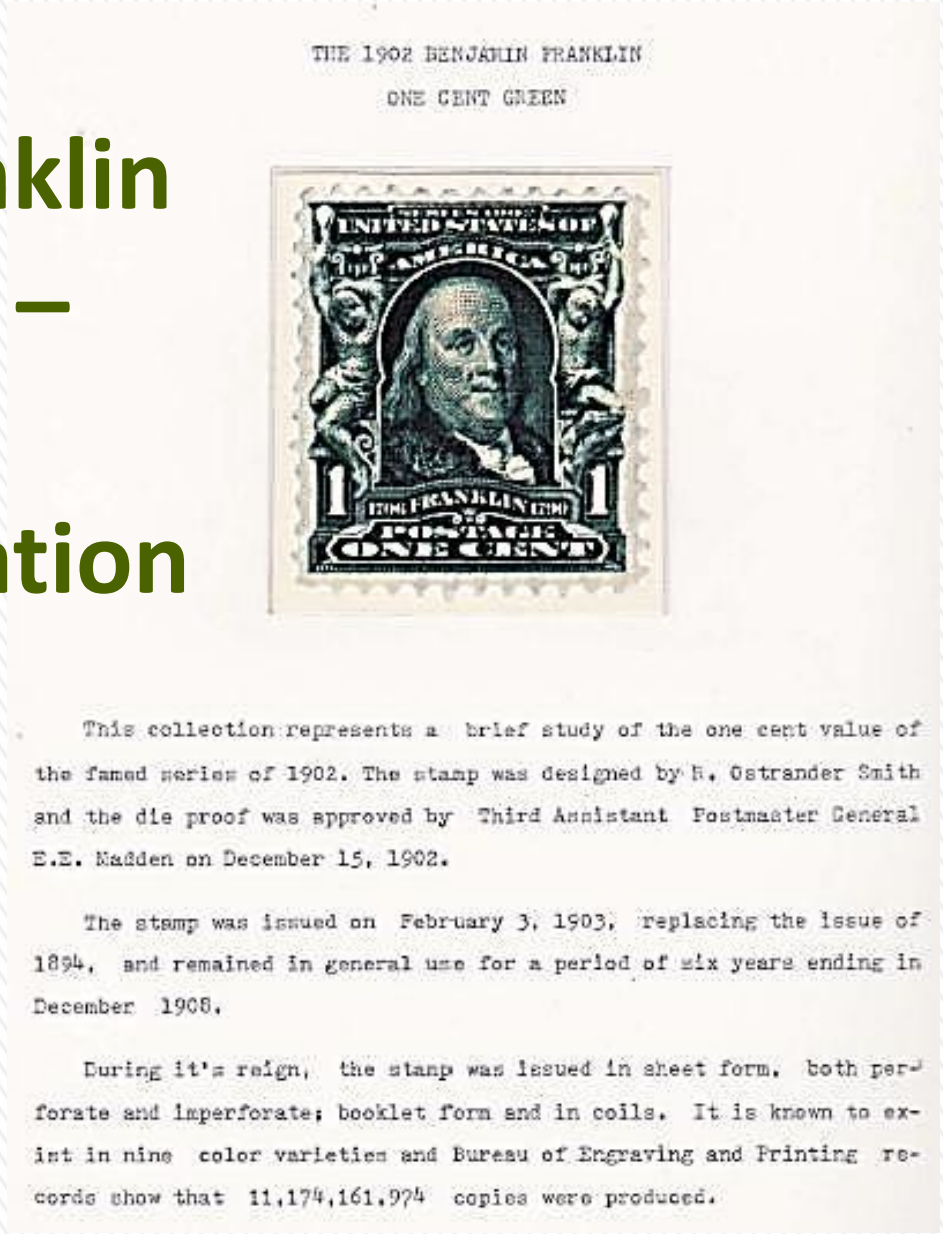
The Benjamin Franklin One Cent Green – Part Two: The Private Perforation Story



THE 1902 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

ONE CENT GREEN

This collection represents a brief study of the one cent value of the famed series of 1902. The stamp was designed by B. Ostrander Smith and the die proof was approved by Third Assistant Postmaster General E.E. Madden on December 15, 1902.

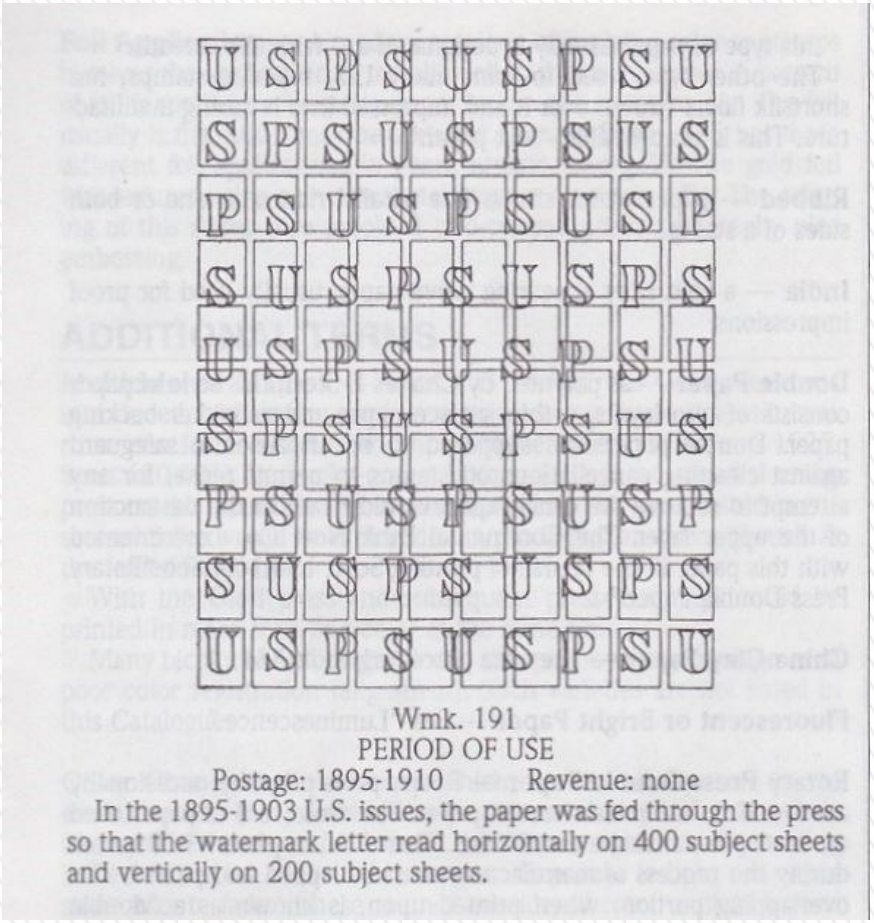
The stamp was issued on February 3, 1903, replacing the issue of 1894, and remained in general use for a period of six years ending in December 1908.

During it's reign, the stamp was issued in sheet form, both perforate and imperforate; booklet form and in coils. It is known to exist in nine color varieties and Bureau of Engraving and Printing records show that 11,174,161,974 copies were produced.

Tom Geiger

» 1 Cent Green – Watermarks

> Type 191 Watermark
> Sheet Stamps:
> Horizontal Watermark
> Booklet Panes:
> Vertical Watermark



Wmk. 191
PERIOD OF USE
Postage: 1895-1910 Revenue: none
In the 1895-1903 U.S. issues, the paper was fed through the press so that the watermark letter read horizontally on 400 subject sheets and vertically on 200 subject sheets.

Sheet Stamp
Scott 300
Perf 12
First Day:
Feb 3, 1903

An important note about first days in this era!

There were no official first day covers or ceremonies. Reported “first day of sale” was per USPOD records of stamps shipped to post offices.

“Early usage covers of stamps may be days, weeks, even a month after the reported first day.

Booklet Pane
Scott 300b
Perf 12
First Day:
Mar 6, 1907

Sheet Stamp
Scott 314
Perf = None
First Day:
October 2, 1906

Coil Stamp
Scott 316
Perf 12
Horizontally
First Day:
Feb 18, 1908

Coil Stamp
Scott 318
Perf 12
Vertically
First Day: July 31, 1908

»The Health Scare of 1896

"THE DEADLY STAMP," warned The Washington Post headline and announced that "Postage Stamp Tongue is a new disease." The ailment was characterized by a sore tongue covered with red spots. Without treatment, it would likely develop into a bad sore throat. The short article concluded with simple advice for its readers: **"Never lick a postage stamp with your tongue…It shows a great lack of cleanliness and hygienic knowledge."**

The Washington Post article, which ran November 22, 1896, was similar to stories in The Los Angeles Times, The Atlanta Constitution, the New York Times, The Boston Budget, and the (London) Daily Mirror at the turn of the twentieth century. These articles warned that the lowly postage stamp was threatening the nation's public health because it was the breeding ground for virulent germs.

Joseph Schermack is generally credited with producing the first practical stamp vending machine. In 1926 he formed the Sanitary Postage Service Corporation. Labeling the machine as a vendor of "sanitary stamps" differentiated the machine from competitors while attracting a clientele that feared the spread of germs.

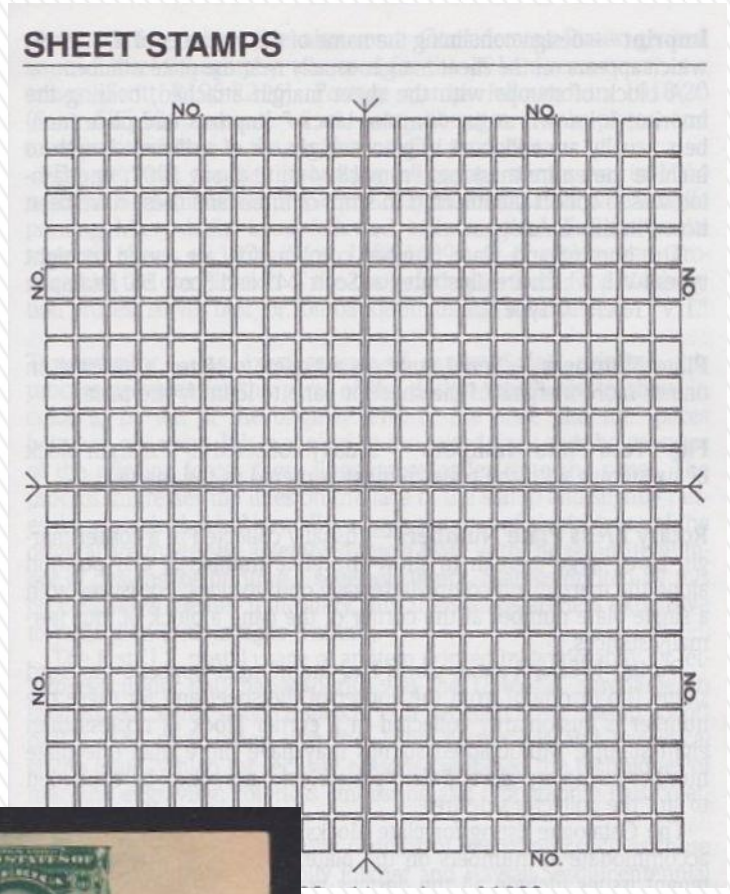
»How It All Began-

In 1905 the Post Office Department officially began investigating the use of vending machines to sell stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal cards. Stamp vending machines were initially designed as a convenience for customers, allowing them to purchase stamps outside normal post office hours and at more locations without a significant cost to the Department.

In 1908 the Post Office Department reviewed 25 machines and field tested six. Although none of the machines met the standards for use in post offices, some of the leading manufacturers began producing stamp vending machines that could be used in other public locations, such as the countertop of a drug store.

Imperforate sheets of 400 were first issued in 1906 on the request of several makers of vending and affixing machines. The machine manufacturers made coils from the sheets and applied various perforations to suit the particular needs of their machines.

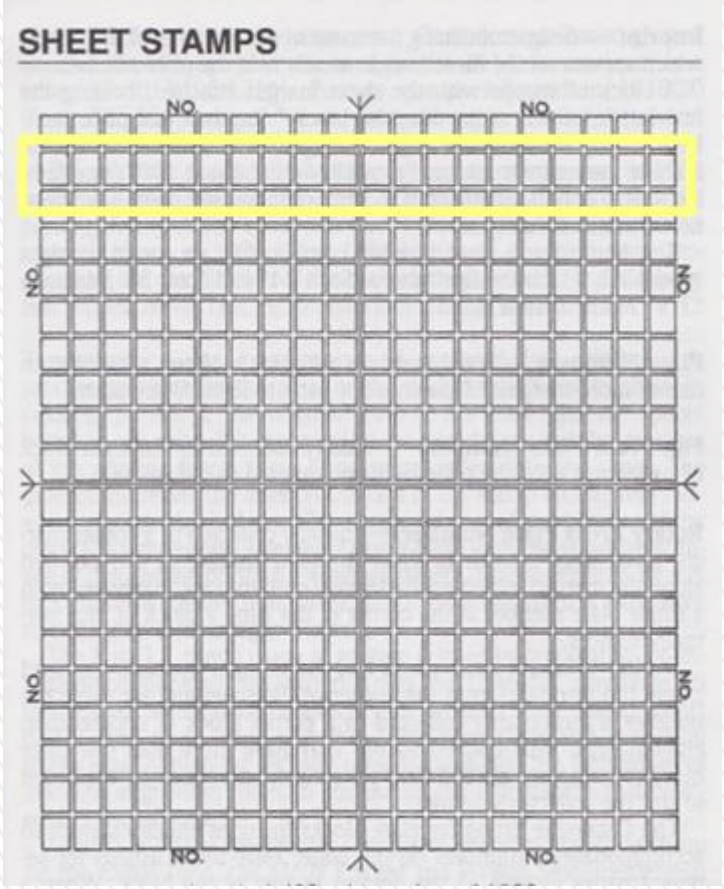
The imperforate sheets, known as Scott 314, were not sold over the regular post office counter, but were made available to the collecting community.



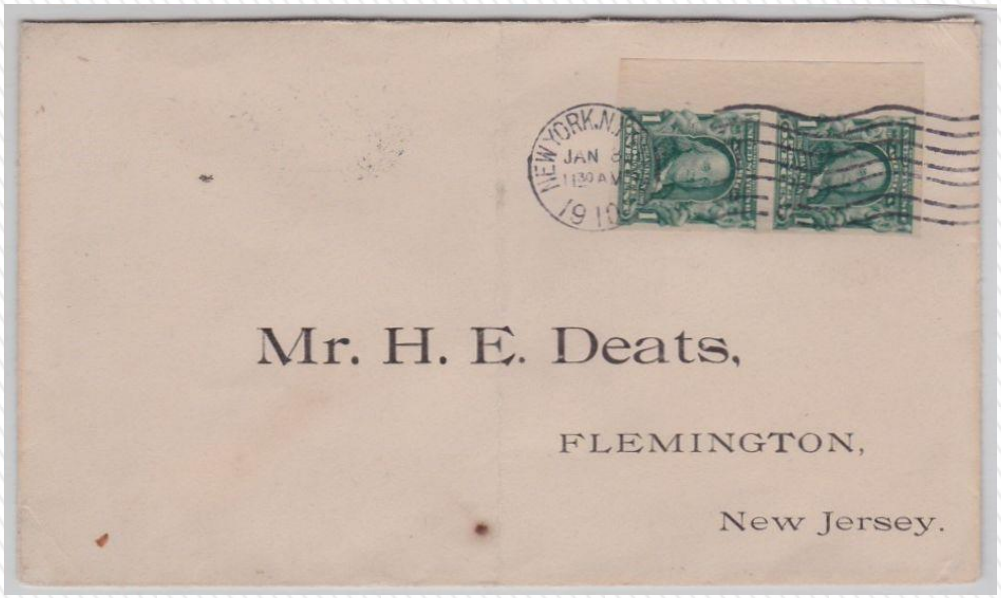
The Imperforate sheets of 400 were cut into strips of 20 stamps and those strips were joined together by hand to create rolls of stamps that would be used in the machines.

Every 20 stamps had a paste up pair, much like later government printed coils had line pairs at the plate edges.

The perforations designed by each manufacturer was to fit the cogs in their specific machine to grab and vend the stamps.



» 1 Cent Green Imperforate Sheet Usage



» 1 Cent Green Imperforate Sheet Usage

» 1 Cent Green – Private Perforations

On Scott 314

Brinkerhoff :

Type I, II, IIa, IIb

Schermack :

Type I (with 6, 7 or 8 holes)

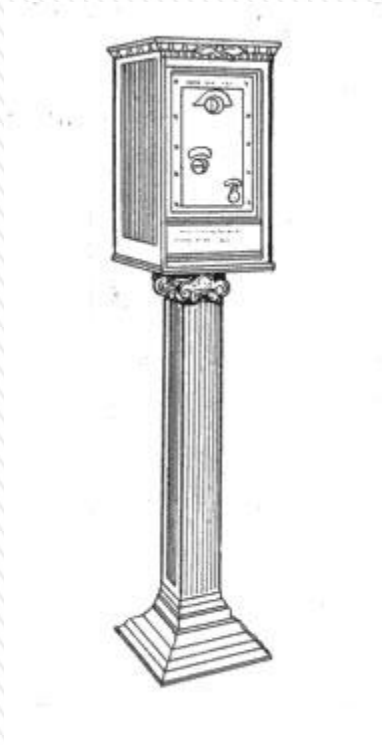
Type II, III

US Automatic Vending :

Type Ia, Ib, II, III

» Brinkerhoff

On Scott 314



The Brinkerhoff Company originally produced their coil stamps in Sedalia, Missouri, and received licenses to operate their machines in Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.

It is not certain in which cities Brinkerhoff had offices, but in 1909 an office in Denver was listed in the city directory. In 1910 the company moved from Sedalia to Lyons, Iowa.

The company operated under a variety of names, including at least the following: the "Nebraska-Iowa Stamp Vending Company", "Brinkerhoff Stamp Vendor", "Postal Vending Manufacturing Co." and possibly the "Tri-State Stamp Vending Company".

Brinkerhoff Type I

The type I stamps have four 1.8mm in diameter holes uniformly spaced 3.2mm apart.

Brinkerhoff Type 1 Blocks

Blocks are very rare, and are thought to exist so that strips could be folded over in the vending machine.

Or may have been collector created.

Brinkerhoff Type II

Type II stamps have two larger 2.3mm diameter holes spaced 12.2mm apart and an overall length of 16.8mm.

The type II have no slits.

Type IIb have two shorter slits (2.5-3mmm) between the holes and two short slits outside the holes.

Brinkerhoff
Type IIb

Brinkerhoff
Type IIa

Type IIa have one long slit (about 9.7mm) between the holes and two shorter slits outside the holes

The holes on all of the Brinkerhoff stamps were applied to vertical strips of stamps prior to being placed in the vending machines.

The slits were added in the vending process to aide the separation of stamps from the vending machine.

» Joseph J. Schermack

JOSEPH J. SCHERMACK

The Schermack Mailing Machine Company was founded by Joseph J. Schermack in 1900 to build mailing machines. The first one sold was to Marshall Field and Company in Chicago, Illinois.

Five years later he developed a roll device for postage stamps. He is credited for inventing the first stamp vending machine, and developing the format that the industry would use for decades.

» Joseph J. Schermack

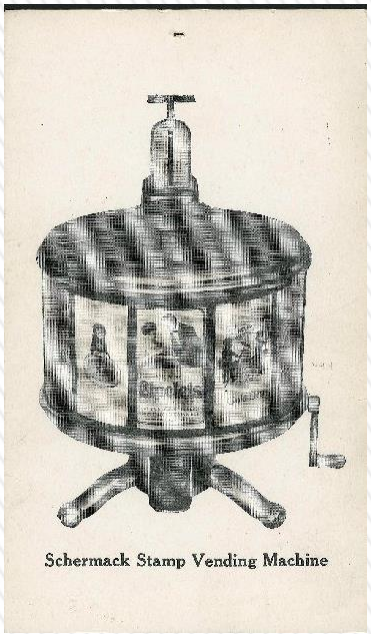

Jos. J. Schermack
Detroit

DETROIT, MICH.
MAY 31
8:30 PM
1909

Mrs. T. S. Farquharson,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Personal.

The Schermack Mailing Machine Company solicitation for investors from 1909.


Schermack Stamp Vending Machine

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. H. Fechheimer, a practical advertising man, of this city. The balance of 40% or 4000 shares at $10 a share fully paid and non-assessable, to be placed in the treasury, to be sold as needed to raise funds for carrying on the business.

Remember we already have a factory, patterns, special tools, etc., and 25 finished machines and are building 175 more for use in Detroit. Mr. Fechheimer 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.

Believing that a great many members of the A. P. Society would appreciate the privilege 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,

Jos. J. Schermack

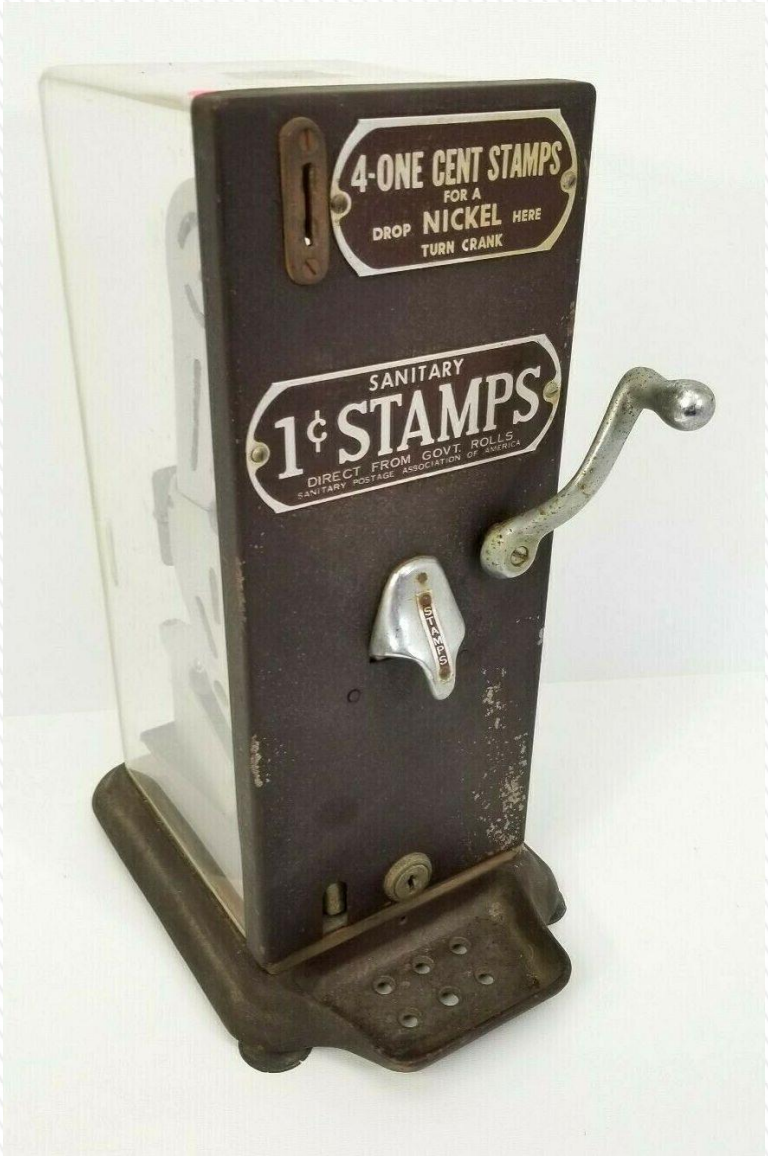
Schermack On Scott 314

The Schermack Type I perforations may have six, seven or eight small holes, approximately 1mm in diameter and spaced .7mm apart.

Schermack Type I – Six Holes

Schermack Type I – Seven Holes

Schermack Type I – Eight Holes

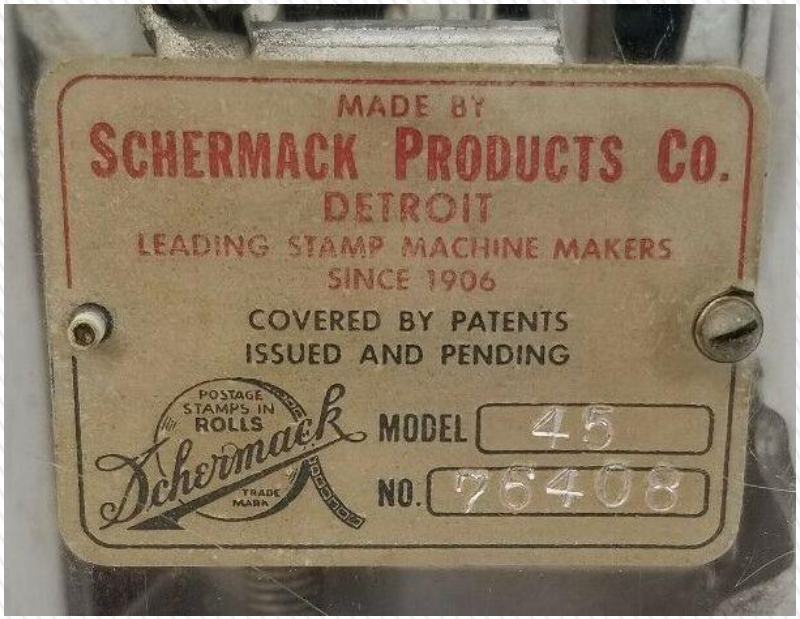


Schermack Type II

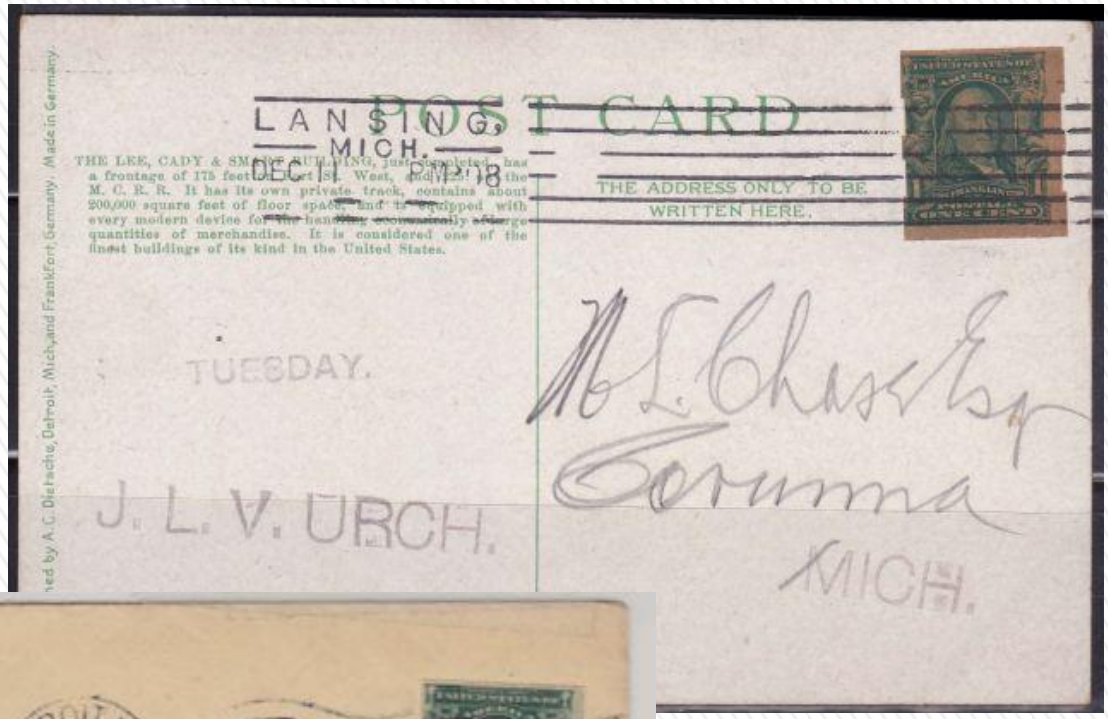
The Schermack type II perforations have six holes 1.55 mm in diameter, larger than the type I holes, with uneven spacing.

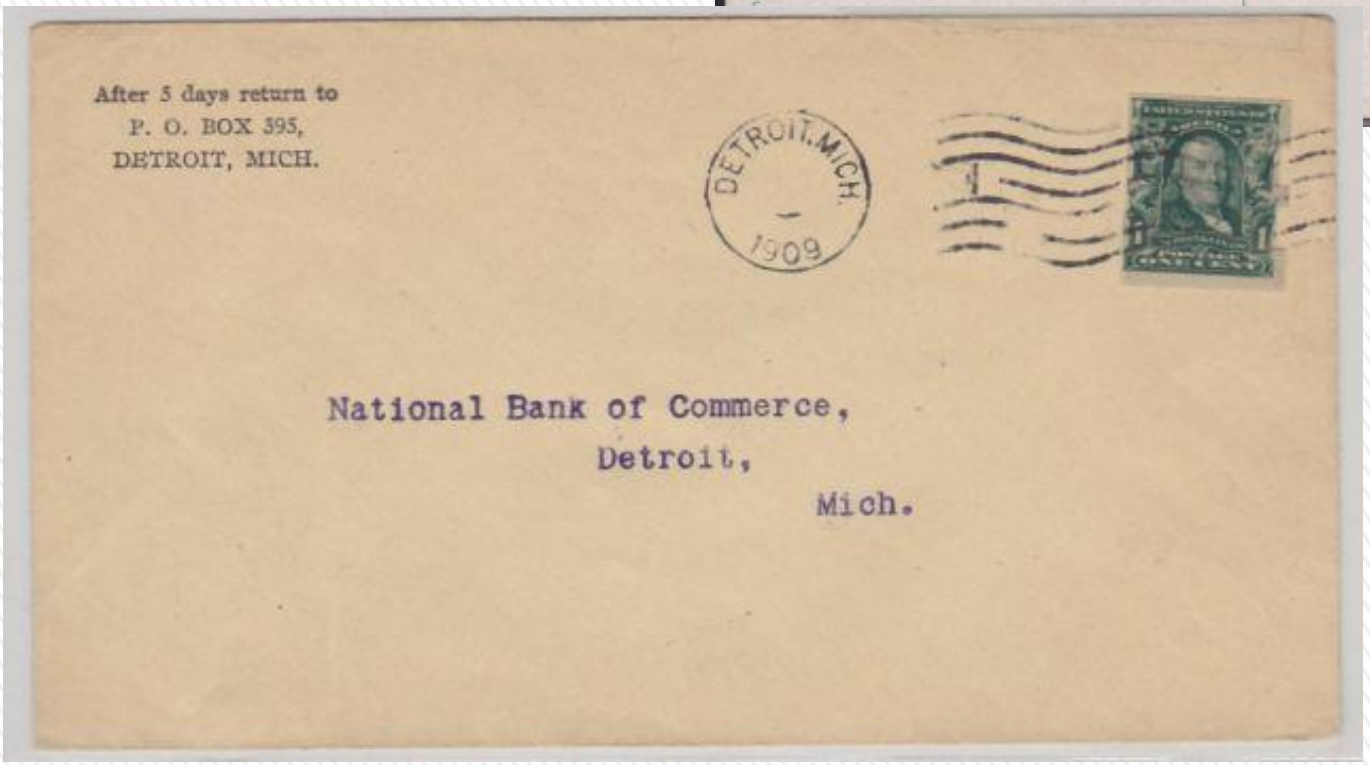
The Schermack type III perforation is the most common of all the vending and affixing machine perforations, and was used for twenty years. The rectangular holes are a distinctive 4.75mm high and 1.25mm wide with 3.25mm spacing.

Some of the early stamps have a slightly smaller spacing between the perforations. Every flat plate imperforate stamp illustrated above is known with Schermack type III perforations.

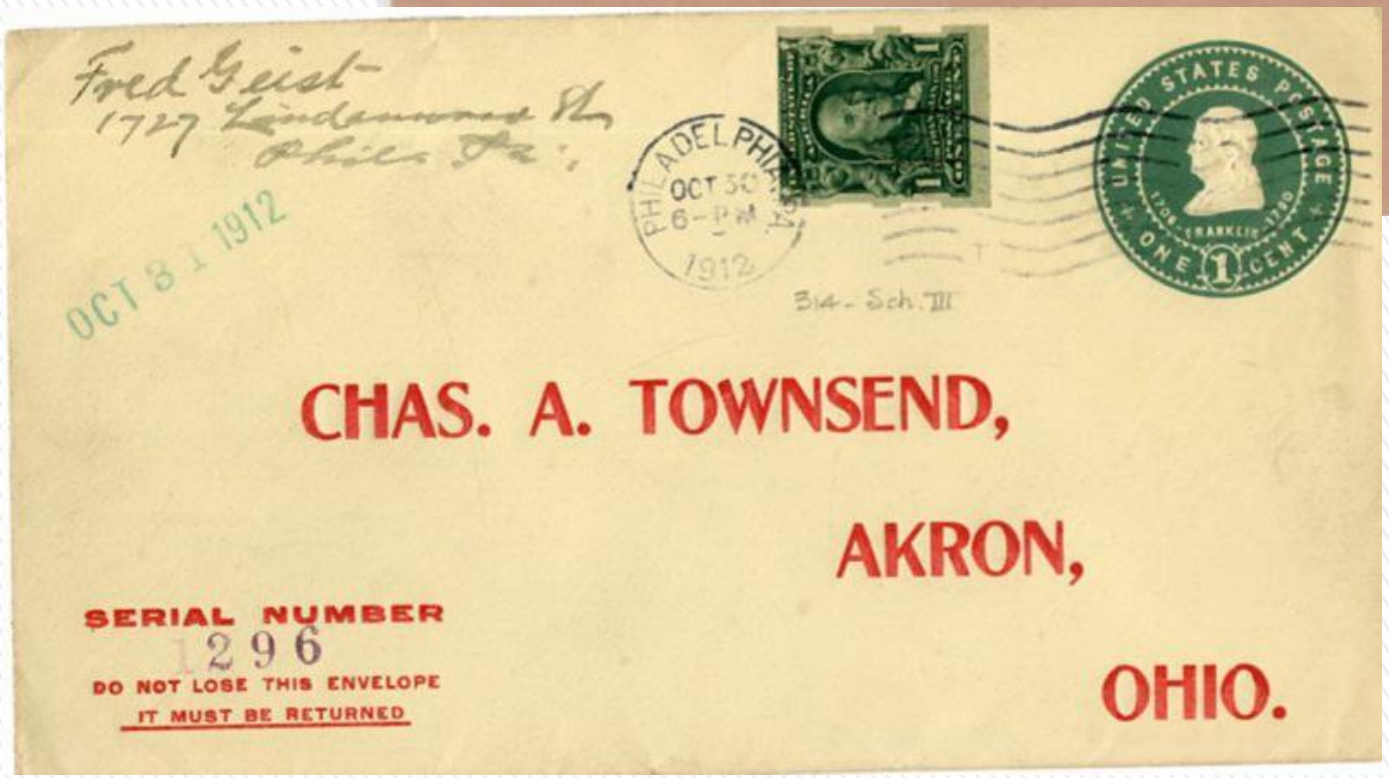


Legitimate Postal Use Within the Time Period






RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO
COVEL MFG. CO.
Benton Harbor, Mich.
BENTON HARBOR
AUG 27
1929
MICH.
Hanna Engineering Works,
1765 Elston Ave.,
Chicago, Illinois.


Fred Geist-
1727 Lindenwood St
Phila Pa.
OCT 31 1912
PHILADELPHIA
OCT 30
6-PM
1912
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
ONE CENT
1
CHAS. A. TOWNSEND,
AKRON,
OHIO.
SERIAL NUMBER
1296
DO NOT LOSE THIS ENVELOPE
IT MUST BE RETURNED

United States Automatic Vending On Scott 314

United States Automatic Vending Company was located in New York City. Their perforations are unique, as the triangular cuts at the edge matched to the grippers on their machines to count and move the stamps

USAV Type I - - Two Varieties

Type 1a 15-1/2 mm between notches.
Type 1b 16mm between notches.

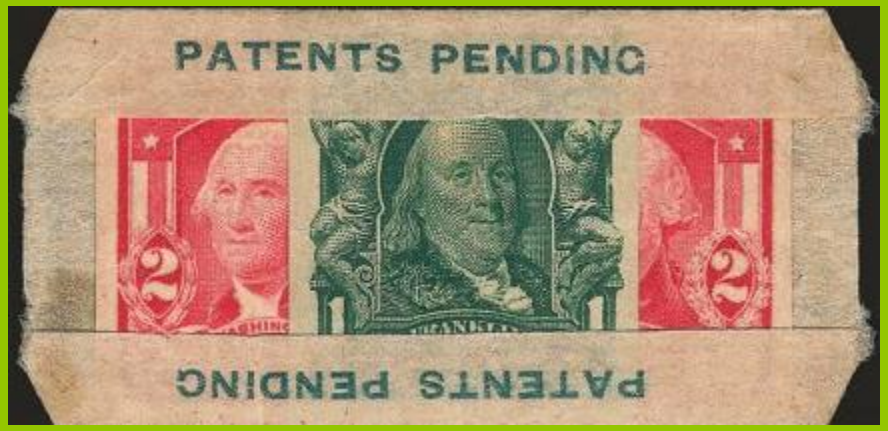
Noted but not considered a significant variety by many collectors

USAV Type II

The type II notches were spaced 19.7mm apart with a 14.5mm slit centered between the notches.

USAV Type III

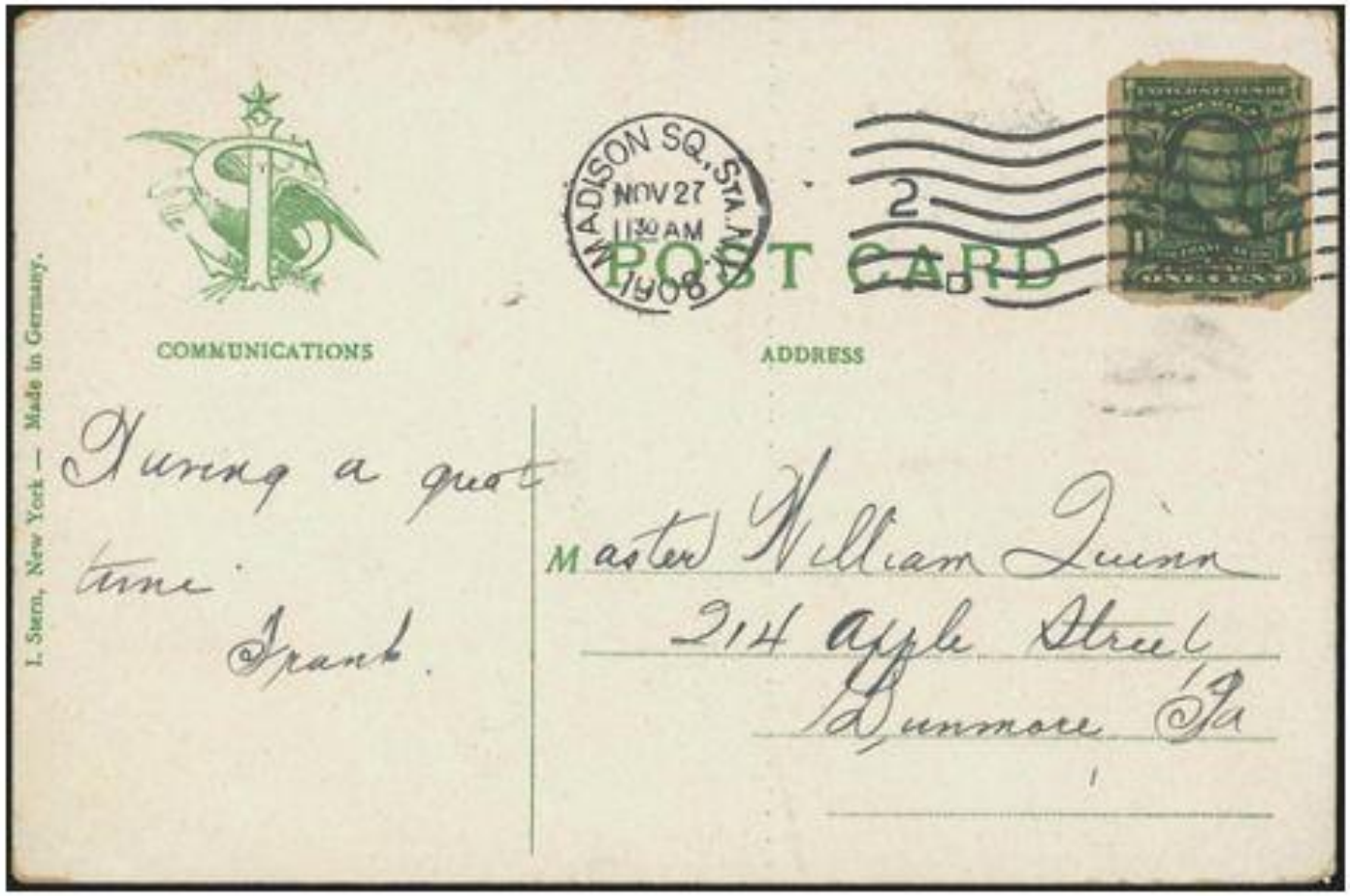
The type III notches were spaced 19.7mm apart on either side of the stamp, but instead of a slit, 7 approximately 1.1mm in diameter holes spaced 1.25mm apart were placed between the notches.



USAV eventually went to Sanitary Stamp Packets in their vending equipment.

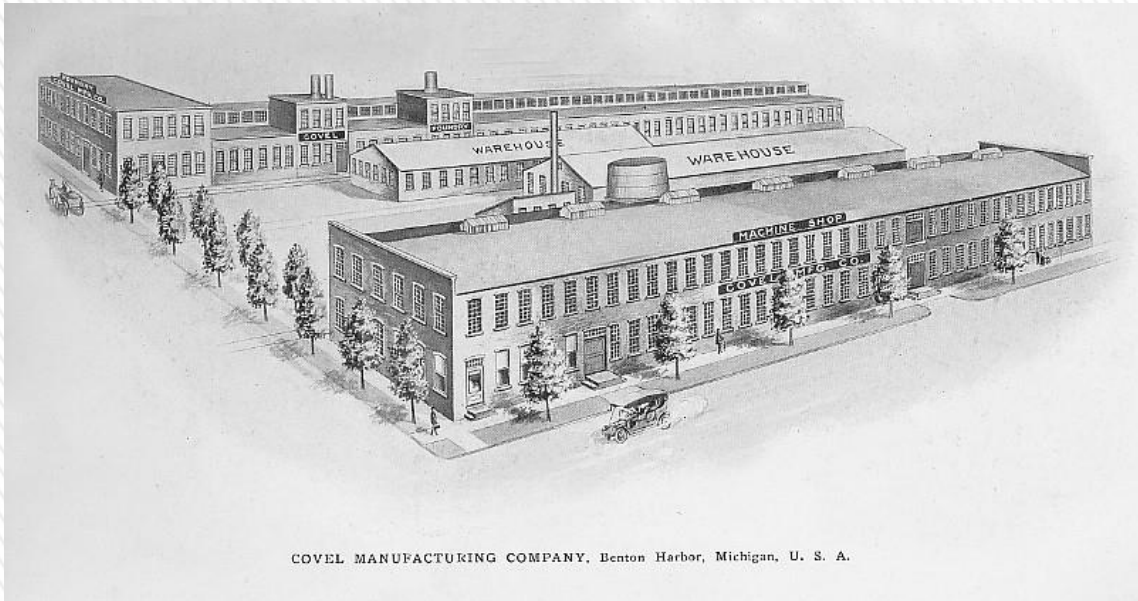
This intact 5 cent folder sold for $800 at auction.

United States Automatic Vending On Scott 314



This is very rare usage of the USAV Type I coil. As the company was located in New York City, the machine was tested at Madison Square Station in November and December of 1908 and this is one of the rare examples. The card sold for $2600 at auction in 2012.

Covel Manufacturing Company



COVEL MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Benton Harbor, Michigan, U. S. A.

The Covel Manufacting Company of Benton Harbor, Michigan was a manufacturer of abrasive wheels and other machinery.

Alvin W. Filstrup was secretary and purchasing agent of this company, with offices in Seattle and Chicago as well as in Benton Harbor. He was a avid philatelist and a member of APS, Collectors Club and the Collectors Club of Chicago.

He regularly used interesting stamps on the company mailings and many covers still exist today. He was also a fan of imperforate and privately perforated stamps and had some privately done for his own use.

It is surmised that Filstrup acquitted imperforate sheets had the sheets perforated by Rosback Company, also of Benton Harbor.

The Schermack Company's Chicago office was across the street from Covel's Chicago plant so it's thought that he got the strips then cut, joined and rolled by Schermack. We probably will never uncover the full story.

The varieties that Filstrup had created for his use in both horizontal and vertical orientation, resemble Scott 316 and 318, the rare government produced coils. The stamps have a 12-1/2 perforation pattern.

It's not known if these were created before or after the government stamps, but Filstrup didn't purposely create counterfeits, as he used these openly on his mail.

No. 01181056 7/28/2008

Professional Stamp Experts
P.O. Box 6170, Newport Beach, CA 92658

Expert Committee

We have examined the enclosed item submitted to PSE, of which an image is shown below, and are of the opinion that:

Cat #	Issue	Denom.	Color
US#314	1906	1c	Blue green

"it is a FAKE COIL PAIR."

For The Expert Committee

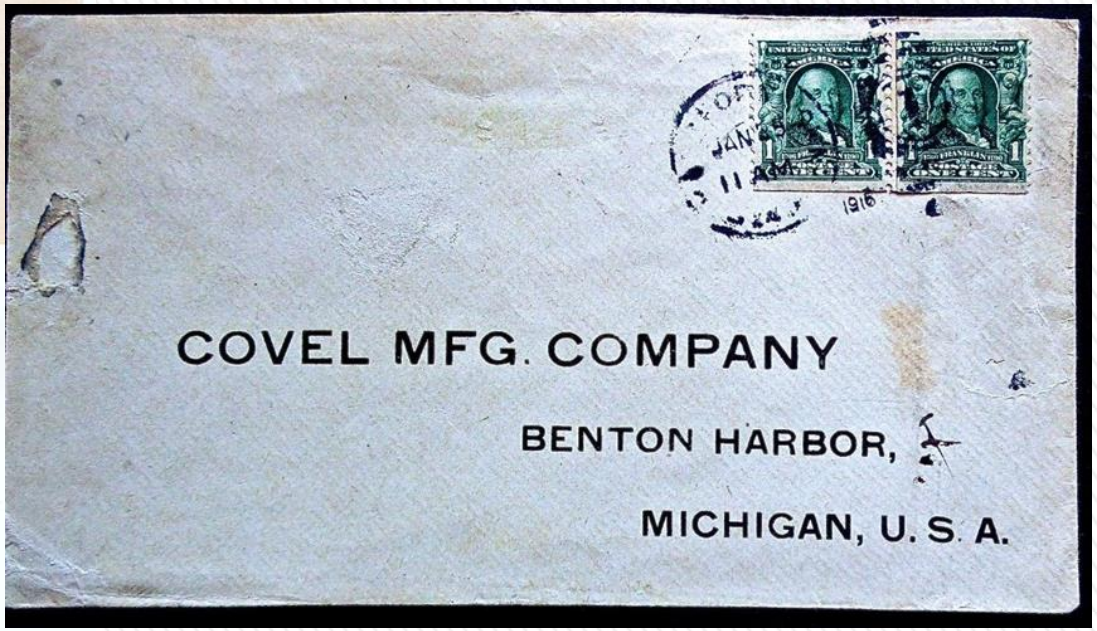
THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRINTED ON WATERMARKED PAPER AND IS NOT VALID WITHOUT WATERMARK

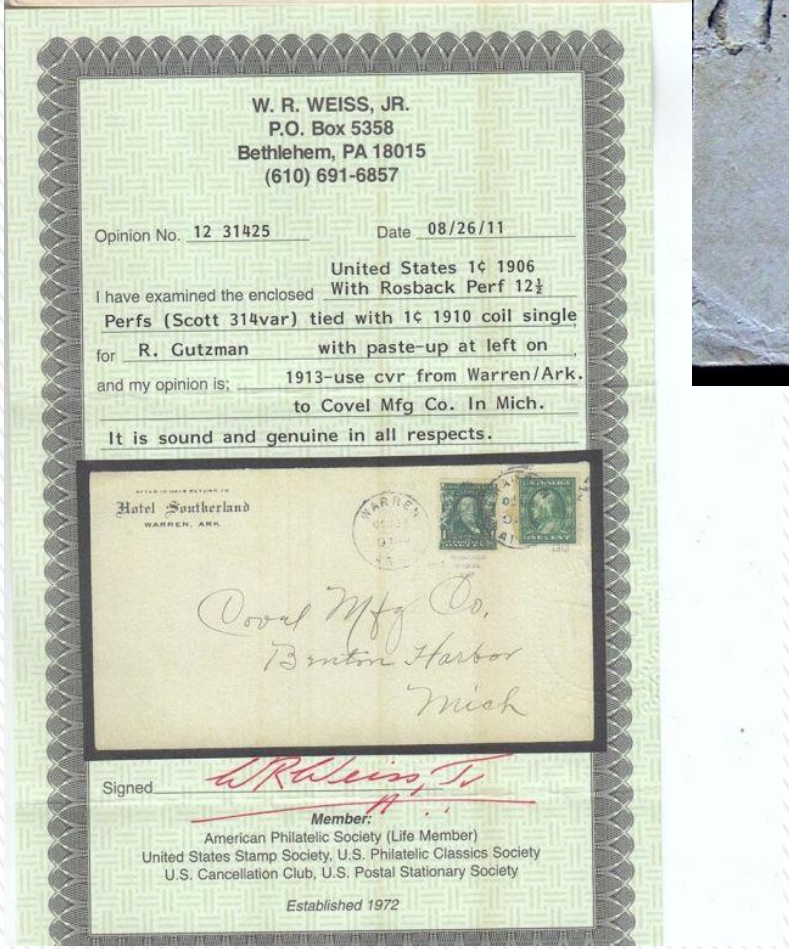
Since the Covel / Rosback coils resemble the USPOD issued rare coils, there has been much confusion by collectors over the years.

In fact expertising boards such as PSA and Philatelic Foundation have returned verdicts of "FAKE" instead of properly identifying the stamps.

One of the many covers on which Covel and Filstrup used the privately perforated Scott 314 stamps.

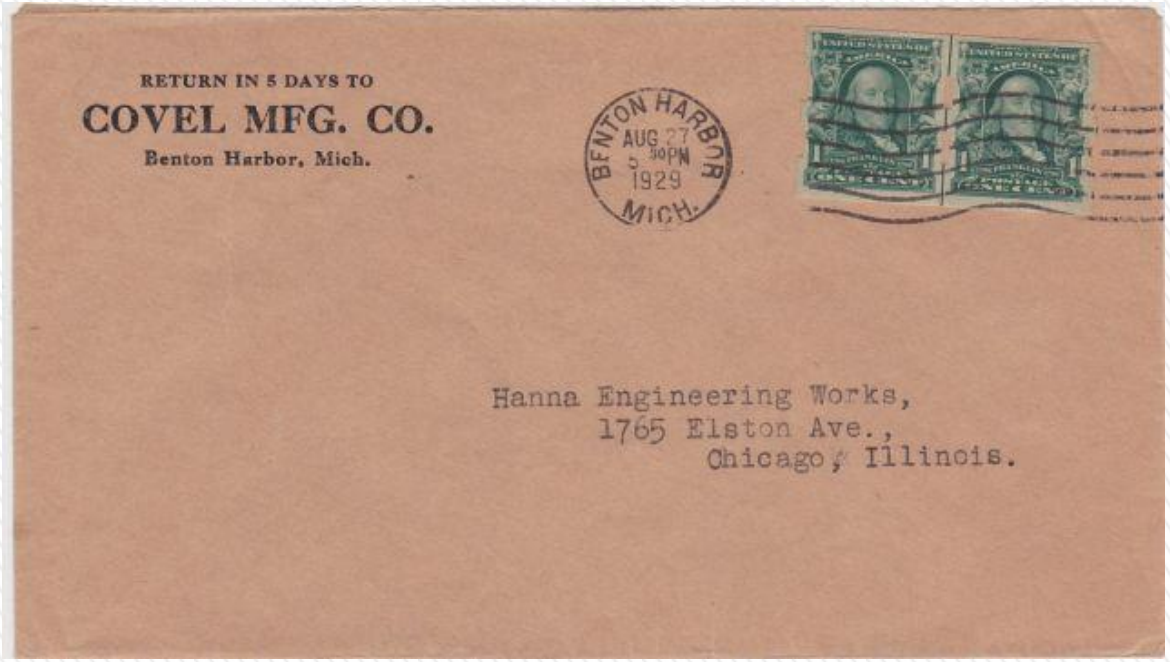
This cover was expertised by Herman Herst Jr. on the reverse side.



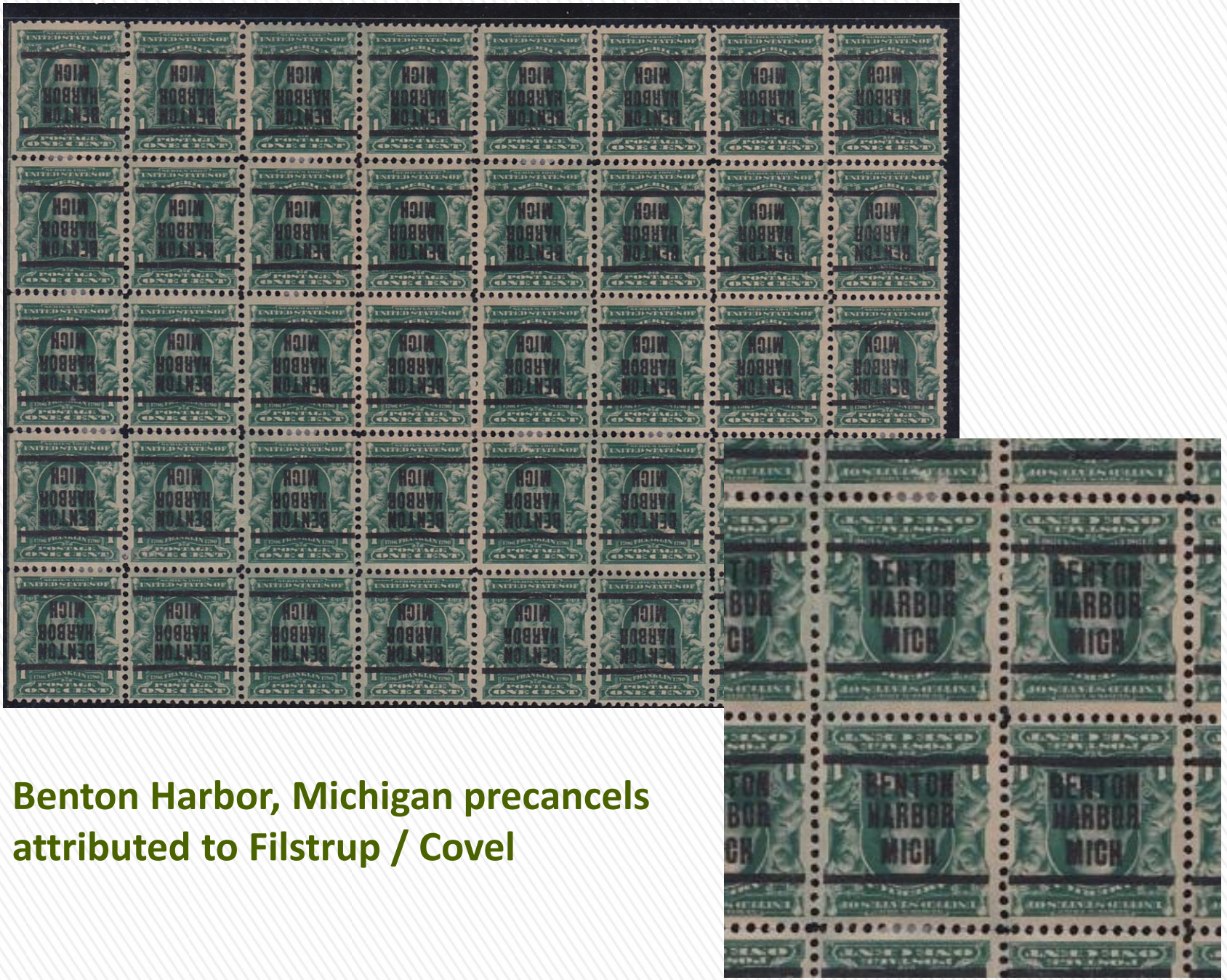


The above cover was sold for $250 in 2018.

A Weiss expertised cover, correctly identifying the stamp as a "Rosback Perf 12 ½.



Some typical Covel generated business mail.



Benton Harbor, Michigan precancels attributed to Filstrup / Covel

Thank You For Your Interest and Attention!