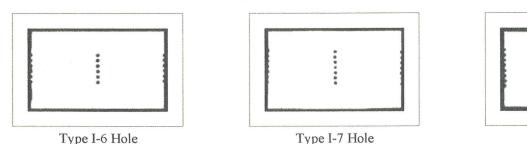
The story of the Schermack Mailing Machine Company actually starts back in 1904 when Joseph Schermack co-invented an envelope sealing machine for the Thexton Electric Sealer Company of Chicago. Later in 1906 he applied for a patent for his own new machine to be used by a company he was involved in, the Detroit Mailing Machine Company. His own version of the affixing machine was one that applied a stamp and sealed an envelope at a rate of 150 to 160 per minute. In it he used regular issued 12 perforation stamps because imperforated stamps had not been produced yet. Imperforate sheets of stamp production started in October 1906.

Schermack's second version came out later in 1906 still using regular issued stamps.

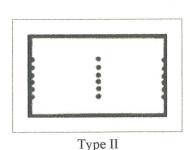


For his third model machine he starting using the imperforated Post Office stamps, perforating them with six, seven and eight holes, centered on the gap between the stamps, known as the Type I variety. This was tried because the 12 perforation regular issue stamps were too weak for the high-speed mechanism of the machine. High speed was necessary for the machine to be an economical success, but the Type I perforations also had problems with the feeding mechanism.



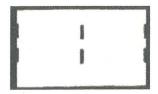
So a second perforation was tried for a short period of time. This was the Type II perforation which was similar to the first

Type I-8 Hole



type.

Finally, a Type III or hyphen-slot hole perforation was developed by an employee, Grover Cleveland in January 1908, with great success. Not only did it work but the device speed also increased to 250 per minute. In fact it was in use from 1908 till 1927. In 1908 the company changed its name to Schermack Mailing Machine Company.



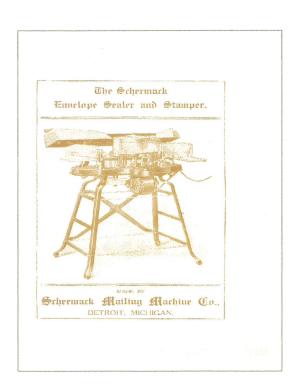
Type III



1¢ Issue of 1906-1908 with Schermack Type III perforation experimental over Type I 8 Holes perforation



2¢ Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I with Schermack Type III perforation experimental over Type I 6 or 7 Hole perforation



Type III

Test Dummy Stamp used on an advertizing envelope

SCHERMACK MAILING MACHINE CO.
TOWAR COURT
DETROIT, MICHIGAN



Sealed, Stamped and Counted

BY THE

Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper

At the rate of 250 per minute.

CIRCULAR ENCLOSED.

SCHERMACK MAILING MAC TOWAR COURT DETROIT, - MIC	/ 2	2	APPLIED THE RATE
OHICAGO OFFICE: N. Y. LIFE I	JUN 5	WILLIAM SMART	- 250 -
m. 9	Vm. A	Dissor	
	314 P	ne St.	
		U Louis	
		(nes_

THIS ENVELOPE A SCHERMACK MAILI		TAMPED AND CO	

Schermack Type III Dummy Stamp with a Alaska-Yukon regular issue of 1909 Chicago, IL to St Louis, MO June 5, 1909 Schermack Stamp Vending Machine Company

In 1909 Schermack was looking to expand the stamp vending machine business and he sent members of the American Philatelic Society looking for investors. The four page letter and his personal envelope are shown here. He was successful in his pursuit and the company had further successes.

Later on the machines were modified to use government coils.



Joseph J. Schermack Envelope

Two Singles of 1¢ Issue of 1906-1908 with Schermack Type III perforations
Detroit, MI to Des Moines, IA
May 31, 1909

This letter was to Mrs. T.S. Farquharson, who was member # 2661 of the American Philaletic Society since 1909.

Laura Farquharson also received mail from F.H. Brinkerhoff from 1909 to 1911. both Laura and her husband Thomas did business with several companies who used Schermack Type III perforated stamps in their mailings.

Jos. J. Schermack

291 M. Mirby Avc., May 29, '09.

Mrs. T. S. Tarquharson,

Des Hoines, Lowa.

Dear Cir: -



I dare say the origin of the stamp attached is now familiar to all rellow members of the A. P. S., the hypenhole perforation being the design of the writers. These

stamps are now used at the rate of 40 million per year in Chicago alone by the many large commercial houses using my mailing machines.

The success attending the introduction of this mailing machine (which applies the stamps, seals the flaps and counts the envelopes at the rate of 250 per minute) had prompted the investigation of the STAMP VANDING OR SELLING PROPOSITION, with the result of having at last arrived at a solution of that prolem also, as related in the enclosed confidential statement.

Believing you will welcome the opportunity, after careful consideration of the subject, I remain

Yory truly yours,

1

Jos. J. Tehrmach

CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT

TO

MEMBERS OF AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

STAMP VINDING MACHINES have long been desired by the public. Why haven't they come into general use? First, stamps were not being handled in the proper form, second, the government is entirely too slow to act on the matter.

with this in mind, I found it only necessary to use my specialy prepared stamp to insure accuracy and certainty in feeding them to over come the mechanical difficulty. The next problem was, how to place them in general use without depending upon "Uncle Sam" to adopt them, yet derive a revenue from them. The idea of using an advertising display in connection therewith was finally hit upon, after quite a little experimenting, the combination was worked out as shown on the enclosed illustration.

This handsome little device is only 9 inches in diameter and 12 inches high to the top of the postal scale, yet it holds 1000 stamps or an average weeks supply. A circular glass case encloses the advertising drum and all mechanism. Upon inserting a coin above and giving the crank a turn one stamp at a time is discharged, while doing so the advertising drum, which carries ten display cards makes a parial turn thus bringing a new card to the front.

In order to demonstrate the advertising value of space in the machines, a thorough canvass of the 220 Detroit Drug Stores was made to asertain the average number of stamps sold, we found it to be about 800-1¢ and 400-2¢ per week for each store, knowing so great a number were sold by the drug stores it was an easy matter for an advertiser to figure out the amount of publicity he would receive especially from a device so novel as a stamp vender will be for a long time to come.

Location leases were then secured from Detroit druggists, we found they were very glad to allow the machines to be displayed in a conspicious place in their stores for it would relieve them of all the trouble, annoyance, and expense they have always had in handling stamps.

Meanwhile 25 machines were made and quietly yet thoroughly tested. Now that I am satisfied the proposition is commercially practical and profitable, I am organizing "THE CCHERMACH STAMP VENDING MACHINE CO." to make and sell the machines on some one of several plans not yet definately determined.

However the plan being carried out locally may be adopted in all cities of any size, it is this; 200 machines are now being made for use in Detroit only, a local company will be organized for operating these, to be known as.

THE DETROIT 5. V. M. Co. It will have a capital stock of \$10,000,60% of this stock is retained by the original parent company, the balance of \$4,000 or 40% will be sold at \$3,000 for treasury purposes. This will enable them to buy the 200 machines from the parent company at \$10 apiece and leave enough for three menths operating expense by which time returns will have come in from the advertising.

The expense of operation, receipts and profits of the local company will be as follows:

Disbursements. \$2000.00 200 machines at \$10......\$3600.00 Expense of operation for one year......\$3600.00

Using the figures above as a basis we find 200 machines to earn at least \$5000 a year profit or \$25 per year for each machine, since the parent company receives 60% of this or \$15 from each machine per year, 5000 machines only placed in operation would make the annual earnings of the company 75% on a capital of \$100,000.

mate since we find Detroit can use at least 400 machines or one for every 1000 population, distributed among 200 drug stores, 200 more in confectionery, digar stores, hotels, restaurants, and grocer stores. Having so small, simple and inexpensive a machine as this one, makes it possible to place them more universally for the public's convenience, than the government is ever likely to.

On the basis of one machine for every 1000 population taken in the largest cities only, would require about 12,000 machines, let alone all cities having from 50,000 population on up, all of these can afford to have some one man or company operate on the above method.

Considering all possibilities very conservatively, the prospects are unlimited, even the we were to sell the machines out right at say \$25 or \$30 each in quantities depending upon the size of territory.

Obviously, no matter what plan of operation the parent company follows, no large amount of capital is required for the machines will be paid for on delivery at a slight profit, therefore.

THE SCHERMACK STAMP VENDING MACHINE CO. (the parent company) will have a capital stock of only \$100,000, to be organized under the laws of Michigan, 60% to be retained by myself and Mr. H. M. Fechheimer, a practical advertising man, of this city. The balance of 40% or 4000 shares at \$10 a share fully paid and non-a sessable, to be placed in the treasury, to be sold as needed to raise funds for carrying on the business.

Demomber we already have a factory, patterns, special tools, etc., and 25 finished machines and are building 175 more for use in Detroit. Mr. Feehheimer and I having at our own expense carried the proposition through its experimental period and up to the practical stage, all of this property will of course be assigned to the company in exchange for our stock.

would appreciate the rivilege of investing in one or more shares of the parent company's stock, I am setting aside 1000 shares of the treasury stock, until June 5th. for sale to them at 75% of its par value or \$7.50 per share.

How many shares do you wish to subscribe for?

Very truly yours,

Jo. J. Jehrmac

U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

Schermack Stamp Vending Machine Company

Joseph Schermack having started with his mailing machines decided to build a stamp vending machine which was also a goal of the Post Office Department.

In 1905 the Post Office Department started discussion on having a quality stamp vending machines for Post Office that were unmanned at certain times as well in other everyday facilities. In 1908 they decided to perform test from several companies.

Schermack's machine was built to vend his Type III perforated stamps, 1¢ and 2¢ denominations. The device was about 9

inches by 12 inches with a postal scale at the top. A picture is shown here.



In later years the company use this type of test stamp.

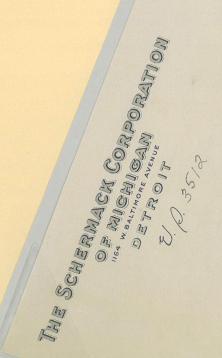
Schermack Stamp Vending Machine Company 10.5 gauge test dummy



U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

Company Mailing Envelope



Type III Issue of 1908-1909

After Joseph Schermack left the company he built his own vending machines, under the name of Schermack Stamp Vending Machine Company, in Detroit around 1909. The two post cards shown below show no signs that they were from an affixing device. They may have the vended stamps from these machines used on them.



Detroit, MI to Watertown, NY

May 25, 1910



Detroit, MI to Sandusky, OH

U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

In 1909 Joseph Schermack left the company, and the name of the company was changed to Mail-om-eter Company. While still producing the Type III perforated stamps for its existing customers, the company was experimenting with a different series of perforations. They were trying to convince the Post Office to produce coils of stamps using their new perforation design. When the Post Office made their own type of perforation, the Mail-om-eter Company made their affixing machine to handle these Bureau coil rolls.

During this period of automatic machines and mass mailing, companies wanted some sort of a security method to control their stamp inventory. Besides having a counting device on some of the affixing machines, the government in 1908 approved the applying of punched initials into the stamps as a method of control. These were commonly known as perfins. An employee of the company in 1909 developed a mechanism to punch the initials into the stamp as it was being affixed to the envelope. In general, each customer who wanted this control had a specific punch pattern, but some companies used the same pattern. There were many pattern designs; most common was the variation of the 9-hole layout.

But there also was a 12 hole and 8 hole designs.

1¢ Issue of 1908-1909



Perfin Pattern # 19

2¢ Issue of 1910-1911



Perfin Pattern #37

3¢ Issue of 1908-1909



Perfin Pattern #37

4¢ Issue of 1908-1909



Perfin Pattern #0

e

2¢ Issue of 1908-1909



Perfin Pattern Diamond

4¢ Issue of 1908-1909



Perfin Pattern 12 Hole Open Square

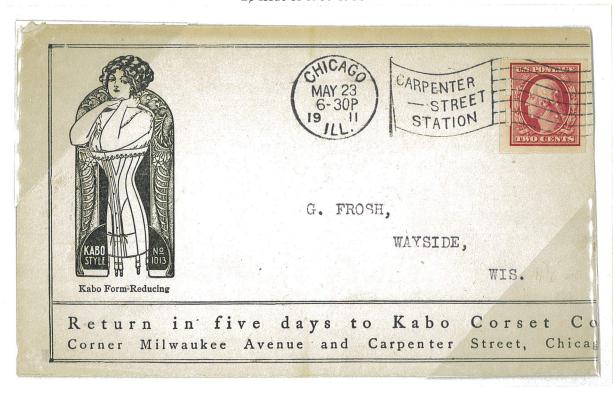
1¢ Issue of 1908-1909



Perfin Pattern # 4578 Hudson Term Sta, NY to Earleion, KS

1910

2¢ Issue of 1910-1911



Perfin Pattern # 48 Chicago, IL to Wayside, WI May 23, 1911

U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

Sixteen different commercial companies placed their distinctive perfin design on Schermack Type III perforated stamps. Several were on strips. Three of these are the American Book Co of New York, New York and Southern Pacific Steamship Lines of Galveston, Texas, New York and L. H. Keller & Co of New York, New York.

The Perfin Catalog number are # A40 and # S234 and # L93.



S234

Issue of 1916-1917 Type I



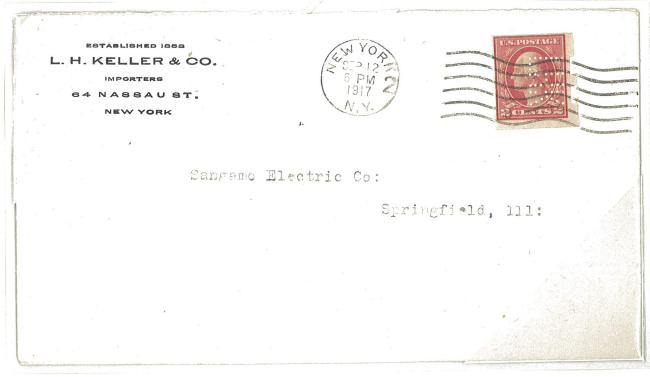
A40 American Book Co of New York

Issue of 1916-1917 Type II



S234
Southern Pacific Steamship Lines of Galveston
Pasteup Strip
Some perforations not completely punched

Issue of 1916-1917 Type I



Examples of test dummies or demonstration stamps by the company are found and were used for many reasons. These were used for advertising purposes, as leaders on coiled rolls for starting in the machines and also for testing their own machines during production.

Test Dummy



Blank Test Dummy



Mail-om-eter Brown Test Dummy



Mis-perforated

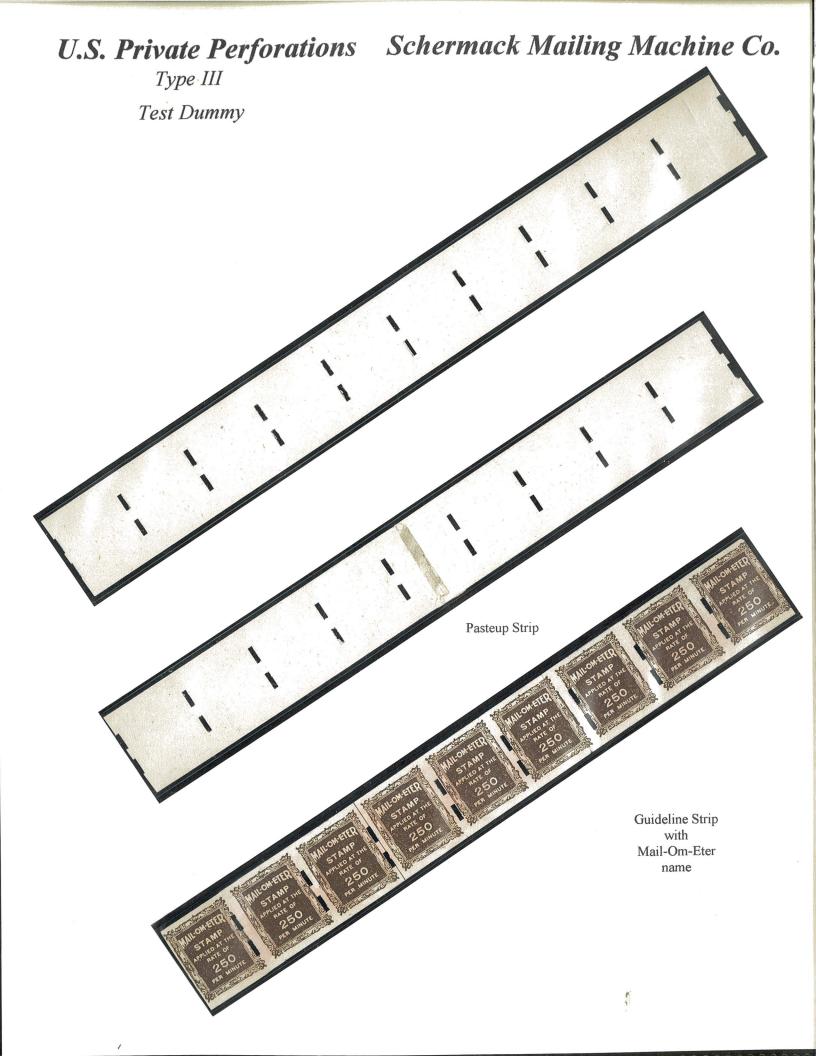


Not fully perforated

2¢ Issue of 1912



Strip with pasteup test dummy leader

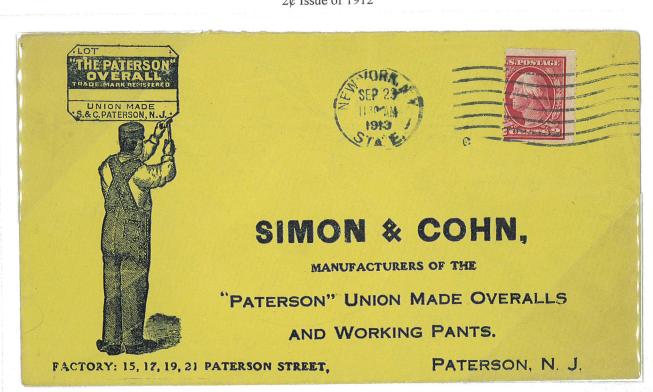


Another area unique to Schermack is that of what is commonly called "double private perforations" or "compound perforated stamps". These, in general, are stamps that have multiple perforations on them; Schermack Type III and some other gauge perforations. These other perforations range from 12.25 to 13 gauge. Some also are with Schermack Type I perforations. There are several theories as to their existence but no one knows for sure why they exist.



Pair Schermack Type III perforation over 12.25 gauge perforation

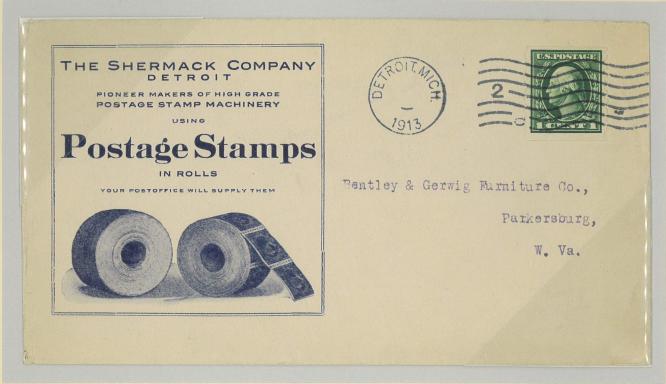
2¢ Issue of 1912



Schermack Type III perforation over 13 gauge perforation New York, NY to Paterson, NJ September 23, 1913

Finally, when Joseph Schermack left his original company he formed the Schermack Vending Machine Company in Detroit. There he developed several types of stamp vending machines, first using his Type III hyphen-slot perforation and later the government Bureau coiled stamps. As far as we know the Type III usage might have been confined to Detroit, but the Bureau usage was nationwide and continued for many years.

Advertizing Envelope



1¢ Coil issue of 1912 Detroit, MI to Parkersburg, WVA

1913



Plate Numbers found with different Types of Schermack Perforatioms and various P.O. Issues.

Type I-8	Issue of 1902-1903 Issue of 1902 Lincoln	1 cent 5 cent	3119	3120
*	Issue of 1902-03 Carmine Die		3454	4227
	Issue of 1902-03 Lake Die II		4686	4704
	Issue of 1902-03 Scarlet	2 cent		
	Issue of 1908-1909	1 cent	4971	
	15566 61 15 66 15 65	2 cent		
		3 cent		
		4 cent		
		5 cent		
	Issue of 1909 Lincoln	2 cent	4979	4982
Type I-7	Issue of 1902-1903	1 cent		
J 1	Issue of 1902-03 Carmine Die	I 2 cent		
	Issue of 1902-03 Lake Die II	2 cent		
	Issue of 1902-03 Scarlet	2 cent		
	Issue of 1908-1909	1 cent		
e	Issue of 1909 Lincoln	2 cent		
Type I-6	Issue of 1902-1903	1 cent	3121	
	Issue of 1902-03 Carmine Die	12 cent	3451	
	Issue of 1902-03 Lake Die II	2 cent	4704	
	Issue of 1902-03 Scarlet	2 cent		
	Issue of 1909 Lincoln	2 cent	4982	
	51002 1002	1		
Type II	Issue of 1902-1903	1 cent		
	Issue of 1902 Lincoln	5 cent	0.4.04	
	Issue of 1902-03 Carmine Die		3451	
	Issue of 1902-03 Lake Die II			
	Issue of 1902-03 Scarlet	2 cent	*	
	Issue of 1908-1909	1 cent		
		2 cent		
		3 cent		
		4 cent		
	Issue of 1909 Lincoln	2 cent		
	Issue of 1910-1911	1 cent		
		2 cent		

Plate Numbers found with different Types of Schermack Perforatioms and various P.O. Issues.

Type III	Issue of 1902-1903	1 cent	3119	3231	4498	4605	4712	4713
		1 cent	4729	4734	4742			
	Grant 314A	4 cent	4255					
	Issue of 1902 Lincoln	5 cent	4073					
	Issue of 1902-03 Carmine Di-	e 12 cent	3136	3452	3453	4245		
	Issue of 1902-03 Lake Die II	2 cent	4617	4697	4718			
	Issue of 1902-03 Scarlet	2 cent						
	Issue of 1908-1909	1 cent	4903	5084	5179	5639		
		2 cent	4831	4876	4879	4884	5072	5326
		2 cent	5366					
		3 cent	4925	4927	5121	5131		
		4 cent	4932	4934	4935	5212	5217	
		5 cent	4931					
	Issue of 1909 Lincoln	2 cent	4976	4977	4978	4979	4982	
	Alaska-Yukon	2 cent	5237					
	Hudson-Fulton	2 cent	5389	5394				
	Issue of 1910-1911	1 cent	5484	5489	5622	5631	5639	5651
		2 cent	5283	5300	5325	5512	5515	5516
		2 cent	5589	5608	5616	5835	5636	5686
		2 cent	5717					
	Issue of 1912	1 cent	5837	5867	5874	5878	5918	6007
			6121	6154	6282	6283	6301	6328
			6475	6608	6681	6777	6778	6793
			6958	7008	7301	7307	7326	7363
			7364	7485	7517	7541	7547	
		2 cent	5792	5802	5815	5861	5979	6024
			6051		6293	6304	6760	6818
			6979	7084	7184	7192	7195	7225
			7229	7245	7257	7311	7318	7328
			7352	7356	7390	7396		7424
			7447	7448	7450	7478	7450	7478
			7481	7486	7495	7517	7574	7582
			7590	7594	7603	7638	7698	

Plate Numbers found with different Types of Schermack Perforatioms and various P.O. Issues.

Type III	Issue of 1916-1917	1 cent 2 cent	7671 8930 10280 10352 11728 7698 7868 8505	7674 9471 10260 10282 10360 12494 7699 7869 9206	7896 10075 10264 10284 10580 12501 7703 7930 9221	8040 10110 10265 10285 10759 12611 7778 7936 9420	8259 10121 10278 10290 10800 13306 7780 7944 9434	8929 10279 10292 13308 7809 7995 9437
	Type I Type II	3 cent	10199 13671 8134 8319	10304 13726 8139 8355	10378 13727 8197 8358	12964 13885 8209 9007	12977 13946	, 137
	Issue of 1918-1920 Type IV Type V Type Va Type VI Type IV	1 cent 2 cent 2 cent 2 cent 2 cent 3 cent	9817 10918 11260 11414 11641 8837	9951 11686 9050	9333	9384	9394	
	Issue of 1923-1926	1 cent 1 1/2 cent 2 cent	14158 15146 15490 16862 16939 14197 15836 16580	14159 15399 16864 16972 15690 16190 16651	14217 15409 16867 15699 16208 16714	14218 15410 16870 15700 16235 16722	15145 15453 16872 15739 16238 16724	16917
	Issue of 1923 Harding	2 cent	16739 17876 15025	16743 18197	16755 18220	18221	17708 18228	

U.S. Private Perforations Schermack Mailing Machine Co. Type I 6 Holes

Issue of 1906-1908



e



Guideline Pair

U.S. Private Perforations Schermack Mailing Machine Co. Type I 7 Holes Issue of 1906-1908





Pasteup Pair ex-Agris

U.S. Private Perforations Schermack Mailing Machine Co. Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906-1908





e



ex-Howard



Margin Pair with Part Arrow



Guideline Pair

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906-1908



Arrow Guideline Vertical Pair

e



Shifted and missing perforations

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906-1908





Horizontal Guideline Block



Vertical Guideline Block



Centerline Block

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906-1908



Imprint Plate Number 3119 Block e ex-Belasco



Imprint Plate Number 3120 Block e

ex-Belasco

Type I 6 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I



U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

Type I 7 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I





Pasteup Pair e



Guideline Pair e



e



Pasteup Strip with Schermack Type I-7 hole Perforations at left and Schermack Type I 8 hole Perforations at right

Type I 7 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I



Detroit, MI to Winchendon, MA December 14, 1907

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I







Pair with Guideline at right



Guideline Pair



Type I 8 Ho<mark>les</mark> Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I



Margin Arrow Guideline Strip



Margin Block



e



Vertical Guideline Block



Imprint Plate Number 3454 Block

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I



Centerline Block

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I

Earliest Known Usage of Schermack Stamp Earliest Known Usage of any United States Coiled Stamp

Return in Five Days to
PR M NUFACTURING COMPANY
1-659 Bellevue Ave.
DETROIT, - - MICH.







Travis Auto Co.,

211 Upper Second St.,

Evansville, Ind.

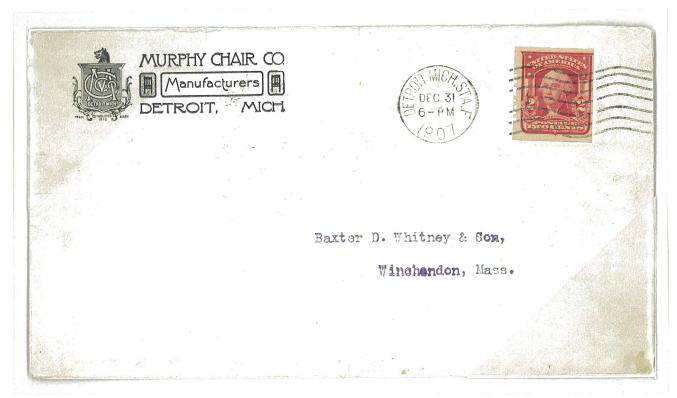
Detroit, MI to Evansville, IN Novemebr 22, 1907 12957

e

low # Guna

Front Only

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906 Carmine Die I



Detroit, MI to Winchandon, MA December 31, 1907

Type I 6 Holes Issue of 1906 Lake Die II



e

ex-Agris

Type I 7 Holes Issue of 1906 Lake Die II





Guideline Pair

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906 Lake Die II



e



Strip

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1906 Lake Die II



Horizontal Guideline Block

6



Imprint Plate Number 4686 Block e ex-Belasco



Imprint Plate Number 4704 Block

Type I 6 Holes Issue of 1906 Scarlet Die I



Guideline Pair

U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1908-1909



Guideline Pair 2.4 mm

e



3 mm



Pasteup Pair Plate Number 4971



Guideline Pair 2.3 mm e



Guideline Strip 2.3 mm

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1908-1909



Guideline Pair 2.2 mm



2.4 mm



2.6 mm e ex-Agris



Guideline Pair 2.4 mm e

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1908-1909



2.3 mm



2.5 mm



Guideline Pair 2.3 mm

ex-Agris

Type I 6 Holes Issue of 1909



2.2 mm e



2 mm Shifted perforations



3 mm е



Guideline Pair 2.1 mm



Imprint Plate Number 4982 Block Siderographer's initials 3 mm

Type I 7 Holes Issue of 1909



2 mm e



2.7 mm e

U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Mailing Machine Co.

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1909



2.7 mm



2.2 mm

ex-Howard



3 mm



Vertical Margin Pair



2.9 mm Not punched thru



Guideline Pair 2.1 mm

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1909



2.2-3 mm e



Guideline Strip 2.2 mm e

Type I 8 Holes Issue of 1909



3 mm e



Vertical Arrow Guideline Block 2.2 mm



Imprint Plate Number 4979 Block 2.1-2.8 mm One perforation not completely punched