

STROMBERG, ALLEN & COMPANY

Years ago, I acquired an example of hole punch that I had never seen before.

After receiving it in the mail, it was immediately boxed up and put away. Why? Because it could not be identified.

The machine was definitely old, and it was a hold punch, but it had no markings or brands. It could not be identified; therefore, I didn't want visitors to ask about it, as I would have no answers.

Even after finding another example with the brand, SACO. It was still not tracible. So, a file was created with these photographs in it, labeled "Unknown".

Today, after nearly three years, while thumbing through a 1918 magazine that had been scanned and made available by a university, there it was. The Improved Saco Punch.



This article about an improved hole punch provided enough information to establish that the creator was Charles J. Stromberg and his partner was John Allen and Company.

Charles was listed as the President of the company while John Allen was the Vice President. Charles E. Temple was carried as the Director.

The group was located at 430-432 S. Clark Street Chicago, Ill.

Improved Saco Punch

EVERY office needs a punch with a large capacity and an unfailing accuracy—two characteristics of a punch that will remove much annoyance and loss of time. The new and improved Saco punch which is being brought out by Stromberg, Allen & Co., 430-432 South Clark Street, Chicago, has been specially con-



structed to meet these two very important requirements. It has been rebuilt along powerful lines, yet with economy of operation, to perforate all your office papers, as well as magazines for libraries and reading rooms, railroad tickets and tariffs, legal and other papers and pamphlets. Its powerful leverage and adjustable rear and side guides enable quick perforation of all papers up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness with one hole $\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter with unerring accuracy.

The Saco punch is an improvement on the Stromberg punch which the company has been selling to the railroads for several years past as a punch for the well-known Stromberg coupon ticket. Dealers in office supplies will find it a necessary addition to the stock regularly carried.

The hole punch was advertised as being suitable for punching office papers, pamphlets, magazines, railroad tickets, tariffs, legal and other papers.

From my own observations and photos in my files, I have come to my own conclusions that the above shown example was the first model (circa 1915 – 1917) while the model shown to the right is the second model produced by SACO. (circa 1918)



Only time and additional investigation will determine if I am correct.

It may be stating the obvious, but what does the SACO acronym stand for?
Stromberg, Allen & Company.

A look into what may have happened to the old building located at 430-432 South Clark Street, with the help of Google Map soon provided us with a photo of the building. It is still standing and serves as a reminder of days gone by.

