

NYC EXCHANGE and CITY REGISTERED LABELS: 1883 – 1911

Purpose: This multi-frame exhibit will identify all the known "exchange and city" type registered labels used by the General Post Office, GPO, in New York City from January 1, 1883 to January 24, 1911.

Historical Background: At the 1878 International Congress of Paris and the formation of the Universal Postal Union adopted the use of adhesive labels for international registered mail. There was almost universal approval from world countries except the USA. Under pressure from the UPU, the United States finally began the label usage, beginning January 1, 1883.

The labels changed design as the demand for more were required as the registered mail grew and manufacturing dies wore out. The "Exchange labels" were to be used only on incoming registered mail to the General Post Office and all foreign registered mail processed at the directly at the main Post Office would receive the "City" type label.

The early research began with a number of articles written by Barbara Mueller in the mid-1950's and into the early 1970's. She had developed an identification system for the different label and number types. The system is most difficult to understand and use. This system can be found in the US Scott Specialized catalog but the full use of this system is not total used by auction houses or collectors.

Scope: The system developed by this exhibitor is easier to understand and use. The different types of labels and usages are put in a proper time line. With all the background data compiled, the proper dating of label usage can be determined and the identification of improper label usage on covers. This is a key issue within the hobby of registered covers being modified from the original mailing condition in the proper time frame.

The estimated total number of registered labels used at the GPO in the 28 years of service comes to 50,683,296 labels. This number being developed from the Post Office department annual registry usage reports compiled between 1876 and 1910. A survivability factor has been determined for an estimate of known remaining cover copies. That number is 0.0002 times the 50, 683,000 usage number to equal an estimate of 10,140 covers. The current census lists almost 7000.

This exhibit is an expanded version of the same topic that was shown as a single frame exhibit that won over ten gold awards.

Exhibit Plan

NYC Type I-A Exchange Label	NYC Type II-A City Label
NYC Type I-B Exchange Label	NYC Type II-B City Label
NYC Type I-C Exchange Label	NYC Type II-E City Label
NYC Type I-D Exchange Label	NYC Type II-F City Label
NYC Type I-E Exchange Label	
NYC Type I-C Exchange Label with Hand Stamped Numbers	End of the Label Era
NYC Type I-C Exchange Labels with Printed Numbers	
NYC Type I-F Exchange Label	

Covers worthy of a second look are bordered in "RED"

Historical notes are shown in Italics

Published Research:

Have been asked many times that I write and publish my research on this topic. This project has begun but will be a work in progress for many years until completion.

Research: Aspects of the research include the following "four special topics."

1. The different "types" of exchange and city labels are identify by a new identification system developed by the exhibitor.
2. Report on the sequence production runs by label types.
3. Report on estimated quantities of labels produced by label type.
4. Identify the different type and sizes of the numbers used on the labels.

Items not included in this exhibit are as follows:

By Scott catalog number, FX-NY1-b(iii), FX-NYC-c, FX-NYC-d, and FX-NY4.