

Postal History of the Examiner Markings, Type EM-7, used at the General Post Office in New York City, 1902 – 1920.

Purpose: This exhibit will show the only original complete set of the twenty-four numbered Type EM-7 examiner markings. The design of that marking is shown at the bottom of the this page.

History: Dr. William Evans wrote about the markings in 1935 and the research was expanded by J.H. Barr in a major article written for the 18th American Philatelic Congress in 1952. The exhibitor has been studying the examiner markings for over ten years on all the different types that were not researched by Dr. W. Evans and J.H. Barr. Each different design was assigned a "Type" designation and the last three designs are listed below shows with a general description. The General Post Office made a major change over to new design marking equipment on February 1, 1902. The reason for the change over to numbered markers was the use of the usable alphabet letters had run out for the post office was hiring additional staff to handle large numbers of letters. At the change over date, the number was 5000 to 6000 letters a day being handled and to over 10,000 per day by the end of 1910 as the annual records show.

Type EM-5, Circular design with nine different internal letters used from 1900 to 1902.

Type EM-6, Double oval marker with New York, N.Y. and Rec'd () Reg'y used from 1902 to 1920.

Type EM-7, Double oval marker with New York, N.Y. and Rec'd () Forg'n used from 1902 to 1920.

Scope: The story line of the, Type EM-7 Examiner Markings, is a perfect fit for a two frame exhibit. Each page shows the reverse side the cover to see the full effect and size of the examiner markings. The cover front is reduced to 60% of the original size as it has secondary importance to the exhibit page.

The Early Period change over happened in September 1902 and the examiners used red ink on their markers. The use of red ink only lasted until March of 1903 when the instructions were past down to only use black ink. The reasoning behind that was that the Type EM-6 examiners mostly used red ink and there was to be no confusion between the normal registry department and the foreign registry department. The red ink markings could be considered to be very scarce for this exhibit has four of the five recorded known copies.

Exhibit Plan: Title Page. Page 1.

Early Period, 1902 – 1903, Examiners using markers with "red" ink. Pages 2 – 5.

Late Period, 1903 – 1920, Examiners using markers with "black" ink. Pages 6 – 32.

Special Exhibit Notes:

1. Type of information discussed as follows: Auxiliary Markings, Back Stamp Markings, Rates, Mixed Franking, and Cover Condition.
2. Important pieces are double matted with "black / red", which is a signature design created by this exhibitor.
3. *Special and Historical notes are identified in Italic print.*
4. All photo copies at 60% of the original size.

Design of the Type EM-7 Marker.

From the reduced photo copy of the reverse side of the cover from page three of this exhibit, the marking in the center in "red ink" is a Type EM-7, Rec'd (4) Forg'n, marking used by the Foreign Department of Registered mailed on the second floor of the General Post Office in NYC.

The examiner clerk was identified by a number, (n) on each piece of marking equipment. The total number of markers discovered in the research are numbered one to twenty-four.

