
CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT
CASE NO. 7749-B
INTERROGATION REPORT
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN / MALE / AGE 52
DATE: 12 NOV 1966 | TIME: 02:18 AM
LOCATION: SITE B – HOLDING ROOM 3
OFFICER: DET. K. MARLOW
SUBJECT WAS DETAINED AFTER INCIDENT AT DOCK YARD. REFUSED TO PROVIDE NAME. POSSESSES NO IDENTIFICATION. CLAIMS NOTES: COOPERATIVE BUT EVASIVE. PENDING FURTHER INTERROGATION.
APPROVED – CASE OPEN
12/NOV/66
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SCHICK, WILKINSON AND THE TRIPLE MISFORTUNE

I dedicate only a small amount of space to this pioneer of his time, for three simple reasons:

1) His story did not begin with an invention drawn on a drafting table, but with an accident and hardship in an isolated mining and frontier environment.

2) His first commercial success was inspired by the rifle, not by the razor. The Magazine Repeating Razor borrowed its loading concept from repeating firearms and military experience.

3) The most curious detail of all: he eventually became a Canadian citizen to avoid an American congressional tax investigation after moving much of his wealth into holding companies in the Bahamas.

Mr. Schick chose to renounce his American citizenship and become Canadian, thereby removing himself from the reach of a congressional inquiry into tax evasion and tax avoidance.

There are no noble origins to celebrate here, nor any grand founding legend beyond the facts commonly reported and contextualized by history.

Yet one detail helps explain why Jacob Schick never became a larger-than-life figure within the brand itself or within the broader narrative that surrounds the shaving industry.

He transferred much of his fortune into a network of Bahamian holding companies and ultimately became a naturalized Canadian citizen.

I do not judge the inventor.

I simply record the facts.

Gillette, Wilkinson, and other brands built their legends around products, rituals, and institutional memory.

Schick, by contrast, left posterity a story centered largely on the man himself.

Perhaps that is why we remember the razor more than its inventor.

Ferdinando Frega