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The Two Cent Navy Error

BY "ZURA."

In the first place, is this a Navy error? Some authorities say yes and others no.

For my part I should say no; it is, more correctly speaking, a State Department error, and should be listed as such—i. e., two cent State green, spelt Navy instead of State.

It seems that the two cent value of the State Department giving out, a demand was made on the engravers for another supply for immediate use.

The set of two cent State plates becoming mislaid, the two cent Navy plates were used and printed in green, to correspond with the color of the State Department stamps, which was green. In the meantime the two cent State plates having turned up and a supply having been printed from them, those printed from the Navy plates in green were destroyed, a few sheets, however, being saved as a curiosity, and it is these that are the genuine error now in existence.

This is the explanation given by an old philatelic journal, on good authority, and seems to be a plausible explanation.

J. W. Scott, in the "American Journal of Philately," in 1888 lists it as a State Department error, and not a Navy error, though of late years it is listed by them as a Navy error.

But there are other two cent Navy errors, and these are what the collector should look out for.

First, the two cent Navy green error, which is no more nor less than some

of the trial cardboard sheets of the two cent Navy Department in green. (The Department stamps were printed in various trial colors on cardboard, and these have come into the possession of various parties, some not so honest as might be expected.) These are worn down by means of pumice stone and acids to a thin paper (so-called), and are then perforated, and it is the perforation that gives them away. The regular Government error is perforated twelve, while the doctored specimens are either ten or eleven.

The second two cent green Navy error is more deceiving to the average collector, and, when carefully made, often deceives an expert. They are the genuine two cent blue Navy Department stamp, chemically treated so as to change the blue ink into an intense green, exactly like the color of the State Department stamps, and can only be distinguished by means of an acute eye or powerful lens.

The ink of the genuine has a hard, shining appearance, while the doctored article has a dead and rough appearance, similar to a lithograph, and in most cases the paper has the surface colored a very light green tint.

A Lucky Find.

Mr. Rudolph C. Bach, editor of this paper, made a bicycle trip to St. Albans, Vermont, U. S. A., on July 1st, returning back July 3rd.

Of course, all the country post offices were visited and at St. Alexandre, Que., the search was rewarded. Twenty-six half-cent jubilees were bought at face,