

LINCOLN PORTRAIT STATIONERY: 1866 to 1899



1866-1869 Proposed Issues

In 1866, *The Postman's Knock*, a philatelic journal of the 1860's, predicted that the United State Post Office Department would issue a 15¢ stamp envelope bearing the likeness of Abraham Lincoln as a companion to the black 15¢ memorial Lincoln adhesive postage stamp issued by the USPOD. "It will have the head of Lincoln in a circle and will be printed in black," the *British Stamp-Collectors Magazine* reported on page 158 of its issue of Oct. 1, 1866. The envelope was never issued but an essay resembling this description was produced by the National Bank Note Co. In addition, the George F. Nesbitt Co. produced essays for an 1866 Lincoln envelope in two designs of 3¢ and 15¢.

In 1869, The National Bank Note Company was revising the current stamp designs and evidently planned a companion issue of postal stationery. They prepared envelope samples with die imprints of the unadopted ten cent denomination bearing a portrait of Abraham Lincoln. In addition, the envelopes were probably part of the ongoing effort of the NBNC to win the envelope contract. They had to convince the Post Office that surface printed stamps on envelopes would have adequate security and that embossing (which they could not do) was not necessary.

1870 George H. Reay

Prior to 1870, there was no uniformity in the design of envelope dies nor were they related in any way to the adhesive stamps then in use. In advertising for a new contract, the Government stipulated that the design of the new envelope stamps were to be as near as possible to the adhesive stamps then in use. George H. Reay, after submitting samples, was awarded the contract to print the six cents postal stationery on March 1, 1870. A beautiful series of envelopes were designed and executed with very detailed engravings, attractive ink and careful printing. Envelopes were first delivered on July 3, 1870. The six cent value carried the portrait of Lincoln.

1874 Plimpton Manufacturing

Plimpton Manufacturing Co. was the successful bidder when the Post Office advertised for bids to supply envelopes in 1874. They were awarded the contract on September 23, 1874 and continued the Reay designs. Reay refused to surrender his dies to the new contractor and to complicate matters, he engaged the employment of all the better known die engravers. Plimpton was forced to duplicate the dies with less competent engravers. The result was a series of inferior quality dies when compared to the Reay issue. The 6¢ design continued to carry the portrait of Lincoln, but with a distinguishing short neck at back.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan Envelope Company

A Lincoln design was not included in the 1883-1894 issues. In 1898, the Post Office Department advertised for new contract bids for the manufacture of envelopes over the next four years. Plimpton and Morgan created new colors and a Lincoln design in their proposal. Although the contract was awarded to James Purcell, they were deemed unable to perform and the contract re-advertised. Plimpton and Morgan was awarded a temporary three-month emergency contract and later the new contract effective January 1, 1899. The Plimpton Dynasty ended with the 1903 contract being awarded to Hartford Mfg. Co. in 1903.

1873 and 1875-82 War Department Issues

Under an Act of January 27, 1873, Congress abolished the franking privilege. The March 3, 1873 provided that the Postmaster General should prepare a special stamp and envelope designs for official matter of each department. Envelopes were only prepared for the War and Post Office Departments, the post office designs having only numeral vignettes. Special dies, similar in design to the regular issue, were prepared that included a six cent Lincoln design for the War Department. George H. Reay manufactured the 1873 issue with a distinguishing feature of a long neck at the back. Plimpton Manufacturing Company produced the 1875-82 Issues based upon their regular issue, that is identifiable by Lincoln's very short neck.

Exhibit Outline

- 1866-69 Proposed Issues
 - 1866 National Bank Note Co.
 - 1866 George F. Nesbitt Co.
 - 1869 Fisk Mills
 - 1869 National Bank Note Co.
- 1870 George H. Reay
- 1874 Plimpton
- 1899 Plimpton and Morgan
- 1873-82 War Department
 - 1873 Reay
 - 1875-82 Plimpton

1866-69 Proposed Stationery Issues

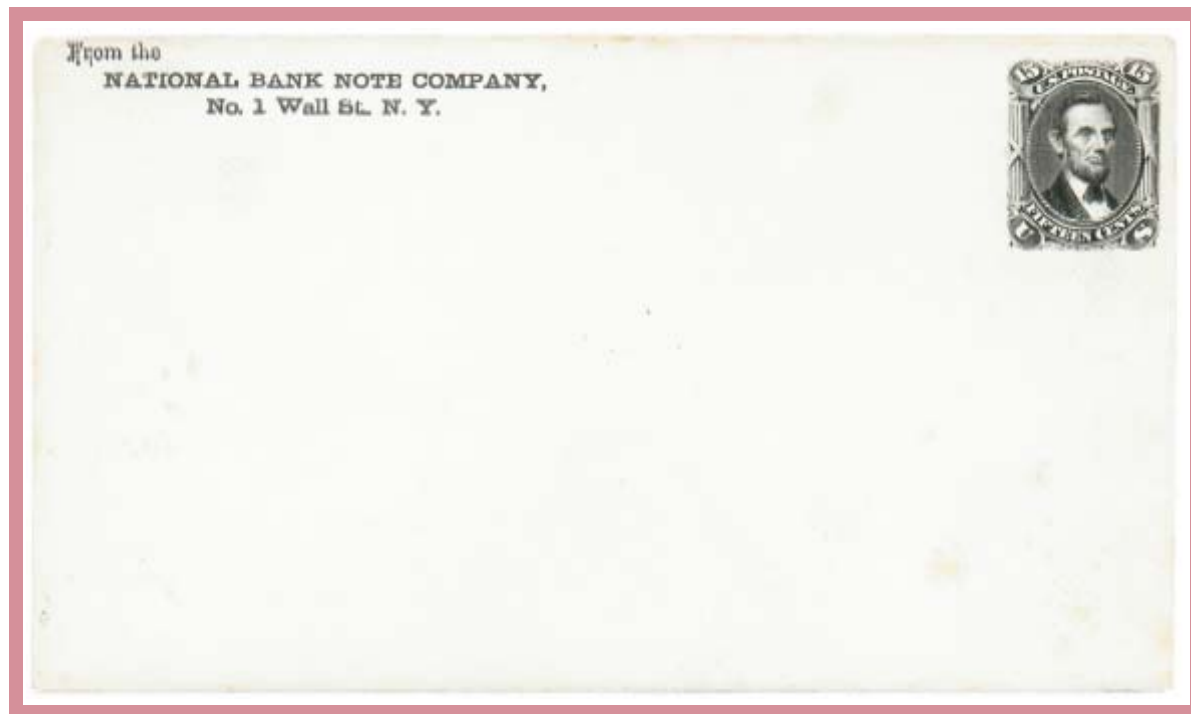
Several companies produced proposed envelope designs depicting Lincoln during the 1866-69 period. The first were produced in 1866 by National Bank Note Company and George F. Nesbitt Co. as companions to the Lincoln Memorial Portrait stamp issue. Following this in 1869, Fisk Mills produced currency envelope essays and the National Bank Note Co. produced additional envelope essays using 1869 Lincoln stamp issue designs in their ongoing quest to land the stationery contract.

Section Outline

- 1866 National Bank Note Co.
- 1866 George F. Nesbitt Co.
- 1869 Fisk Mills
- 1869 National Bank Note Co.

1866 National Bank Note Company Proposed Stationery Issue

The NBNC produced a 15¢ stamp envelope essay using the regular stamp issue design of 1866. This item was apparently described by contemporary reports as a proposed USPOD companion stationery issue to the black 15¢ memorial Lincoln adhesive postage stamp.



Black on white laid paper 151x86mm envelope bearing 1866 stamp issue engraved design impression. “National Bank Note Company” corner card imprint.

1866 George F. Nesbitt & Co. Proposed Postal Stationery Issue

George Nesbitt died in 1869. His company never again received a P.O. Department contract, although they continued to compete for several more years on contracts. The Nesbitt Co. maintained its favoritism, via negotiated contracts rather than through open public bids, for over 17 years under eight different Postmaster Generals. They ended their relationship with the P.O.D. upon completion of the "provisional contract" from April 1 to June 30, 1870.

Three Cents Design



dark red on yellow, vertically laid paper
69x52mm



dark red on white wove paper
69x56mm



Albino impression on orange
diagonally laid paper,
cut envelope square
The Only Recorded Example

1869 Fisk Mills of Washington D.C. Unadopted Three Cents Currency Envelope

On 15 June 1869, Fisk Mills patented a currency envelope with the concept that addressing the envelope would cancel it, thus saving the Post Office time and trouble.

There are three different essay types recorded, each in different colors and paper types (laid/wove).

This is the only recorded example mounted on boxwood.



Hand drawn and engraved multicolored design on white wove paper with greenish wood grained background, mounted on thin boxwood.

1866 George F. Nesbitt & Co. Proposed Postal Stationery Issue

George F. Nesbitt & Company prepared essays for Lincoln design postal stationery in 1866. The fifteen cents essays utilized a similar frame as the current two cents Jackson design while the three cents designs were modified from the existing three cents Washington stationery issue.

Fifteen Cents Design



dark red on white, vertically laid paper 124x99mm



dark blue on white,
horizontally laid paper
31x30mm



dark red on white, vertically laid paper
65x53mm



dark blue on white, vertically laid paper
65x50mm



dark blue on buff, vertically laid paper
watermark one, 65x53mm

1869 National Bank Note Co. Unadopted Ten Cents Lincoln Design

The National Bank Note Company prepared dies and plates for the 1869 issue of postage stamps commencing late in 1868. Included in the set, as originally planned, was a ten cent denomination bearing a portrait of Abraham Lincoln. This was later changed and the ten cent stamp was issued with an eagle and shield design.

A companion issue of postal stationery was evidently contemplated as well. The following are ten cents envelope essays that bear the same Lincoln design. In addition, these essays were probably part of the ongoing effort of the NBNC to win the envelope contract. They had to convince that Post Office that surface printed stamps on envelopes would have adequate security and that embossing (which they could not do) was not necessary.



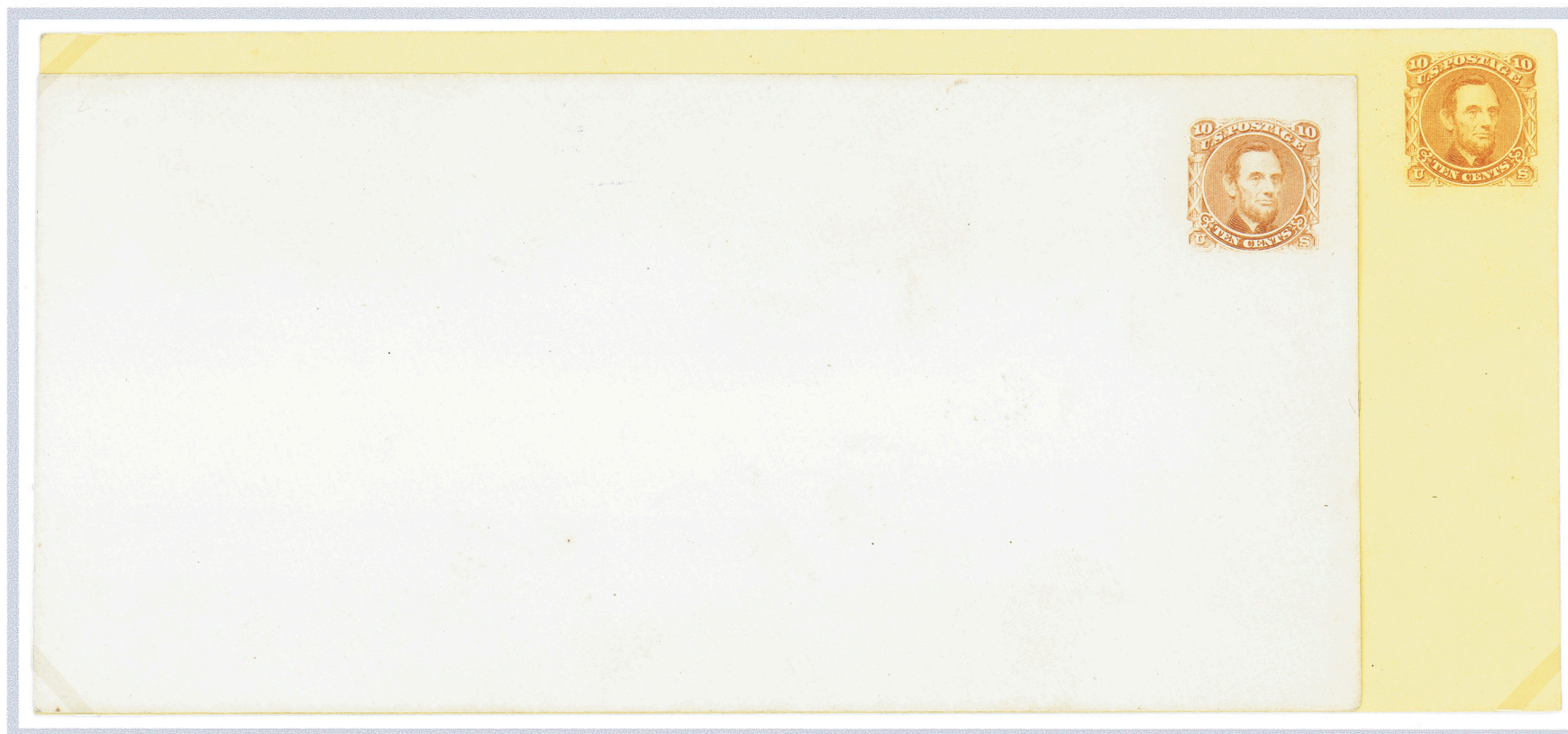
Unadopted 10c Lincoln design essay imprinted in green on 1870 Reay issue 6c postal entire on white (size 10, knife 50, watermark 2).

The Only Recorded Example

This is the only recorded Lincoln on Lincoln essay.

It is interesting that the NBNC 1869 unadopted ten cents design is found imprinted on a competitors' 1870 issue envelope that was not delivered until July 3, 1870. This is believed to be part of the NBNC's continued effort to win the right to produce envelopes for the Post Office Dept. and prove that embossing was not required.

**1869 National Bank Note Co.
Unadopted Ten Cents Lincoln Design**

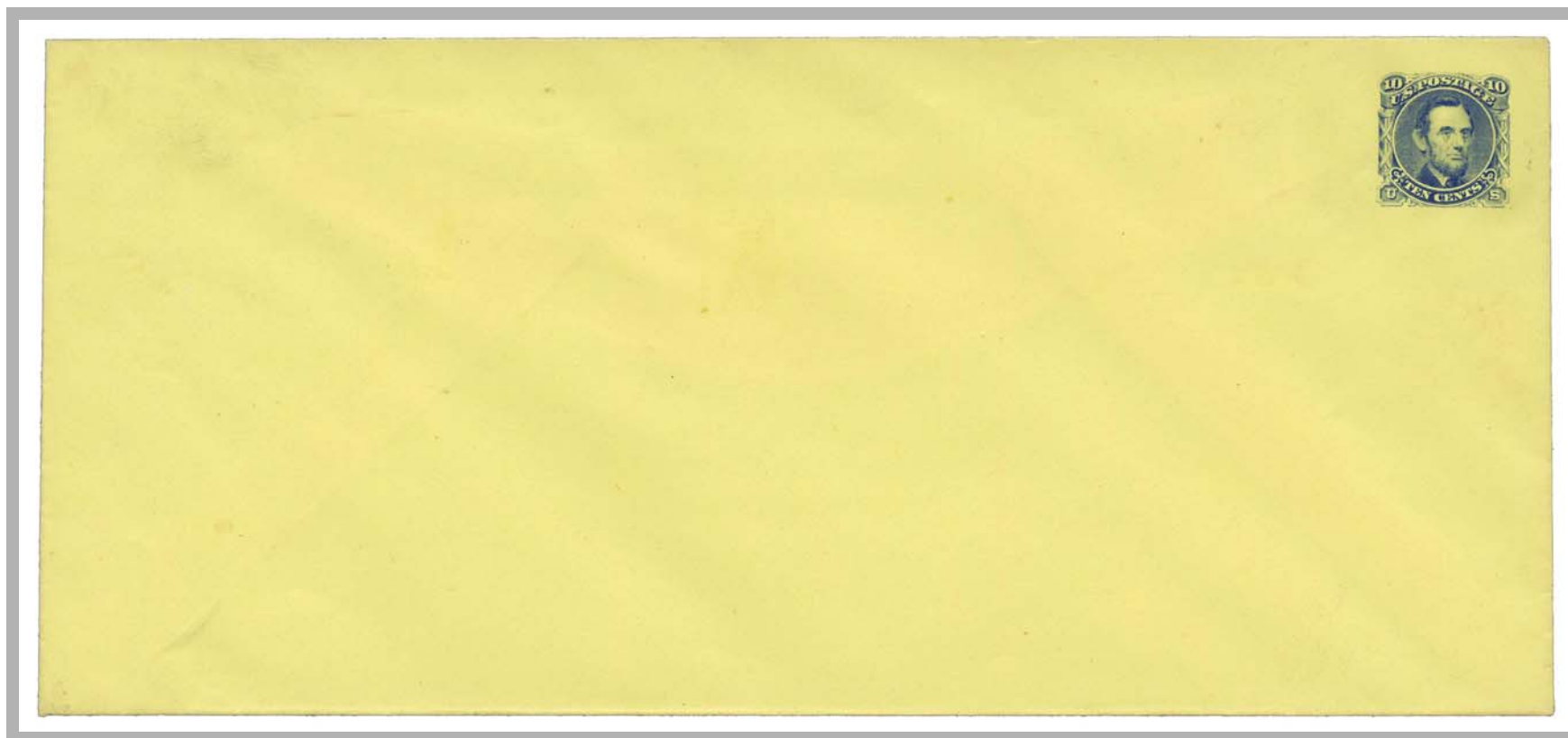


Orange on white laid (194x93mm) and canary (223x100mm)

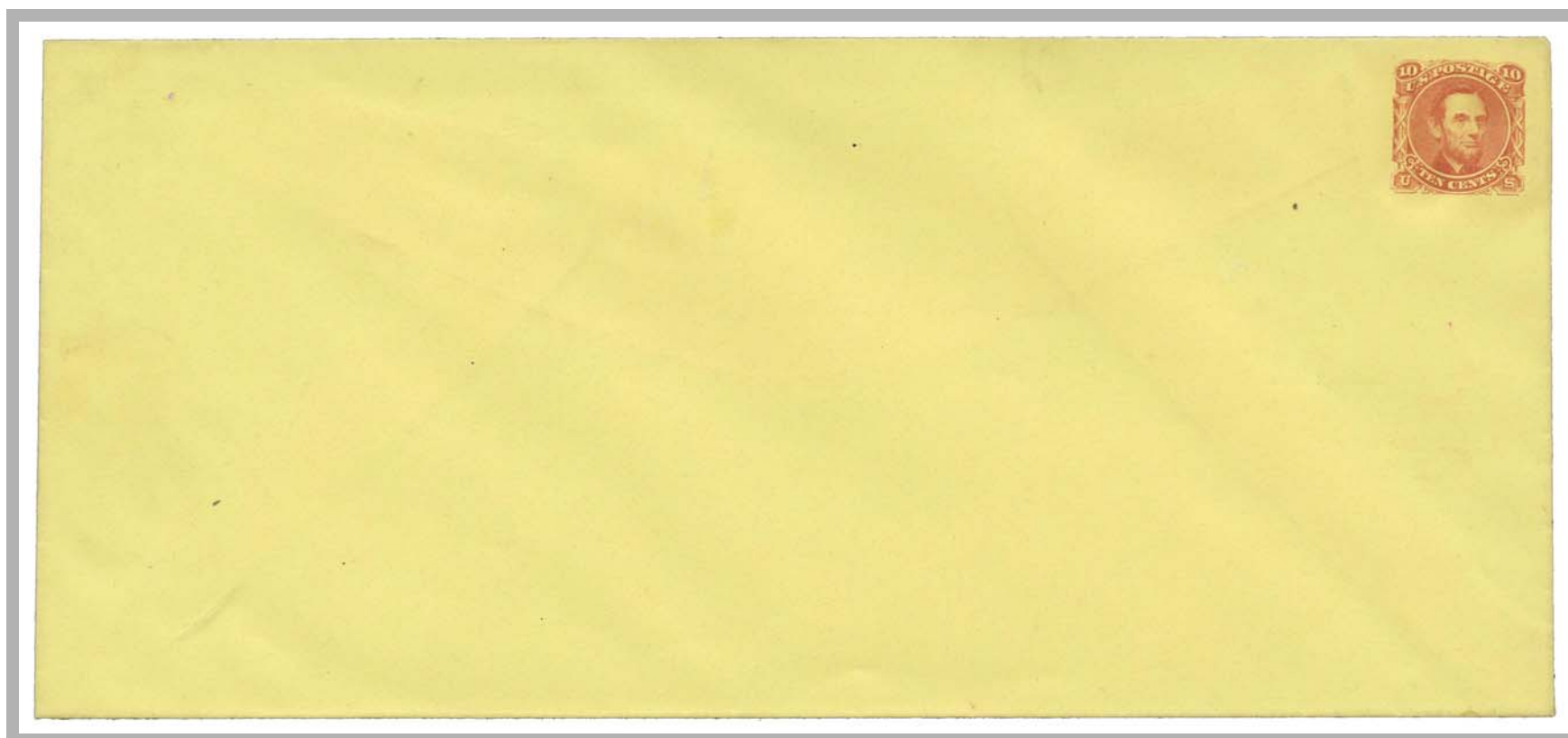


Carmine on white laid (194x93mm) and canary (223x100mm)

**1869 National Bank Note Co.
Unadopted Ten Cents Lincoln Design**



Dark Blue on canary (223x100mm)



Scarlet on canary (223x100mm)

**1869 National Bank Note Co.
Unadopted Ten Cents Lincoln Design**



Black, Brown, and Purple on canary (223x100mm)

1870 George H. Reay First Lincoln Postal Stationery Issue

George H. Reay, after submitting samples, was awarded the contract to print the six cents postal stationery on March 1, 1870. The Nesbitt Co. held a "provisional arrangement" contract (April 1 to June 30, 1870) which effectively ended their long relationship with the P.O. Department. Envelopes were first delivered on July 3, 1870. The contract was annulled briefly until re-awarded to Reay on October 7, 1870. Reay continued contract production until a new contract was awarded to Plimpton Manufacturing Co. on September 23, 1874.

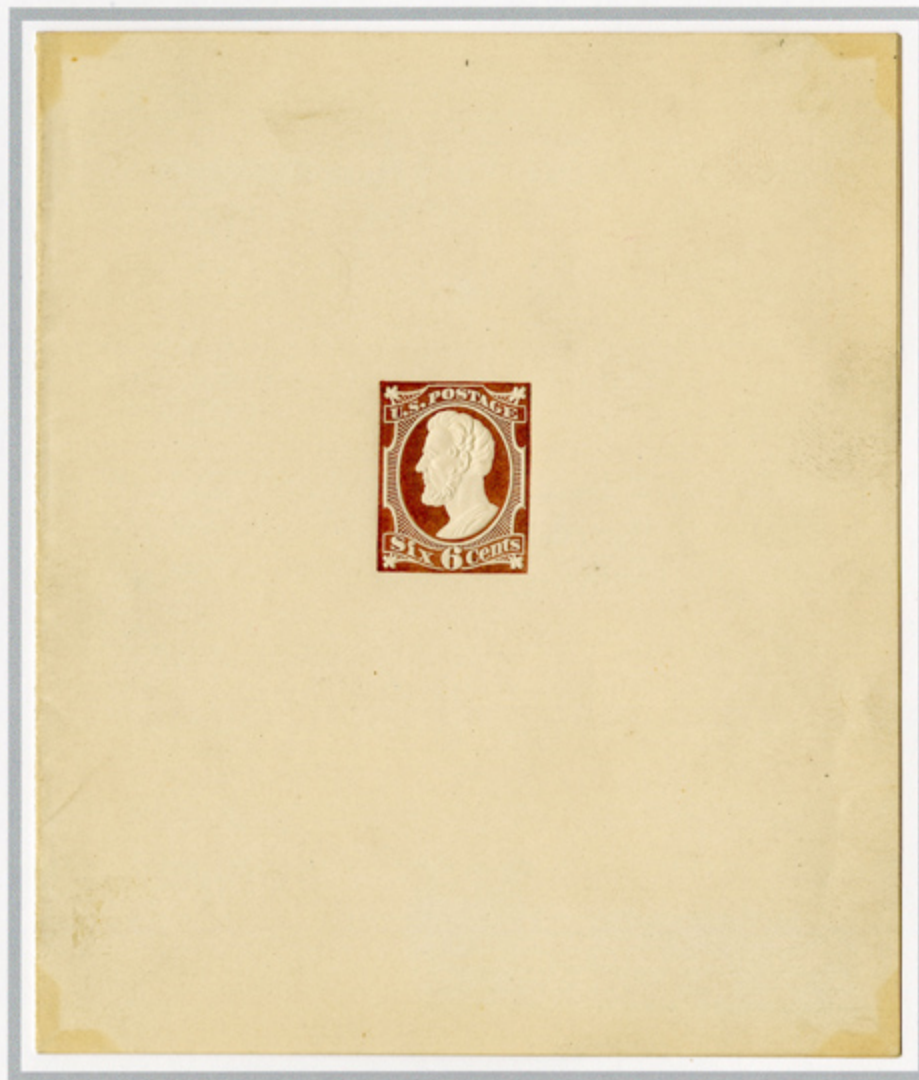
Section Outline

- Essays and Proofs
- Specimens
- Issue
- Usage

Unadopted Design Essays



Blue on white



Pink on full white 114x135mm sheetlet,
"A. Pirie & Sons 1869" watermark



Orange-Brown on
white



Pink on white



Purple on white

The Reay contract called for the use of five different paper colors. They were: white, cream, amber, manila, and orange. The six-cents issue also used three forms (10, 13, 14) out of seven used on Reay products.

**1870 George H. Reay
First Lincoln Postal Stationery Issue**

Die Proof with Uncleared Surrounds

Reay's envelope die engravings are regarded by experts as the finest ever produced in the United States.



Adopted design with uncleared surrounds in dark blue
Bond paper without watermark



Adopted design with uncleared surrounds in dark blue, red monogram at
top, horizontally laid paper shows "A. Pirie & Sons 1869" watermark

**1870 George H. Reay
First Lincoln Postal Stationery Issue**

Die Proofs with Uncleared Surrounds, Touched with Gold or Silver



Bust touched with gold
Numerals touched with silver



Bust touched with gold



Bust touched with gold
Numerals touched with gold



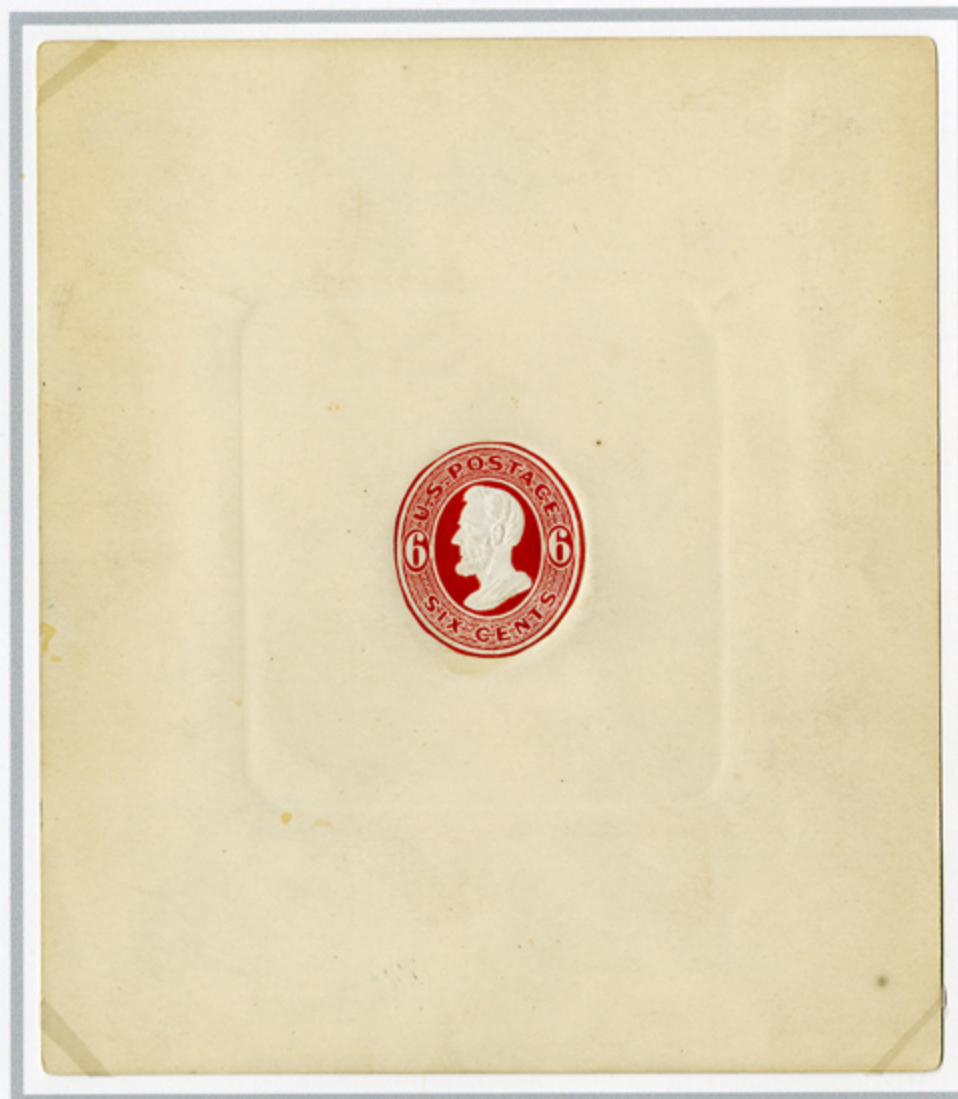
Bust touched with silver
Numerals touched with gold

Reay manufactured government stamped envelopes from 1870 to 1874. This roughly coincided with the 1870 series of Large Banknote stamps printed by the National Banknote Co. The NBNC was unsuccessful bidder for the envelope contract because they could not produce embossed envelopes.

1870 George H. Reay
First Lincoln Postal Stationery Issue

Hub Proof with Cleared Surrounds

In envelope production, a Master Die is first created and then from this an Intermediate Die is produced (Hub Die). From the "Hub Die" all working dies for production are made.



Adopted design with cleared surrounds in the issued color

The Only Recorded Example

Reay began delivery of stamped envelopes to the P.O. Department on July 1, 1870. The earliest documented usage for a Reay envelope is September 18, 1870, predating the official issue date of October 1, 1870.

1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 7

Watermark 2, Knife 26



SPECIMEN.

Vermilion on
Amber



SPECIMEN.

Red on Amber
3rd Quality, Thin Paper



SPECIMEN.

Dark Red on Amber
3rd Quality, Thin Paper

1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 13, Size 7

Watermark 2, Knife 25



Red on Amber



Red on Amber
3rd Quality, Thin Paper



Red on Cream

1870 George H. Reay Specimen Form 13, Size 7

Specimen form envelopes were prepared on direct order of the Post Office to provide samples of envelopes currently in use and were distributed primarily to prominent government officials, important dignitaries, the members of the UPU or for other similar purposes.

Form 13 measures 4x35mm and is printed horizontal in the center of the envelope.

SPECIMEN.

Form 13

Watermark 2, Knife 25

Reay introduced a new watermark with an intertwined "USPOD" monogram which is known by collectors as type two.



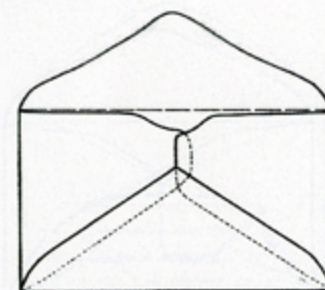
Watermark 2



Red on White



Lake Red on White



Knife 25
Shallow throat, tongue
shaped flap.

**1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 10**

Watermark 2, Knife 50

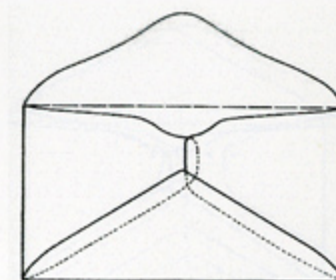
Lake Red on White



Red on Amber

SPECIMEN.

Red on Amber
3rd Quality
Thin Paper



Knife 50

Top flap was 48-50mm,
sides were flattened, and
bottom almost pointed..

Red on Cream

1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 7

Watermark 2, Knife 26

Form 14 measures 4x41mm and is printed
horizontal in the center of the envelope.

SPECIMEN.

Form 14



SPECIMEN.

Vermilion on
White



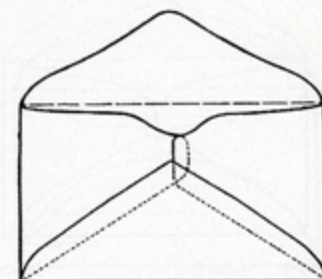
SPECIMEN.

Dark Red on
White



SPECIMEN.

Red on Cream



Knife 26
Slightly deeper shallow
throat, tongue shaped flap.

1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 25

Watermark 2, Knife 122

Red on White



SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.

Vermilion on White

1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 21

Watermark 2, Knife 98

Dark Red on Amber



Vermilion
on Amber

SPECIMEN.

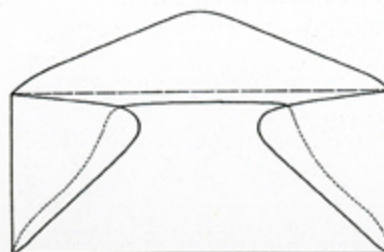
Red on Cream

**1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 21**

Watermark 2,
Knife 98

Knife 98

Top flap is broad curve,
side with broad but
more pointed curve,
and bottom under sides.



Dark Red on White



SPECIMEN.

Vermilion
on White

Dark Red on Cream

1870 George H. Reay
Size 7, Watermark 2, Knife 25

Reay introduced a new watermark with an intertwined "USPOD" monogram which is known by collectors as type two.



Watermark 2

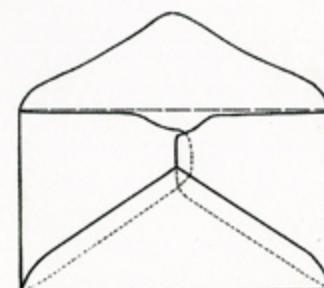


Dark Red on White

Red on Cream

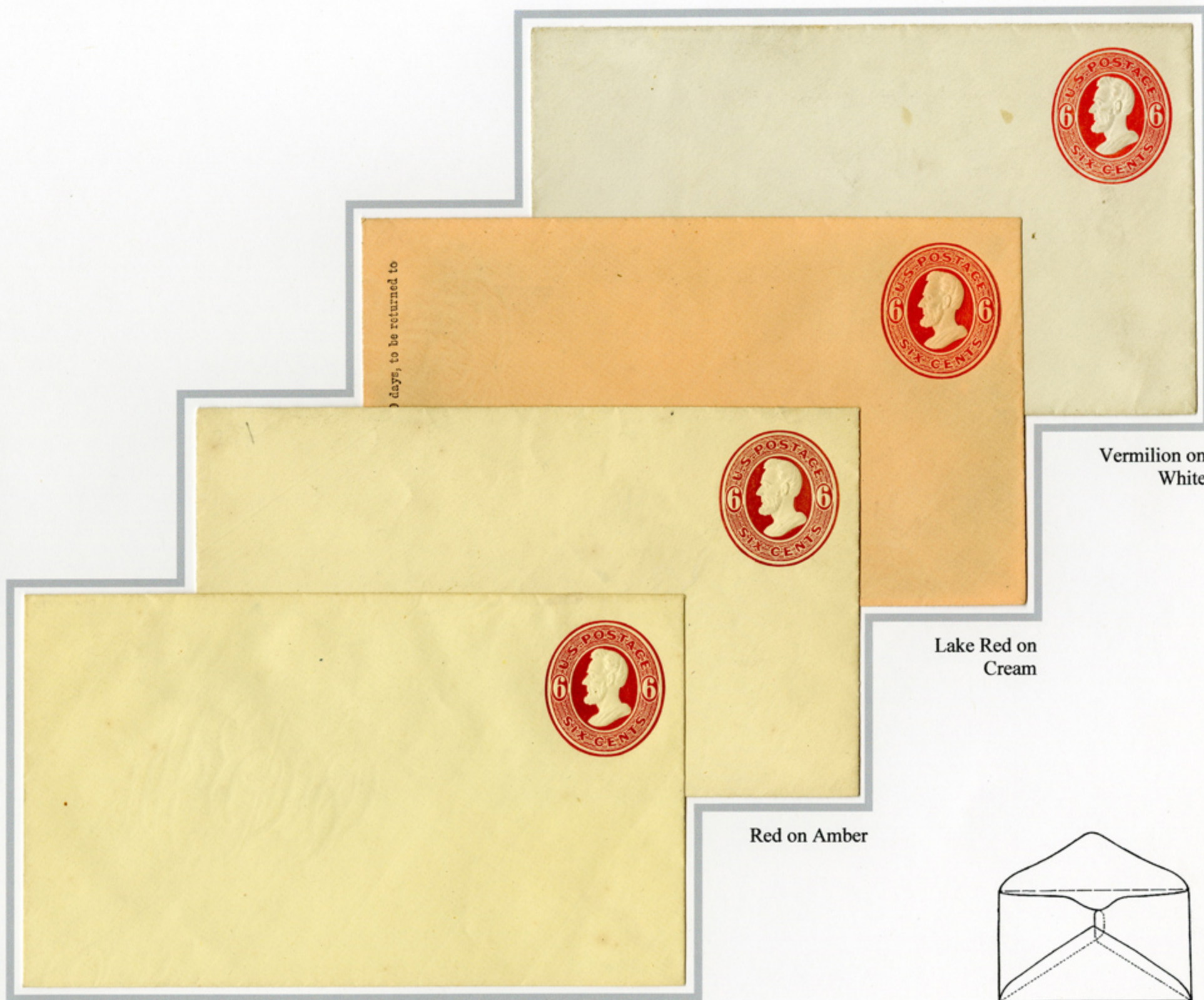
Red on Amber

Red on Amber, 3rd Quality Thin Paper



Knife 25
Shallow throat, tongue
shaped flap.

1870 George H. Reay
Size 7, Watermark 2, Knife 26



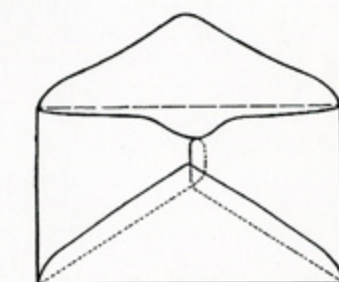
3 days, to be returned to

Vermilion on
White

Lake Red on
Cream

Red on Amber

Red on Amber, 3rd Quality Thin Paper



Knife 26
 Slightly deeper shallow
 throat, tongue shaped flap.

1870 George H. Reay Shades and Papers

The Lincoln Reay envelopes were issued in various combinations of three colors: white, amber, and cream; and sizes of 7, 10, 21, and 25.



Dark Red on White



Dark red on Amber



Dark red on Cream



Vermilion on White

Sizes: 7, 10, 21, 25



Vermilion on Amber

Sizes: 7, 10, 21



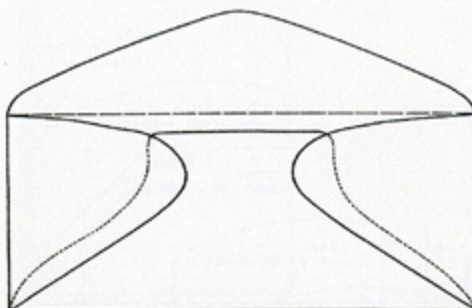
Vermilion on Cream

Sizes: 7, 10, 21, 25

**1870 George H. Reay
Specimen Form 14, Size 25**

Watermark 2, Knife 122

This entire was the largest size (110x258mm) produced by Reay.



Knife 122

Top flap broadly curved, sides broadly rounded, and reverse curve in edges.



Vermilion on Cream

1870 George H. Reay
Usage: New York Foreign Mails

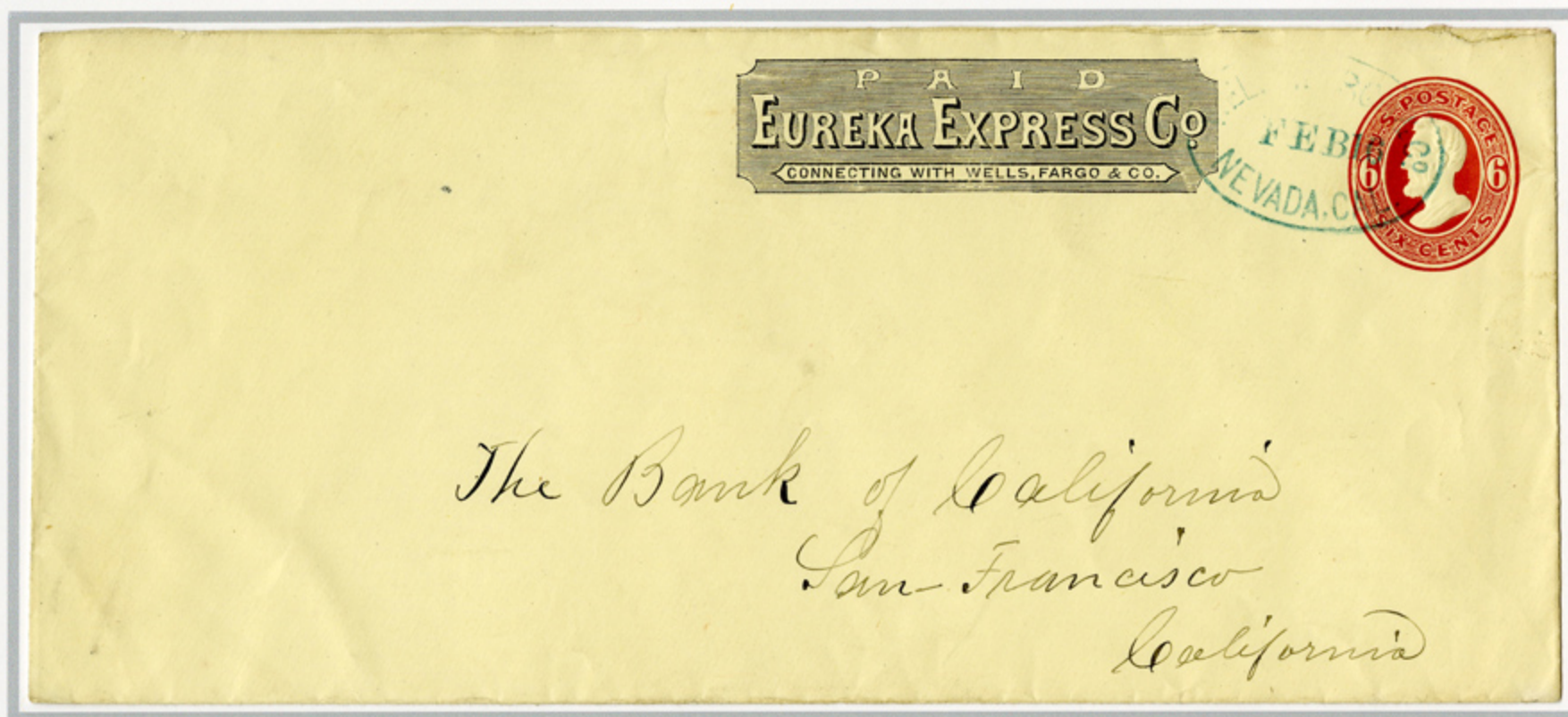
During the 1870-76 time period, the New York City foreign mail department used a series of intricate fancy geometric cancellation designs. Red canceling ink was used almost entirely for supplementary mail.



8 June 1871 New York City to Wittenberg, Prussia at the 6¢ treaty rate, red "New York P.O." origin exchange c.d.s., **NYFM** geometric cancel, transit backstamp.

1870 George H. Reay
Domestic Usage: Eureka Express Co.

Eureka Express Co. operated from Eureka South to Nevada City, California from 1878 to 1882. It connected with Wells, Fargo & Co. at Nevada City.



16 February, printed Eureka Express Co. "Connecting with Wells, Fargo & Co. frank on 6¢ entire **conjunctive usage** to San Francisco, Cal., postmarks with partial blue "Wells, Fargo & Co., Nevada, Cal. Feb 16" oval datestamp.

1870 George H. Reay

Usage From Abroad: British Columbia to England via New York

Canadian postal usages to England did not require the addition of United States postage, but Wells Fargo usages via San Francisco and New York required U.S. postage, which was applied in British Columbia.



June 1873, British Columbia double rate to London, England via New York, **combination franking** with precancelled 6¢ Canadian adhesive and blue Wells Fargo blue "For Great Britain and Ireland" handstamp. Carried by Wells Fargo and Co. from Victoria via "Puget Sounds" to New York, NY, entered U.S. mails with 1870 6¢ tied by NYFM cancels on 6¢ entire for the double 6¢ treaty rate to England. London 1873 arrival.

1870 George H. Reay

Usages From Abroad: British Columbia to England via New York

Wells Fargo & Co. British Columbia pre-Confederation usages bear British Columbian postage paying the internal rates. When British Columbia joined the Canadian Confederation on July 20, 1871, internal postage was prepaid with Canadian issues.

Pre-Confederation

29 January 1871 Victoria to Birmingham, England at the 6¢ treaty rate, **combination franking** with British Columbia 5¢ paying Pre-Confederation postage, carried by Wells Fargo & Co. from Victoria, red "Chicago Ill Paid Feb 8" exchange and 1871 arrival backstamps.



Post-Confederation

28 October 1872 Victoria to London, England at the 6¢ treaty rate, **combination franking** with Canada 6¢ pair paying Canadian postage, carried by Wells Fargo & Co. from Victoria, red "New York Nov 13" exchange c.d.s. and NYFM cancellations, 1872 London arrival.

1870 George H. Reay

Usages From Abroad: British Columbia to England via New York

Wells Fargo & Co. arrived in Victoria in early July 1858 providing reliable service to the frontier. They were required to prepay colonial postage and U.S. postage on mail to the U.S. or abroad. For mail to England, Wells Fargo prepared a "For Great Britain and Ireland" handstamp and precancelled 5¢ sucharged stamps on U.S. embossed envelopes.



14 July 1870 Victoria unaddressed U.S. 6¢ entire paste-up to England at seven-times the 6¢ treaty rate uprated with U.S. 1861 24¢ and 1868 12¢ grilled issues, **combination franking** with British Columbia 5¢ paying Pre-Confederation postage, carried by Wells Fargo & Co. from Victoria, red "Chicago Ill Paid Feb 8" exchange backstamp, 1871 arrival backstamp.

The only recorded example of this mixed issue combination franking.

From January 1868 postal usages to Great Britain cost 25¢ colonial postage and no U.S. stamps, but this did not apply to Wells Fargo who used the U.S. mail system. In January 1870, the U.S.-U.K. rate dropped to 6¢, so Wells Fargo could undercut the post office with 5¢ colonial postage and 6¢ U.S. postage paid.

1870 George H. Reay
Foreign Usage: Express To British Columbia



San Francisco, CA to Victoria, British Columbia carried entirely outside of the mails by Wells, Fargo & Co., blue "Wells, Fargo & Co./San Francisco" oval handstamp.

Wells Fargo & Co. and Barnard's Express

1870 (circa) San Francisco, CA to Cariboo, British Columbia at the 6¢ treaty rate, **combination franking** with 3d. British Columbia adhesive tied by "Barnards British Columbia, Express" double oval handstamp, Barnard "Collect" handstamp.

Carried entirely out of the mails by Wells Fargo and Co. from San Francisco to Victoria, then handed over to Barnard's Express for carriage to Cariboo.

A unique 6¢ entire Express combination usage.

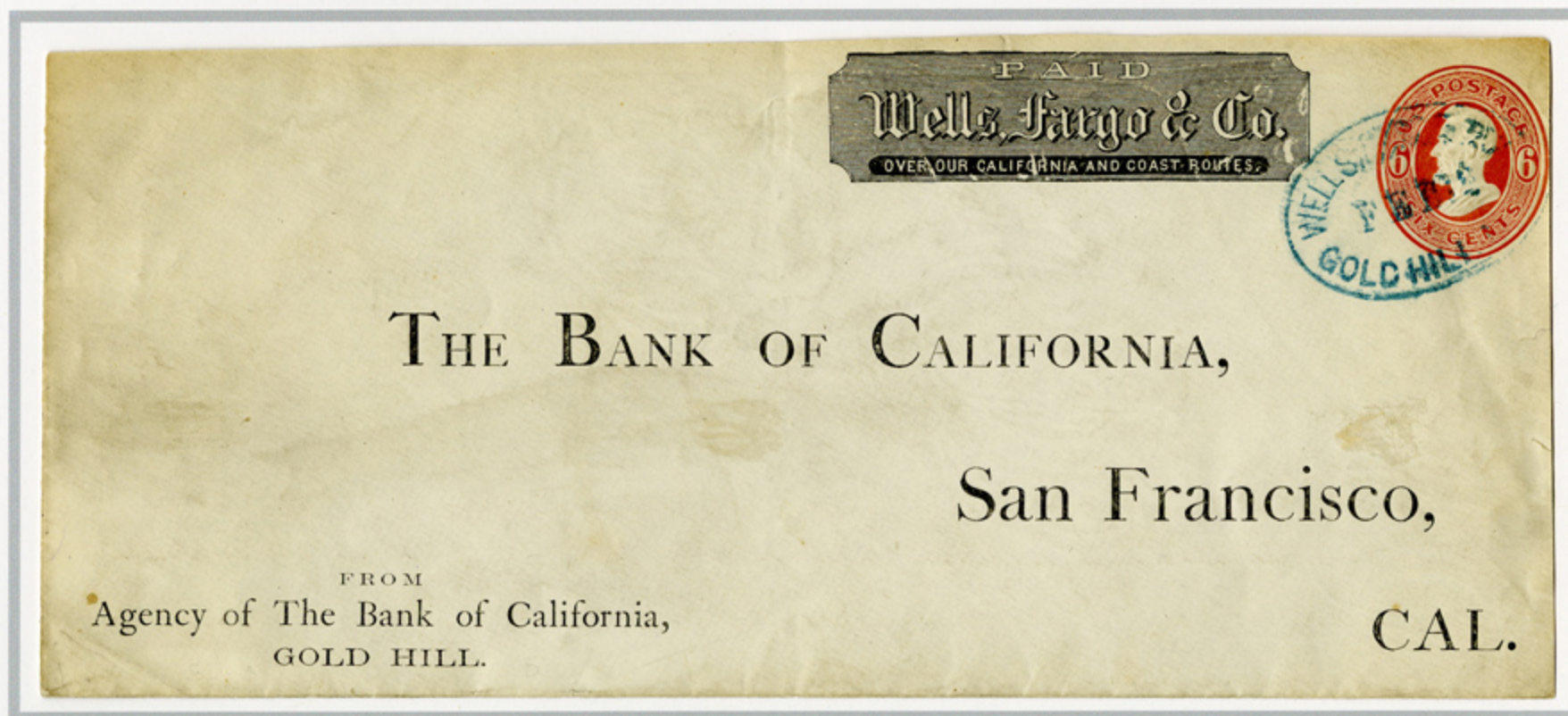


1870 George H. Reay
Domestic Usage: Wells, Fargo & Co. Express

Wells, Fargo & Co. carried mail over several routes independently of the government mails. It was required by government regulation that all such matter had to be carried in franked government entires bearing an amount of postage equal to the rates required as if sent through the Post Office.



San Francisco, CA unaddressed 6¢ entire paste-up cancelled by blue "Wells, Fargo & Co./San Francisco" oval handstamp.



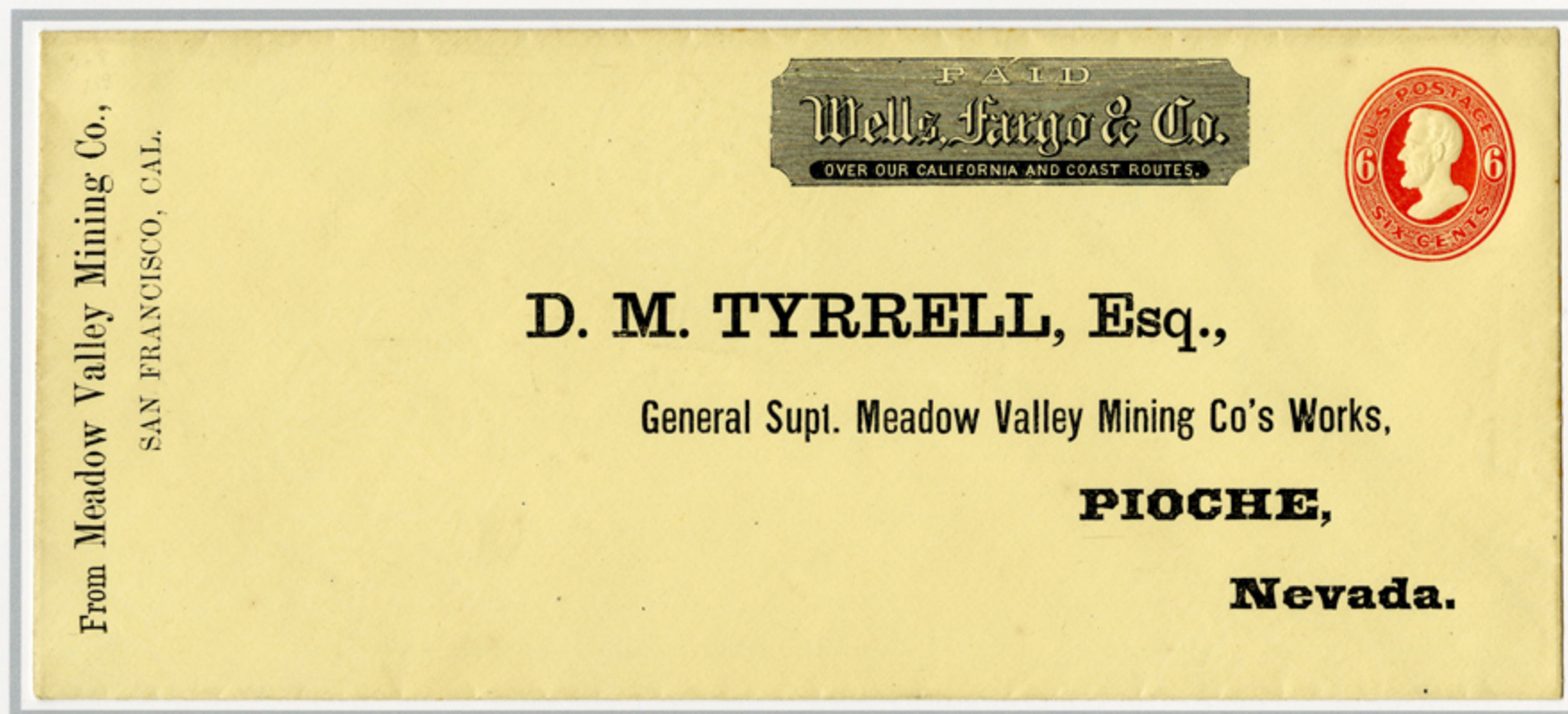
12 February, Gold Hill, CA to San Francisco, CA, 6¢ entire cancelled by blue "Wells, Fargo & Co./Gold Hill" oval handstamp.

1870 George H. Reay
Mint - Wells Fargo Imprints

Due to the postal regulations requiring express mail companies to use postal stationery for prepayment of domestic postal rates, one of the largest purchasers was Wells, Fargo & Co. They would preprint their "Paid" express franks on mint entires for use by their customers.



Red on Amber (Size 7, Knife 25, Watermark 2)

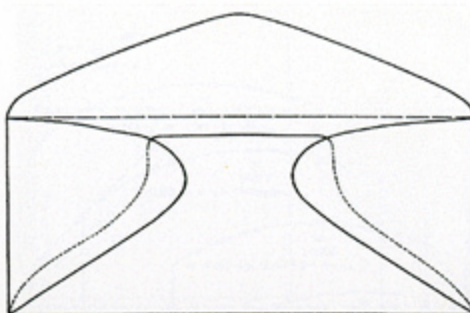


Red on Amber (Size 21, Knife 98, Watermark 2)

**1870 George H. Reay
Size 25, Watermark 2, Knife 122**

Size 25 envelopes were the largest produced for the 1870 issue.

Customers could request a preprinted return address with their order.



Knife 122
Top flap broadly curved, sides broadly rounded, and bottom with reverse curve in edges.

Red on White



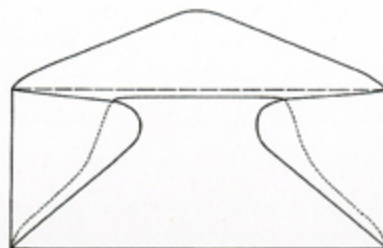
Red on Cream

Warren R. Taylor was a money changer who sent mutilated currency to the redemption division of the U.S. Treasury. He used several alias including "Quincy Quiverly" and "Count Diablo". The correspondence yielded a number of official covers returning the new currency bills.

1870 George H. Reay
Size 21, Watermark 2, Knife 99

Knife 99

Top flap is broad curve,
side with broader curve
than 98, and bottom under
sides.



Lake Red on White

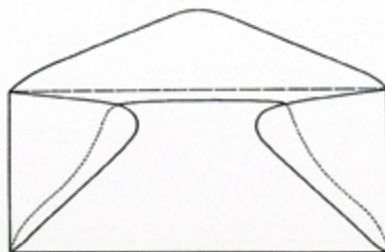


Red on Cream

1870 George H. Reay
Size 21, Watermark 2, Knife 98

Knife 98

Top flap is broad curve,
side with broad but
more pointed curve,
and bottom under sides.



Vermilion on White



Red on
Cream

Red on Amber

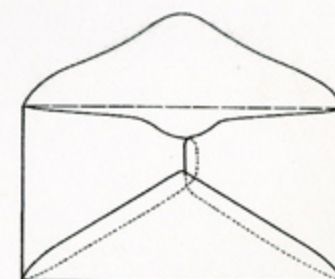
1870 George H. Reay
Size 10, Watermark 2, Knife 50

Lake Red on White



Red on Amber

Red on Amber
3rd Quality
Thin Paper



Knife 50

Top flap was 48-50mm,
sides were flattened, and
bottom almost pointed..

Red on Cream

1870 George H. Reay
Domestic Usage / Foreign Usage: To France

3 May 1875 Merced, CA to Aurora, Nevada at double the 3¢ domestic rate, franked crossed out and manuscript "Mail" added.

(Wells Fargo & Co. frank was superfluous)



The General Postal Union (GPU) was formed in 1874 with new universal 5¢ postal rates effective July 1, 1875 for charter members. This created universal international postal rates for members and simplified accounting systems to foster commerce.



Although France was a charter member, they requested an effective date of January 1, 1876 for the new GPU rates.

11 January 1876 New Orleans, LA to Bordeaux, France, at 1¢ overpayment of new 5¢ GPU rate effective January 1, red New York Jun. 15 exchange c.d.s., red Calais transit, arrival backstamp.

1870 George H. Reay

Usage: New York Foreign Mails to England



15 May 1873 Brattleboro, VT to London, England at the 6¢ treaty rate, red "New York May 17" transit and additional NYFM cancel, London "Not Fully Addressed" handstamp, forwarded by agent to Vienna, Austria with Great Britain 3d., arrival backstamp.

11 January 1873 New York City to Bristol, England at the 6¢ treaty rate, red "New York X" origin exchange c.d.s., NYFM segmented grid cancel, arrival backstamp.



3 September 1873 New York City to Bristol, England at the 6¢ treaty rate, red "New York X" origin exchange c.d.s., NYFM geometric cancel, arrival backstamp.
(Wells Fargo & Co. frank was superfluous)

1870 George H. Reay

Foreign Usages: To Hawaii, Canada and Scotland



12 April 1870s (circa) Oakland, CA to Honolulu, Hawaii at double the 6¢ treaty rate, entire uprated with two 1873 3¢ singles.

9 July 1872 Troy, NY to Ingersoll, Canada at the 6¢ treaty rate, 1872 docketing and arrival backstamp.



4 May 1871 San Francisco, CA to Glasgow, Scotland, short payment of double the 6¢ per ½ oz. treaty rate, "Insufficiently Paid" handstamp, manuscript "6" due rating, arrival backstamp.

(Wells Fargo & Co. frank was superfluous)

1874 Plimpton Manufacturing Co.

Plimpton Manufacturing Co. was the successful bidder when the Post Office advertised for bids to supply envelopes in 1874. They were awarded the contract on September 23, 1874 and continued the Reay designs. Reay refused to surrender his dies to the new contractor and Plimpton was forced to duplicate the dies with less competent engravers. The result was a series of inferior quality dies when compared to the Reay issue. The 6¢ design continued to carry the portrait of Lincoln, but with a distinguishing short neck at back.

Section Outline

- Specimens
- Issue
- Usage

Specimen Form 16, Size 8

Watermark 2, Knife 36

Form 16 measures 50 x 4mm, "M" with a tail, is printed diagonal in the center of the envelope.

SPECIMEN.

Form 16



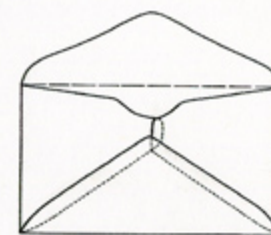
Vermilion on White



Vermilion on Amber



Dark Red on Cream



Knife 36

Top flap is well rounded, sides are nearly straight and bottom tip is slightly rounded.

**1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 16, Size 21**

Watermark 2, Knife 98

Red on White



GEN.



GEN.



SPECIMEN.

Red on
Amber

Red on Cream

1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 16, Sizes 10 & 25

Plimpton continued the use of the Reay watermark with an intertwined "USPOD" monogram which is known by collectors as type two.



Watermark 2



Watermark 2, Knife 53

Red on Amber



Watermark 2, Knife 122

Red on White

**1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 17, Size 8**

Watermark 2, Knife 37

Form 17 measures 50 x 4mm, "M" with a short tail, printed diagonal in the center of the envelope.

SPECIMEN.

Form 17

SPECIMEN.

Red on White



SPECIMEN.

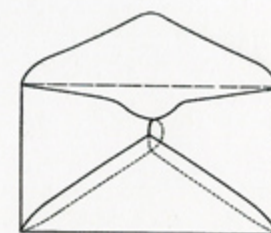


SPECIMEN.



Red on Amber

Red on Cream

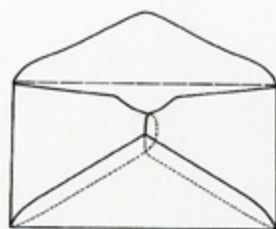


Knife 37

Top flap is well rounded, left side flap is full rounded and bottom is pointed.

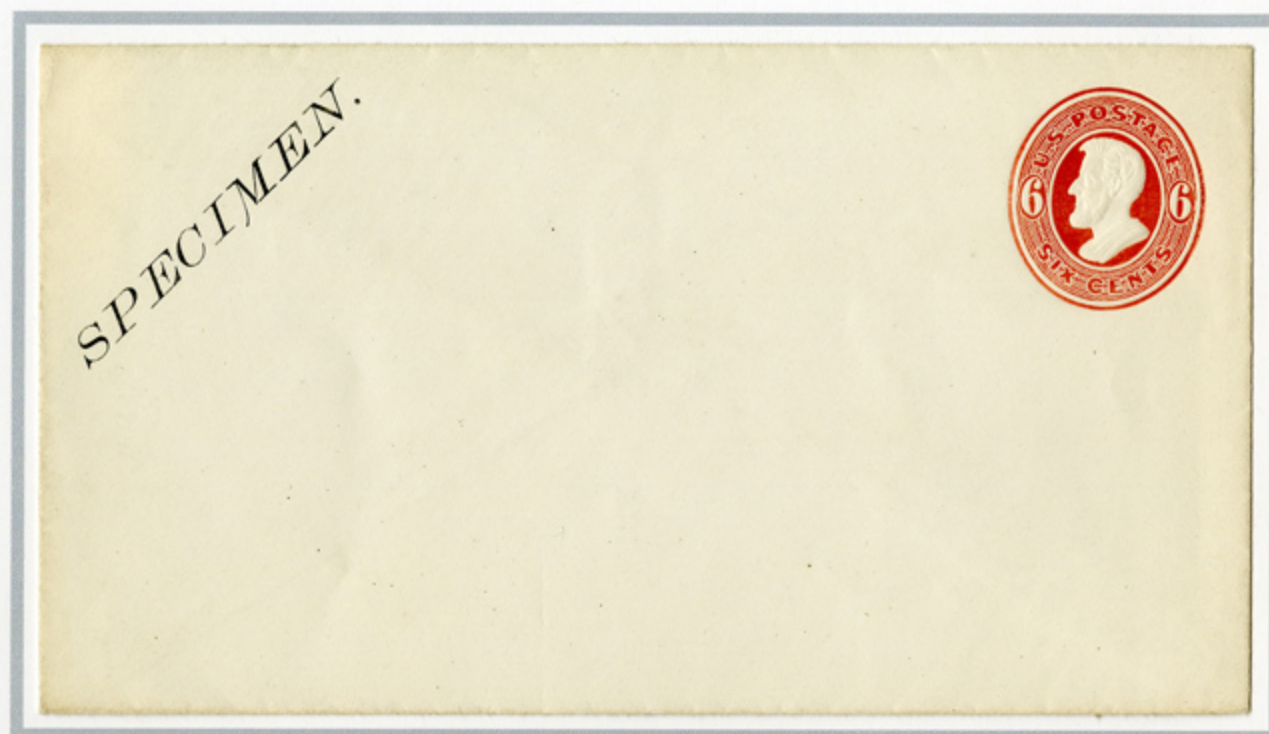
**1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 17, Size 10**

Watermark 2, Knife 53

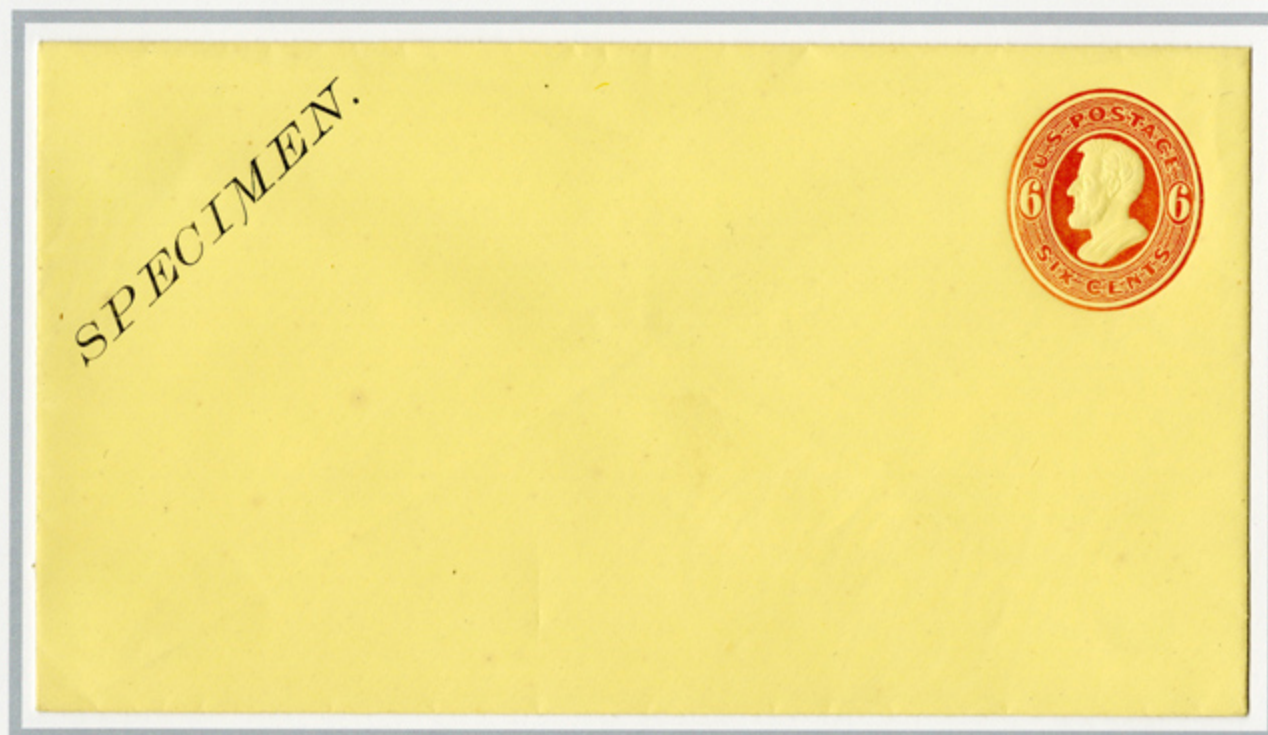


Knife 53

Top flap is 45mm, sides overlap 7mm, and bottom is sharp to slightly rounded.



Red on White



Red on Amber

1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 17, Size 21

Watermark 2, Knife 100

Red on White

SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.



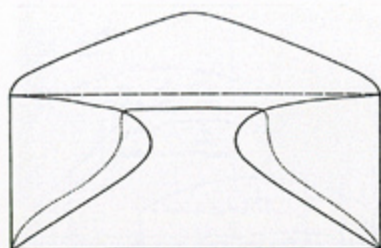
SPECIMEN.



Red on
Amber

Red on Cream

**1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 17, Size 25**



Knife 122
Top flap broadly curved, sides broadly
rounded, and reverse curve in edges.



Watermark 2, Knife 122

Dark Red on White

1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 18, Sizes 8 & 10

Size 8, Knife 37

Unlisted, Known only as Specimen

Red on Fawn, Watermark 5

SPECIMEN.



Size 10, Knife 53

SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.



Red on Cream
Watermark 2

Red on White
Watermark 2

Red on White, Watermark 5

**1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 18, Size 21**

Watermark 2, Knife 100

Red on White



Red on Cream

**1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 18, Size 25**

Form 18 measures 35 x 3mm, "M" with a tail, printed diagonal in upper left corner of the envelope.

SPECIMEN.

Form 18



Watermark 2, Knife 122

Red on White

1874 Plimpton
Specimen Form 18, Size 25

Plimpton produced a new watermark for the 1878 contract consisting of "USPOD" in monogram with adjacent hollow star, known to collectors as type five.

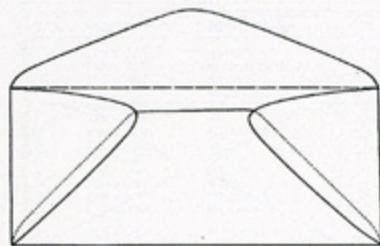


Watermark 5



Watermark 5, Knife 123

Red on White



Knife 123

Top flap with broad curves, sides slightly pointed and sides-over bottom, and bottom slightly with rounded upper corners.

1874 Plimpton and 1878 Plimpton & Morgan Specimen Code Forms

Code forms have a statement of quality and price printed or handstamped on the face of the envelope. The following were prepared for the Post Office department as samples to be inserted in frames hung in the Post Office lobbies so that the public can see what is available. Note the toning and glue marks caused by overlapping placement in the frames.

Code 19, Size 8, Knife 38



1874 Watermark 2

Red on Amber

1878 Watermark 5

Code 20, Size 10, Knife 54

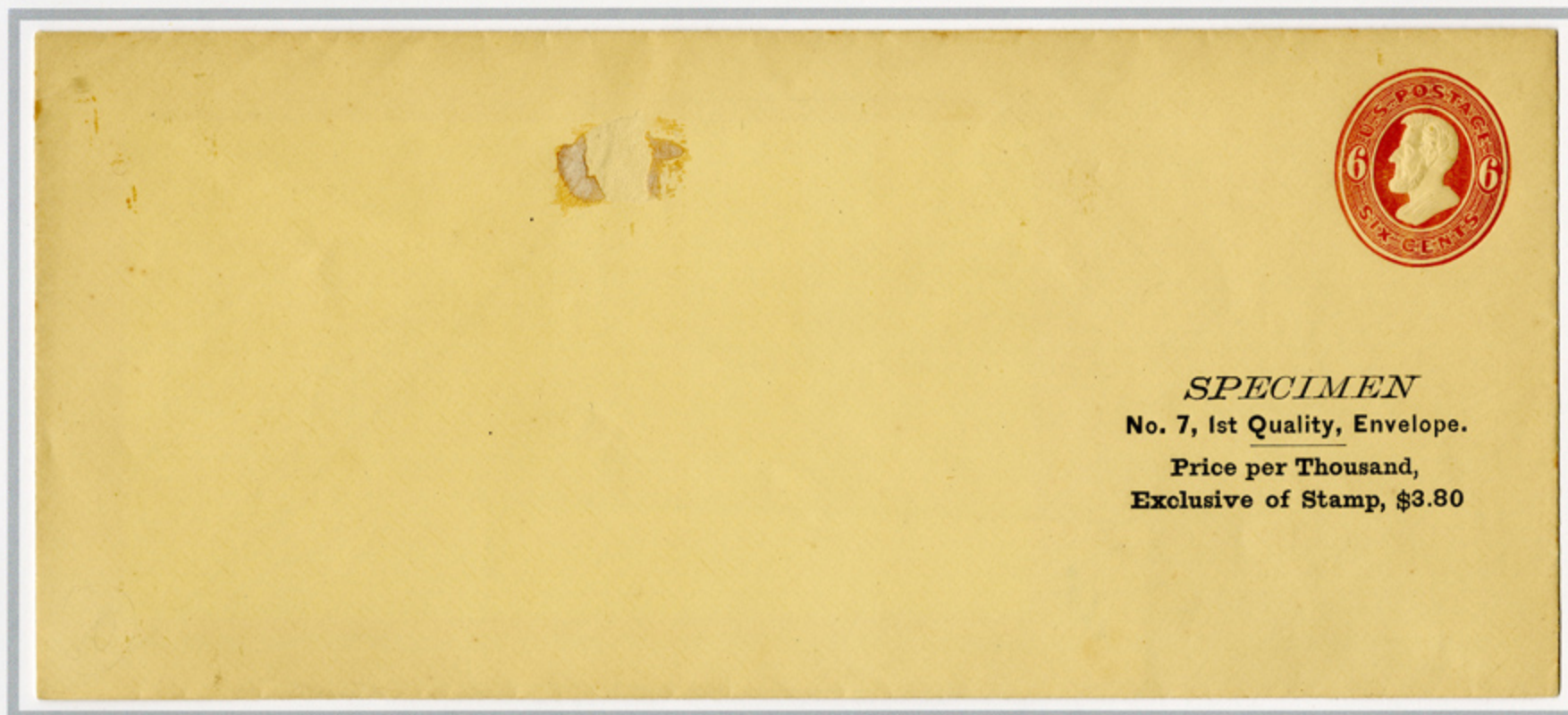
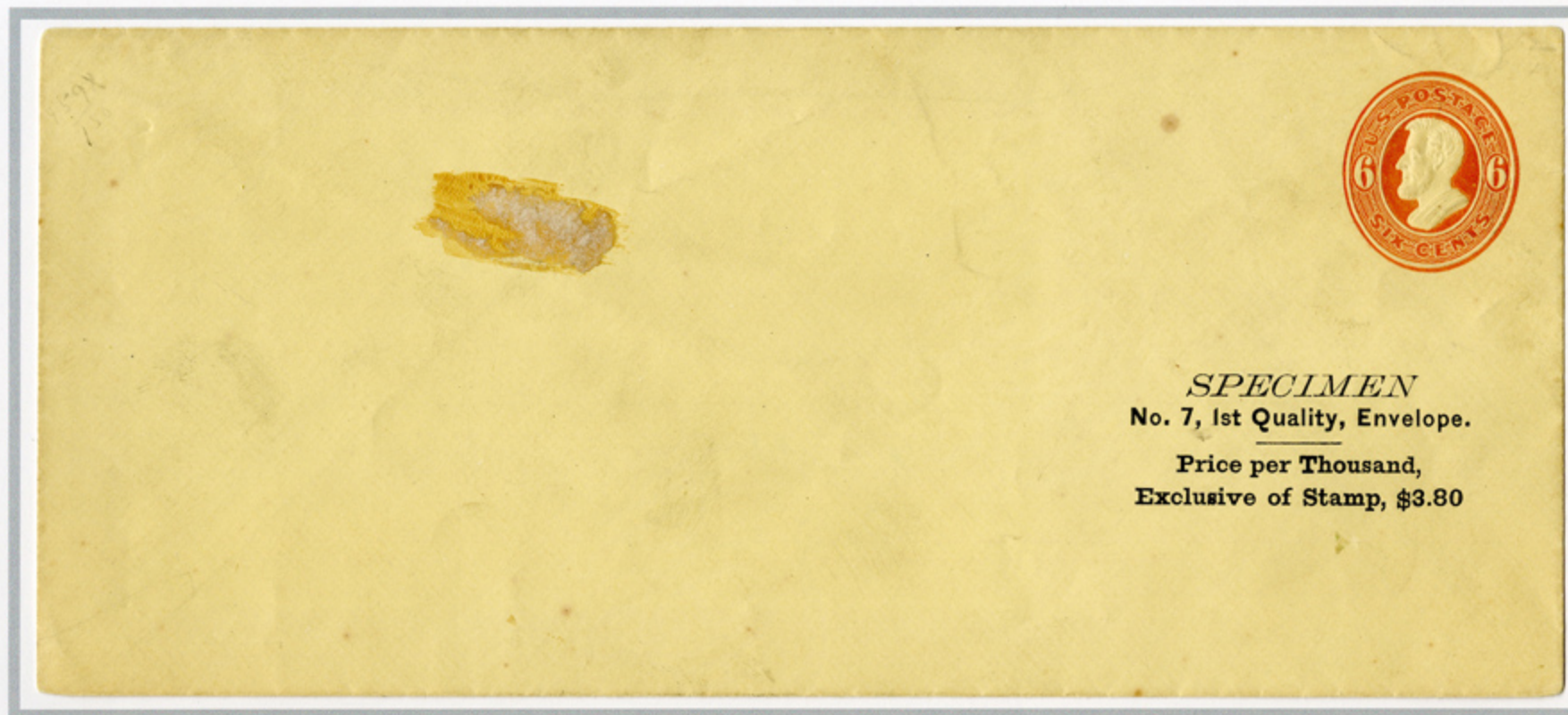


Red on White. 1878 Watermark 5

**1874 Plimpton and 1878 Plimpton & Morgan
Specimen Code Form 51, Size 21**

Knife 100

Red on Amber, 1874 Watermark 2



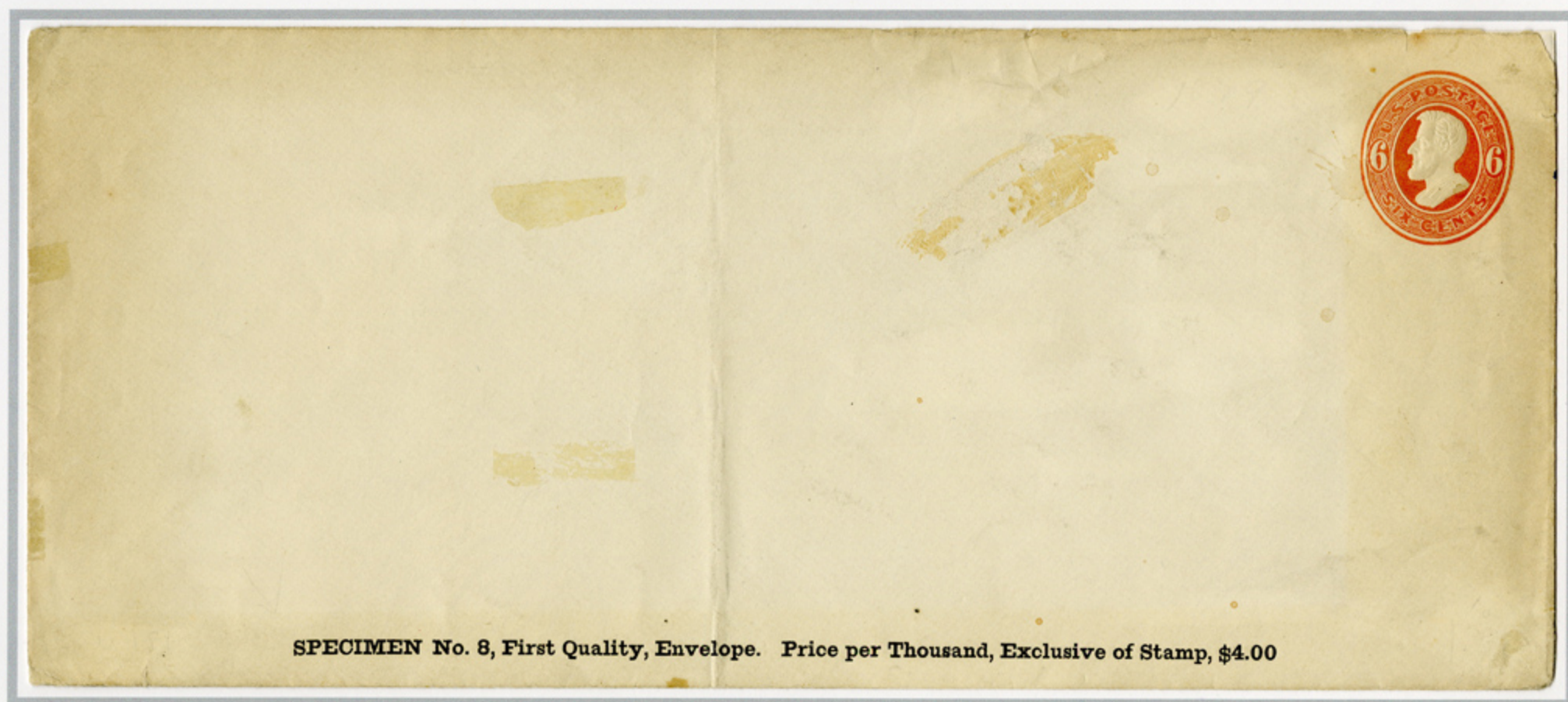
Red on Amber, 1878 Watermark 5

**1878 Plimpton & Morgan
Specimen Code Form 53, Size 25**

Watermark 5, Knife 123



Image of a surviving Specimen frame
that was hung in a post office.



Red on White

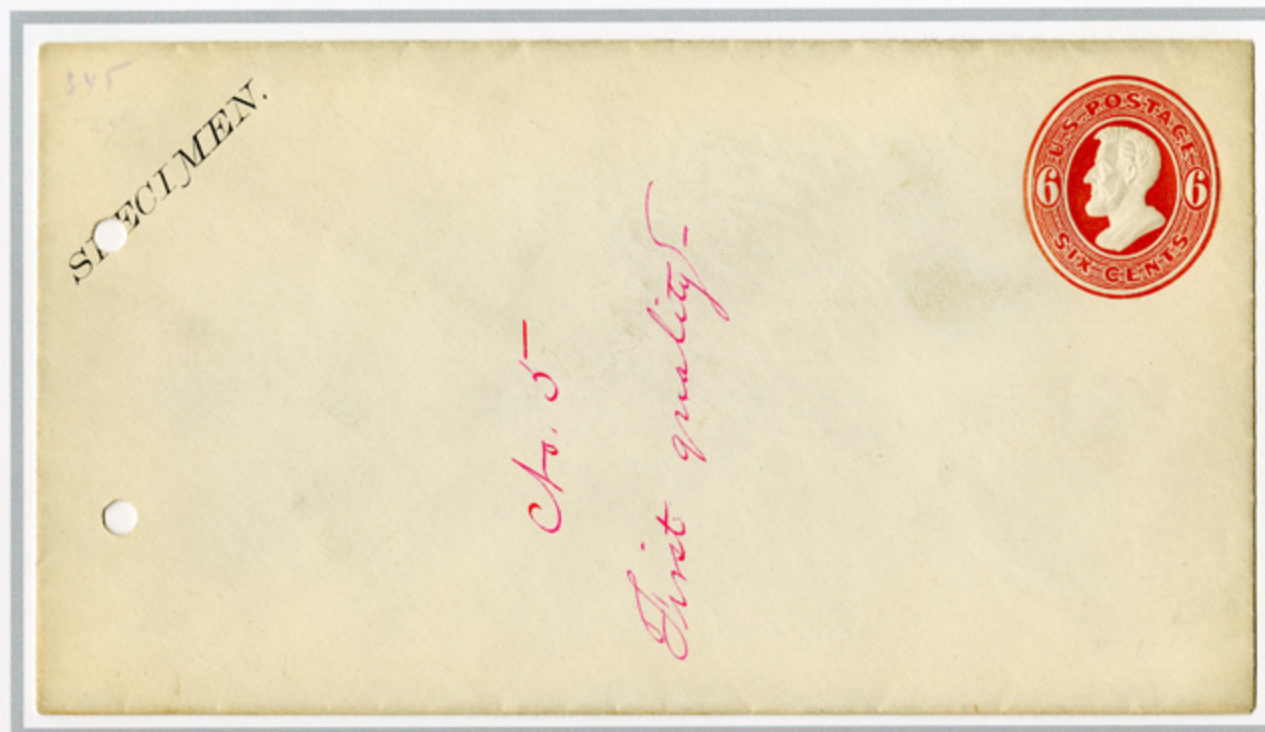
1874 Plimpton and 1878 Plimpton & Morgan Bidder Samples, Size 10, First Quality

Bidder samples were submitted with a manuscript size and quality endorsement on a specimen form envelope with holes for attaching the contract.

1874 Watermark 2



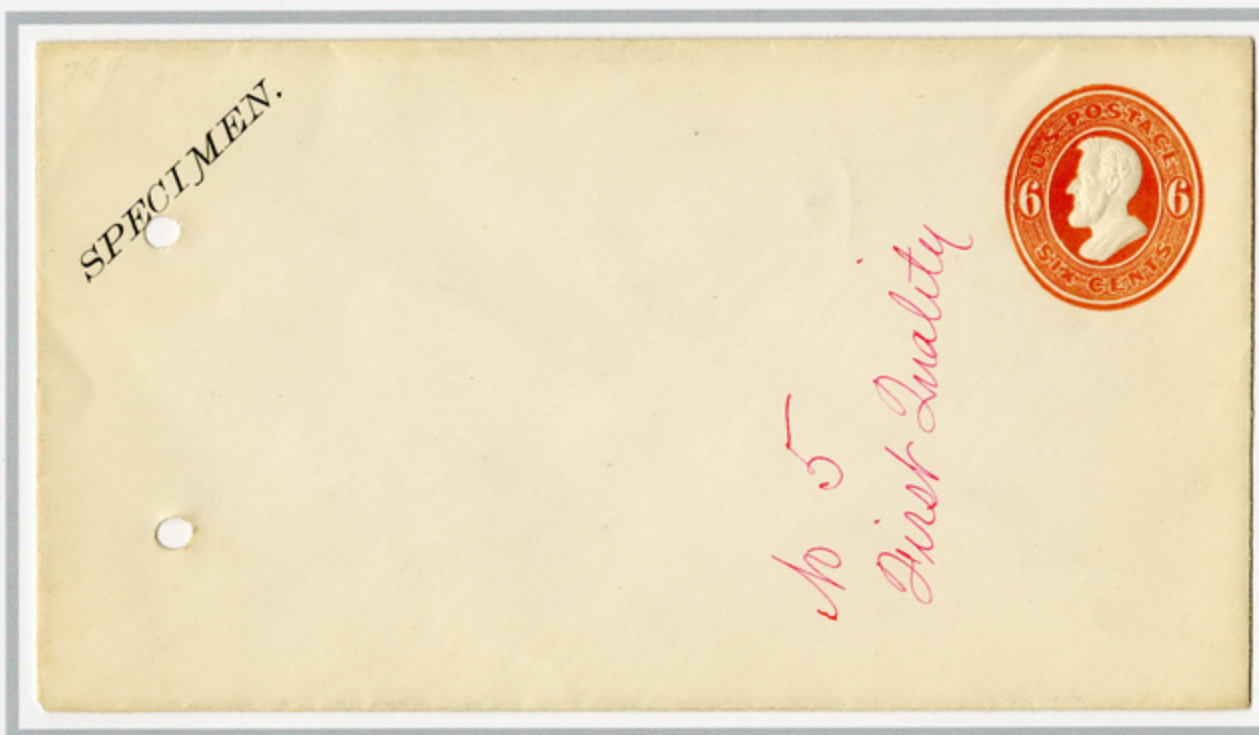
Watermark 2



Size 10, Knife 53

Red on White, "First Quality"

1878 Watermark 5



Size 10, Knife 53

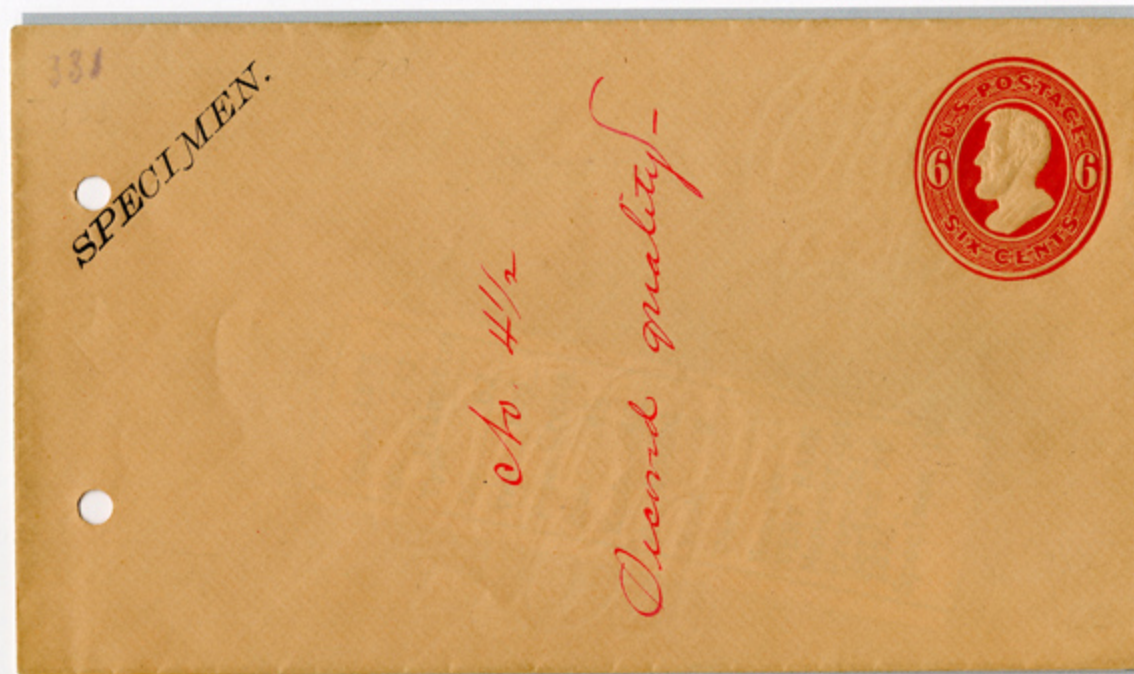
Red on White, "First Quality"



Watermark 5

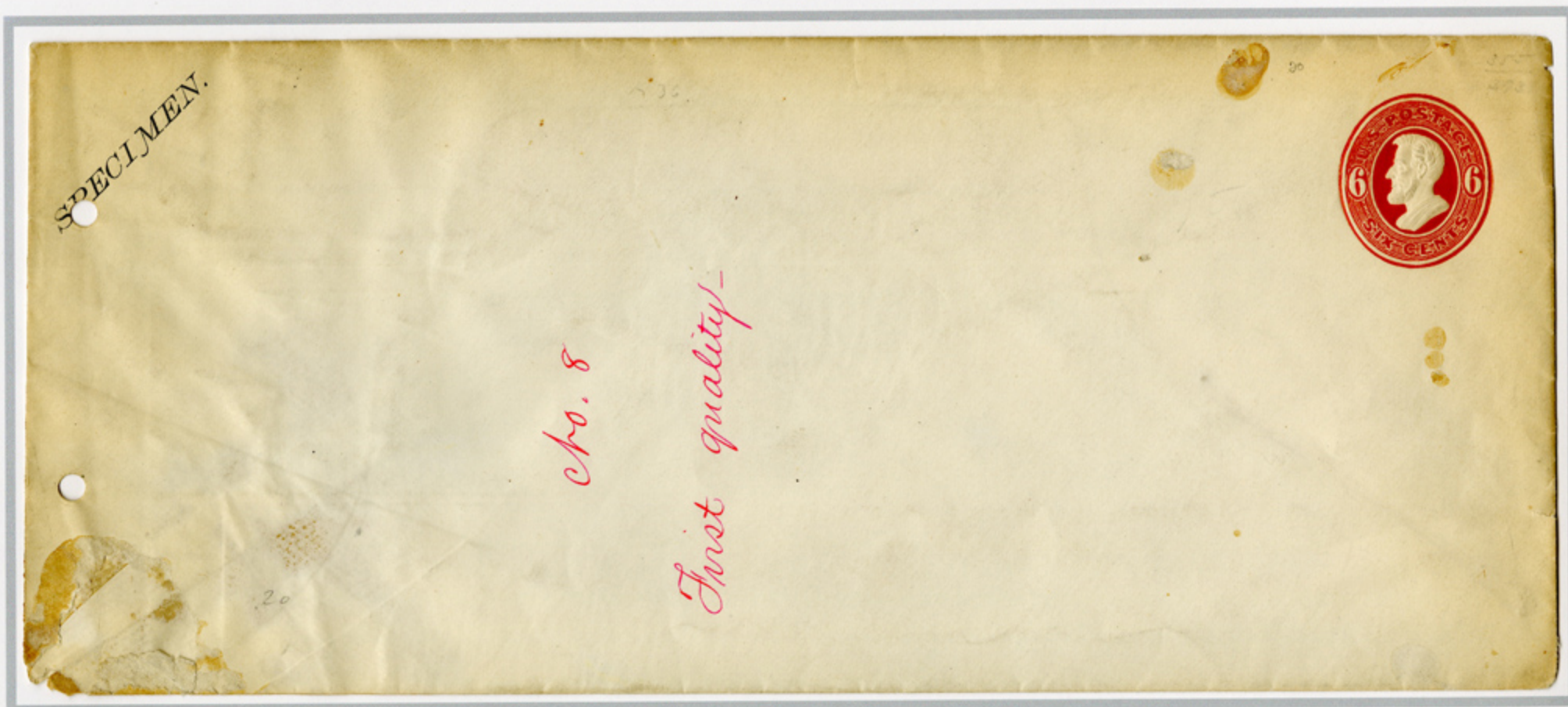
**1874 Plimpton
Bidder Samples, Sizes 8 & 25**

Watermark 2



Size 8, Knife 37

Red on Amber, "Second Quality"



Size 25, Knife 122

Red on White, "First Quality"

1874 Plimpton Shades and Papers

The Lincoln Plimpton envelopes were issued in three colors: white, amber, and cream; and sizes of 7, 8, 10, 21 and 25.



Red on White



Vermilion on White

Sizes: 7, 8, 10, 21, 25



Red on Amber



Red on Fawn

Size: 21



Vermilion on Amber

Sizes: 7, 8, 10, 21, 25



Red on Cream



Vermilion on Cream

Sizes: 7, 8, 10, 21, 25

1874 Plimpton
Size 7, Watermark 2, Knife 28

Reay introduced a new watermark with an intertwined “USPOD” monogram which is known by collectors as type two.



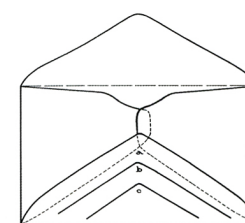
Watermark 2



Red on White



Red on Amber



Knife 28

Top flap is 43mm, sides are both rounded slightly, and bottom with varying pointedness varies.

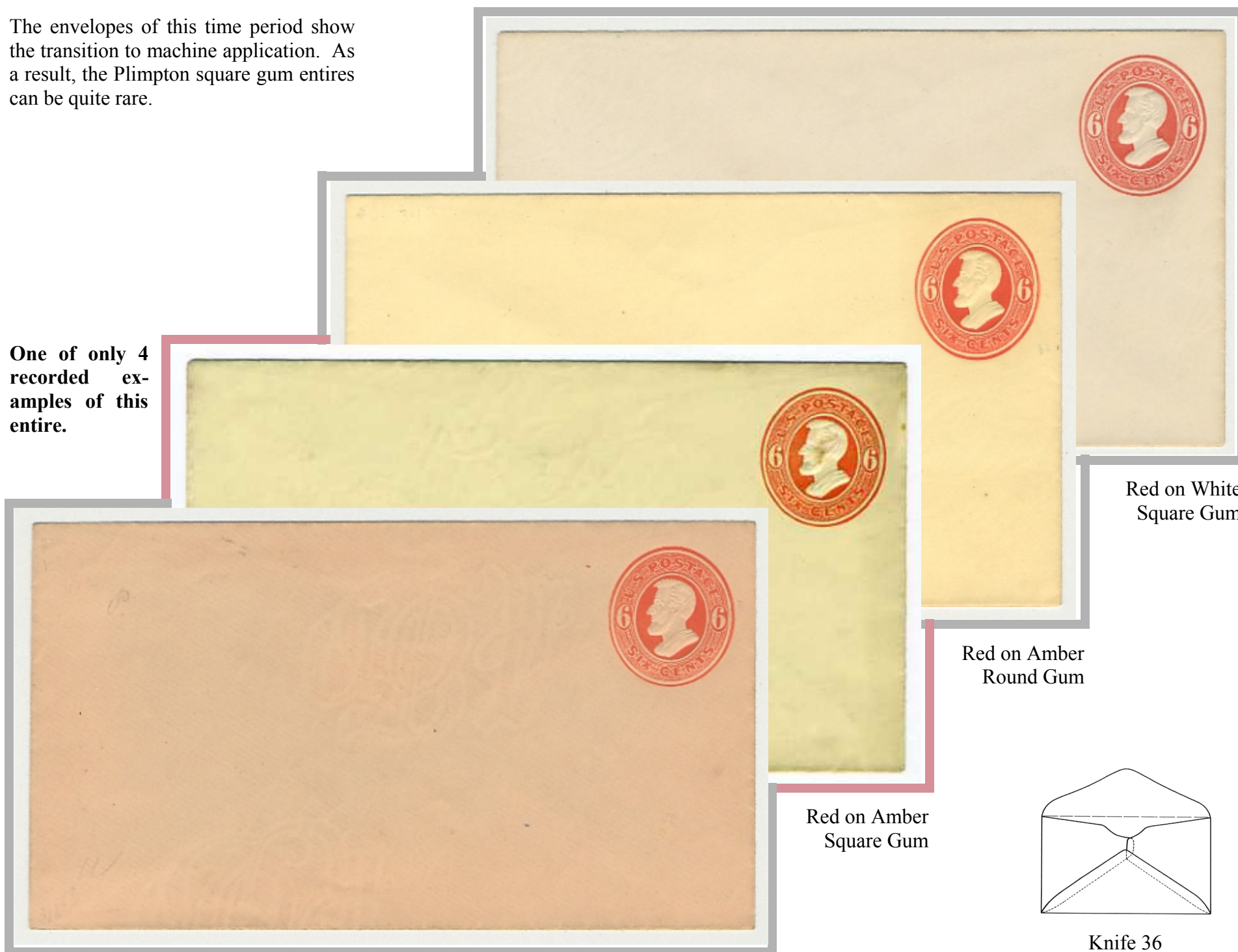
1874 Plimpton

Size 8, Watermark 2, Knife 36

About 1875, Horace J. Wickham of the Plimpton Co. invented a combination printed and folding envelope machine that incorporated a gumming device. Gum applied by machine is termed round gum while the old method of hand application was termed square gum, which left the ends of the gum square. Plimpton employed the new method in October 1875.

The envelopes of this time period show the transition to machine application. As a result, the Plimpton square gum entires can be quite rare.

One of only 4 recorded examples of this entire.

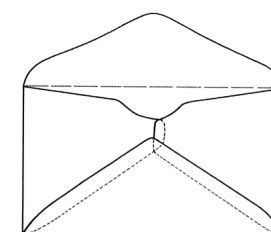


Red on White
Square Gum

Red on Amber
Round Gum

Red on Amber
Square Gum

Red on Cream



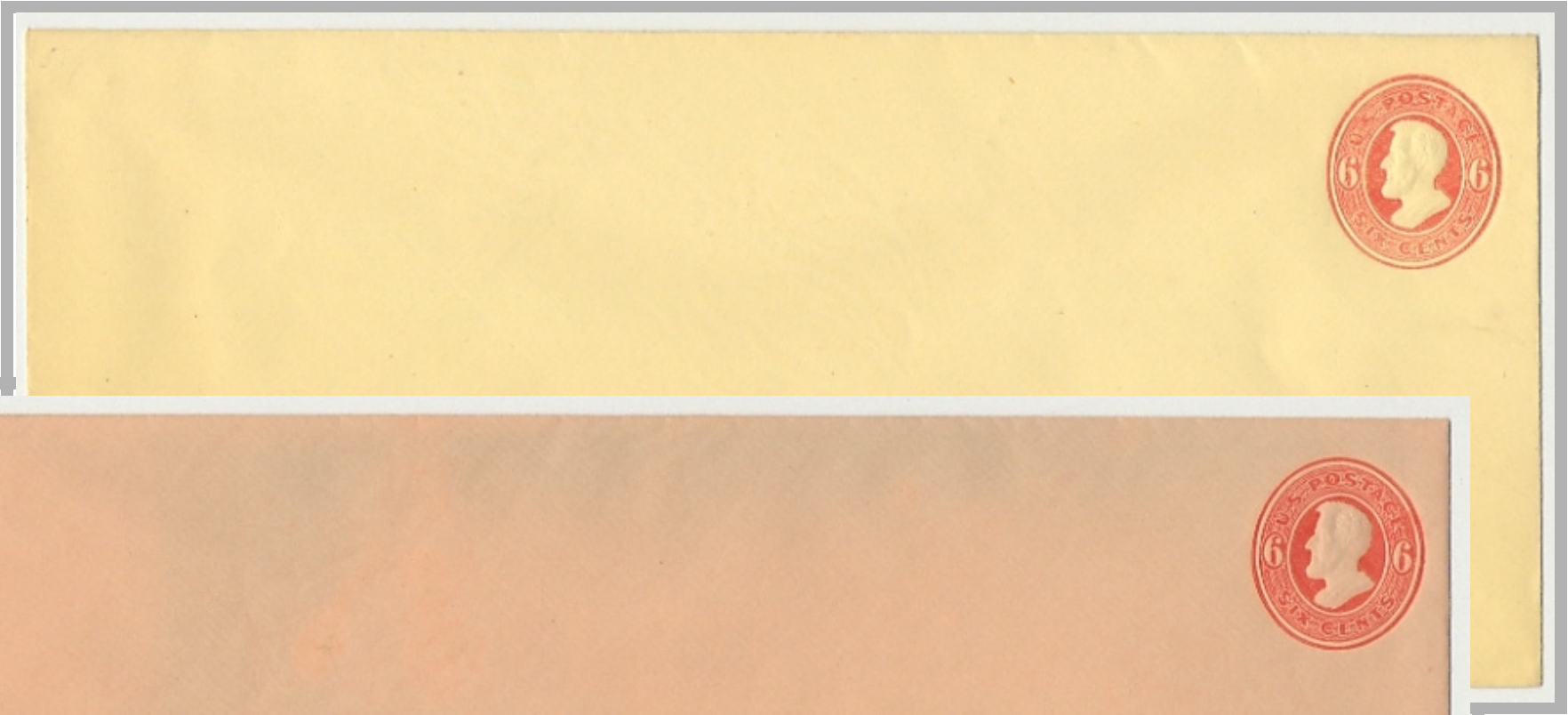
Knife 36

Top flap is well rounded, sides are nearly straight and bottom tip is slightly rounded.

1874 Plimpton and 1878 Plimpton & Morgan
Size 21, Knife 100

1874 Watermark 2

Red on Amber



Red on
Cream

1878 Watermark 5

Red on Fawn

1882 Plimpton & Morgan
Size 25, Watermark 6, Knife 123

Under the 1882 contract, Plimpton & Morgan prepared a new watermark with the numerals “82” before the “US POD” monogram and is known as watermark type six by collectors. They only produced three different 6¢ envelopes: sizes 21 and 25 on white, and 21 on amber.



Watermark 6



Red on White

1874 Plimpton

Production Varieties - Double Impressions

Production varieties sometimes occurred with a second impression of the die on the paper. It is normally found as an albino second impression, offset from the original.



Vermilion on White
Double impression, One albino

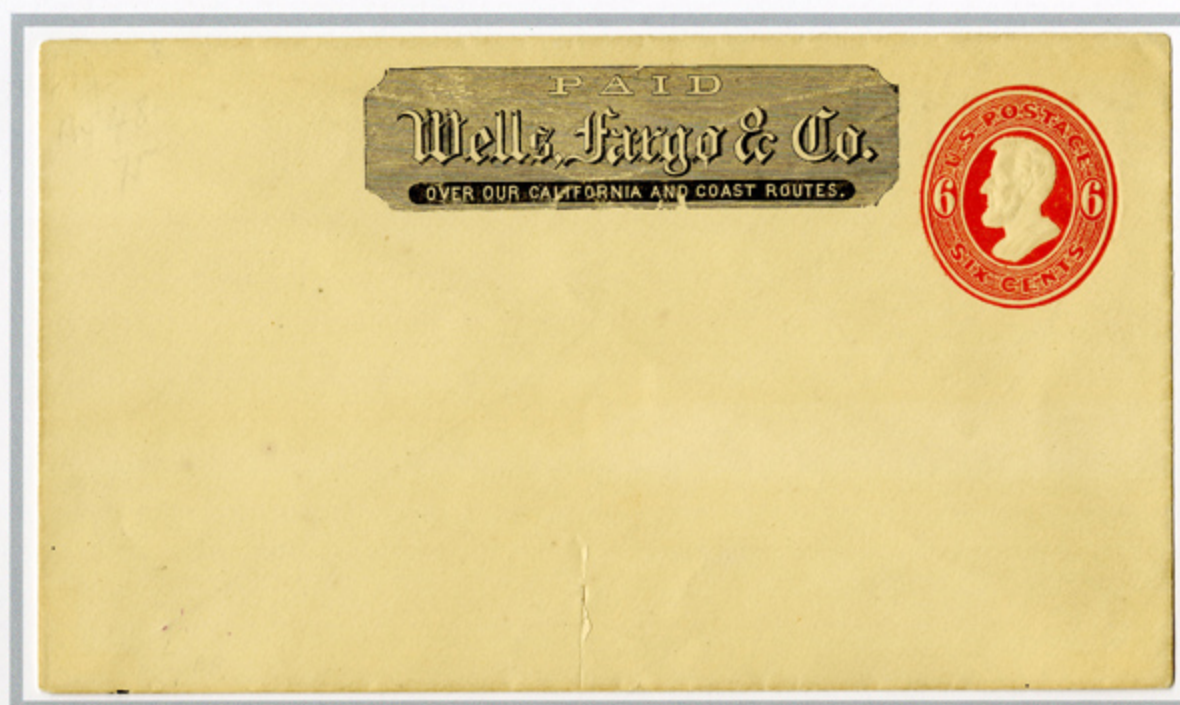


Size 21, Watermark 2, Knife 98

Red on White

Slight Double impression, One albino

1874 Plimpton
Mint - Wells Fargo Imprints



Red on Amber (Size 8, Knife 38, Watermark 2)

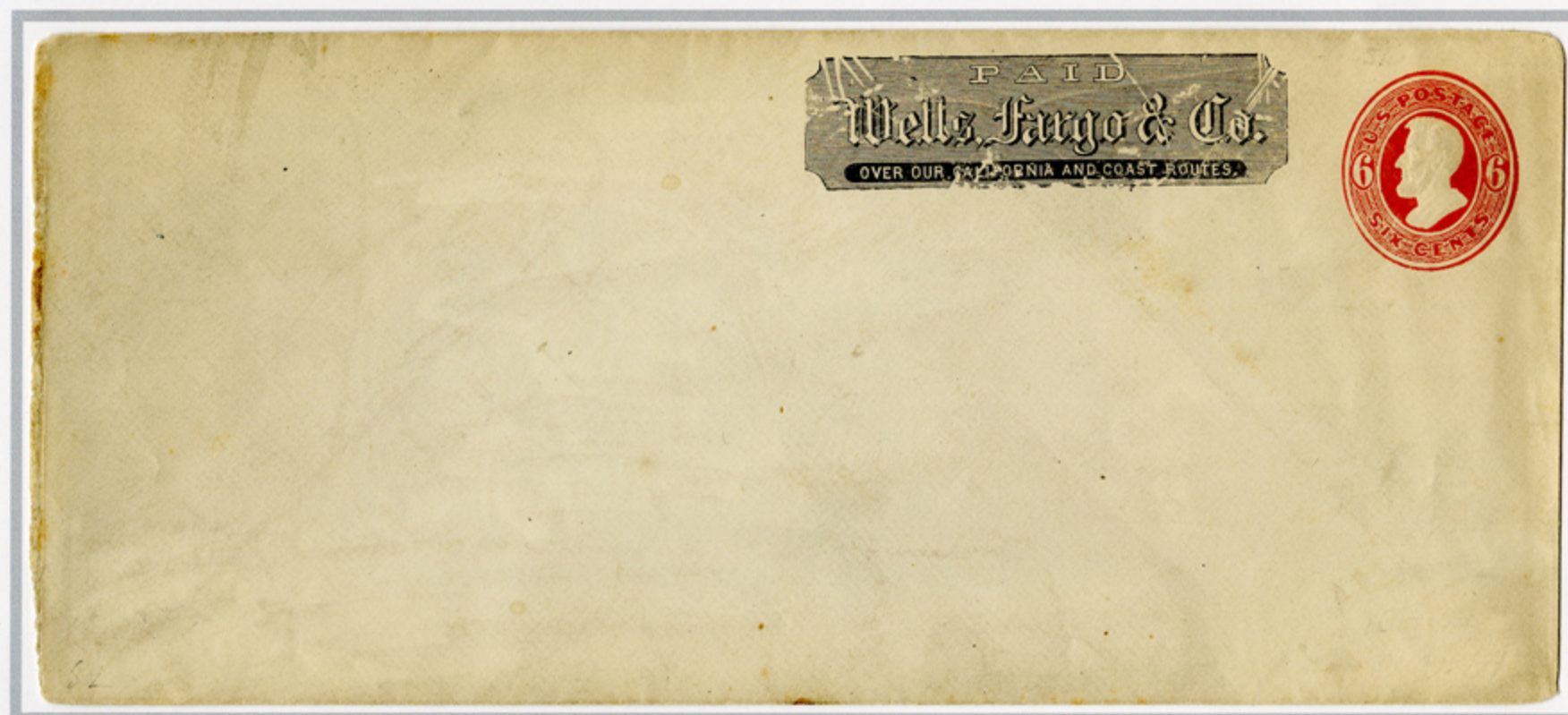


Red on Amber (Size 21, Knife 100, Watermark 5)

1874 Plimpton
Mint - Wells Fargo Imprints



Red on White (Size 21, Knife 100, Watermark 5)



Red on White (Size 21, Knife 100, Watermark 6)

1874 Plimpton

Domestic Usages: Wells, Fargo & Co. Express

Wells, Fargo & Co. carried mail over several routes independently of the government mails. It was required by government regulation that all such matter had to be carried in franked government entires bearing an amount of postage equal to the rates required as if sent through the Post Office.



Guaymas, Mexico unaddressed 6¢ entire paste-up cancelled by blue “Wells, Fargo & Co./ Express / Guaymas, Mex.” oval handstamp, franked for service over “Mexican Coast And California Express—70cts.”

The only recorded square gum entire.

Tombstone, Arizona Territory unaddressed 6¢ entire paste-up cancelled by blue “Wells, Fargo & Co./ Tombstone” oval handstamp.



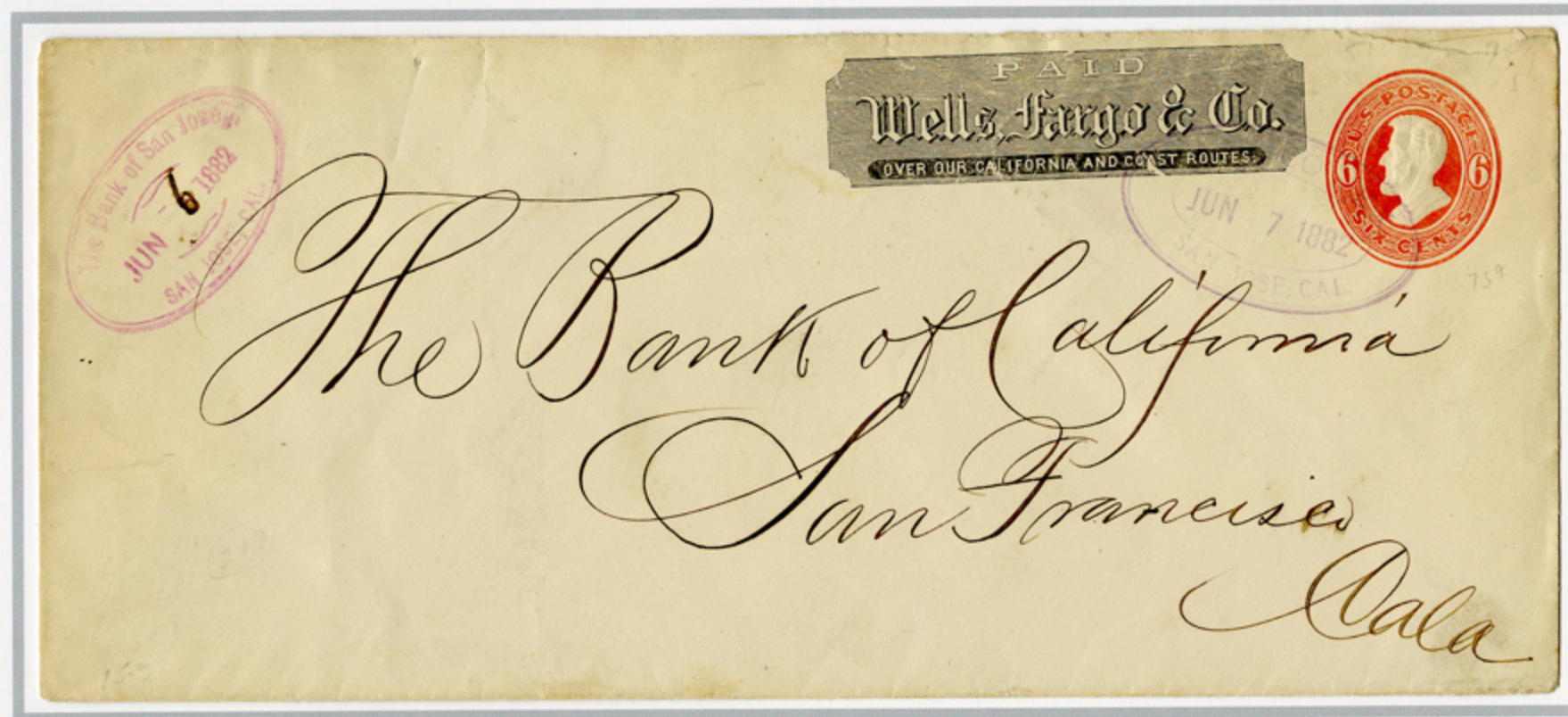
Wells Fargo & Co. franked entire for domestic service, paste back only bearing blue Well's “Collect” handstamp.

1874 Plimpton

Domestic Usages: Wells, Fargo & Co. Express



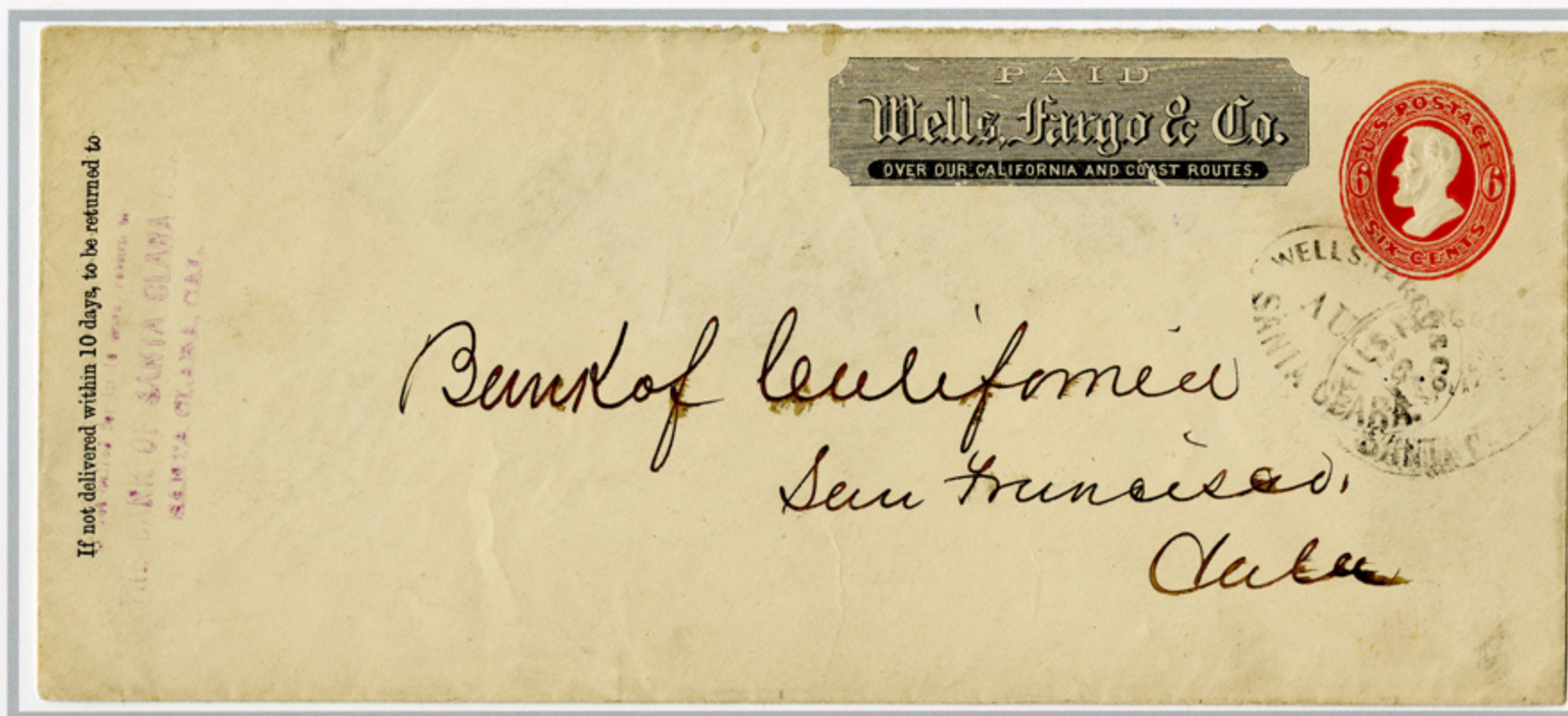
Wells Fargo & Co. franked 6¢ entire to San Francisco, Cal. cancelled by magenta "W. F. & Co. Express, F Messenger" oval handstamp.



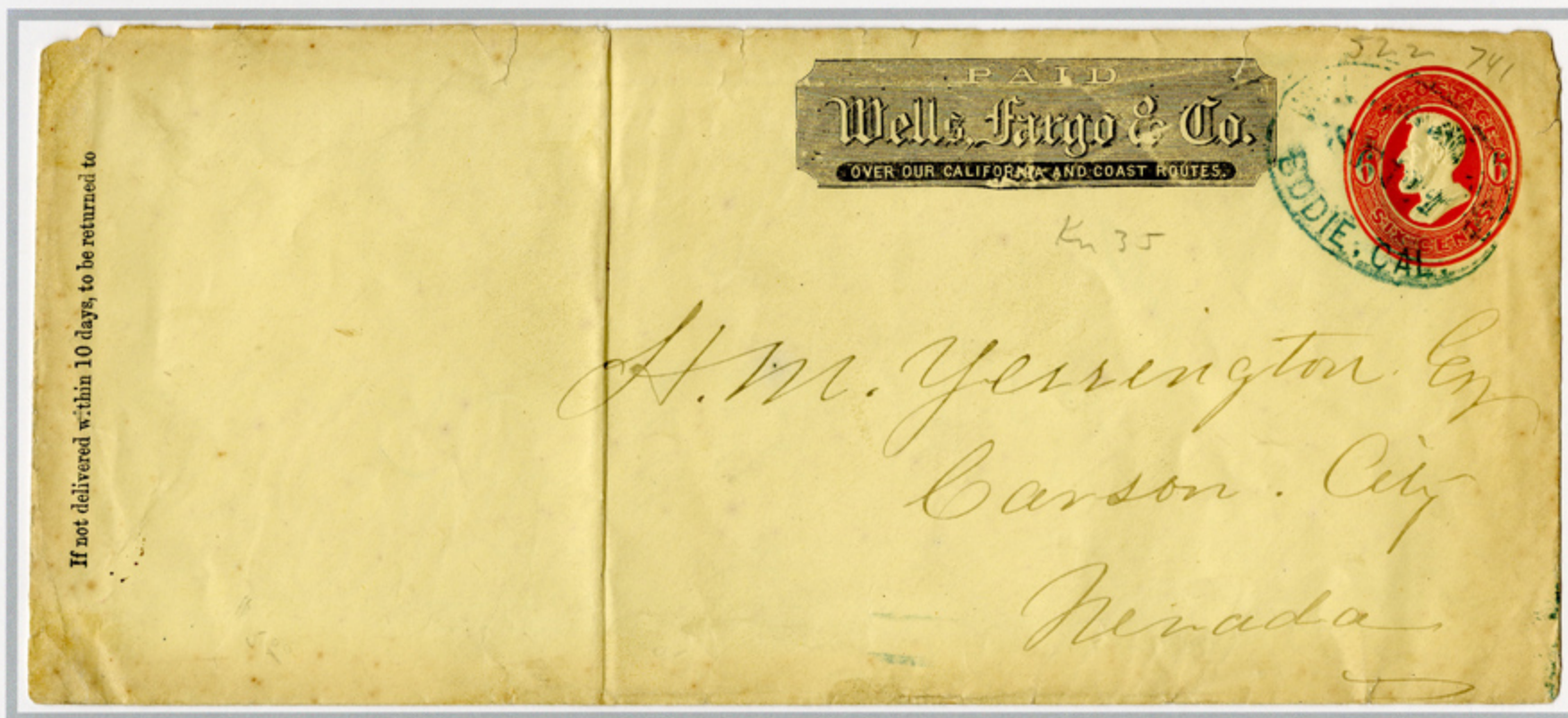
1882 Jun 7, San Jose, Cal. franked 6¢ entire to San Francisco, Cal. by Wells Fargo & Co., cancelled by Wells San Jose oval.

1874 Plimpton

Domestic Usages: Wells, Fargo & Co. Express



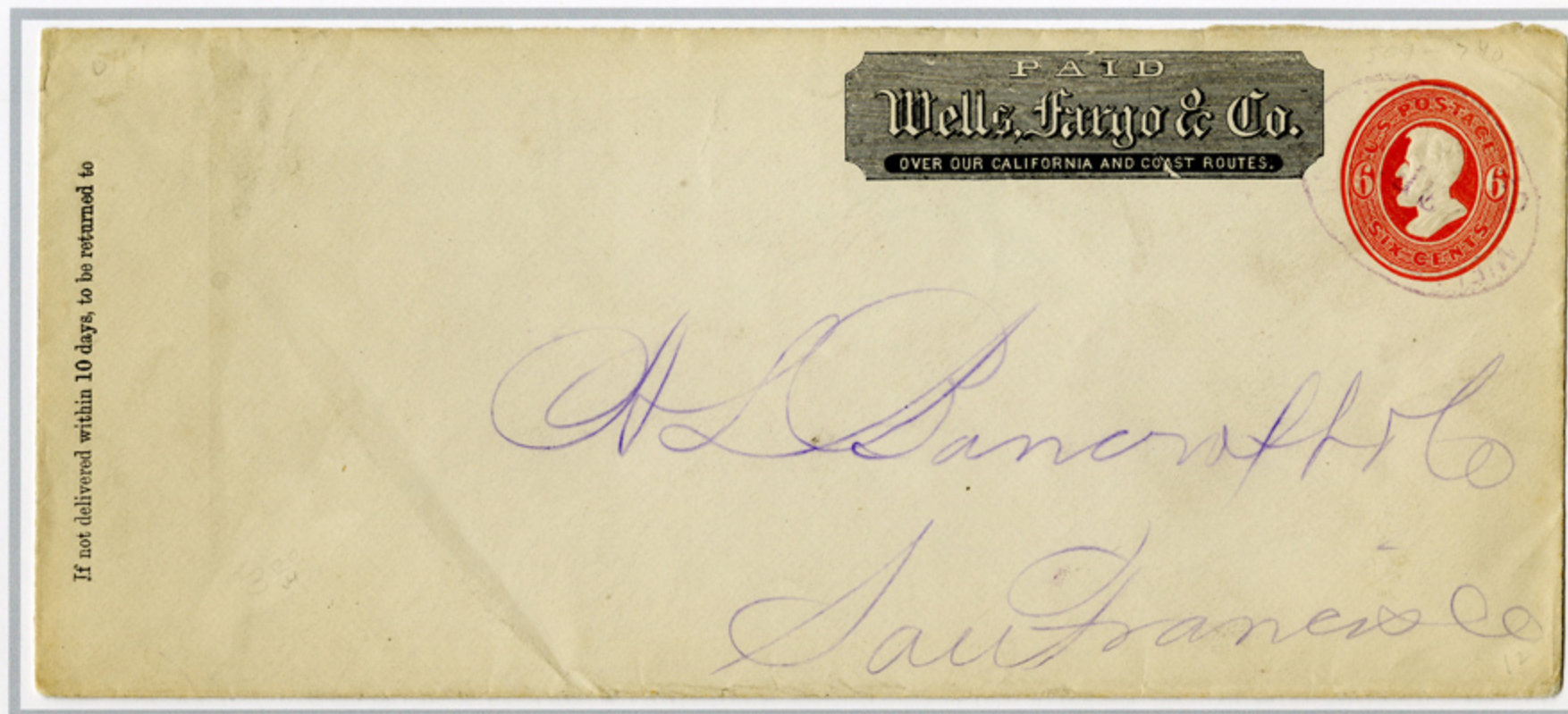
Aug. 26, Santa Clara, Cal. franked 6¢ entire to San Francisco, Cal. by Wells Fargo & Co., cancelled by Wells Santa Clara oval.



Sep. 2, Bodie, Cal. franked 6¢ entire to Carson City Nev. by Wells Fargo & Co., cancelled by Wells Bodie oval.

1874 Plimpton

Domestic Usages: Wells, Fargo & Co. Express



Sep., 6¢ entire to San Francisco, Cal. cancelled by "Wells, Fargo & Co." oval handstamp in light violet.



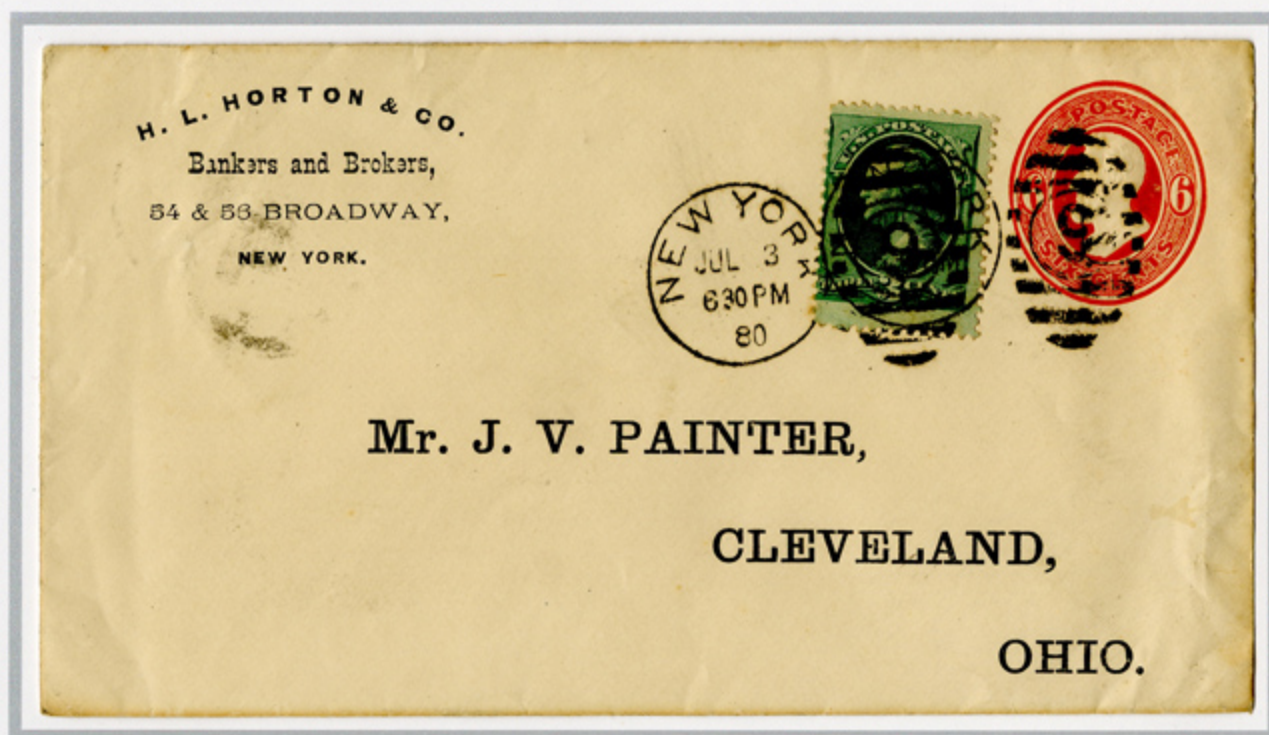
1894 Nov. 12 Hiko, Nevada 6¢ entire to Salt Lake City, Utah Territory with Well's Fargo frank (superfluous) and lithographed advertisement for J.N. Curtis in Bristol, Nev., uprated with 1890 4¢ issue prepaying the 2¢ letter rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

1874 Plimpton Domestic Usages

Registry service developed as a means to move valuable material with increased safety via the US postal system. The registry service began in 1855 with a simple fee of 5¢ per piece, applicable only to first class mail and providing no indemnity or liability for loss until 1898. The registry fee was 10¢ per piece effective July 1, 1875 to Dec 31, 1892



1882 Sep. 16, Galveston, Tex. **registered** to Hallettsville, Tex. 6¢ entire uprated with 1879 5¢ Bank Note issue pair prepaying double the 3¢ letter rate plus 10¢ registry fee.



1880 July 3, New York, N.Y. to Cleveland, Ohio 6¢ entire uprated with 1879 3¢ Bank Note issue prepaying triple the 3¢ letter rate.

1874 Plimpton

Foreign Usages: To Finland / To Denmark



1882 Aug. 8, St. Louis, Mo.
to Finland, Russia at a 1¢
overpayment of the 5¢ UPU
rate.

1884 Boston, Mass. to Copenhagen, Denmark 6¢
entire uprated with 1882 10¢ overpaying triple the
5¢ UPU rate by 1¢.



1875 Feb. 13, Galveston, Tex. to Holbek, Den-
mark 6¢ entire uprated with 1873 1¢ pair and 6¢
prepaying double the 7¢ per ½ oz. Danish Closed
Mail rate via Bremen, red "New York Paid All
Via Bremen Feb 13" c.d.s., arrival backstamp.
Blue "2" for double rate.

1874 Plimpton

Foreign Registered Usages: To England / To Germany

Effective with the inception of the UPU rates on July 1, 1875, registry service was available on letters, post cards, and printed matter. Every such item had to be prepaid, and the postage payable was the same as that on articles not registered. Foreign registry fee was 10¢ per piece effective July 1, 1875 to Nov 31, 1925.



1879 Sep. 17, Boston, Mass. registered to England 6¢ entire uprated with 1873 7¢, 10¢ and 1875 2¢ Bank Note issues prepay triple the 5¢ UPU rate plus 10¢ registry fee.



1882 May 25, Burlington, Ia. registered to Lauban, Germany, 6¢ entire uprated with 1879 10¢ and 1882 1¢, 3¢ Bank Note issues prepay double the 5¢ UPU rate plus 10¢ registry fee.

1874 Plimpton

Foreign Registered Usages: To Germany / To Belgium



1880 Nov. 11, New York, N.Y. registered to Dresden, Germany 6¢ entire with Seebeck Advertising Collar uprated with four 1879 5¢ Bank Notes overpaying triple the 5¢ UPU rate plus 10¢ registry fee by 1¢. Endorsed "Too Late" and "Return Receipt".



1890 Mar. 31, San Francisco, Cal. registered to Brussels, Belgium 6¢ entire uprated with 1887 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ (2) Bank Notes cancelled by negative "W" killers, prepaying the 5¢ UPU rate plus 10¢ registry fee. New York registry label.

1874 Plimpton

Foreign Registered Usages: To Afghanistan

Mail to Afghanistan is practically non-existent prior to the later 1880s. It was first listed as a destination (Cabul) in the April 1879 edition of the US Official Postal Guide. Service was provided by Italian mail with a 5¢ per ½ ounce rate. Prepayment was compulsory and only to the British Indian frontier.



1885 January 25, New York, N.Y. registered to Afghanistan 6¢ entire uprated with 1882 5¢ and 1883 4¢ Bank Note issues prepay the 5¢ UPU rate plus 10¢ registry fee. New York registry label, London registry transit. Upon receipt redirected to Lahore, India. Redirected to Bombay, India with label applied by Punjab dead letter office. Reverse with U.S.A. (6.18) dead letter office handstamp.

The only recorded example used to Afganistan during the 1870-88 Bank Note period.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan Envelope Co.

In 1898, the Post Office Department advertised for new contract bids for the manufacture of envelopes over the next four years, and eleven firms submitted formal bids. Plimpton and Morgan created the following samples for a Lincoln design in their proposal. Although the contract was initially awarded to James Purcell, they were deemed unable to perform and the contract re-advertised. Plimpton and Morgan was awarded a temporary three-month emergency contract and later the new four-year contract effective January 1, 1899 to December 31, 1902. The Plimpton Dynasty ended with the 1903 contract being awarded to Hartford Mfg. Co.

Section Outline

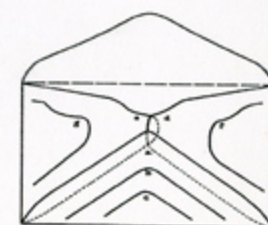
- Essays and Proofs
- Specimens
- Issue
- Usage
- Puerto Rico
- Philippines

Embossed Envelope Essays, Size 8

Dark Brown on blue, buff, and white size 8 envelopes
knife 38, watermark 8



watermark 8



Knife 38

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Embossed Envelope Essays, Size 10**

Red and Blue on white size 10 envelopes
knife 54, watermark 8



watermark 8



Brown on white size 10 envelope, knife 54, watermark 13



watermark 13

1899 Plimpton and Morgan Wax and Embossed Essays

Wax impressions were taken from completed dies to show the finished format of the design. These were possibly made for presentation purposes to the engraver responsible for their design. Embossed essays of Die C were made on paper stock with and without red wax.



First Essay Die proof impression
in red sealing wax



Incomplete Die C
albino impression on white



Complete Die C reverse red wax
impression on white

The only recorded examples of these essays.

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Specimen Form 36, Die C, Size 21**

Watermark 13, Knife 100

Specimens were only produced using the Die C entires in sizes of 21, 23, and 25. The form 36 "Specimen" overprint measures 23.5x2.5mm, struck about 2.5mm below the stamp. Form 36a is the same overprint, except struck 6mm below.

SPECIMEN.

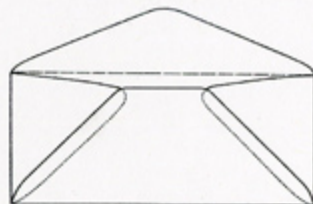
Form 36 & 36a



Brown on White, *laid paper variety with vertical lines.*



watermark 13

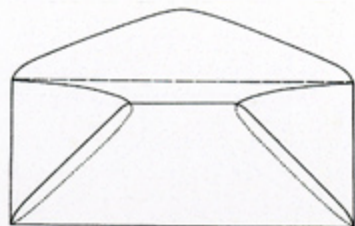


Knife 100

Top flap is 50mm broadly rounded, sides are bottom-over-sides, and bottom flap has slightly rounded upper corners.

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Specimen Form 36, Die C, Size 25**

Watermark 13, Knife 124



Knife 124

Top flap is broadly rounded, sides are slightly rounded and bottom-over-sides, and bottom flap is slightly rounded.

Dark Brown on White



SPECIMEN.

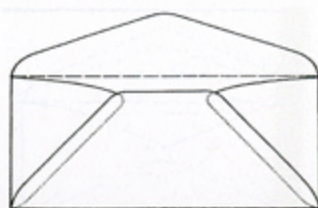


SPECIMEN.

Brown on Amber

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Specimen Forms 36 & 36a, Die C, Size 23**

Watermark 13, Knife 106



Knife 106

Top flap is broadly rounded, sides are bottom-over-sides, and bottom flap is 95mm high.

Form 36, Dark Brown on White



SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.

Form 36a, Brown on Amber

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Specimen Form 36a, Die C, Size 25**

Watermark 13, Knife 124

Brown on White



SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.

Brown on Light Amber

1899 Plimpton and Morgan Shades and Papers

The Lincoln Reay envelopes were issued with three different dies: A, B, C; and in three colors: white, amber, and manila.



Die A
Bust is pointed and un-
draped. Inner oval has teeth.



Die B
Bust is draped and broad in the
front. The Inner oval has teeth.



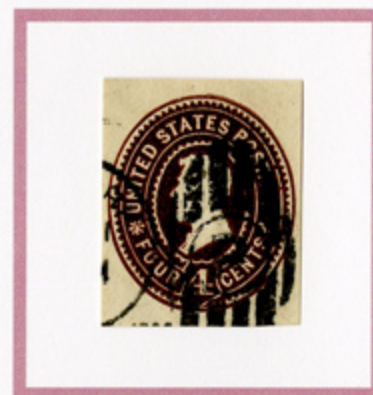
Die C
Bust is broad and draped.
No teeth in inner oval



Die A, Brown on White
Sizes: 10, 21, 23, 25



Die A, Brown on Amber
21, 23, 25



Die B, Brown on White
Sizes: 10, 25



Die C, Brown on White
Sizes: 10, 21, 23, 25

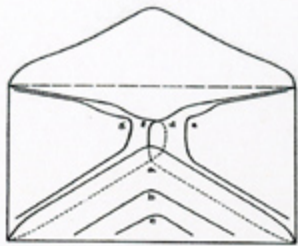


Die C, Brown on Amber
Sizes: 21, 23, 25



Die C, Brown on Manila
Sizes: W7

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Die A, Sizes 10 & 23, Brown on White**



Knife 54

Top flap is 45mm, sides
and bottom vary consid-
erably as indicated.



Dark Brown on White, Size 10, Knife 54
One of only three recorded examples of this entire.



Size 23, Knife 106

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Die A, Sizes 21 & 25, Watermark 13



Size 21, Knife 100

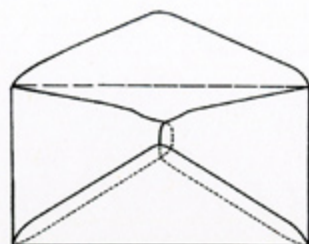
Brown on Amber



Size 25. Knife 124

Brown on Amber

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Die B, Size 10, Watermark 13, Knife 56



Knife 56

Top flap has slight tongue shape, sides are right-over-left, and bottom has slightly rounded point.



Brown on White

One of only five recorded examples of this entire

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Die C, Sizes 21 & 23, Watermark 13



Size 21, Knife 100

Brown on Amber



Size 23, Knife 106

Dark Brown on White

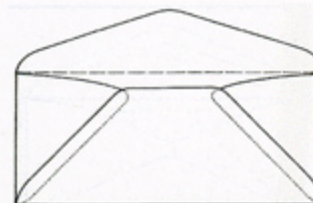
1899 Plimpton and Morgan Puerto Rico

The Plimpton and Morgan issue of 1899 was overprinted "Porto Rico" in black measuring 19mm on denominations of 1¢, 2¢ & 4¢ by an unknown local printer, probably at Arecibo, P.R. All have a similar type corner card of "Sucesores de Roses & Co./Arecibo, Puerto Rico".

Only 500 examples of the 4¢ in size 8 were overprinted "Porto Rico".



watermark 13



Knife 106



Brown on White, Size 23, Die C.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Philippines: Registered Usage from Shanghai, China

The United States overprinted possession issues were valid for postage anywhere in the United States postal system including the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai, China. The agency produced registration labels locally.

The only recorded example of this four-issue mixed franking.



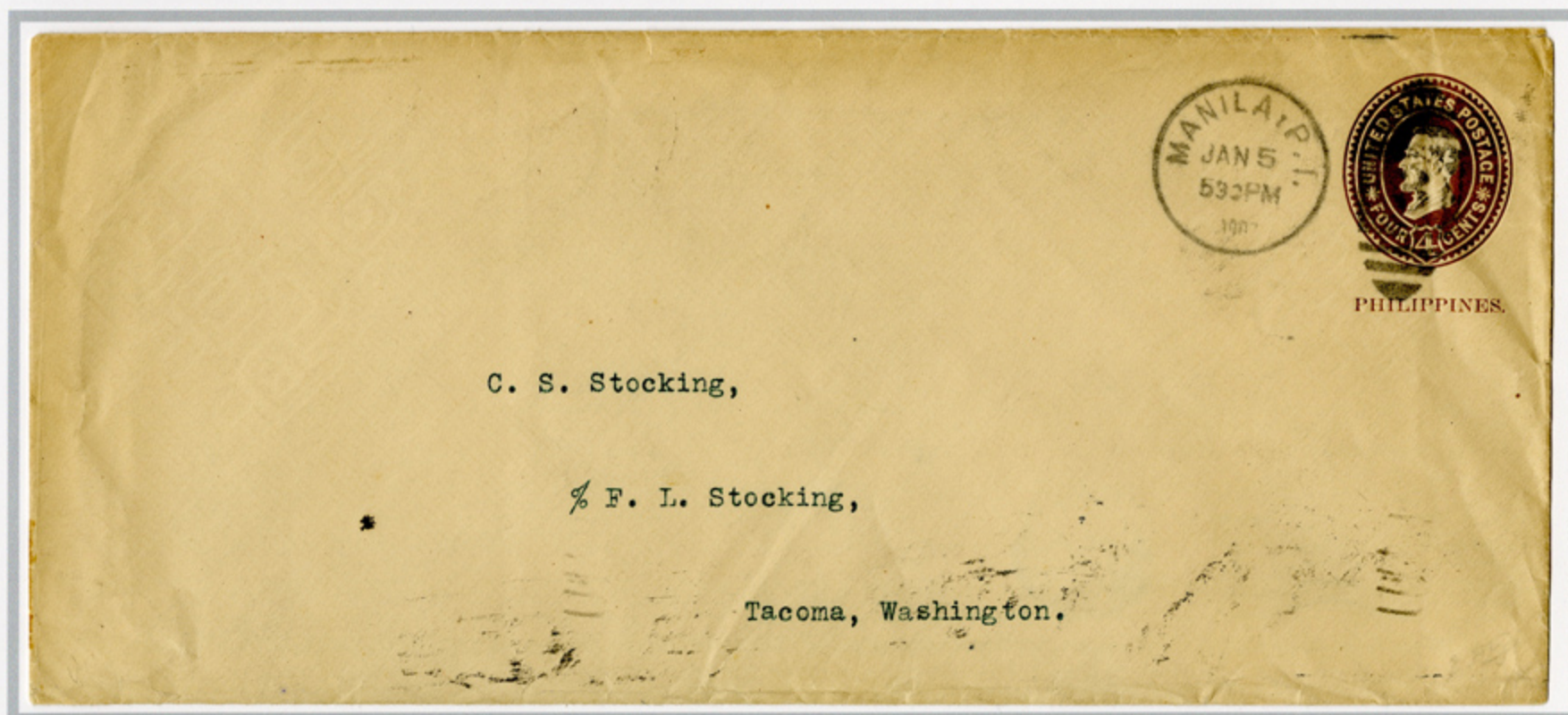
1902 Jan. 15, Shanghai, China registered to West Chester, Pa., U.S.A. Philippines 4¢ brown on white, die C entire uprated with a mixed issue franking comprising Puerto Rico 1¢, Guam 2¢ & 5¢, and U.S. 2¢ bureau block of six tied by U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai China duplex.

One of less than 6 recorded usages of this Shanghai registry label.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Philippines: Domestic Usage / Foreign usage to U.S.A.



1905 Nov. 13, Manila, Philippines addressed locally, U.S.A. Philippines 4¢ brown on white, die C entire uprated with Philippines 4¢, 6¢, 8¢ and 10¢ paying eighteen-times the local letter rate.



1902 Jan. 5, Manila, Philippines to Tacoma, Wash., U.S.A. Philippines 4¢ brown on white, die C entire paying double the domestic letter rate that was valid for mail from possessions to U.S. territory.

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Philippines: Unused Die "C"**



Brown on Amber, Size 21, Knife 100, Watermark 13. All examples have Francisco Gonzales corner card imprint.

500 Issued



Brown on Amber, Size 23, Knife 106, Watermark 13

10,000 Issued

1899 Plimpton and Morgan Philippines

The United States occupied the Philippines on May 1, 1898 after the defeat of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. The separate Philippines postal service under U.S. Administration was established on May 1, 1899. The first stationery issue of the Philippines were envelopes of the U.S. 1899 series produced and overprinted with the word "Philippines" below the stamped portion, by the Plimpton & Morgan Company in the same color as the stamp design (some exceptions) in multiples of 500.



Brown on Amber
Die "A"
Size 21



Brown on White
Die "C"
Size 21

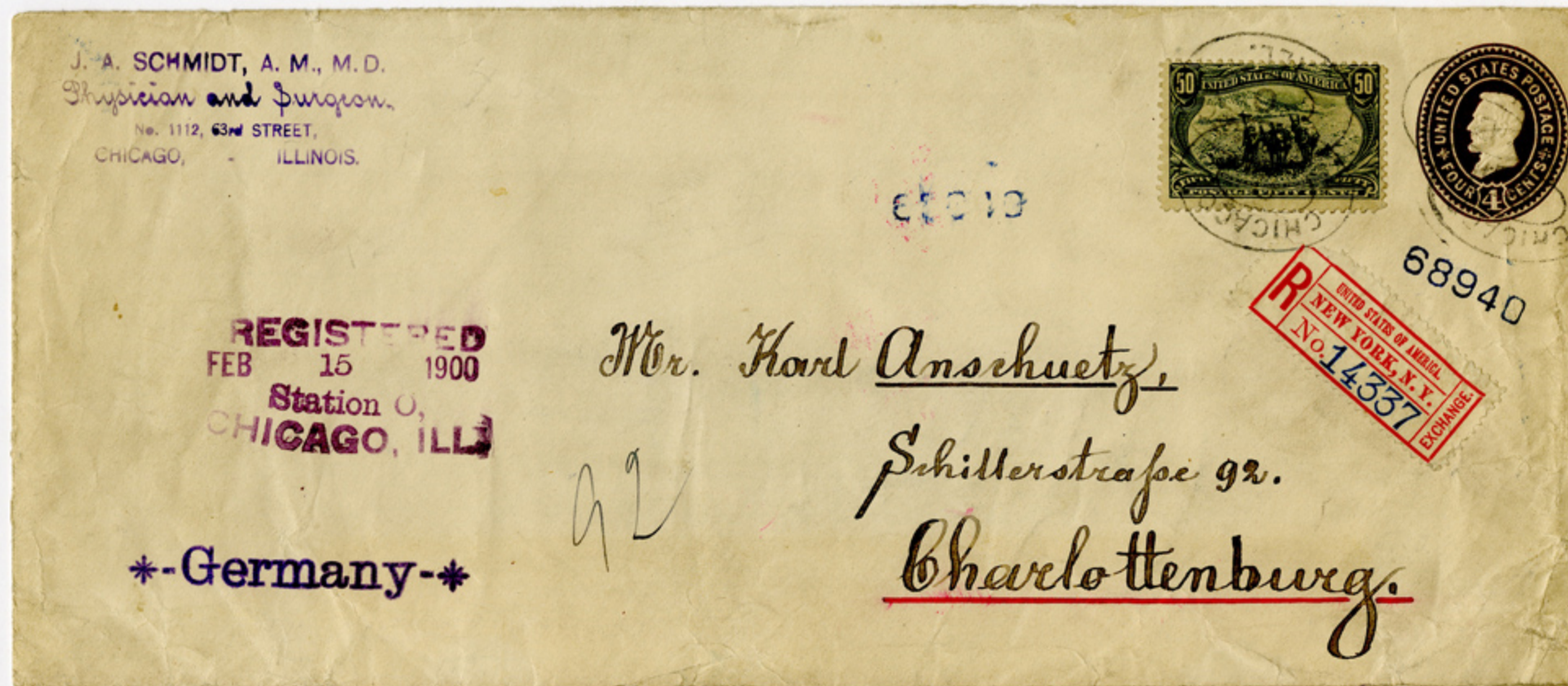


Brown on Amber
Die "C"
Sizes 21, 23



Die "A", Brown on White, Size 21, Knife 100, Watermark 13. All examples with Francisco Gonzales corner card imprint.
500 were issued.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Foreign Registered Usage: To Germany



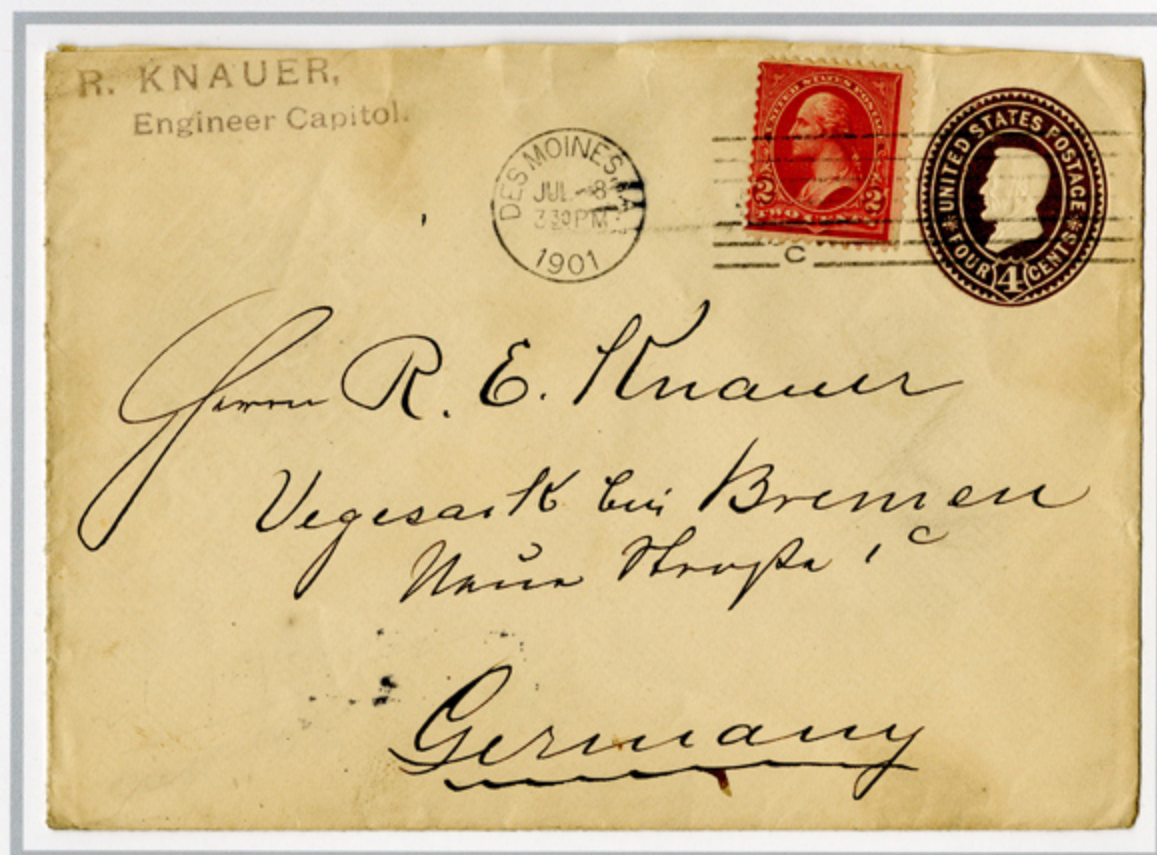
1900 February 15, Chicago, Ill. registered to Charlottenburg, Germany 4¢ brown on white entire (Die C, Size 25) uprated with 50¢ Trans-Mississippi for UPU postage plus 10¢ registry fee. New York registry label affixed.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Foreign Usages: To Germany / To Russia



1900 Nov. 29, Honolulu, Hawaii to Hamburg, Germany via San Francisco, Cal., 2¢ entire with cut down 4¢ brown on white entire (Die C) pasted on front, overpaying the 5¢ UPU rate by 1¢. San Francisco circled "Way" hand-stamp.

This letter was carried privately into San Francisco, entering the U.S. mails as a San Francisco "Way" letter.



1901 July 8, Des Moines, IA to Bremen, Germany 4¢ entire (Die C) uprated with 2¢ Bureau overpaying the 5¢ UPU rate by 1¢. Entire reduced to fit contents.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Foreign Registered Usages: To Turkey / Holland



1901 Oct. 10, Augusta, GA registered to Constantinople, Turkey 4¢ brown on white entire (Die C) uprated with Bureau 3¢, 5¢.



1910 Aug. 16, Chillicothe, OH registered to Edam, Holland 4¢ brown on manila wrapper (Die C) uprated with 1908-09 1¢, 10¢ and imperf 1¢, 5¢ imperf pairs paying seven-times the UPU rate plus 10¢ registry fee. Homemade paper seals used at right.

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Earliest Known Usages: Die B

1899 July 11,
 New York, NY
 to Dublin, Ire-
 land 4¢ brown on
 white (Size 21)
 entire uprated
 with Bureau 1¢,
 5¢ for double the
 UPU rate.

**The Earliest
 Documented
 Use of this
 entire.**



After 5 days, return to
 PALMER BROS.,
 NEW LONDON, CONN.

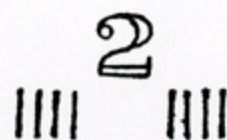
Mrs. Palmer Pm.
 #56 Leonard St.
 New York City



1899 March 2, New London, CT to New York, NY 4¢ brown on amber entire (Size 25) paying double the 2¢ first class rate.
 The earliest documented use of this entire

1899 Plimpton and Morgan 2¢ Revalue Surcharges of 1920

Various envelopes of the preceding issues were overprinted or surcharged with a large figure "2" in seven different types. This expediency was adopted in order to make available for postal use the large stock on hand of 3¢ envelopes which, following the reduction of the first class rate to 2¢, were more or less useless. The public was permitted to bring envelopes to the post office, in not less than full box lots, for revaluing with the new rate, and was reimbursed for the reduction in value by refunds in adhesive stamps.



Type 4 Surcharge



4¢ Brown on white entire with 2¢ surcharge (Type 4), Die C, Size 21, Knife 100, Watermark 13. (e)

1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Die C, Wrapper, Size 7, Watermark 14, "STAIES" error

This production variety occurred only in the wrapper issue with the later watermark 14. It probably occurred from matter becoming included in the production die. Plimpton and Morgan introduced a new watermark for the 1903 issue that contains a stylized "US POD" with "1903" below that collectors have termed watermark number fourteen.



Watermark 14



"STAIES"
Die Flaw



Brown on Manila, Die C

**1899 Plimpton and Morgan
Die C, Wrapper Size 7, Watermark 13**

Wrapper size 7 is the largest stationery item produced by the U.S. Post Office measuring over 252x380mm unfolded.



Brown on Manila, Die C

The War Department Issues of 1873-1882

Under an Act of January 27, 1873, Congress abolished the franking privilege. The March 3, 1873 provided that the Postmaster General should prepare a special stamp and envelope designs for official matter of each department. Envelopes were only prepared for the War and Post Office Departments, the post office designs having only numeral vignettes. Special dies, similar in design to the regular issue, were prepared that included a six cent Lincoln design for the War Department. George H. Reay manufactured the 1873 issue with a distinguishing feature of a long neck at the back. Plimpton Manufacturing Company produced the 1875-82 Issues based upon their regular issue, that is identifiable by Lincoln's very short neck.

Section Outline

1873 Reay

- Specimens
- Issue
- Usage

1875-82 Plimpton

- Specimens
- Issue
- Usage

1873 George H. Reay "War" Issue Specimen Form 14, Size 21

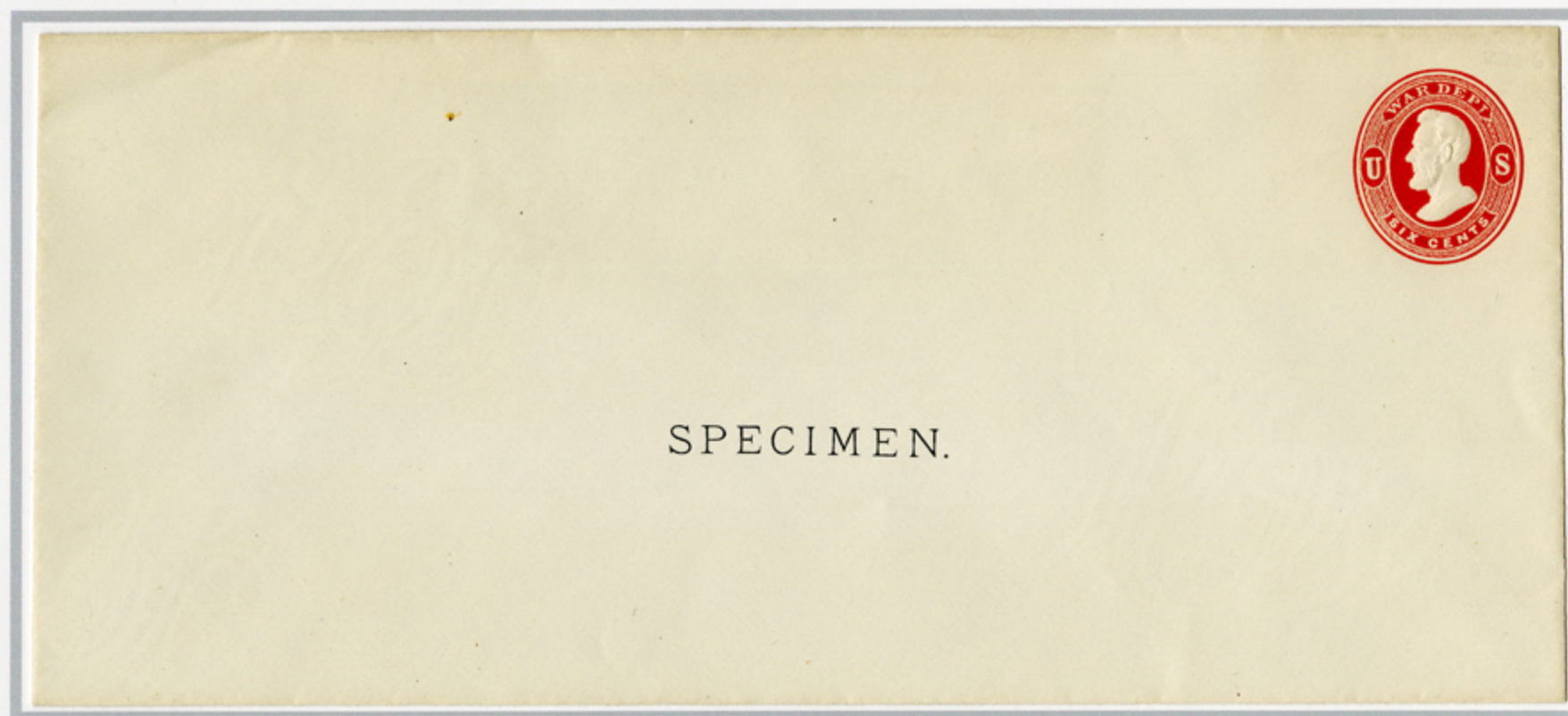
Watermark 2

No schedule of envelopes were prepared for the War Department, but from time to time boxes of sample envelopes, marked "Specimen" were distributed to various post offices and War Department offices. Presumably, the official in charge at any given War Dept. office might requisition envelopes in whatever size he might select from these boxes of specimen envelopes on hand.

Form 14 measures 4x41mm and is printed horizontal in the center of the envelope.

SPECIMEN.

Form 14



Vermilion on White, Size 21, Knife 98

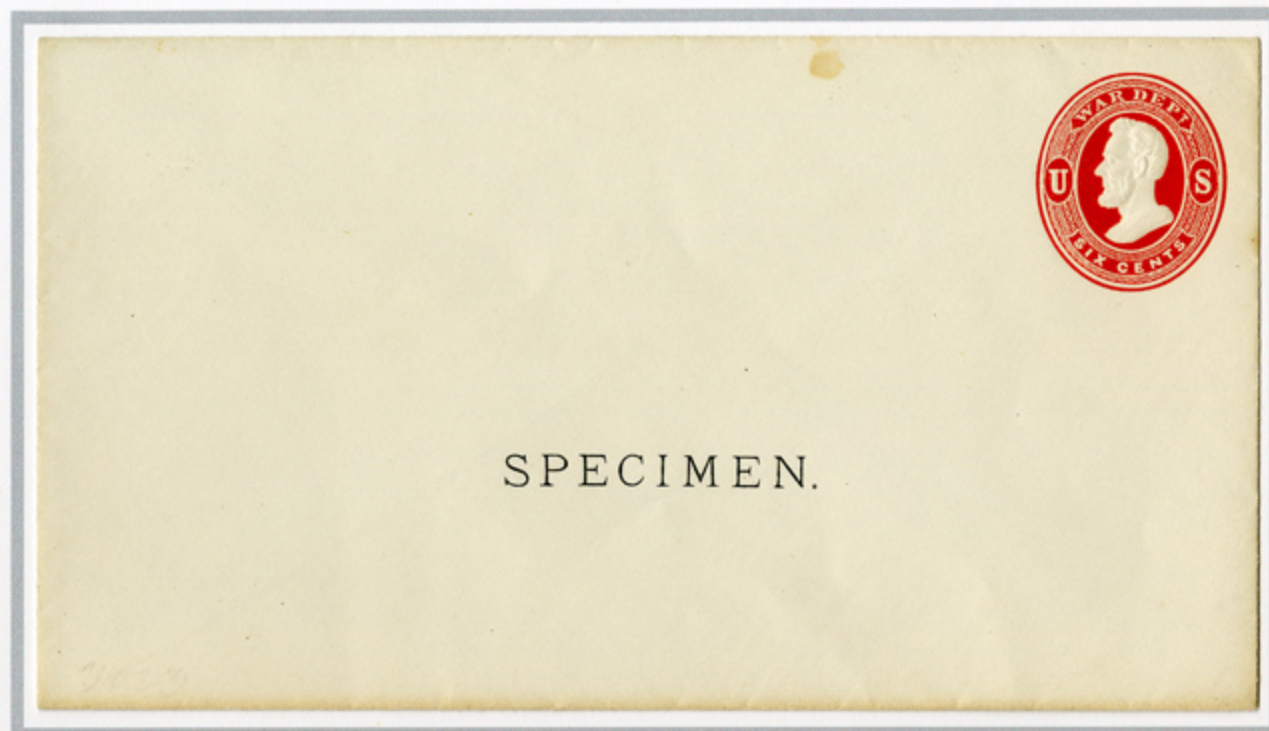
**1873 George H. Reay "War" Issue
Specimen Form 14, Sizes 10 & 25**

Watermark 2

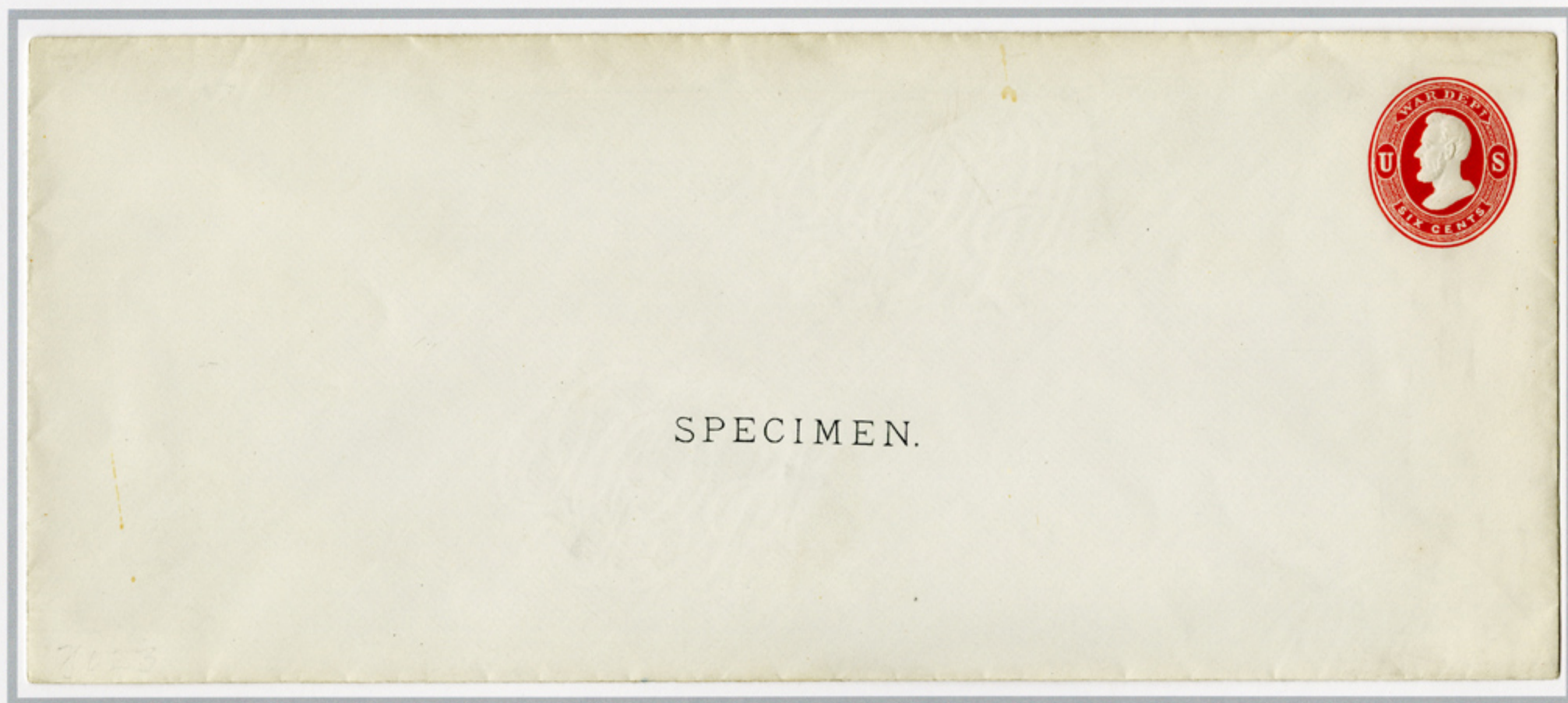
Reay introduced a new watermark with an intertwined "USPOD" monogram which is known by collectors as type two.



Watermark 2



Vermilion on White, Size 10, Knife 50



Size 25, Knife 122

This entire is only recorded as a specimen.

Vermilion on White

1873 George H. Reay "War" Issue Shades and Papers

The Lincoln Reay envelopes were issued in two shades (vermilion and red) and three colors (white, amber, and cream) in sizes of 7, 10, 21, and 25. A total of 18,000 Reay 6¢ War envelopes were produced. The greatest rarities in postal stationery are on "cream" paper, with vermilion being the rarest color.



Dark Red on White



Dark Red on Cream (c)



Vermilion on Amber



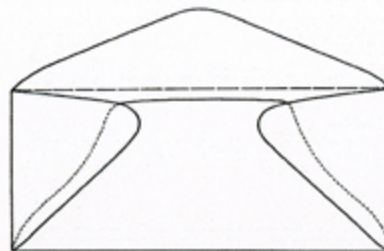
Size 25, Knife 122, Watermark 2

Dark Red on White

**1873 George H. Reay "War" Issue
Size 21, Knife 98, Watermark 2**

Knife 98

Top flap is broad curve,
side with broad but
more pointed curve,
and bottom under sides.



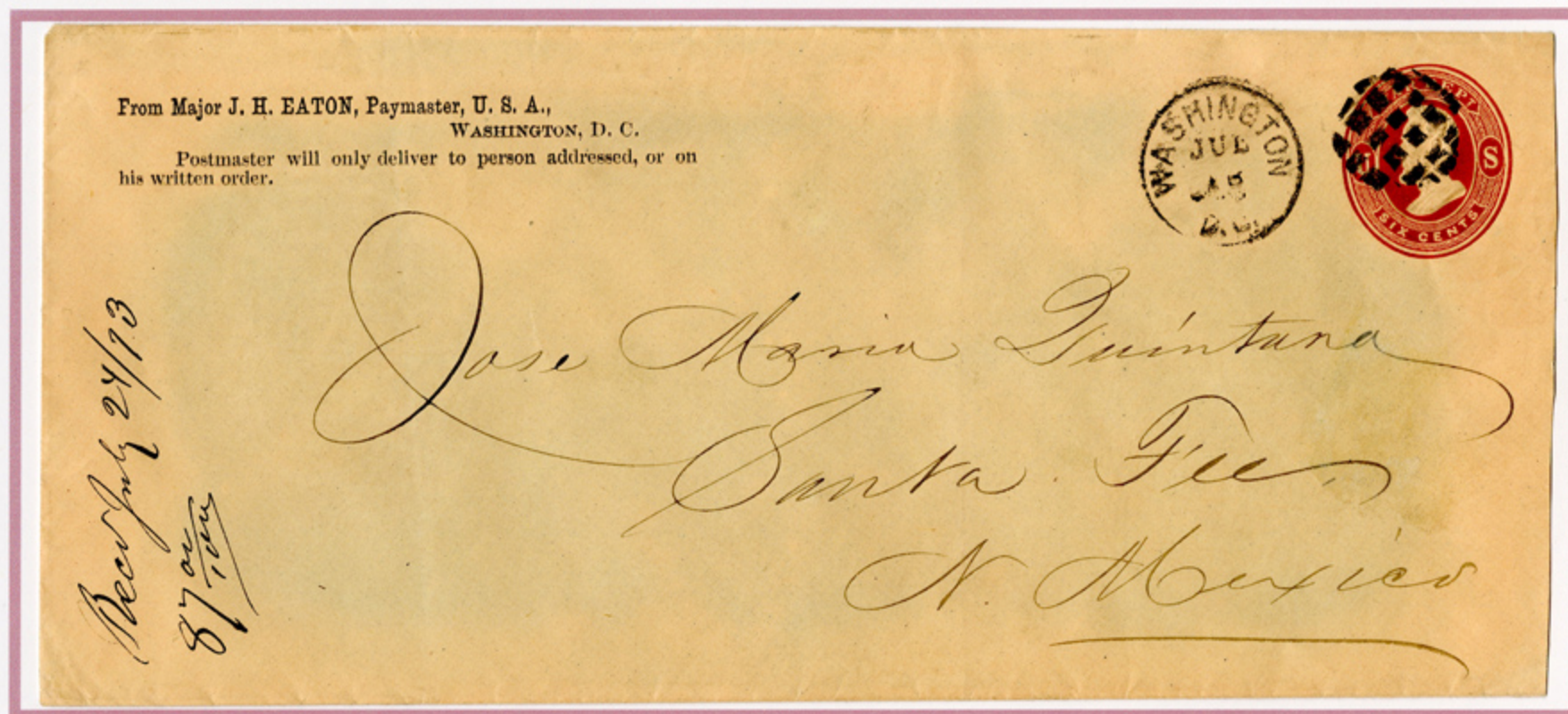
Dark Red on Cream

PFC, Ex-Barkhausen

One of only four recorded unused examples of this entire.

**1873 George H. Reay "War" Issue
Domestic Usage**

The Earliest Recorded Usage of *any* War Department Entire.



1873 July 18, Washington, DC to Santa Fe, NM 6¢ red on cream entire (Size 21, Watermark 2, Knife 98) with preprinted return address to the Paymaster Major J.H. Eaton, docketed as received July 24, 1873.

One of only seven recorded examples of this entire, with three being used.

1875 Plimpton & 1878 Plimpton and Morgan "War" Issues
Specimen Form 15a, Size 21



Watermark 2

1874 Watermark 2, Knife 100

Red on Amber



Watermark 5



1878 Watermark 5, Knife 100

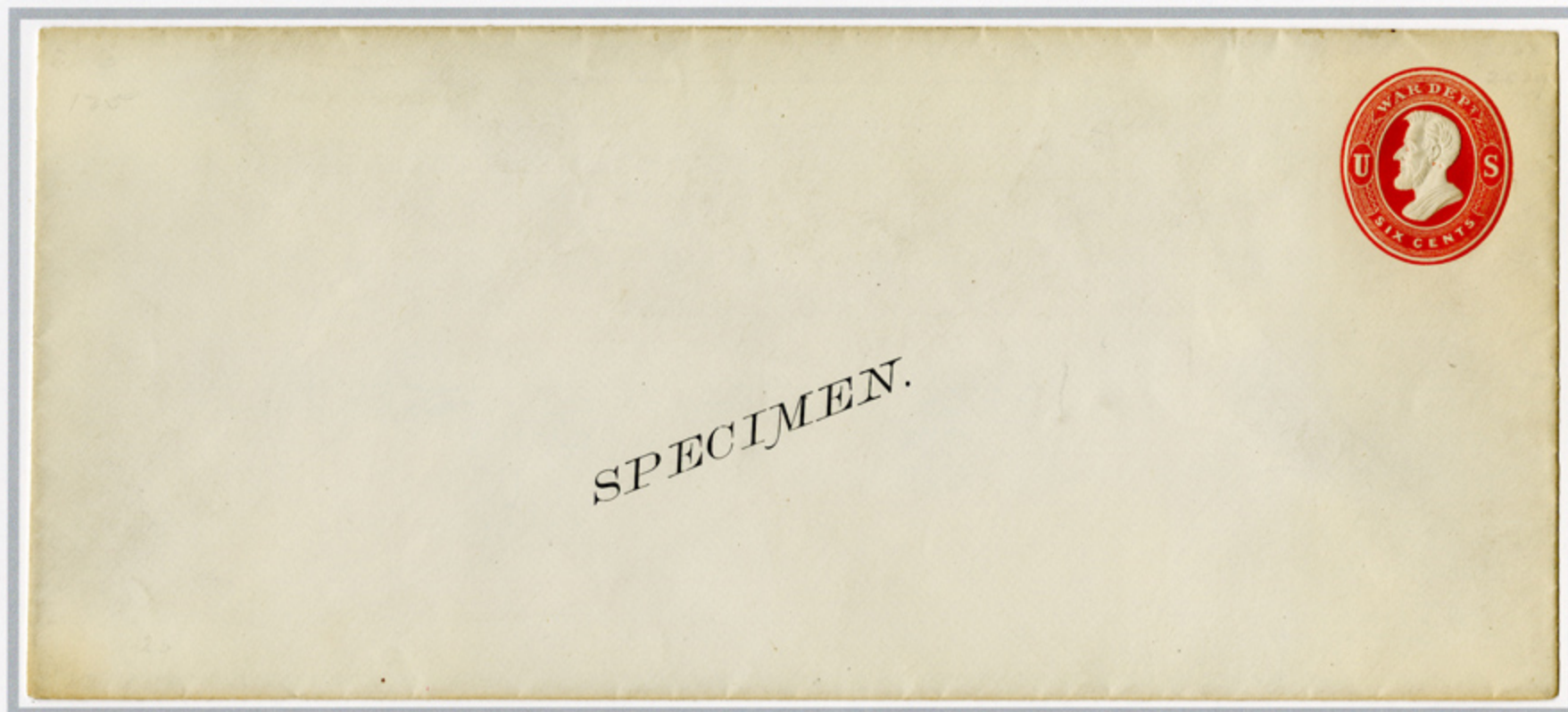
Red on White

**1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Specimen Form 16, Size 21**

Form 16 measures 50 x 4mm, "M" with a tail, is printed diagonal in the center of the envelope.

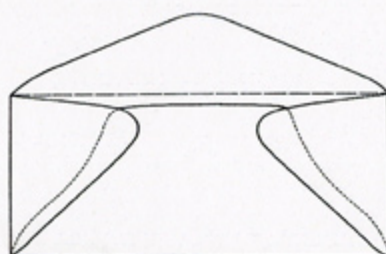
SPECIMEN.

Form 16



Watermark 2, Knife 98

Red on White



Knife 98

Top flap is broad curve,
side with broad but
more pointed curve,
and bottom under sides.

**1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Specimen Form 16, Size 25**

Watermark 2, Knife 122

Red on White

SPECIMEN.



SPECIMEN.



Red on Cream

**1878 Plimpton and Morgan "War" Issue
Specimen Form 17, Size 21**

Form 17 measures 50 x 4mm, "M" with a short tail, printed diagonal in the center of the envelope.

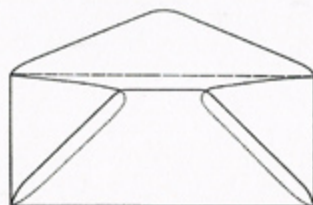
SPECIMEN.

Form 17



Watermark 2, Knife 100

Red on White



Knife 100

Top flap is 50mm broadly rounded, sides are bottom-over-sides, and bottom flap has slightly rounded upper corners.

1875 Plimpton & 1878 Plimpton and Morgan "War" Issues
Specimen Form 18, Size 21



Watermark 2, Knife 100

Red on White



Watermark 5, Knife 100

Red on White

1875 Plimpton "War" Issue Shades and Papers

The Lincoln Plimpton "War" envelopes were issued in three colors: white, amber, and cream; and sizes of 7, 10, 21, and 25. A total of 20,575 Plimpton 6¢ War entires were produced between 1875 and 1884.



Red on White



Red on Amber



Red on Cream



Size 7, Watermark 2, Knife 30

Red on Cream

Only 100 were Issued

**1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 7, Watermark 2, Knife 30**

Reay used a new intertwined "USPOD" watermark for their contract.



Watermark 2



Red on White



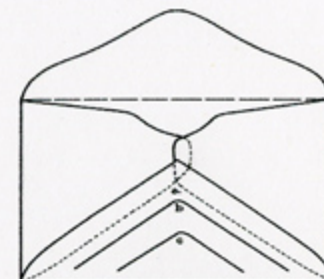
Red on Creamy
White



Red on Amber



Red on Amber, 3rd Quality Thin Paper



Knife 30

Top flap with all curves broad, sides with right end flattish, and bottom with pointedness varying.

1876 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 7, Watermark 3, Knife 30

The Centennial Exposition Issue

Plimpton produced special envelopes for the 1876 Centennial using a new Watermark consisting of "U S C 1876" in monogram, known to collectors as type three.

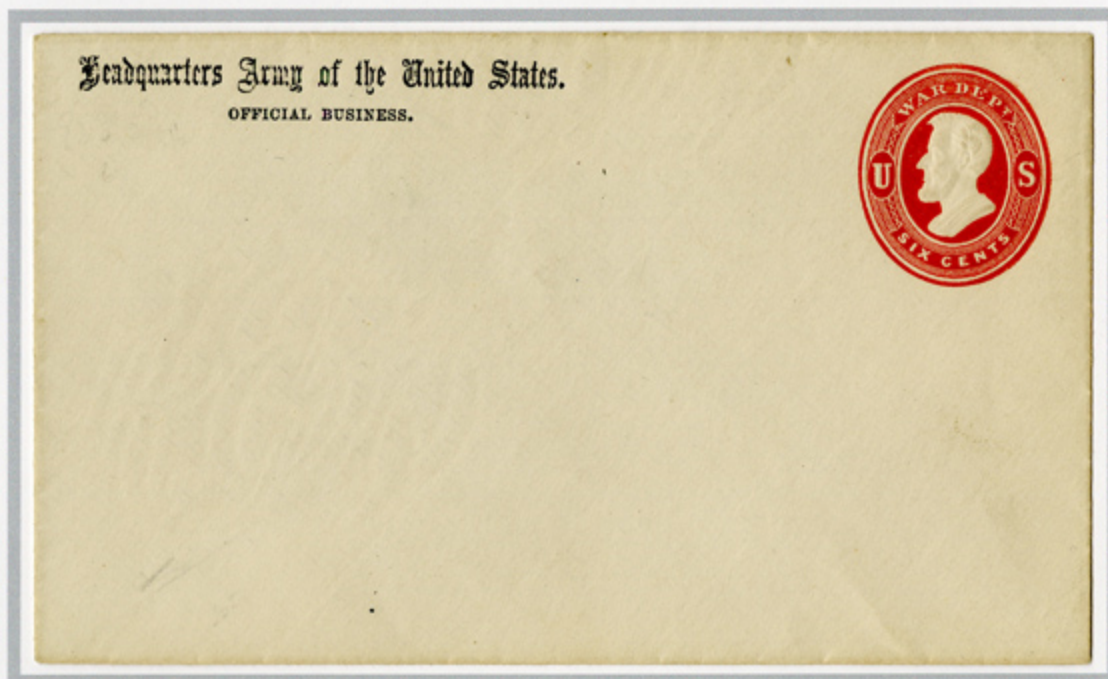


Watermark 3



Red on White

1878 Plimpton & Morgan "War" Issue
Size 7, Watermark 5, Knife 31

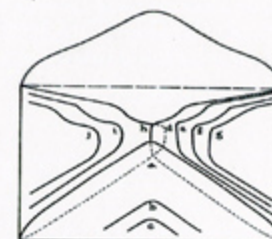


Red on White

Plimpton produced a new watermark for the 1878 contract consisting of "USPOD" in monogram with adjacent hollow star, known to collectors as type five.

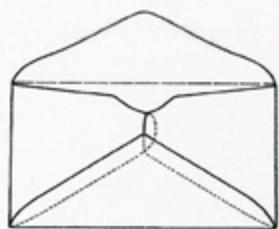


Watermark 5



Knife 31

1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 10, Watermark 2, Knife 53



Knife 53

Top flap is 45mm, sides overlap 7mm, and bottom is sharp to slightly rounded.



Red on White



Only 75 were issued

Red on Cream

1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 10, Watermark 2, Knife 53

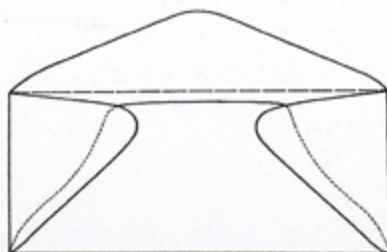


Red on Amber



Red on Amber, 3rd Quality Thin Paper

1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 21, Watermark 2, Knife 98



Knife 98

Top flap is broad curve, side with broad but more pointed curve, and bottom under sides.

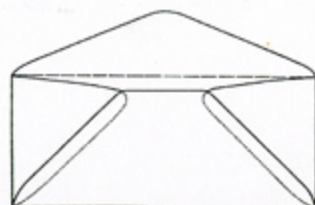
Red on White



Red on
Creamy
White

Red on Amber

1878 Plimpton and Morgan "War" Issue
Size 21, Watermark 2, Knife 100



Knife 100

Top flap is 50mm broadly rounded, sides are bottom-over-sides, and bottom flap has slightly rounded upper corners.

Red on White



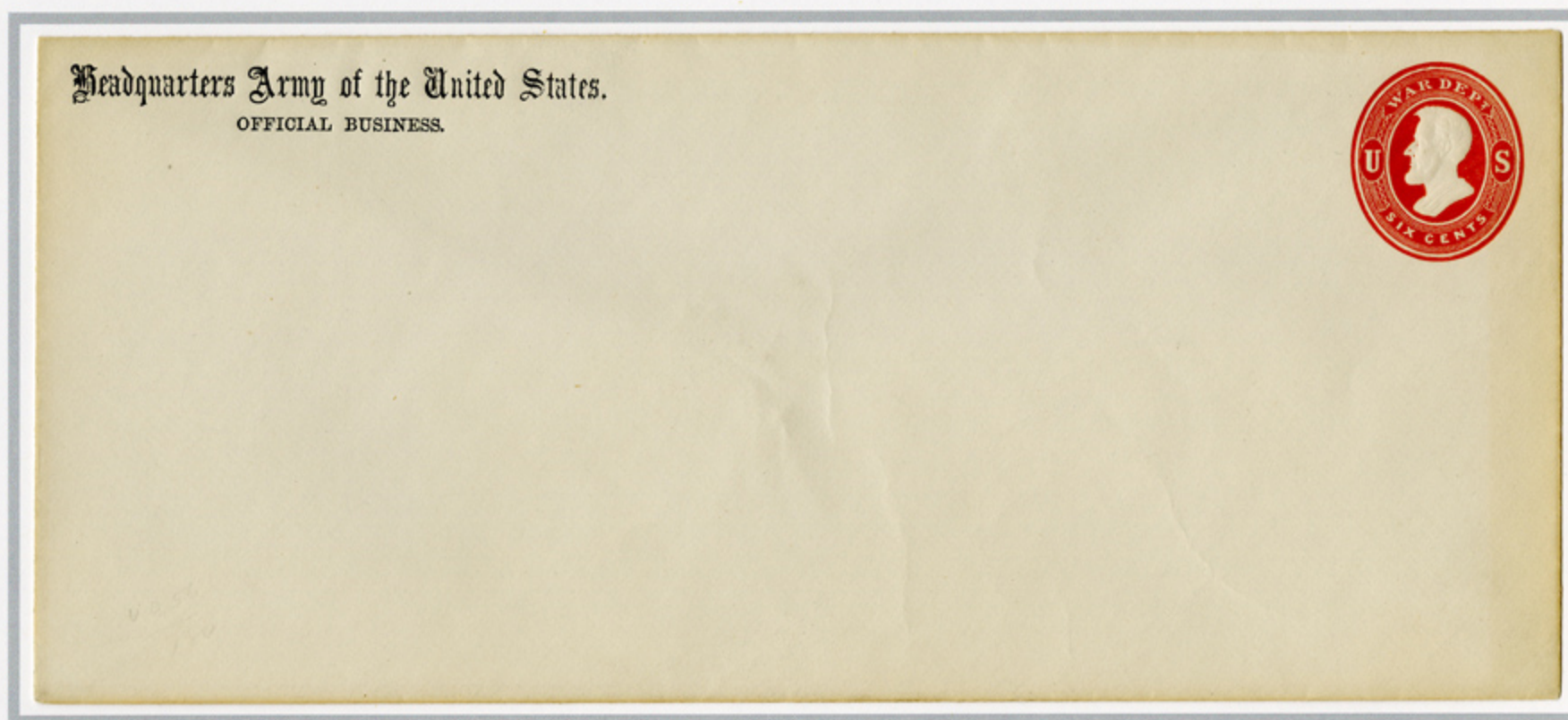
Red on Cream

1878 Plimpton and Morgan “War” Issue
Size 21, Watermark 5, Knife 100

In 1878, the Plimpton Manufacturing Co. and the Morgan Envelope Co. join forces to win the contract. The Plimpton and Morgan contract of July 19, 1878 was the first time that the contract called for the manufacture of paper to a formula – rather than – equal to “the contract samples” provided. A new watermark was introduced during this printing, a design with an intertwined “USPOD” and an open star to the right.



Watermark 5



Red on White

**1882 Plimpton and Morgan "War" Issue
Size 21, Watermark 6, Knife 100**

In 1883, the last issue of six-cents Lincoln War Department envelopes was prepared by Plimpton & Morgan with the "US POD 82" watermark. They only produced size 21 red on white envelopes.



Watermark 6

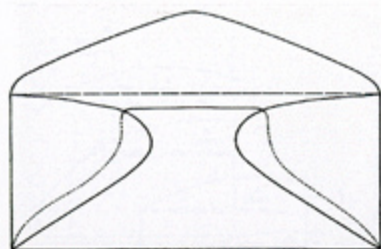


Red on Creamy White

Only 250 examples were produced.

In February 1885, all unused War Department envelopes on hand were destroyed. How many Lincoln envelopes were among those destroyed is not known, but these were surely all Plimpton envelopes since this was 11 years after the termination of the Reay contract. Official stamps and envelopes had been declared obsolete on July 5, 1884 by the Postmaster General.

1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 25, Watermark 2, Knife 122



Knife 122

Top flap broadly curved, sides broadly rounded, and reverse curve in edges.

Red on White



Red on Amber

**1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 25, Watermark 2, Knife 122**

Chief Signal Officer of the Army preprinted reply envelopes.

Red on White

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER OF THE ARMY,

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER OF THE ARMY,

WASHINGTON CITY,

D. C.

Red on Creamy White

1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Size 25, Watermark 5, Knife 122

Chief Signal Officer of the Army preprinted reply envelope.

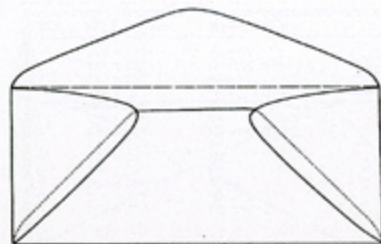
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON CITY,
D. C.

Red on Amber

1878 Plimpton and Morgan "War" Issue
Size 25, Watermark 5, Knife 123



Knife 123

Top flap with broad curves, sides slightly pointed and sides-over bottom, and bottom slightly with rounded upper corners.



Genl. Marcus J. Wright,

AGENT OF WAR DEPARTMENT,

WAR RECORDS OFFICE,

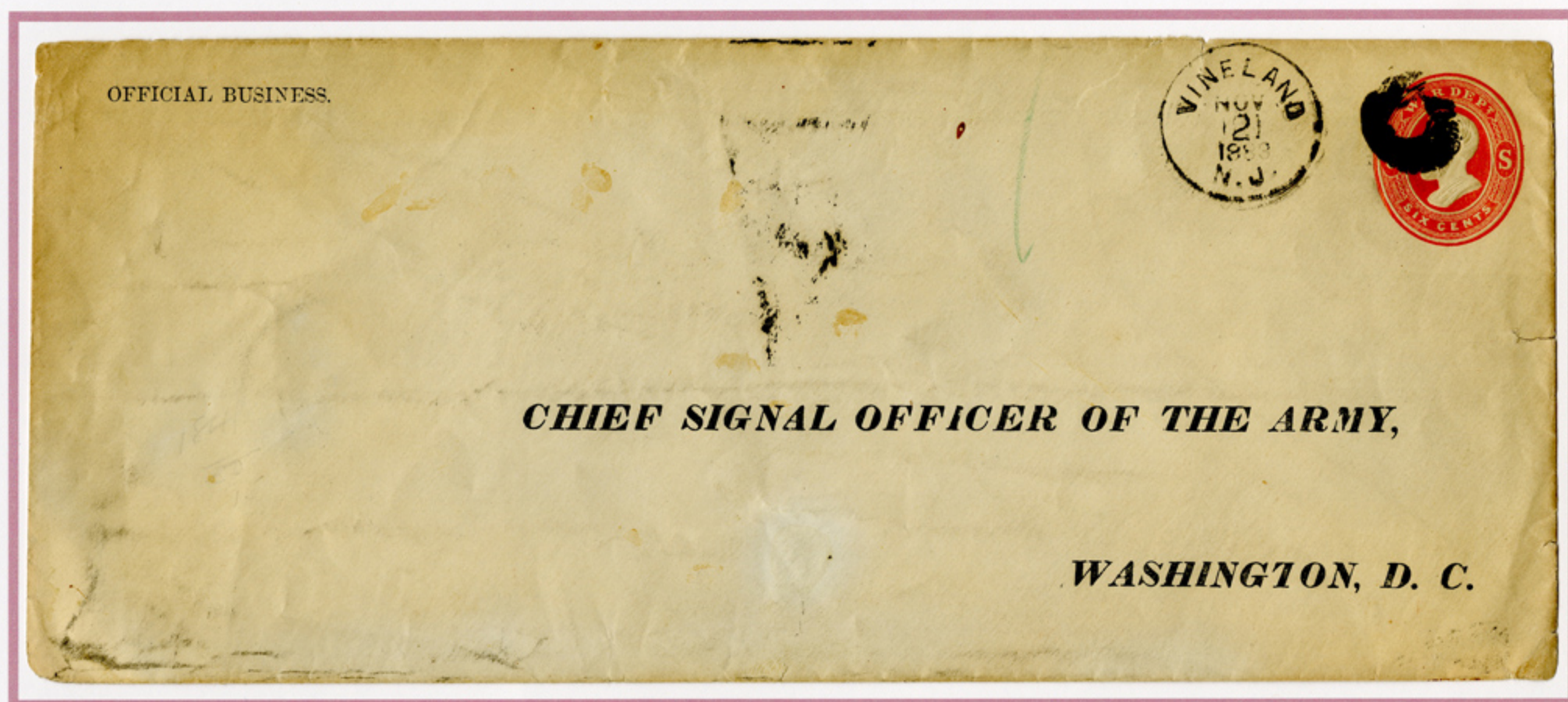
WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Red on Creamy White

**1875 Plimpton "War" Issue
Domestic Usage**

There are less than 12 recorded usages of any 6¢ War entires



1883 November 2, Vineland, NJ to Washington, D.C. 6¢ red on white entire (Size 25, Watermark 2, Knife 122) with preprinted return address to the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, reverse with Washington, D.C. Nov. 3 receiver.

One of only two recorded usages of this entire.

An order from the Postmaster General dated July 5, 1884, announced that the "use of official postage stamps and official stamped envelopes is discontinued. Such stamp and envelopes are not to be recognized in the future in payment of either postage or registry fee."