AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINE COMPANY FLAG CANCELS USED AT THE MAIN POST OFFICE IN CHICAGO, ILL. 1895-1899

PURPOSE: This is a Postal History (marcophily) exhibit of Machine Flag Cancels with die letters, limited to the geographic area of the Main Post Office in Chicago, Illinois by the manufacturer American Postal Machine Company, from 1895-1899, used for the purpose of cancelling mail.

IMPORTANCE: The American Postal Machine Company (APMC) was the largest supplier of cancelling machines in the 1890's to the United States Post Office Department. The first APMC machines were installed in Chicago in early December 1892, and flag cancels introduced in 1894. Government-authorized, machine Flag Cancels are a definite, important, and closed chapter in U.S. postal history.

SCOPE: Chicago used Flag Cancels the longest of all large cities; Main Office and Stations combined usage continued for 34 years, 1894 to 1928. Flag cancels with die letters were used from early 1895 at the Main Chicago Post Office through 1899. Twenty-seven flag cancellers were installed in the Main Post Office in 1895 and 1896 producing 60 letter varieties.

EXHIBIT PLAN:

1) First Flag Cancels at Chicago Main Office: Dial D
   - Flag 13 Dial D
   - Flag 14 Dial D

2) Introduction of Dial B
   - Flag 13 Dial B
   - Flag 14 Dial B

DIAL D

The *STATE* is after the city, rather than on the bottom

DIAL B

The *YEAR* is Split by the state

STRUCTURE: This exhibit includes representative covers used to show various components of the Flag Cancels and changes over the years, rather than a whole collection of each and every Flag Cancel. The exhibit is arranged by type, to show the evolution of the postmark types. **Bold Font** is used to highlight when a component is explained. *Italic Font* is used to highlight historical information of interest.