

## THREE CENT STAR DIE ENVELOPE - DOMESTIC USES

Embossed envelope design

Small Indicia,  
Stars at sides

Buff and white papers



Printer: George Nesbitt, New York

Issued: August 1860

Demonetized: June 1861 in Confederacy  
From August 1861 in Union

Exhibit shows examples of this short-lived (1860-61) stamped envelope. Focus is on four areas: Western Express Companies, Western postal uses, unusual Eastern postal uses and Southern Confederacy uses, ending in demonetized uses from the South.

### WESTERN USES

### PONY EXPRESS



New York City - red oval CALIFORNIA PONY EXPRESS PAID (circa Oct 25, 1860)  
Train to St. Joseph Missouri - black oval CENTRAL OVERLAND NOV 1 (1861) h/s  
"2.50" in ms. for Pony Express charge to Sacramento, California (arrived Nov 11)

**Only recorded cover from westbound trip #49, Frajola census #W21**

#### Exhibit Scope: **Western Uses**

Expresses  
Postal uses

#### **Eastern Uses**

Embossed Advertising  
Civil War Patriotics  
Supplementary Mail  
Carriers

#### **Southern Uses**

Mississippi Steamboat  
Texas Independent Statehood  
Confederate Use of U.S. Postage  
Across the Lines, North to South  
Demonetized Confederate Uses

## WESTERN USES

## LANGTON'S EXPRESS

Three cents star die envelopes were demonetized at Southern post offices on June 1, 1861. Northern offices near the Mason-Dixon Line demonetized their envelopes starting in August 1861. Western post offices and western expresses eventually demonetized the envelopes but uses are seen well into 1862.



Langton's Pioneer Express, Downieville, California, overland to Forest City



Langton's Pioneer Express, Downieville - Wells Fargo Marysville to San Francisco  
Conjunctive use carried by two western expresses



# WESTERN USES

# WELLS FARGO EXPRESS



Wells Fargo & Co. Express, Eldorado, California - overland to Sacramento - From 1854, express companies had been required to pay government postage, regardless of whether letters ever entered government mail system.



Wells Fargo San Francisco - oval paid - 3 cent overpayment of ten cent transcontinental rate - carried out of the mails via Panama to New York, arriving on the steamship "North Star", departing Aspinwall on May 15, 1861, arrived at New York on May 24, 1861.

WESTERN USES

BAMBER & CO. EXPRESS



J. Bamber & Co's Contra Costa Express Paid - Contra Costa County to San Francisco  
 "Answer by Bamber & Co's Express" handstamp



Wells Fargo Sacramento, Mar 25 (1861), to San Francisco  
 Bamber & Co. San Francisco to Oakland  
 Conjunctive use carried by two western expresses



# WESTERN USES

# TRACY & CO. EXPRESS



Tracy & Co. Portland - Sep 20 (1861)

Repaired at left

Overland to Champoug, Oregon. *It is a miracle that this cover survived, because in Dec. 1861 the town of Champoug was completely destroyed in a flood of the Willamette River.*



Wells Fargo Santa Rosa (Cal) - ship to Portland, Oregon

Tracy & Co. Portland overland to Oregon City

Conjunctive use carried by two western expresses

## WESTERN USES

## OREGON POSTAL USES



Astoria, Oregon - July 2, (1861) - three cent local rate to San Francisco  
Star die envelopes were printed on both white and buff paper.



Salem, Oregon - April 22, (1861) - uprated for ten cent transcontinental rate  
Overpayment of ten cent rate may have resulted from unavailability of one cent stamps.

## WESTERN USES

## CALIFORNIA POSTAL USES



Sacramento City, California - Sep 2, (1861) - three cent local rate to San Francisco  
"1750" is San Francisco post office box or route number.



Georgetown, California - Oct 27, 1861 - three cent local rate to San Francisco  
Both these envelopes show patent lines inside envelope - "Pat. Nov 20, 1855."



## WESTERN USES

## CALIFORNIA POSTAL USES



San Francisco, California - Aug 2, 1861 - overland to San Jose  
 "Due 3" - apparently over one-half ounce  
 Envelopes not yet demonetized in west



Independence, Missouri - Jan 14, 1861 - "Overland" - "Due 7" applied in San Francisco  
 Sent by the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach Route from St. Louis to San Francisco.  
 Distance was over 3000 miles, 10 cent rate, thus San Francisco post office rated it "Due 7".



EASTERN USES

EMBOSSSED ADVERTISING



New York - Nov 29, 1860 duplex handstamp  
Wm. Moller & Co. Steam Sugar refiners corner-card  
Overland to Philadelphia



New York - Ap 21 (1861) duplex handstamp  
Lane, Phillips & Lane Commission Merchants corner-card  
Overland to South Norwalk, Connecticut

## EASTERN USES

## CIVIL WAR PATRIOTICS



Chambersburg, Pennsylvania - May 27, 1861 - overland to Huntingdon, Pennsylvania  
Eagle and Shield Patriotic



Aurora, New York - Jun 17 (1861) - to soldier in Cairo, Illinois  
33 star flag design

## EASTERN USES

## SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL, CARRIER



Chicago Supplementary Mail - Jun 25 (1861)

This marking was intended for use on domestic mail which had missed the dispatch for the east-bound train from Chicago. No extra fee was charged for this service.



Baltimore Government City Dispatch Carrier stamp - Baltimore Feb 22 (1861) CDS

Baltimore issued a carrier stamp for street delivery from or to the post office.

Carrier stamp paid postage to post office - envelope paid postage to Pennsylvania.



## EASTERN USES

## CARRIERS



New York - Oct 9 (1861) - one cent stamp for carrier fee  
 Apparently delivered to street address of Church Journal  
 New York postmaster ignored demonetization - many late uses recorded



Boston, Mass - Mar 29 (1861) - Double rate plus one cent carrier charge  
 Type IIIa one cent stamp for carriage to Boston post office  
 Six cent double rate to New York

**SOUTHERN USES**

**STEAMBOAT, TEXAS INDEPENDENT STATE**



"Steamer J.F. Fargoud, J.W. Tobin, Commander" handstamp circa 1861  
Mailed on steamboat - carried to New Orleans, Louisiana



repaired at top

Clinton, Texas - Mar 2 (1861) - to Gonzales Texas  
The Ordinance of Secession in Texas took effect on this date, March 2, 1861.  
Texas would join the Confederacy only four days later.  
Both covers show legitimate southern use of United States postage.

## SOUTHERN USES

## CONFEDERATE EXPRESSES

**Adams Express**  
Louisville KY,  
2/ (25 cents)  
express charge

Across the lines to  
Nashville Tenn.  
Aug 9, 1861

Mailed at  
Nashville,  
10 cents  
Confederate  
postage paid

Confederate post-  
al system to  
New Orleans LA



front

On August 26, 1861, the U.S. Post Office would ban expresses from carrying mail across the lines.



**Am. Letter Express Co.**  
Nashville, Tennessee  
July 1, 1861



Nashville T.  
PAID 5  
provisional h/s

Nashville Ten  
July 5, 1861 h/s

Confederate  
postal system to  
Montgomery Ala.

One of three recorded American Letter Express Co. covers with the Nashville Provisional 5 handstamp.



## SOUTHERN USES

## DEMONETIZED ENVELOPES



Mobile, Alabama - Aug 26, (1863) - **10 cent frame-lines stamp** to Cedar Spring, GA.  
The Confederacy, with paper in short supply, used up the demonetized three cent star die envelopes - often covering up federal postage as completely as possible.



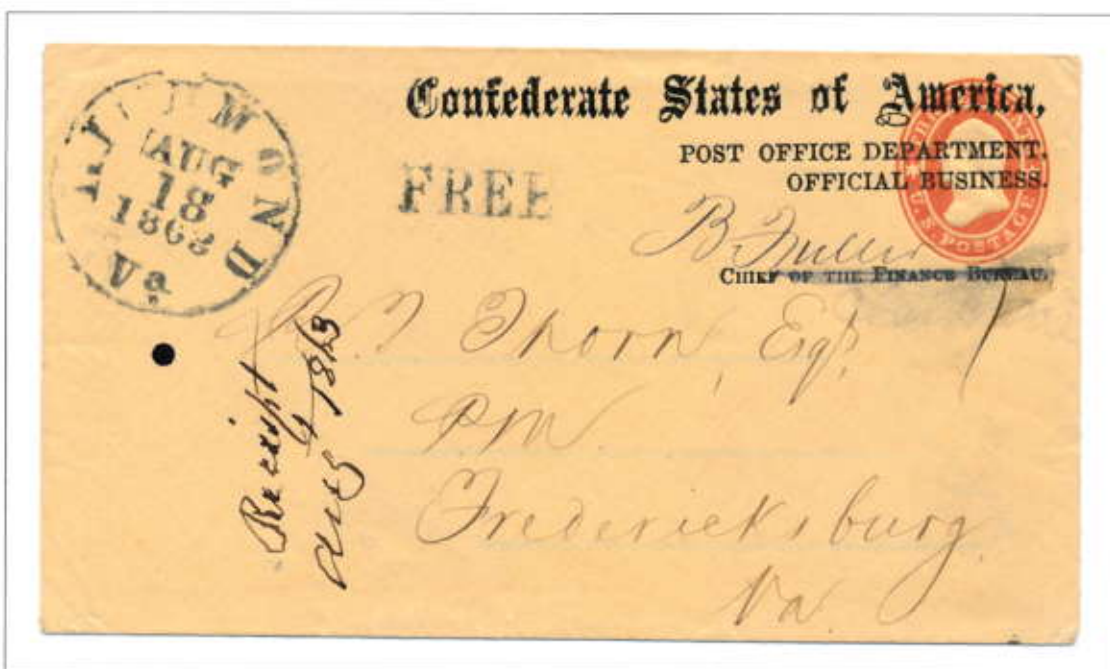
Greenville Court House, South Carolina - Sep 30 (circa 1862)  
Confederate Post Office to Asheville, North Carolina  
Three cent star die covered by pair of five cent Jefferson Davis stamps.

## SOUTHERN USES

## BEFORE AND AFTER DEMONETIZATION



Montgomery, Ala - May 29, 1861 - to Winnsborough, South Carolina  
Used two days before official demonetization



Richmond, Virginia - Aug 18, 1863 - to Fredericksburg, Virginia  
FREE - franking privilege use from official to postmaster  
The Confederacy overprinted demonetized envelopes for OFFICIAL BUSINESS.