

`\firstmark`  
`\botmark`  
`\topmark`

These commands expand to the mark text in an item generated by an earlier `\mark` command. The mark text has the form of a token list. T<sub>E</sub>X sets the values of these commands when it finishes placing the contents of a page into `\box255`, just before calling the output routine as part of its page breaking actions. T<sub>E</sub>X determines these values as follows:

- `\firstmark` contains the tokens of the first mark on the page.
- `\botmark` contains the tokens of the last mark on the page.
- `\topmark` contains the tokens of the mark that is in effect at the very top of the page. That mark is the last mark that *preceded* the page, i.e., the `\botmark` of the previous page. It is empty if no marks preceded the page.

If a page has no marks on it, T<sub>E</sub>X will set `\firstmark` and `\botmark` to the same mark as `\topmark`, i.e., the most recent preceding mark. The table at the bottom of page 258 of *The T<sub>E</sub>Xbook* illustrates the relation among `\firstmark`, `\botmark`, and `\topmark`.