

### **Clarifying vintage Omas Extra Nibs... on the basis of observation and comparison.**

As a rule, we say that early Omas pens (early Duofold-like button fillers and Extra lever fillers) have *Omas Extra* nibs which 14Kt hallmarks for very early ( pre 1937c.ca) nibs and “585” for later nibs.

This is absolutely true but it is not enough. There is a number of minor variations in *Omas Extra* nibs of different decades which can help us find the correct nib for each *Omas Extra* pen.



Fig. 1A

1) Early *Omas Extra* nib ( very rare!!).Fig. 1 A.

This is a very precious nib which can be found on very early Omas Duofold-like button fillers and safeties (even rarer!). The graphics of the nib is rich with curved lines, the imprint says 14Kt gold and the “A” in the “Omas” name has two oblique legs: the graphics of the “Omas” name is elongated and slant.

A different version of this nib is known, too. It still has the curved rich style of the letters in the “Omas” name but the legs of the “A” are less convergent and, below the “extra” imprint, it has the words: “Osmi

Iridium” in two lines ( Fig. 1B). The venthole is not heart-shaped but it is a simple round hole. It is part of the very early Omas production but I would not be able to define which models it is associated with as a reliable rule.



Fig.1B

A later version of nib 1A also exist. The hallmark is 14KT, the venthole is heartshaped, and the word Omas is less ornate and less elongated than in the early design. The letter “A” has parallel legs and a square look, very similar to the later design (fig. 2A) with the 585 hallmark. This same nib exists with a very strange “14 Ki” hallmark, where the “i” is not a mistake but simply the Italian suffix for the plural: Karati ( Carats). Another example of “Italian creativity” and lack of rules in the usage of gold hallmarks. ( fig. 1C)



Fig 1C - Very unusual nib with "14 Ki"hallmark

As a theory, nibs like 1A can be found ( if you are very lucky!) on early Omas safeties, Omas flat top button fillers, very early Omas desk pen lever fillers.

The later version is instead to be connected to early Omas Extra lever fillers, both round and faceted.

- 2) Later *Omas Extra* nibs differ from the previous ones in a few details: the imprint of the word Omas is the same as in the nib of Fig. 1C :the letter "A" in the word Omas is square, with parallel lines forming the two "legs" of the letter. The 14 KT/Ki hallmark is substituted by the "585" imprint, inserted in a diamond-shaped outline.



Two versions of this same nib exist, both with square "A" but with variations in the shape and dimension of the diamond outline. The image on the left (2A) shows the nib with a plain diamond, the image below (2B and details), shows a nib with the same Omas imprint but with the lower diamond outline having a dotted line.

Fig. 2A



Fig. 2B with detail of the outline.



These nib are generally found on Omas Extra lever fillers of the late 1930s/early 1940s

- 3) *Omas Extra* nib in the 1940s have the same *Omas Extra* imprint and the “585” inserted in the diamond shaped outline but the graphics of the “A” inside the word OMAS becomes more triangle-shaped. Size and graphics of the diamond outline can vary as well.



Fig. 3B



Fig. 3A

The “OMAS” imprint with the triangle-shaped “A” can be found together with a smaller, plain diamond outline ( fig. 3B) or with a larger diamond outline, enriched with two small decorative triangles on both sides of the “585” imprint ( Fig. 3A).

These nibs are typical of Omas Extra Piston fillers of the late 1940s and of Ogiva shaped Lucens and the 555/556/557 series.

The contents of this article are simply meant to help collectors to date their Omas nibs and enable them to distinguish them from one another. It goes without saying that the matching of a nib with an Omas Extra model of the same time can sometimes be only theoretical, as very early Omas nibs (mostly those with 14 KT hallmark) are very very rare and must have been produced for a limited span of time.

What we can do is simply trying to have the best possible match, hoping that very early, precious 14 KT nibs will sooner or later find the way to our pens.

This article was written with the collaboration of other collectors, in particular, Roberto Vetrugno and Mario Pinelli.

