

FLORIDA REGISTERED COVERS 1845 - 1911

Part IV - Florida Towns with New York and San Francisco Registry Exchange Labels

Collecting registered mail is an area deserving of more research. I have only touched the surface of what is available in Florida. This is Part IV of the five-part census: Part I – Early Statehood Covers 1845-1857, Part II – Florida Towns with Registered Mail 1858-1911, Part III – Florida Registry Exchange Labels 1883-1911 and Part V – Other Florida Registered Covers with Examiner Markings.

The decades after 1857 saw more registered covers as more Florida post offices were established. Russell and Evelyn Ryle's book *Registered U.S.A. – The Handling of Valuable First-Class Mail by the U.S.P.O. Rates, Markings, Delivery Restrictions, and Processing Procedures* would be a good starting point to review the types of handstamps that were available.

For questions about the markings on a registered cover, I recommend contacting the **Registered Mail Study Group** at <https://www.usstamps.org/committees/registered-mail-study-group/>.

If you have a Florida registered cover between 1845 to 1911 for the census found on our website www.fphsonline.com, please send me a scan (tlera4178@gmail.com)

The covers below are courtesy of William Youngerman, Phil Eschbach, Deane Briggs and the *Florida Postal History Journal*, Mike Ludeman, Todd Hirn, Worthpoint, Siegel Sale 1291, and The Postmark Collectors Club Museum (PMCC). They each have either a New York, N.Y. or San Francisco, Cal. International Registry Exchange Label.¹

The "letter" type examiner markings were in service for 19 years and went through many design changes along with adding additional letters to cover for new employees. Some of the processing marks unique to these post offices may have been assigned to specific work stations within the registry division. There were smaller nine letter alphabetic handstamps used between 1884 and 1902: “**B, C, D, E, H, L, O, S, and U.**”²

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Figure 1. **Alva Fla.**, 02.21.1891, with New York Label 57545, on reverse examiner's handstamp **B**.
(Courtesy of William Youngerman, hometowncurrency.org)



Figure 2. **Bagdad Fla.**, 10.05.1895, with New York Label 35424, on reverse examiner's handstamp **S**.
(Courtesy of Phil Eschbach Collection)

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Figure 3. **Bagdad Fla., 01.xx.1896**, with New York Label 94570, on reverse examiner's handstamp S.
(Courtesy of Phil Eschbach Collection)



Figure 4. **Gulf Hammock Fla., 04.28.1898**, with New York Label 56393, on reverse examiner's handstamp D.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 5. Hypoluxo Fla., 11.21.1895, with New York Label 38254, on reverse examiner's handstamp S.
(Courtesy of William Youngerman, hometowncurrency.org)



Figure 6. Jacksonville Florida 11.xx.1885, with New York Label 66095 and on reverse examiner's handstamp C.
(Courtesy of Phil Eschbach Collection)

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Figure 7. Jacksonville Fla. 12.31.1887 with New York Label 10703 and on reverse examiner's handstamp B.
(Courtesy of WorthPoint)



Figure 8. Key West Registered CDS, 02.24.1900, with New York Label 44751.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 9. Key West Registered CDS, 09.04.1900 with New York Label 3883, on reverse Examiner's handstamp C.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)



Figure 10. Key West Registered CDS, 06.25.1901 with New York Label 36651, on reverse examiner's handstamp L.
(Courtesy of Deane Briggs)

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Figure 11. Key West Registered CDS, 08.11.1902 with New York Label 88346.
(Courtesy of Todd Hirn)



Figure 12. KEY WEST FLA CDS, 03.12.1904, with San Francisco Cal. Exchange Label 19787.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 13. **ORLANDO FLA.** 06.03.1893, with New York Label 71482, on reverse examiner's handstamp **B**. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)



Figure 14. **PENSACOLA FLA.** 11.29.1902 with New York Label 88718. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 15. **P. O. Pensacola Fla.** 04.14.1892, with New York Label 46389 and on reverse examiner's handstamp **D**.
(Courtesy of Deane Briggs and the *Florida Postal History Journal*)



Figure 16. **P.O. PENSACOLA FLA.** 06.18.1892 with New York Label 38984, on reverse examiner's handstamp **D**.
(Courtesy of Deane Briggs)

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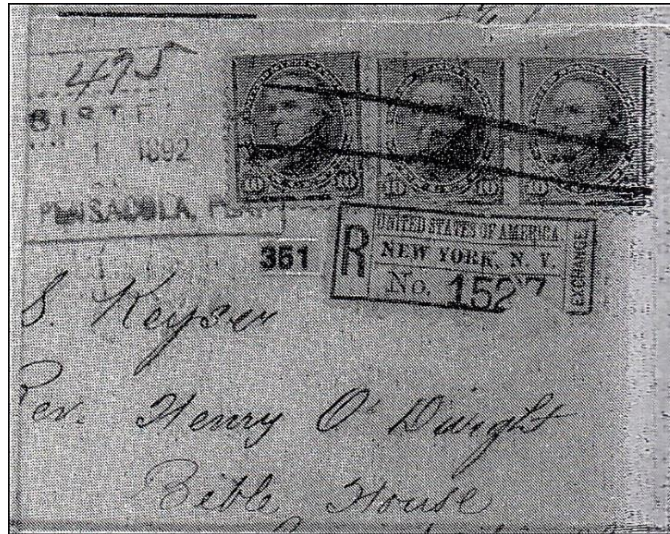


Figure 17. P.O. PENSACOLA FLA. 07.01.1892 with New York Label 1527. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)



Figure 18. P.O. PENSACOLA FLA 10.07.1887 with New York Label 49892. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 19. P.O. PENSACOLA FLA. 05.04.1889 with New York Label 14799.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)



Figure 20. P.O. Pensacola, Fla 10.04.1897 with New York Label 02862 and on reverse examiner's handstamp B.
(Courtesy of WorthPoint)

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Figure 21. SARASOTA FLA. 08.25.1890, with New York Label 72441, and on reverse examiner's handstamp S. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)



Figure 22. SARASOTA FLA. 11.12.1904, with New York Label 27481. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 23 & 24. **ST. AUGUSTINE FLA** 04.07.1892 with NY Label 22275
(Courtesy of Siegel Sale 1291 Lot 92)



Figure 25. **ST. PETERSBURG FLA.** 02.01.1905 with New York Label 95073.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

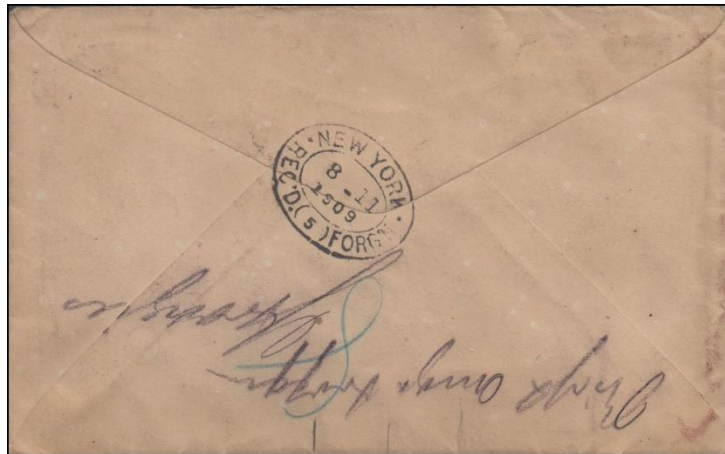


Figure 25. **STUART FLA.** 08.05.1909 with New York Label 40026.
(Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)

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Figure 26. **TAMPA FLA.** 12.21.1889 with New York Label 22426, and on reverse examiner's handstamp **B**. (Courtesy of Mike Ludeman)



Figure 27. **WALDO FLA.** 05.12.1899 with New York Label 37384, and on reverse examiner's handstamp **D**. (Courtesy of PMCC)

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Part V shows other Florida registered covers with alphabetic handstamps used by examiners / clerks in the Registry Division, but no International Registration Labels.

I encourage our readers to check their collections and inventories to see if you have any Florida registered mail.

If so, can you send a scan to me at tlera4178@gmail.com.

¹ Figures 1 & 5 are courtesy of William Youngerman, hometowncurrency.org; Figures 2, 3 & 6 are the courtesy of Phil Eschbach; Figures 4, 8, 9, 12 - 14, 17 – 19, 21-22, & 24-26 are courtesy of Mike Ludeman's digital archive of registry exchange label covers, Figures 10, 15 & 16 are courtesy of Deane Briggs and *the Florida Postal History Journal* Vol. 15(3): 20-21, Figures 7 & 20 are courtesy of Worthpoint, Figure 11 is courtesy of Todd Hirn, Figure 23 is courtesy of Siegel Sale1291, and Figure 27 is courtesy of the Postmark Collectors Club.

² Barr, Jere. Hess. 1952. 1882-1902 Registered 'Letter' Marks of New York City and Some Collateral Information. *American Philatelic Congress Book* 18: 69-75; Russell and Evelyn Ryle, 2009. *Registered U.S.A. – The Handling of Valuable First-Class Mail by the U.S.P.O. Rates, Markings, Delivery Restrictions, and Processing Procedures*, Ryle Publications, Ellettsville IN: p. 81. Accessed May 20, 2024 https://stampsmarter.org/features/NYReg_Book.html.