

PUNCHED CONTROL MARKINGS ON SCHERMACK TYPE III COIL STAMPS.

In 1906 the government began issuing imperforate stamps in sheets of 400 to meet the demand of the manufacturers of vending and affixing machines. It is with the latter group that our attention is focused.

These companies punched and cut the imperforate sheets into coils so that they might be used in the machines which they manufactured.

The Schermack company, which later became, first, the Mail-O-Meter company, and, later the Mail-O-Meter company, was one such company. Mr. J. J. Schermack invented, developed and produced an electrically operated stamp affixing and envelope sealing machine, and by 1909 was perforating coils with two slots (or rectangular perforations) and supplying them in rolls of 3,000 at 50 cents over face value to owners of their affixing machines. However, the Schermack company sold its interest in the business and the new company changed the name. The new company after experimenting with some large round holes in an attempt to get the government to produce a special coil for them dropped the idea when the Bureau declined to produce the special coil stamps. Meanwhile the company continued to use the two slot perforation and continued to do so for some 20 years. The standard stamp cataloguers labelled this type of perforation Schermack type III although after July 1909 the Mail-O-Meter company did the perforating.

What interests us as Perfin collectors is the fact that these coil stamps were also found with additional holes punched through the stamp itself. These additional perforations, while not arranged as initials, numerals, or designs, as we use the terms, in the Perfin Club catalogue of perforated stamps, or the recently compiled illustrated work, ARE perfins in a sense and consequently have a place in perfin collections.

The "gaget" which made these perforations or control marks on the coil stamps was an extra piece of equipment added to the affixing machine. When the coil stamps were inserted into the affixing device there were no control markings on them. When the knife blade severed the stamps being affixed to the cover, the same operation punched the control holes on the adjacent stamp.

Since the stamps were locked into the affixing machine and registers counted every stamp applied, there actually was no need for the control marking as a precaution against pilfering. But perforated identifications were very popular at that time, so the manufacturer met the demand.

The patent application for this perforating gaget was filed October 9, 1909, by Mr. Bennett D. Straight and was granted under #1127543 on February 9, 1915. Mr. Straight assigned the patent to the Mail-O-Meter company.

The Mail-O-Meter company experimented with at least two types of control markings, and then decided on a third type consisting of three horizontal lines of three holes each, the basic pattern being a nine hole solid square. By eliminating one or more holes from the basic design a large number of patterns could be used.

Schermack #2

One of the experimental types was an upright diamond. A stamp with this perforation is hard to come by.

The second experimental type was a twelve hole open square having four holes on each side.

(See illustrations, not to scale, below.)

The Mail-O-Meter company sold their affixing machines and the coil stamps to concerns who had a large subscription or advertising volume of mail.

So far as known only one and two cent stamps were used. Scotts types A-138, A-139 and A-140 were the only imperforates used.

The number assigned to each control design is determined by the position of the eliminated hole or holes. A pattern with all nine or twelve holes present is listed as # "0". All determinations to be made with the stamp face up and head up, since this was the way the stamps were fed into the affixing machine before the perforating takes place.

E X A M P L E S

• • •	1 2 3	• • •	• • •
• • •	4 5 6	• • •	• • •
• • •	7 8 9	• • •	• • •

Read	#0	#48	#159
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• • • •	A B C D	• • •	• • •
• • •	E F	• • •	• 7 •
• • •	G H	• • •	• • •
• • • •	I J K L	• • • •	• • •

Read	# 0	D	BK
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On the accompanying list of patterns and identifications, the following symbols are used:

- ** Following pattern number, indicates item NOT confirmed in this survey and was taken from a former listing.
- ** Before identification: same.

*** Listed from old notes, origin of which are unknown. May or may not exist.

Unmarked items are supported by stamps or covers.

If anyone can confirm any of the symbolized items, or has other unlisted information, please contact the catalogue chairman.

Schermack #3

Pattern
None

Used by
(No name) Wall Street, New York, NY.

1	**	Spencer Trask & Co., New York, NY.
3		Smith Gray & Co., New York & Brooklyn NY.
4		
5		
7		
9		Fidelity-Phoenix Ins. Co., Chicago, Ill.
13	**	Cosmopolitan Magazine, New York, NY. Motor Magazine, New York, NY.
14		Success Magazine, New York, NY.
17		
19		
25	**	David Williams Publishing Co., New York, NY.
28	**	Taxpayers Protective League, Detroit, Mich.
36	**	C. A. Strelinger Co., Detroit, Mich.
37		Babson Brothers, Chicago, Ill.
39	***	
45	**	Hammacher Schlemmer Co., New York, NY.
46		
47	**	Ohio Electric Co., Chicago, Ill
48		Kabo Corset Co., Chicago, Ill.
49		
56		Chalmers Motor Co., Detroit, Mich.
57	**	** E. F. Houghton & Co., New York, NY.
58		
68		
69	**	** National Fire Ins. Co., Chicago, Ill Colonial Fire Underwriters, Chicago, Ill.
79		Third National Bank, StLouis, Mo.

Schermack #4

124 A. Saks, New York, NY.

127

134 ** Smith & Gray, New York, NY.

136

137 Cosmopolitan Magazine, New York, NY.

139

149 ** Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co., Detroit.

179 (No name) Station E, New York, NY.

236 Quaker Oats Co., Chicago, Ill.

237

246

258

349

367

378 Babson Brothers, Chicago, Ill.

379

468 ** Meyer Roth & Co., Chicago, Ill.

478 ** Success Magazine, New York NY.

579

678 **

689 Hill Publishing Co., New York, NY.
Engineering & Mining Journal, New York NY
American Machine-Power Co., New York, NY.

1239 **

1245 Review of Reviews, New York, NY
Good Humor-Good Health, New York, NY.
Box 43, Station D, New York, NY
McClures Magazine, New York, NY.

1249

1279

1289

Schermack #5

1367	***	
1378		
1379		
1469		
1679		
2356		Osborne Co., New York, NY.
2458	**	
2468		
3467		
4578	**	DeLaval Separator Co., ? ? ?
4589	**	
4678		DeLaval Separator Co., New York, NY.
4679		
5679	**	
5689		John Wanamaker, New York, NY.
12358	***	
12456	**	W. M. Crane Co., New York, NY
12469	**	
12589		
13467		
13579		Julian Hawthorne Co., New York NY
14678	**	
14689		
14789		
23456		
23579		
24568	**	Austin Nichols Co., New York NY
24678	**	
24679		

Schermack #6

25789	David Williams Co., New York NY.
34678	Edison Phonograph Distributors, F. K. Babson, Vice President, Chicago, Ill
45679	
45689	U. T. Hungerford Brass & Copper Co., NYC.
245679	
3456789	
23456789	

TWELVE HOLE OPEN SQUARE.
(No identifications reported.)

NONE

ADLL

AF

AFK

AGHL

BCEFGH

BEFJ

CFGHJ

CFGJ

CFK **

EXPERIMENTAL DIAMOND
(No identification reported).

NONE

May 31 1968

LIST OF SCHERWACK TYPE III COILS PERFORATED AS INDICATED.

If you have a stamp please circle the number.
 If you have a cover please write in the identification and
 date used if readable.

MISSING holes are the ones listed.

NINE HOLE SOLID SQUARE.

0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	
0	0	0	4	5	6	0	0	This is 2 4 9
0	0	0	7	8	9	0	0	

None	56
1	57
3	58
4	68
5	69
7	79
9	124
13	127
14	134
17	136
19	137
25	139
28	149
36	179
37	236
39	237
45	246
46	349
47	387
48	379
49	468

Schermack #2

478	13467
579	13579
678	14678
689	14689
1239	14789
1245	23456
1249	23579
1279	24568
1289	24678
1367	24679
1378	24789
1379	25789
1469	34678
1679	45679
2356	45689
2458	245679
2468	23456789

.....TWELVE HOLE OPEN SQUARE.....

4578	O O O O	A B C D	
4589	O	E	F
4678	O	G	H
4679	O O O O	I J K L	
5679	NONE		
5689	ADLL		
12358	AF		
12456	AFK	BEFJ	
12469	AGHL	CFGHJ	
12589	BCEFGH	CFGJ	
		CFK	

SCHERMAK CONTROL PERFORATION PATTERNS.
Not to scale.

0	1	3	4	5	7	9	13
14	17	19	25	28	36	37	39
45	46	47	48	49	56	57	58
68	69	79	124	127	134	136	137
139	149	179	236	237	246	258	349
367	378	379	468	478	579	678	689
1239	1245	1249	1279	1289		1378	1379
1469	1679	2356	2458	2468	3467	4578	4589
4678	4679	5679	5689	12358	12456	12469	12589

Schermack diagrams #2

13467	13579	14678	14689	14789	23456	23579	24568
24678	24679	24789	25789	34678	45679	45689	245679
23456789							

12-hole open square.

None	ADIL	AF	AFK	AGHL	BCDEFGH
BEFJ	CFGHJ	CFGJ			

EXPERIMENTAL


