

Study of the Small Circular Design Examiner Markings, Type EM-4 and Type EM-5 used at the General Post Office in New York City, 1883 – 1902.

Purpose: Establish a new type designation for the examiner markings in this period. The markings are divided into two different groups, Type EM-4 are the ones with a two number date. The second, Type EM-5, are the ones with a four number date. Show the “seventy-three” different type size designs of the marker equipment as compared to the original twenty pieces as defined by J.H. Barr in his 1952 research paper.

Scope: The Type EM-4 markers are divided into two different periods. The first period being from December 1, 1883 to December 31, 1889 which will show the marker letters B, C, D, and U. Letters O and S were added in the second part of the period starting on January 1, 1890 to December 31, 1899.

From January 1, 1900 to January 31, 1902, the Type EM-5 markers, all nine letters, B, C, D, E, H, L, O, S, and U, being used through out the period.

The most important part of this research project was to identify the many different design sizes of marker equipment used by each letter type. At the bottom of each page in the exhibit, a listing of the letter size and circle diameter for that special letter. The letter high-lighted in “blue” relates to the one used on the cover shown on that page.

Historical Background: June 1, 1867, Postmaster General, A.W. Randall issued a more detailed plan of instruction for improving the registry system as was published in the “Regulations Respecting the Registration of Letters.” Section eight from this letter addresses the “Receiving Registered Letters for Delivery.” Quoted from this section: “On the arrival of a mail at any office the pouch shall be opened only by the postmaster, his deputy, or a sworn clerk.”

This exhibit will update the research work that began with Dr. William Evans in 1935-36. From a letter sent to the postmaster general in 1935, Dr. Evans requested information about the letter markings used. The clerk that was first one to open the “registered package envelope” at the GPO was identified as an “examiner” as stated in the return letter to Dr. Evans.

J.H. Barr in 1952 continued the work regarding the sworn clerk aka examiner markings used at the GPO in NYC. J.H. Barr's work regarding the nine different smaller letters surrounded by a circle used between 1884-1902 as markings.

Exhibit Plan: Title Page
Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.
Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

Special Exhibit Notes: *Historical notes are identified in Italic print.*
Important pieces are double matted with “black / red”.

Mailed, Saturday, at “four times” first class UPU registered rate on June 22, 1895 from Cleveland, O. to Goteborg, Sweden. The letter arrived at the GPO in NYC, inspected and hand stamped on the back flap with a Type EM-4 marker. First class UPU rate was five cents per ½ oz plus the registration fee at eight cents per letter.

Special Note:

The only recorded copy from the census of a Type EM-4 markings used to cancel stamps on the front side of a cover.

Marker size:

*Letter “B”, 14.0mm tall
x 11.5mm wide and a
22.0 mm diameter circle.*



Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.

The postmaster general was reviewing the larger marker design in the early half of the year of 1883 and came up with a smaller design as compared to the Type EM-3 markers currently in service. The design change was to be implemented on December 1, 1883 for the four current employees using marker letters, “B”, “C”, “D”, and “U”.

A first class UPU rate registered letter mailed, Tuesday, December 4, 1883 from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Geneva, Italy. The first class UPU rate was five cent per 15 grams plus the registration fee of ten cents per letter.



The letter arrived at the GPO in NYC, inspected and hand stamped with a Type EM-4, “B”, marking on Wednesday, December 5, 1883. The registry department applied a Type I-A registration label from sequence #4, dating between November 16, 1883 to February 6, 1884.

Special Note: *This cover shows the Type EM-4, “B”, marking used only “five days” after this new equipment began usage at the GPO in NYC.*

Recorded to date, “B” size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	21.0mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	21.0mm
3. 14.0mm tall x 11.5mm wide	22.0mm
4. 14.5mm tall x 11.0mm wide	21.0mm
5. 14.5mm tall x 11.0mm wide	22.0mm
6. 15.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	23.0mm
7. 15.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	23.0mm
Curved Center Bar on the “B”.	
8. 13.0mm tall x 10.5mm wide	21.0mm
9. 14.5 tall x 11.0mm wide	22.0mm



Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.

A nine times weight first class UPU rate registered letter was mailed, Thursday, December 20, 1883, from Chicago, Ill to Motala, Sweden. First class UPU rate was five cent per 15 grams registry fee of ten cent per letter.



“Sunday”, December 23, 1883, the letter arrived at the GPO in NYC, inspected and hand stamped with a Type EM-4, “C”, marking. The registry department applied a Type I-A registration label from sequence #4, dating between November 16, 1883 to February 6, 1884.

Special Note:

This cover is the “third earliest usage” of a Type EM-4 examiner marker and the “earliest usage” for a “C” marking at the GPO in NYC.



Recorded to date, “C”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>	<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.5mm tall x 11.5mm wide	19.5mm	6. 15.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	21.0mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	21.0mm	7. 15.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	22.0mm
3. 14.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	21.0mm	8. 15.5mm tall x 13.0mm wide	23.0mm
4. 14.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	21.5mm	9. 16.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	22.0mm
5. 14.5mm tall x 12.0mm wide	21.5mm	10. 16.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	23.0mm

Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.

A first class UPU rate registered letter mailed, Monday, December 17, 1883 from Brooklyn, N.Y. to Hamburg, Germany. The first class UPU rate was five cent per 15 grams plus the registration fee of ten cents per letter.



On Tuesday, December 18, 1883 this letter arrived at the GPO, inspected and hand stamped with a Type EM-4, “D”, marking. The registry department applied a Type I-A registration label from sequence #4, dated November 16, 1883 to February 6, 1884.

Special Notes: *This cover is the “second earliest usage” of a Type EM-4 examiner marker and the “earliest usage” for a “D” marking piece of equipment at the GPO in NYC.*

In the early years examiner “D” would “double stamp” the back of the cover. Have an earlier Type EM-3 examiner marking that he doubled stamped on a cover, December 13, 1882. This practice would become a requirement by postal regulations at a future date.

On the reverse side of the photo copy shows a magenta oval hand stamped by a Brooklyn Registry Clerk before the letter departed to the GPO in NYC. Have seen one other copy of this marking used on cover to New York City.

Recorded to date, “D”, sizes markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 11.5mm tall x 10.5mm wide	19.0mm
2. 13.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	21.5mm
3. 13.5mm tall x 11.5mm wide	21.0mm
4. 14.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	21.0mm
5. 14.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	22.0mm
6. 15.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	22.0mm
7. 15.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	23.0mm



Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.

On Tuesday, June 17, 1884, a first class UPU rate registered letter was mailed from Hayesville, Ohio to Basel, Switzerland. The first class UPU was five cent per 15 grams plus the registration fee rate was ten cent per letter.



The first employee to see the incoming letter was the examiner, who inspected and hand stamped the back flap of the letter with a Type EM-4, “U”, marking the on Thursday, June 19, 1884. The registry department applied a Type I-A registration label on Friday, June 20th from sequence # 6, dated May 8, 1884 to August 23, 1884.

Special Note: *From the J.H. Barr research from 1952, that report showed that the “earliest black” inked examiner marking was from October, 1884. This cover has an earlier usage by four (4) months, making it the “earliest usage” seen by this exhibitor to date.*

Recorded to date, “U”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 14.0mm tall x 10.0mm wide	21.5mm
2. 14.5mm tall x 10.0mm wide	22.0mm
3. 14.5mm tall x 10.5mm wide	22.0mm
4. 15.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	22.0mm
5. 15.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	23.0mm
6. 16.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	22.0mm



Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.

The postmaster would always be evaluation the performance of the GPO and had seen that the volume of processed registered mailed had increased from an average of 3640 letters per day in 1883 to 6990 letters per day at the end of 1889. Two additional employees would be added to the work force beginning January 1, 1890. They would become examiner “O” and “S”, and use Type EM-4 marking equipment. These two additional markings remained in service through December 31, 1899.

This letter was mailed “four times” first class UPU registered rate on Wednesday, April 16, 1890 from Peoria, Ill to Greifswald, Germany. The first class UPU rate was five cent per 15 grams plus the registration fee of ten cent per letter.



The letter arrived from Peoria, Ill on Saturday, April 19, 1890, inspected and hand stamped on the back flap by examiner “O” with his Type EM-4 marker. The Registry Department applied a Type II, “City” label on Monday, April 21, 1890 to complete the process before forwarding to the out bound piers.

Special Notes: *The registry department applied a Type II-A, CITY, registration label on Monday, April 21, 1890 from sequence no.36, dated March 30, 1890 to May 25, 1890. This sequence is the first time that the GPO used a “City” label on an exchange label usage. At sometime in the past, the label was removed from the cover for what someone would consider an improvement to the appearance of the cover.*

Recorded to date “O”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.5mm tall x 14.0mm wide	21.0mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	21.0mm
3. 14.0mm tall x 15.0mm wide	22.0mm
4. 15.0mm tall x 16.0mm wide	23.0mm
5. 15.0mm tall x 16.0mm wide	23.75mm
6. 15.0mm tall x 17.0mm wide	23.25mm



Type EM-4 Examiner Markings, 1883 – 1899.

This first class UPU registered rate letter was mailed on Friday, August 29, 1890 from Hamilton, N.Y. to Handsworth, Birmingham, England. The first class UPU rate was five cent per 15 grams plus the registration fee of ten cent per letter.



Examiner “S” received, inspected, and hand stamped the back flap of the letter on Saturday, August 30, 1890. The registry department applied a Type I-A registration label on Saturday, August 30, 1890 from sequence # 38, dated July 21, 1890 to September 12, 1890.

Recorded to date, “S”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 14.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	22.0mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	23.0mm
3. 15.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	21.5mm
4. 15.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	22.0mm
5. 15.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	23.0mm
6. 15.0mm tall x 15.0mm wide	24.0mm
7. 15.5mm tall x 13.0mm wide	23.0mm
8. 16.0mm tall x 15.0mm wide	23.0mm
9. 16.0mm tall x 15.0mm wide	24.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

At the turn of the century two important changes took place at the General Post Office in NYC. The first was to change the year date on the markers from two numbers to four numbers which in turn created all new markers that became known as the Type EM-5 equipment. Secondly, the foreign registered mail had increased another 20% to 8500 letters per day. This resulted in the postmaster to add three addition employees to the examiner rakes and creating the three new letter markers, “E”, “H”, and “L”.

Mrs. Florence Gallaghu mailed a first class domestic rate registered letter with additional special delivery fee paid on Tuesday, September 24, 1901 from Chicago, Ill to NYC, N.Y. The first class domestic surface rate was two cent per oz plus the registration fee of eight cents per letter. The special delivery fee at the time was ten cent per item.



The letter arrived at the GPO, inspected, and hand stamped by examiner “B” with his Type EM-5 marker on Wednesday, September 25, 1901. The letter forwarded to the Special Delivery section of the GPO for meditate delivery to the addressee. Note the hand stamped statement; “Offered at Address” , 9/25/01 at 5:52 pm. Cause of non delivery, Closed.”

Recorded to date, “B”,size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 12.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	21.0mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	22.0mm
3. 15.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	23.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

G.S. Geageson mailed a “double” first class domestic surface rate registered letter on Thursday, May 9, 1901 from Deadwood, Texas to New York City. The first class service rate was two cent per oz plus the registration fee was eight cent per letter.



Examiner “C” received the letter, inspected, and hand stamped the letter with his Type EM-5 marker on Wednesday, May 15, 1901. The letter was then forwarded by registry department to, Station “D” , NYC for final delivery to Fashion World.

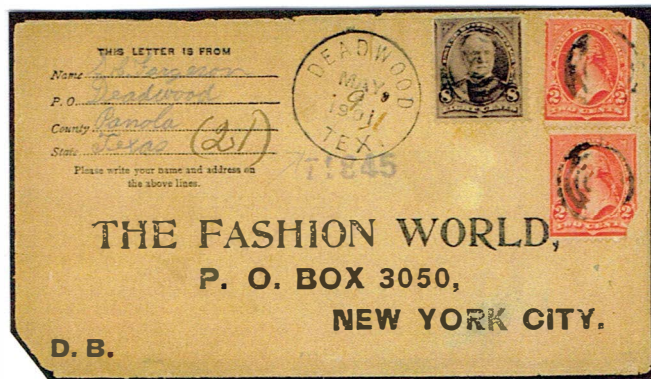
Special Notes:

The “Deadwood, Texas” post office operated from 1882- 1917 and has a R.W. Helbock rarity rating of S/I-4.

The “black C”, Type EM-5, marking” is the only usage seen by this exhibitor. Postal regulations required that all registered markings be in the standard red ink supplied by the U.S.P.O.

Recorded to date, “C”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 12.5mm tall x 10.5mm wide	18.5mm
2. 14.0mm x 12.0mm wide	21.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

Under the Postal Laws and Regulations of 1879, Section 811, Postmasters are not required to receive letters or other matter for registration on Sundays or legal holidays. The GPO in NYC worked every day of the year processing mail. Under section 822, "All stamps on registered matter will be effectually canceled, and the letter or parcel marked plainly REGISTERED, and plainly postmarked."

This "triple weight" first class UPU registered letter rate was mailed on Wednesday, August 1, 1900 from Hallock, Minnesota to Linköping, Sweden. The first class UPU rate was five cent per ½ oz plus the registration fee of eight cent per letter. Note: This cover was "over paid by one cent" and was for convenience and not a philatelic reason.



The letter arrived on "Sunday", August 5, 1900. Examiner "D" was working that day so he inspect the letter, hand stamped the back flap and the stamps on the front of the letter with his Type EM-5 marker. The registry department applied a Type I-C registration label on Monday, August 6, 1900 from sequence no. 128, dated July 9, 1900 to August 8, 1900.

Special Note: *All the stamps have been canceled by examiner "D" using his Type EM-5 marker. The original cancellations being so light that the examiner clerk could not see them. "Only cover recorded" with Type EM-5 marker usage to cancel the stamps on the front of a cover.*

Recorded to date, "D", size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 11.5mm tall x 11.0mm wide	20.0mm
2. 13.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	20.0mm
3. 15.0mm tall x 13.0mm wide	22.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

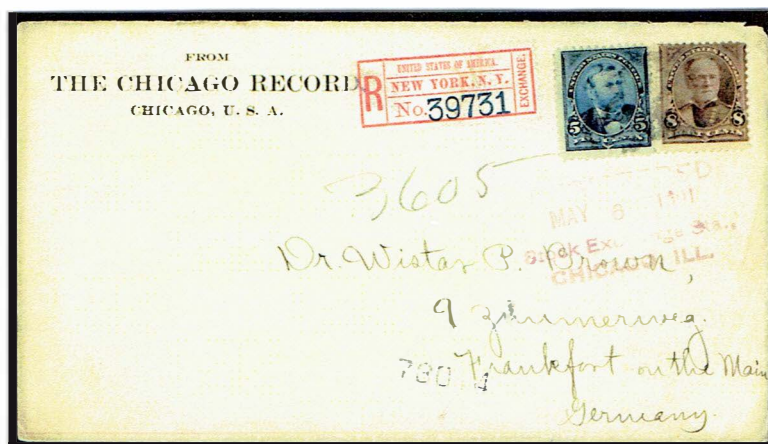
On Monday, May 6, 1901 a first class UPU registered rate letter from the Stock Exchange Station, Chicago, Ill to Frankfort, Germany. The first class UPU rate was five cent per ½ oz plus the registration fee of eight cents on this letter.



The letter arrived at the GPO in NYC, examiner “E” inspected and hand stamped the back flap with his Type EM-5 marker on Wednesday, May 8, 1901. The registry department applied a Type I-C registration label on Wednesday, May 8, 1901 from sequence # 138, dated April 28, 1901 to May 20, 1901.

Recorded to date, “E”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.0mm tall x 10.0mm wide	21.0mm
2. 13.0mm tall x 10.0mm wide	22.0mm
3. 13.5mm tall x 11.0mm wide	22.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

This first class UPU registered rate letter was mailed on Saturday, December 7, 1901 from the Lincoln Park Station, Chicago, Ill to Rorschach, Switzerland. The first class UPU rate was five cent / ½ oz plus the registration fee of eight cent per letter at the time.



Examiner “H” inspected and hand stamped the letter with his Type EM-5 marker on Monday, December 9, 1901. The registry department applied a Type II-B, “City”, registration label on Monday, December 9, 1901 from sequence run no. 146, dated November 27, 1901 to December 27, 1901.

Special Notes: *From the exhibitor's research data base, the number on the registered label is the wrong one for the processing date at the GPO. The proper number on the label should be between 43000 to 45000. At sometime in the past 100 years someone removed the original registered label and replaced with another label from a different cover, resulting in having the wrong label.*

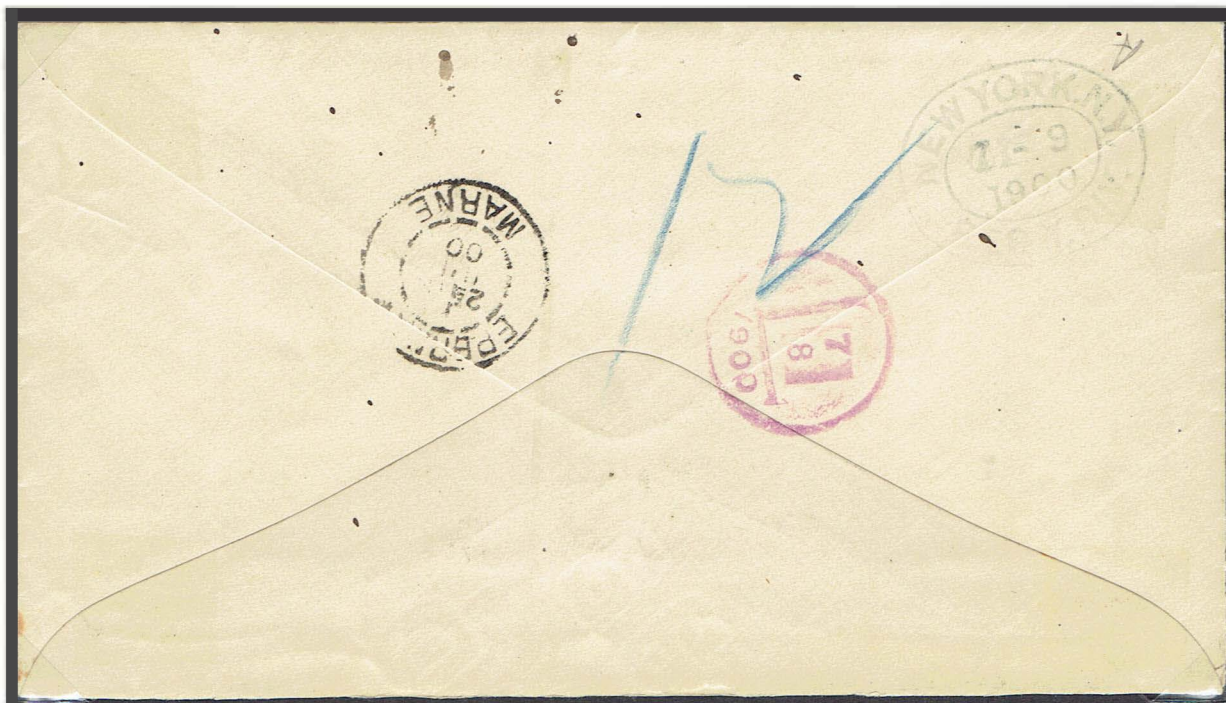
Recorded to date, “H”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 11.5mm tall x 10.5mm wide	21.0mm
2. 12.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	21.5mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

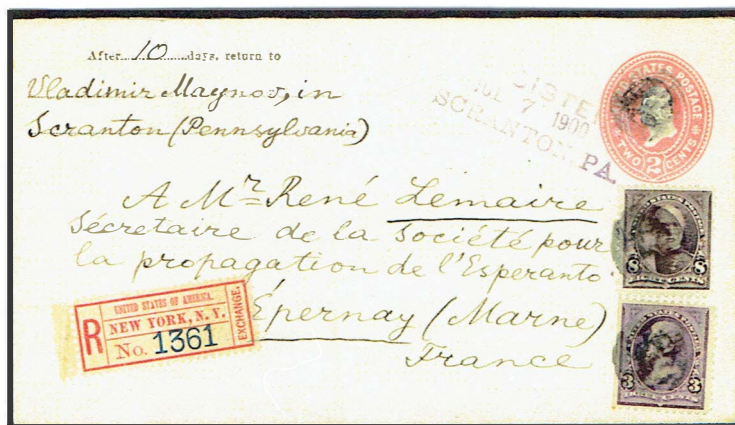
Vladimir Maynov mailed this first class UPU registered letter on Saturday, July 7, 1900 from Scranton, Pennsylvania to Marne, France. The first class UPU rate was five cent per ½ oz plus the registration fee of eight cent per letter at the time.



The letter arrived on “**Sunday**”, July 8, 1900 and examiner “L” was working that day, inspected and hand stamped the back flap with his Type EM-5 marker. Normally, the only employees working on Sunday were the receiving clerks / examiners to hand the deliveries on that day. The letter was further processed through the registry department where a Type I-C registration label was applied to the letter on Monday, July 9, 1900, from sequence run # 128, dated July 9, 1900 to August 8, 1900.

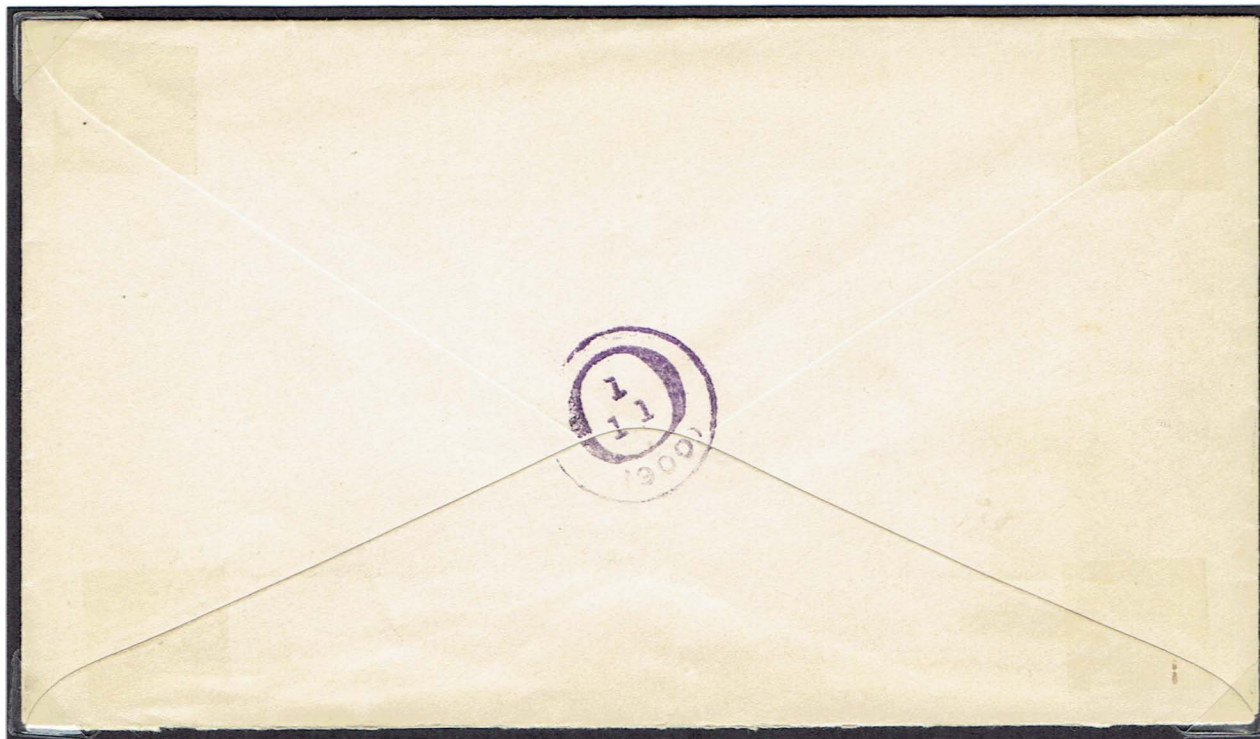
Recorded to date, “L”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 12.0mm tall x 10.5mm wide	22.75mm
2. 15.0mm tall x 12.0mm wide	24.00mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

A commercial letter by J. Koolman was mailed first class registered rate on Monday, January 8, 1900 from Cleves, Iowa to New York City, N.Y. The first class domestic rate was two cents per oz plus the registration fee of eight cent per letter.



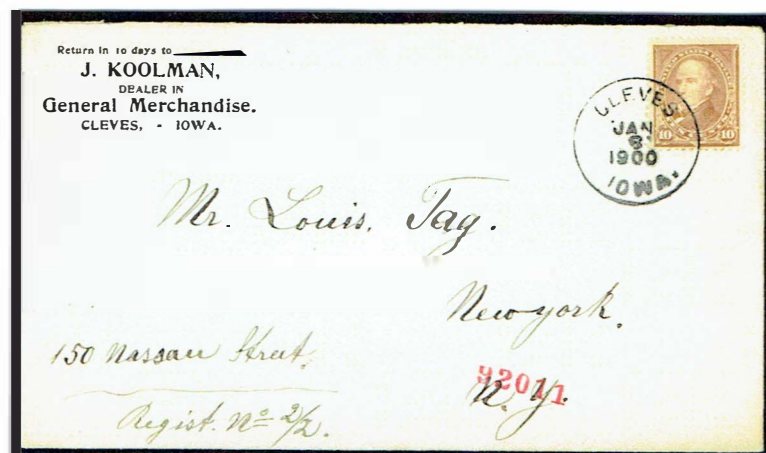
Examiner “O” inspected and hand stamped the back flap with his Type EM-5 marker on Thursday, January 11, 1900.

Special Notes: *This cover examiner date marking of January 11, 1900 being the “earliest recorded date” of any Type EM-5 markings used after the new design started on January 1, 1900.*

The Cleves, Iowa post office operated from 1881-1955 and has a R.W. Helbock rarity rating of S/I-1.

Recorded to date, “O”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.0mm tall x 14.5mm wide	20.5mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	22.0mm
3. 14.0mm tall x 16.0mm wide	22.0mm
4. 15.0mm tall x 16.0mm wide	23.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

C.E. Folger took a large four cent PSE envelope and cut it down and folded over to make a smaller size envelope before the original mailing to England. This is verified by the registered cancellation of June 23, 1900 at New Bedford, Mass on the cover front.

The first class UPU registered rate letter was mailed, Saturday, June 23, 1900 from New Bedford, Mass to Stafford, England. The first class UPU rate was five cent per ½ oz plus the registration fee of eight cent per letter at the time.



The letter arrived at the GPO in NYC, inspected and hand stamped with a Type EM-5 marker on the back flap by examiner "S" on Monday, June 25, 1900. The registry department applied a Type I-C registration label on Monday, June 25, 1900 from sequence run no.127, dated June 8, 1900 to July 9, 1900.

Special Note:

At sometime in the past 100 years, someone removed the original registered label from the cover for a better appearance. If the label were to be in place, the number on the label would be between 77125 to 80375. This was determined from the exhibitor's research data base on registered NYC labels.

Recorded to date, "S", size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.0mm tall x 14.5mm wide	21.0mm
2. 14.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	22.0mm
3. 15.0mm tall x 14.0mm wide	23.0mm



Type EM-5 Examiner Markings, 1900 – 1902.

N.J. Farrington mailed this “double” first class UPU registered letter on Thursday, January 23, 1902 from Wrentham, Mass to Port-a-Prince, Haiti, B.W.I. The first class UPU rate was five cent per ½ oz plus the registration fee of eight cent per letter.



Examiner “U” inspected and hand stamped the back flap with his marker the on Friday, January 24, 1902. The registry department applied a Type I-C registration label on Friday, January 24, 1902 from sequence run # 148, dated January 16, 1902 to February 6, 1902.

Special Notes: *This cover is the 2nd to the last known usage of a Type EM-5 marking used within the time period. There is one cover known that has a cancellation date of January 27, 1902 which would be the closest usage to the change over date to the new Type EM-6 marking equipment that would start on February 1, 1902.*

Recorded to date, “U”, size markers.

<u>Letter Size</u>	<u>Circle Diameter</u>
1. 13.0mm tall x 9.5mm wide	20.5mm
2. 13.0mm tall x 10.0mm wide	21.0mm
3. 14.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	22.0mm
4. 15.0mm tall x 11.0mm wide	22.0mm



Epilogue: *The “letter” type examiner markings have been in service for 19 years and had gone through many design changes along with adding additional letters to cover for new employees being added to the work force. The postmaster had to re-evaluate the post office needs as the volume of registered was growing at a faster rate than the employee staff could maintain the proper service.*

The next generation of examiner markers was born on February 1, 1902 and they was identified as Type EM-6 and Type EM-7. The examiners were now identified by a number beginning with number one. The Type EM-6 examiners would remain on their current function of handing domestic registered mail. All the foreign destination registered letters to travel through the foreign registry department and those examiners would use the Type EM-7 markers, which stated on the die marker “NEW YORK, U.S.A. and FOREIGN with the date.