

## Examiner Markings used in NYC, 1878 – 1902

**Purpose:** The exhibit addresses the four different designs and usages of the examiner markings used over the twenty four year period at the General Post Office in New York City.

**History / Background:** June 1, 1867, Postmaster General, A.W. Randell issued a more detailed plan of instructions for improving the registry system as was published in the “Regulations Respecting the Registration of Letters.” From this letter, section 8 addresses “Receiving Letters for Delivery.” Quoted from that section: “On the arrival of the mail at any office the pouch shall be opened only by the postmaster, his deputy, or a sworn clerk:.” In the larger post offices, this work fell to the sworn clerks and in the case of the GPO in NYC these workers became known as the “examiners” that had their own specific marking equipment.

This four frame exhibit will show the result of many years of updated research work that began with Dr. William Evens in 1935-36 and continued with J.H. Barr in 1952 regarding the sworn clerks, aka, the examiner markings used at the GPO in NYC. The research will show new time lines of usage of the different types and a number of many new discoveries not seen in the early work by J.H. Barr.

**Scope:** A new system of identification has been developed by the exhibitor for the different types of all examiner markings. The first type of marking equipment was a rectangular box that measured 28 mm x 53 mm with a smaller box inside for recording the date of stamping. The internal lines in the box spell the word “Registered.” The usage of this equipment ran from February 1878 to January 1882 and are referred to as Type EM-2 markings.

The first alphabet letters began in April, 1882 and saw a small usage span of 20 months through November 29, 1883. These markings are identified as Type EM-3 and used four different letters, “B”, “C”, “D”, and “U” with the date stamp in the center of the letter.

The Type EM-4 markings began use on December 1, 1883 and ran through December 31, 1899. This design had the letters encapsulated in a circular design no larger than 23 mm in diameter. This period used the original four letters plus letters “O” and “S” were added to the group in 1890.

The Type EM-5 markings began on January 1, 1900 and saw service for only 25 months. The design was the same as the Type EM-4 except that the year date changed from two digits to four digits. Due to the continual increase in mail volume, three more lettered examiners were added to the six that were in service at the turn of the century. Those additional letters were “E”, “H”, and “L.”

**Exhibit Plan:** Title Page.

Domestic Mail, Type EM-2 Markings.  
Outbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-2 Markings.  
Domestic Mail, Type EM-3 Markings.  
Outbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-3 Markings.  
Inbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-3 Markings.  
Domestic Mail, Type EM-4 Markings.  
Outbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-4 Markings.  
Inbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-4 Markings.  
Domestic Mail, Type EM-5 Markings.  
Outbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-5 Markings.  
Inbound Foreign Mail, Type EM-5 Markings.  
Epilogue.

**Special Notes:** Important pieces are high lighted with a red border.

All covers in the exhibit are registered mail. The registration fee for the covers was ten cents per letter until the rate changed on January 1, 1893 to an eight cent fee that continued through out the end of this exhibit period.

First class surface rate was three cents per ½ oz until it changed to two cents per ½ oz on October 1, 1883. The last rate changed during this exhibit period was on July 1, 1885 when the rate became two cents per ounce through out the end of this exhibit period.

For all foreign mail, the first class surface rate was five cents per 15 grams of weight for the entire exhibit period.