

Post cards lead to Schermack identification

Atholl Glass (#2840)

The June 1999 issue of the *U.S. Specialist* included an article about the Detroit & Cleveland Steam Navigation Company and its use of Schermack Control perfin 90-32 (literal 149).

A reader of that article recently found, in an antique dealer's post card bin, a card showing the D&C steamer "City of Cleveland." Remembering the *Specialist* article, he bought the card.

Later he discovered the perfin on the card was not 90-32 but 90-11

Strangely, only two weeks before I had acquired a similar card.

My card had been overprinted with an advertisement to persuade the Knights Templar to use the D&C ship on their return from their convention in Chicago on October 9-11, 1910. The Pittsburgh cancellation led me on a fruitless search for a Templar Schermack affixer in Pittsburgh.

It is ironic that after 89 years the two cards should suddenly appear. The new discovery of control perfin

Schermack perfins 90-32 and 90-11 have now both been positively identified as being used by the Detroit & Cleveland Steam Navigation Company. Pattern 90-11 is probably 90-32 with a broken pin.



(literal 19), a yet unidentified pattern. The control perfin 90-11 had been found on single stamps but not, until now, identified. The card gave a positive company identification since it is an acknowledgement of a stateroom reservation on a Detroit and Cleveland ship. This is a new user identification for the U.S. catalog.

90-11 usage in 1910 predates the previous known use of perfin 90-32 on 1912 mailings. The change in perfin is probably due to the breakage of pin #4.