

2.5 - Perforation Alignment holes

Marginal inscriptions are specified depending on the printer, Registration markings that are unique to each press type are also added to the electronic file at this stage to ensure accurate registration when printing is underway. Much to the disappointment of collectors, a good deal of this information gets removed when guillotining the printed press sheet down to counter sheet size.

Marginal Inscriptions

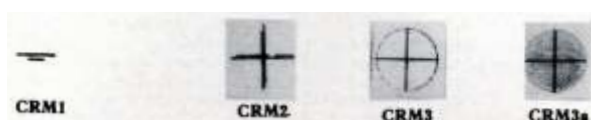
Any marks found on the sheet margins are purposeful and aid or monitor some process or the other in the production of stamps. It is, therefore, necessary to understand their significance and take advantage of them in the study of stamps. They are described below:-

(i) Marginal arrows: these are of V or W type and may be found on any or all margins of the sheet. Besides acting as an aid to post office clerks in breaking up sheets these may also act as perforation guide marks.

(ii) Marginal Rule: these are solid lines of colour bordering the stamps on the sheet margins. These are produced by metal rule around the printing plates intended to take the shock of inking roller and prevent damage and undue wear of the printing plates. These may be of continuous type without break or broken in short lengths equal to adjacent stamps. The latter is known as 'Co-extensive type'. Their presence indicates printing by typography.

(iii) Colour codes: this term denotes a means of checking registration of colours in two or more colour printings, and are intended as a check on missing colours. They are also helpful in an accurate recording of colour shades used in the printing. Following types of colour codes (CC) are seen on colour, or three or more colour printings:-

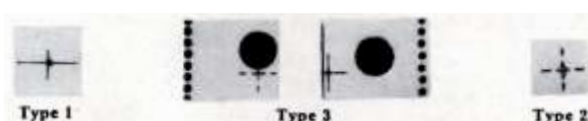
(iv) Colour Registration Marks (CRM): these marks are intended as a check on correct registration of the colours in two or more colour printings and are found in the shape of superimposed dashes, crosses or crosses in circle as illustrated below:



(v) Perforation Guide Marks: these exist in three following types:

- (1) Cross with pinhole seen on the sheets of stamps printed by offset-litho in one or more colours.
- (2) Stippled cross with pinhole found on the sheets of multicolour stamps printed in photogravure.
- (3) Cross and punch hole seen on the sheets of definitive and special stamps printed on the web in one or two colours.

These are illustrated below:-



These are often trimmed off totally or partially and when visible are helpful in identifying the panes of the printer's sheet.