

The Real McCoy



**Elija
McCoy**

The Industrial Revolution

Elija McCoy

Inventor From The 1800's

Developed Important Machinery

Known For Quality Workmanship

“The Real McCoy”

Many Tried To Imitate His Work
People Questioned, Is It Real ?
Hence The Phrase,

“The Real McCoy”

Period of Tremendous Growth

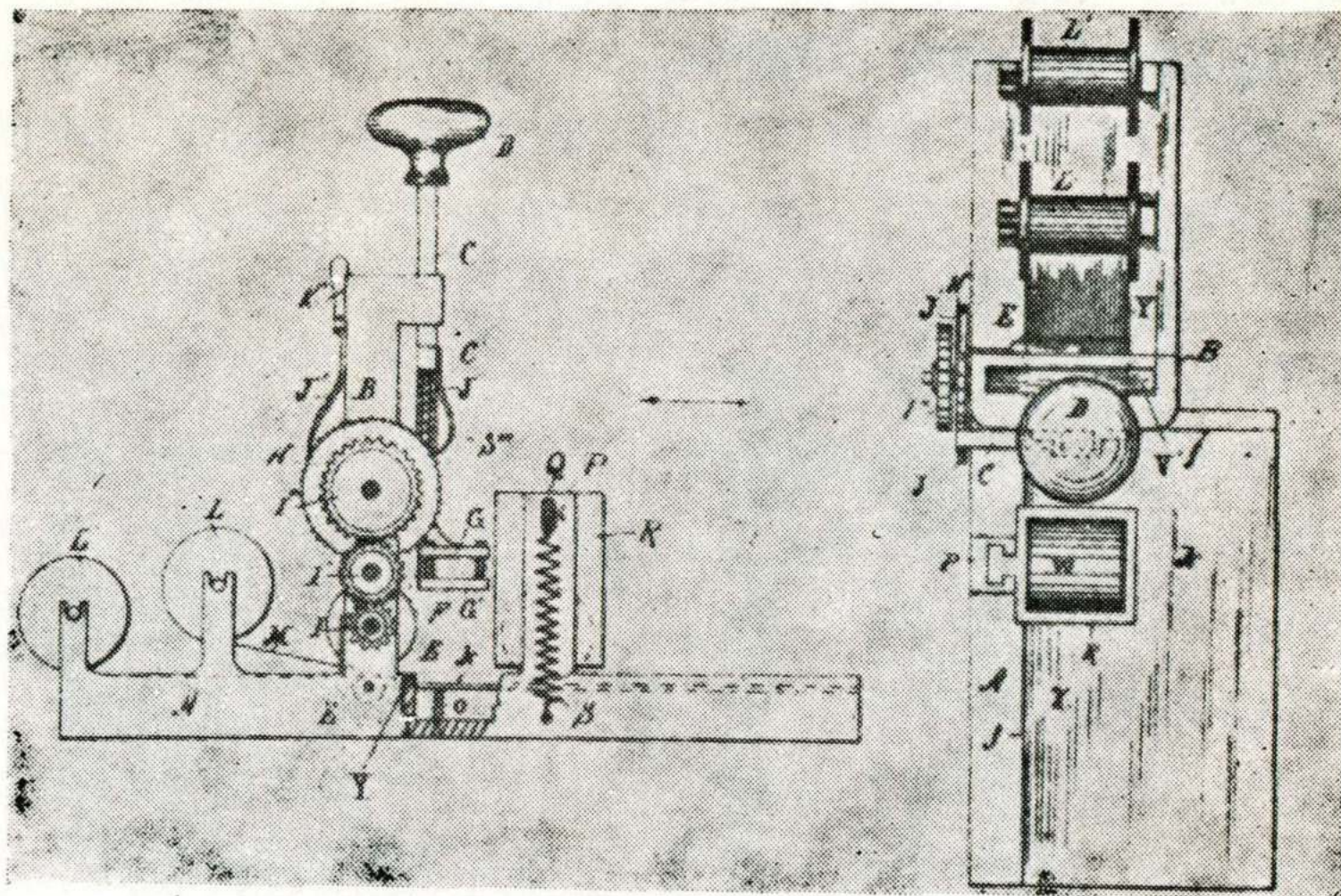
Many Types Of Vending Machines Invented

Dispensed Post Cards To Gumballs

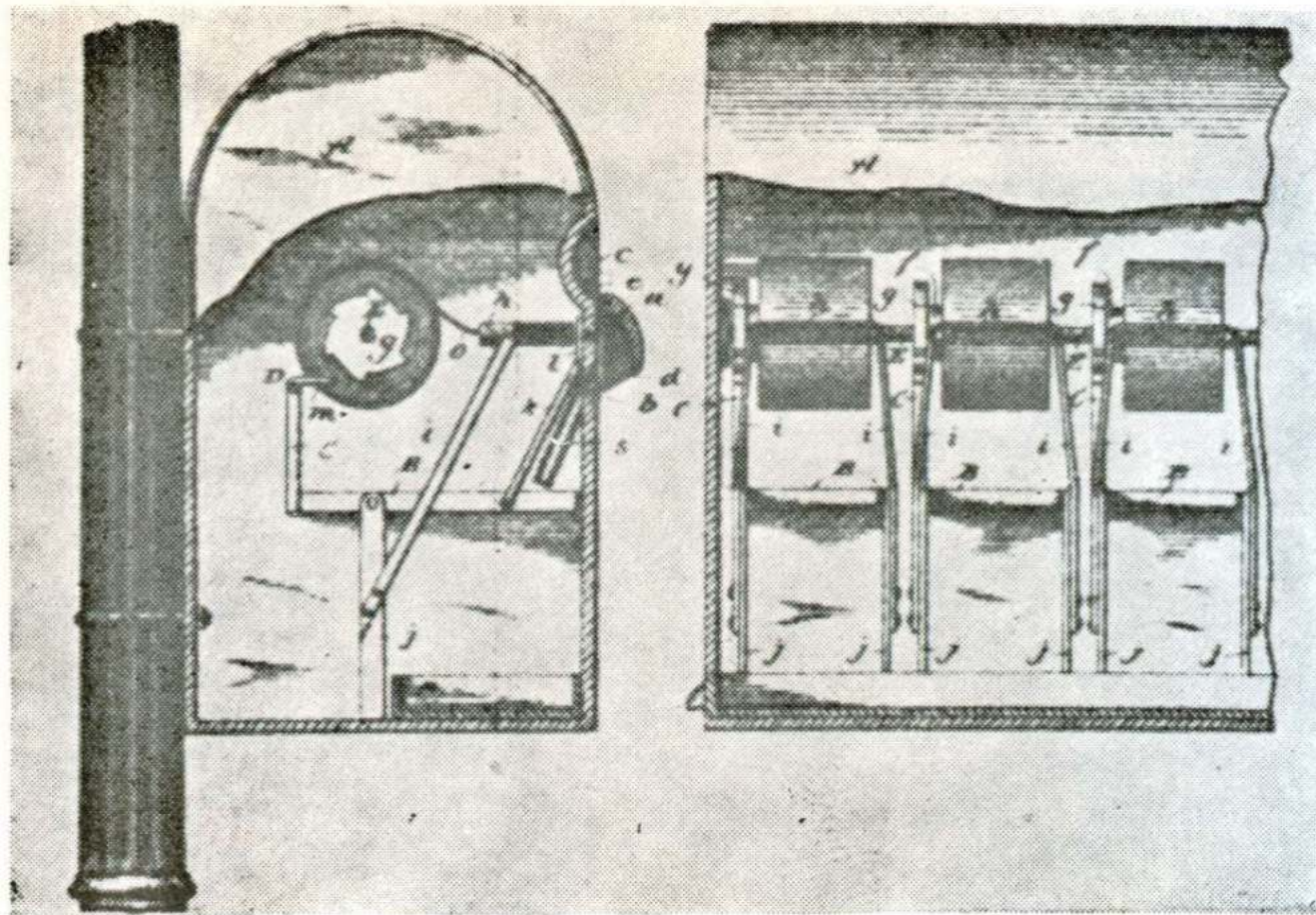
Stamp Business Provided Big Opportunity

Government Contracts

Large Demand For Stamp Affixing Devices



First Affixier to use Coiled Stamps



First Coil Vending Machine

Vending Machine Companies

- Responsible for creating many different types of private perforations
- Requested full imperforate sheets from Government
- Started the development of experimental Government coils
- Government saw opportunity to make money

Government Issued Coils

- Experimental Issues
- First constructed by hand
- Made from individual strips of ten pasted together
- Extremely rare
- Distinct color



First Government Coils

- The first coils were perforated 12
- Were made from sheet stamps
- They were hand assembled
- Sheets were cut into strips of 20 and pasted together by hand
- Took 17 workers to produce a coil roll
- Time consuming and costly

Collector Interest

- The first coils were not well received
- Regular sheet stamps had one straight edge
- Collectors disliked straight edges
- Coils with two straight edges were even less appealing
- Many of the first issue coils were not saved by collectors

Coil Production

- The perf-12 coils were too brittle and frequently broke during the coiling stage
- Changed to gauge 8.5 perforation
- Stronger paper solved the breakage problem
- The new issue was only produced in coil format
- This issue took two workers to make a coil roll.

Collector Interest

- The issue of 1910 created collector interest in coils
- Stamps only produced in coil format with 8.5 gauge perforations
- Collectors finally recognized coils as a new area to collect
- Created an interest in the first coils

Perf-12 Coils

- Many were not saved by collectors
- Majority of coils were lost or destroyed
- Created a shortage and high demand
- Resulted in a large number of fakes and forgeries being created to meet the demand of collectors
- Many different techniques used to create the fake coils

“The Real McCoy”

- Always question is it genuine ?????
- Is it “The Real McCoy”
- Over 40% of coils submitted to the Philatelic Foundation are fakes.
- Always use the “Buyer Beware” attitude in purchasing a flat plate coil.
- Request a certificate if in doubt.

Expertizing Procedure

Flat Plate Coils

- Design Type/Scott Number
- Quality Evaluation
- Coil Size
- Cut Edges
- Perforations
- Guidelines
- Watermarks

Design Type

- Take note of stamp's denomination
- Determine perforation gauge
- Determine type of watermark
- Identify appropriate Scott number
- Determine if flat plate or rotary press

Design Type



Quality Evaluation



Is It Too Good To Be True ???



Typical Centering



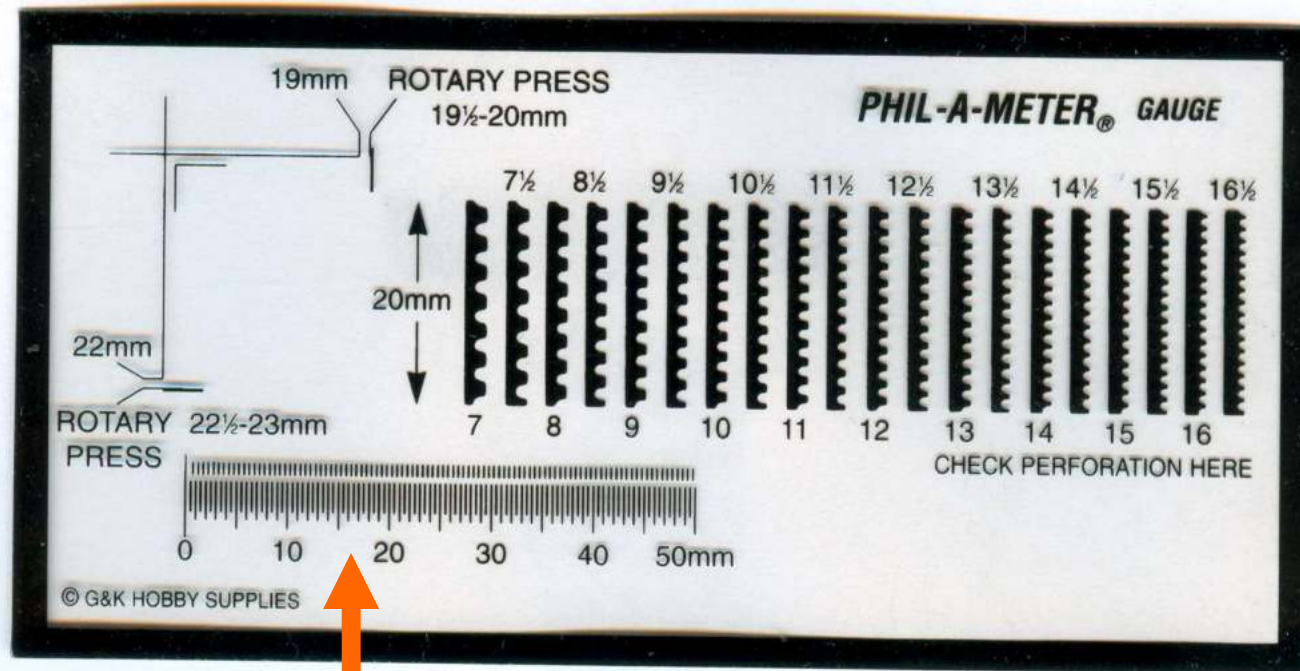


The Real McCoy

**Well centered
examples do
exist, but ?????**



Coil Size



An overlay gauge can correctly measure the height or width of coil.

Ideal Measurement



Vertical Coils

21.5 mm wide



Horizontal Coils

25 mm high

Cut Edges

- Check for waviness
- Are cut edges parallel ?
- Examine for perforation holes on cut edges.
- Any hole deformation along the cut edge?
- Look and Feel?
- Smooth or sharp cut edges?

Waviness



Figure III-1. A fake coil pair of Sc.# 388 made from the imperforate, Sc.# 384. Note the waviness of the straight cuts at both top and bottom. This is not indicative of a genuine coil. Other "problems" with this pair include the gauge, the identical alignment of the three rows of fake perforations, and the shape of the individual holes.



Note, top edge with gold highlight showing waviness.

Look and Feel

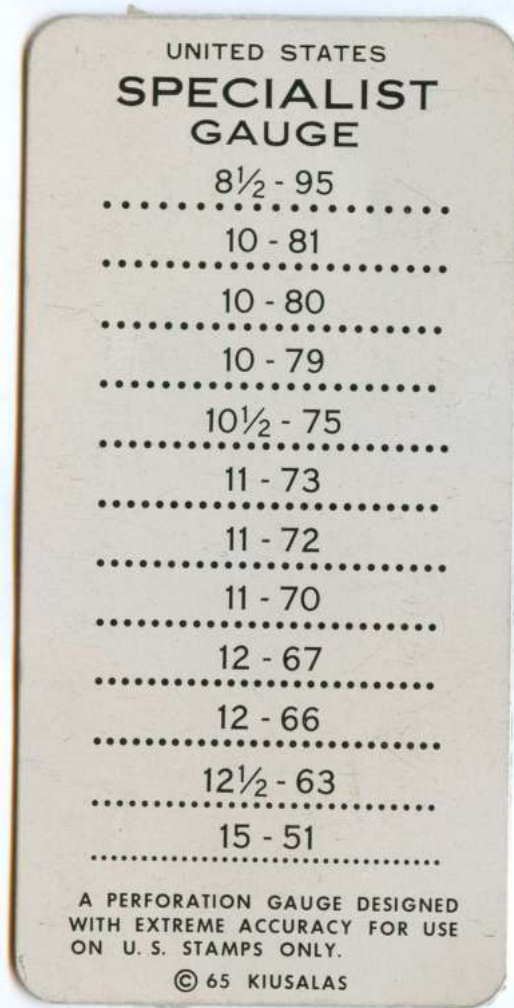


Rounded and smooth



Sharp and distinct

Perforations



Measurements

8 ½ - 95

10 - 79

12 - 66

Specialist Gauge

Hole Configuration

- Hole Shape
- Hole Size
- Hole Alignment:
 - a) within the row
 - b) between rows
- Hole Deformation
- Perforation Tips

Hole Shape



Genuine



Fake

Hole Size

**Note, the top
paste-up pair
is genuine.
The holes on
the bottom
pair are too
small and do
not gauge
correctly.**



Hole Alignment



Within The Row

Hole Alignment



Between Rows

Perforation Tips



Note, fibers on tips

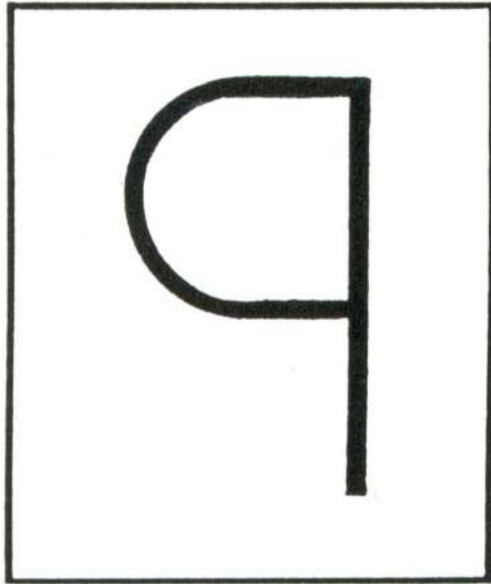
Guidelines

- Determine if genuine
- Guidelines are engraved just like the rest of the stamp
- Color must match exactly
- There should not be any color inside the perforation holes

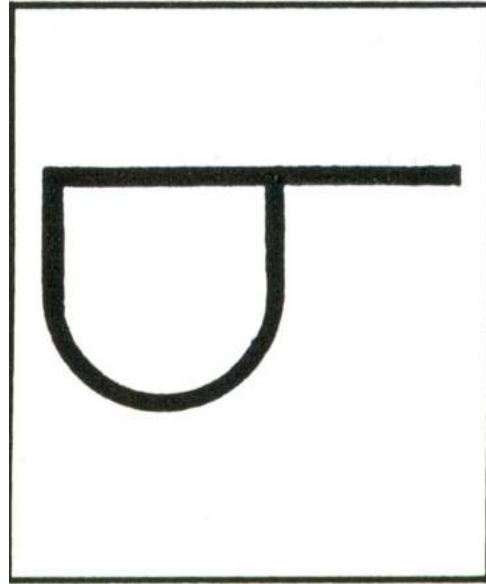




Watermarks



"HORIZONTAL"



"VERTICAL"

U S P S

Single Line

U S P S

Double Line

Watermark Orientation

- All flat plate coils were printed on paper with a horizontal watermark.
- Any Washington/Franklin coil that shows a vertical watermark is made from a booklet pane.
- Vertical pairs with a genuine perforations and a guideline can be made from a booklet pane.

Creative Minds at Work

No. 110 681

July 30, 1982

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016
EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed item submitted by the
applicant described as follows:

Country USA Issue 1910 Denomination 3 ¢

Color violet Cat. No. 389

Brief description or additional
information

All Catalogue numbers are Scott's unless
otherwise specified.

Unused, o.g.

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion

that it is genuine.-----



[Signature]
For The Expert Committee
Chairman



Note, different type set

July 30, 1982

Issue 1910 Denomination 3 ¢

Cat. No. 389

onal All Catalogue numbers are Scott's unless

A diagram with three arrows indicating relationships between fields. One arrow points from '19' in the date '1982' to '1910' in the 'Issue' field. Another arrow points from '82' in the date '1982' to '3 ¢' in the 'Denomination' field. A third arrow points from '30' in the date '1982' to '389' in the 'Cat. No.' field.

Beware !!!

Ingenious Minds at Work

This certificate was doctored by using white out.

They blocked out the old information and typed in the new.

The old and new type do not match.

Only accept an original document from any expertizing agency.


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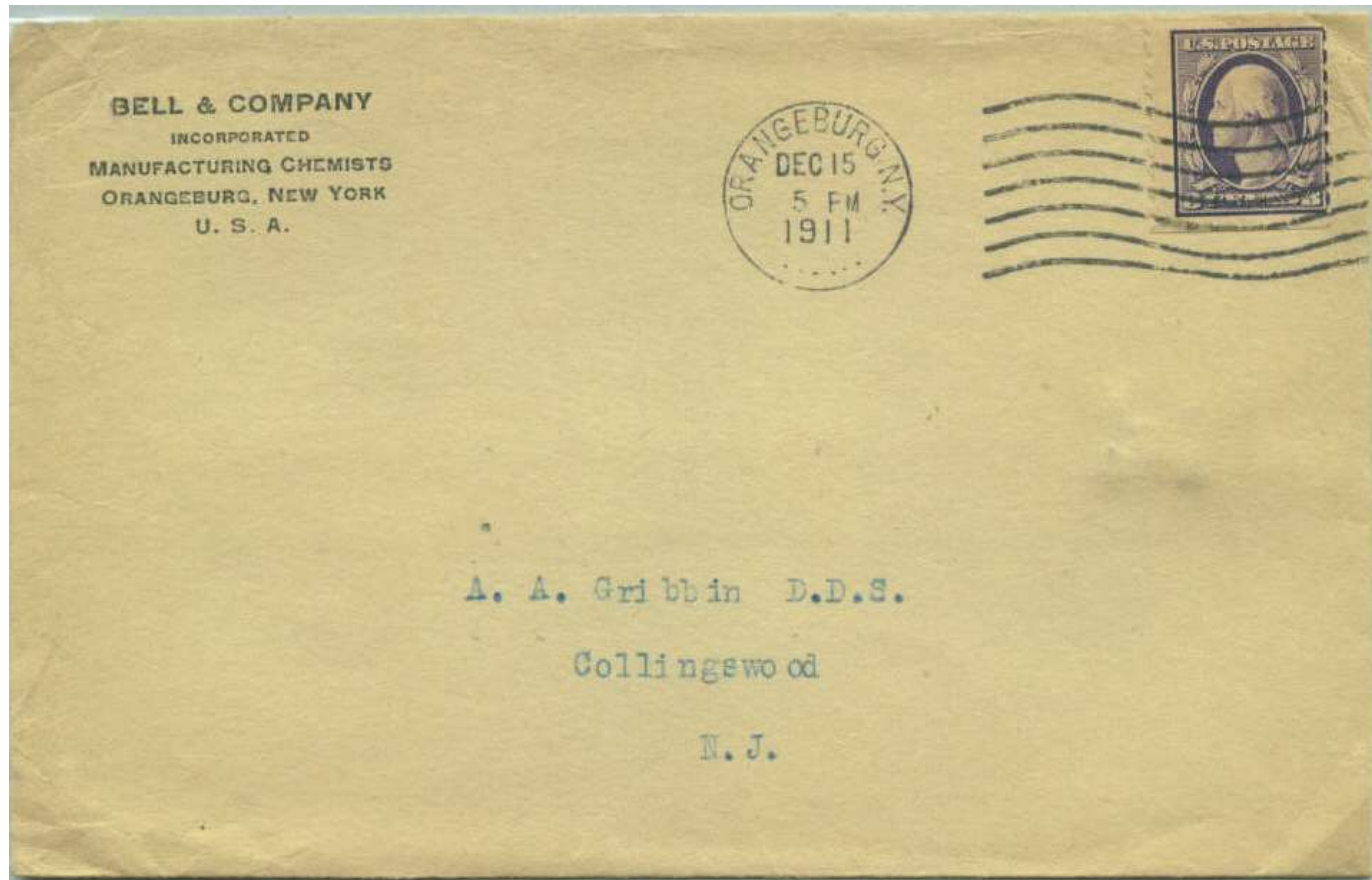
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For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Adding Stamps to a Cover



The More Common Perf-8.5 Example

Examples of the rare # 389 Orangeburg coil have been placed on covers that had the more common example of the perf-8.5 #394 flat plate coil.



When In Doubt

- Send it out for Certificate
- The PF, PSE, or APS
- Request a certificate if you have any questions about it being genuine.
- Any reputable dealer will back up the cost of expertization.
- If you are not sure, pass and let it go.