

**PLATE FLAWS:** There are several different types of plate flaws that can be found on the 3¢ issue. Some flaws are a result of defects in the metal used to make the plates. In some cases the metal was harder in some places than it was over the rest of the plate which resulted in high spots that didn't hold the ink. In other places the metal was softer than the adjacent metal which allowed the design to hold more ink than normal. Other flaws were caused by careless handling of the plate such as letting a hard object drop onto the plate causing a pit in the surface that held ink. These flaws range from the size of a dot to a series of four large gouges on one position.

Flaws in the Top Margin

