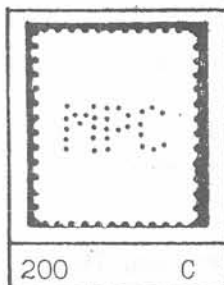


Max Pollack & Company - Historic Perspective

William L. Donle, Jr. (#1356)

The Catalog of United States Perfins lists perfin pattern M200 as being used by Max Pollack & Company. In the main section, New London, CT is given as the location. However, the supplemental



information section lists Groton, CT as an alternate location. The two cities are less than a mile apart, separated by the Thames River and about five miles by road. I cannot personally confirm the identification or two locations because I do not

have the perfin pattern in my collection.

Max Pollack & Company moved from New York city to the Willimantic, Connecticut area. After a

short stay there, the company moved to Poquonnock Road in Groton in 1921. Pollack was organized as a sales agency in New York City in 1880. The company was a thread manufacturer, taking thread from other spinning mills and finishing it for such uses as automotive upholstery and leather product stitching.

In 1924, Herman Johl was the company's president. He probably gained this position after Max Pollack's death in 1913. Johl remained as president until his death in 1930. Herman's son, Max G. Johl became president and remained so until the company changed hands in 1955. Thread, Inc., a subsidiary of Textiles, Inc. was the purchaser. In 1958, the company moved to Gastonia, NC as a part of the general shift of the textile industry to the South.

Max G. Johl was a noted philatelist and avid collector. He won numerous philatelic awards and accolades. He also was the author of the four volumes, *United States Postage Stamps of the 20th Century* and the two volumes *United States Commemorative Stamps of the 20th Century*. In 1939, he sold a 1901 mint two cents Pan-American Exposition stamp with center inverted for \$1,900.00. At the time, that was a princely sum. Max passed away at the age of 56 in 1957. That was not the end of his philatelic press. The last entry was a sad note. A 1962 newspaper article reported that several juveniles had scattered his stamp collection throughout the vacant Johl estate.

I have not found any indication the company was ever in New London, CT. Groton, CT should be listed as the address of this company. The New London listing should be a supplementary entry. The supplement might point out that the company was located across the river in Groton, but the post office was located in New London.

References: New London, CT, City Directory, various editions
Groton, CT City Directory, various editions
New London Day, various editions
The New York Times, various editions