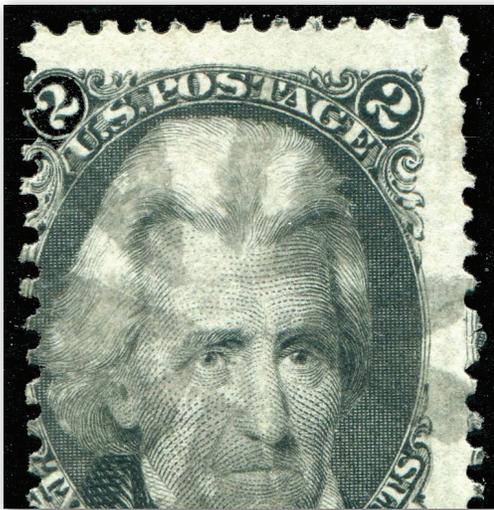


Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 5.

image transferred...theoretically! In practice, just a tiny deviation shows in the final printed image from this position. More dramatic deviations can be seen below. In summary, a Double Transfer is a doubling from the printed image of a stamp that passes through the printing press only once, not twice or more on Double Impressions.

Figure 3. Double Transfer at Bottom A 'Short Transfer' occurs

when the transfer roll is not rocked in to its full length onto the plate, the resultant design is incomplete where it was not fully impressed.

Figure 4. Short Transfer at bottom of left stamp.

Figure 5. Double Transfer at top and bottom of bottom stamp

Figure 6. Double Transfer at upper left.

Figure 7. Double Impression of US#529a. ☒