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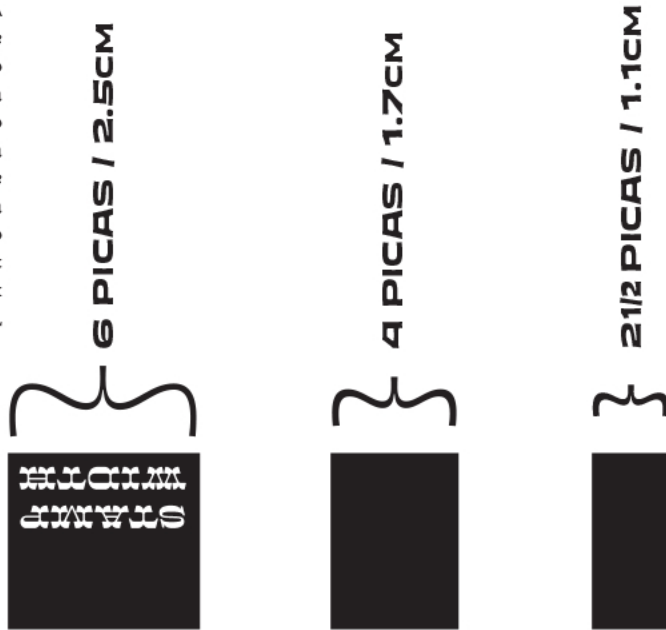
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@19cWT

A project for the Quarantine Public Library, July 2020

Measuring the manufacturer's stamps produced by Hamilton Mfg Co c1910 — c1950

A BOOKLET & HANDHELD MEASURING TOOL



THIS IS A TOOL, intended to facilitate a quick measurement of this particular stamp configuration when encountered in the wild. I'm starting an audit of how prevalently this stamp figures in existing collections, and hope that in this time of reduced physical circulation you might have a moment to check out the wood type to which you have access. Drop me a line to let me know what you find.

Form Micro, by David Jonathan Ross, DTR.com (2019) and Blythe, by Nick Sherman for HWT (2017)

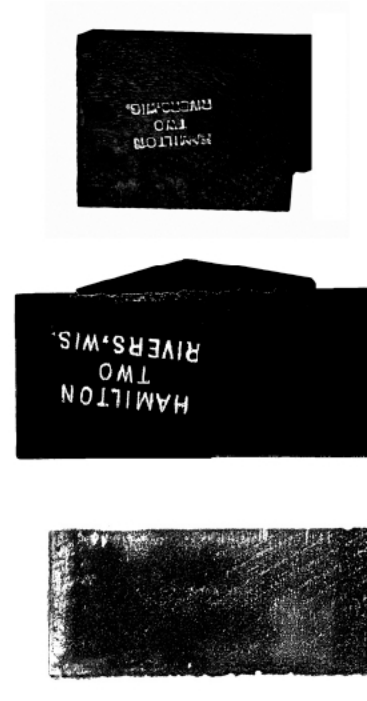
Puffing (2021), by Roberto Hernandez, at Future Forms, (2020) braces set in Oblique, by James Edmondson, OH No Type Company (2019)

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries wood type manufacturers stamped marks into the type block to advertise and authenticate the original manufacturer of the wood type.

These stamped marks are referred to as manufacturer's stamps — also often informally called “maker's marks”. Unlike type founders' pin marks they were created as a separate step in production by manually striking a steel punch to the side of the wooden type block as the final step in the manufacturing process. American wood type manufacturers would typically only stamp the side of the block of the capital «A».

The stamp continues to serve a useful purpose today by helping bring clarification to the date range of when the type block may have likely been produced.

Elena, by Nicole Dotin, Process Type Foundry (2011)



HAMILTON | TWO | RIVERS, WIS.

Three lines. In use c1910s – c1950s.

There is evidence that this stamp may have been used at least as early as the 1910s, though currently not enough corroborating evidence has been uncovered to establish a definitive start date. Anecdotal evidence points to the stamp not being used after the mid-1950s when the company phased out its Printer's Composing Room Equipment division. The stamp would not have been used after April 1968 when American Hospital Supply Corporation bought the company and changed the name Hamilton Mfg Co, which had been used by the company since 1926, to American Hamilton.

Tiptych, by Ellmer Stefan, The Pyte Foundry (2019)

There are at least three unique sizes of this stamp that have been recorded. The widths have been measured at 2½ picas [1.1cm], 4 picas [1.7cm], and 6 picas [2.5cm]. It is as yet unclear if the sizes were used at specific times that might be used to determine when the type was manufactured, or if the three sizes were all used simultaneously during the same period and simply applied to different sizes of type.

Trailing, by Yoram Mirel, Bureau Brut (2017)

QFWFQ negative, by Ellmer Stefan, The Pyte Foundry (2016)