

Synopsis for the Examiner Markings used in NYC, 1878 – 1902

These subjects have been shown before in individual single frame exhibits that have achieved “Gold Awards.”

Treatment: With the expanded exhibit plan to four frames, one needed a better presentation plan with improved matching headers on the pages but also reducing the number of headers to be used at the beginning of each section vs every page as a recommendation from the judges. With less verbiage the pages look a lot more open and cleaner as some judges had recommended.

Presentation: A complete new approach to mounting the covers has been changed from black backers to a lite gray color. The important pieces are high-lighted with full red borders as compared to what I had used in the past. All covers have a color photo copy of the reverse side (the front side) set at 645 of original size. Only a very small number have large covers have a greater reduction.

From the many exhibit evaluation forms a number of improvement ideas have been suggested at different times. The main one was to combine the examiner markings into one large exhibit to tell the complete story. That is what you will see that were in “two single frame exhibits” plus combined with many new items and “new discoveries” with in the last year to create this four frame exhibit. The addition of better defined sections in the exhibit plus all the inbound foreign mail with these markings are new and have not been shown before.

All my detail research on the size of all the different markings are now back in the files setting on the library shelves in my office. This information showed the detail sizing of 73 different markings which is now at 74 for I have discovered a very small Type EM-4, “S”, at 20.0 mm diameter. Almost all the detail written text on the pages has also been removed at the request of the judging panels. “We do not read more than two lines of written text and if we the judges can see it on the covers you don't have to write about it.”

On all the important pieces that are high-lighted with a red border, the exhibitor will not refer to the rarity of most of the items for that always seems to be a bone of contention with the judges. What I have learned from my research project on the consistency and the accuracy of judging through my 40 plus evaluation forms and which continue to grow is that the judges just use the “rarity table” from the Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting for the rarity number that compares with the assigned “grade.”

Just for information, as some judges have requested, are some of my general comments on rarity.

Type EM-2 markings, have a small census of 11 covers of which I own 9 covers of collecting after 10 years. & of those covers are shown in the exhibit.

Type EM-3 markings, my census has a total of 52 covers recorded of which I own 26 covers. That number is broken down into 14 domestic and 38 foreign covers.

	<u>Domestic</u> <u>3 cents / ½ oz</u>	<u>Domestic</u> <u>2 cents / ½ oz</u>	<u>Foreign</u> <u>5 cents, UPU / 15 grams</u>
Type I, “B” letter	3	0	5
Type II, “B” letter	0	1	2
Type I, “C” letter	5	0	21
Type I, “D” letter	1	0	3
Type I, “U” letter	3	1	7
Totals	12	2	38

Survivability Rate based on the 740,180 registered letters mailed out of the GPO in NYC during the usage period, the 38 covers equals a rate of 0.0000513. From my research on the data from the Linn's U.S. Stamp Facts 19th Century, all the covers generated an average of 0.0001 for a normal survivability rate. At a rate of 0.0001, that would equal about 74 possible surveying covers that would have the Type EM-3 markings on them.

The Type II, "B" letter is the small design with the body lines measuring 4 mm thick vs the normal 5 mm thickness for all the other letters. I own the only three copies that I have recorded and are shown in this exhibit.

The Type EM-4, small letter markings, were in service from December, 1883 to December 31, 1899, 17 years. The letters "O" and "S" saw usage in the last 10 years of that period.

The Type EM-5, small letter markings were in service for 25 months until January 31, 1902. The letters "E", "H", and "L" were added to the other six letters. These three markings are the hardest to find along with the other six in general because of the short usage period. For me, the highly prized ones are the usages for the month of January, 1902. There is only a very small hand full of which I own an "E", "S", and a "U" from that January, 1902 period and are shown in this exhibit.

The real rare usage of examiner markings is to find the marking canceling the stamp on the front of the cover. I own 6 of the 7 known copies in my census, and most are shown in this exhibit.

Reference material to read: The 1882-1902 Registered "Letter" marks of the New York City and Some Collateral Information by Jere. Hess Barr. Was printed in the 18th American Philatelic Congress of 1952. It's OK information for the general public but for the expert there are many things missing, dates are not correct, and the non-letter markings are used for specific functions. Those are shown in other exhibits of mine or you may have seen some of these markings in single frames at one of the WSP shows. I have studied and researched this material (have gotten a number of Research Awards for different parts of this exhibit) for seventeen years and know it as good or better than almost anyone in the hobby, and that includes the rarity of the covers.

Remember that all the info in this synopsis doesn't count for anything, it's what's in the frames that count.