

## 2020 Literature Exhibition of Philatelic Articles Submission Summary

**Article Title:** New Plate Flaw Discovery: “Dash and Ink Trail” on 3¢ 1851 Stamp

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**Brief Synopsis:** This article details the discovery of a new plate flaw on the 3¢ 1851 stamp, Scott #10A, position 97R1I. It appears as a small vertical dash of color in the white space between the “U.S. POSTAGE” label and the upper right diamond block (URDB). A faint “ink trail” (or line) extends upward from the dash, heading past the URDB and into the lower right diamond block on the stamp above it. As with any new plate variety, I confirmed that the extra dots, dashes and lines are constant plating marks, not merely stray ink spots unique to one particular stamp by examining multiple copies of 97R1I. I then examined the two other states of Plate 1 and discovered that the early state 97R1E does not show the flaw and the late state 97R1L shows a faint dash, likely a remnant of the variety, but no ink trail. I postulated what could have caused this variety and shared the satisfaction that after more than a century of study by the most astute students of philately, a new constant plate variety can be identified on the 3¢ 1851 stamp.