

12¢ Bi-Color Envelope Usage

Preface: The Bi-Color Envelopes were issued in 12¢, 20¢, 24¢, and 40¢ values on August 7, 1861 along with the 3¢, 6¢, and 10¢ values which replaced the earlier, demonetized issues. The Bi-Colors were, however, in development prior to the start of the Civil War, and would have become a part of the 1860 Star Die envelopes if not for demonetization. These were the first US stamped envelopes greater than 10c denomination, and the first US multi-color issue of any kind. Use continued through the 1860 even though replacements were issued in 1865.

This Exhibit illustrates all categories of use known to exist. The exhibitor has been collecting, studying, and gathering census data on high denomination Nesbitt envelopes for 12 years. Likely less than 50 used 12¢ Bi-Colors exist. Most are Wells Fargo 4x 3c rate or unaddressed paste-up's used in or from California. In general, postal uses of high denomination Nesbitt envelopes account for about 20% of the total. Given the overall rarity, the wide variety of uses seen here is note worthy. Statements of rarity are 'as known by this exhibitor'.

Domestic Postal:

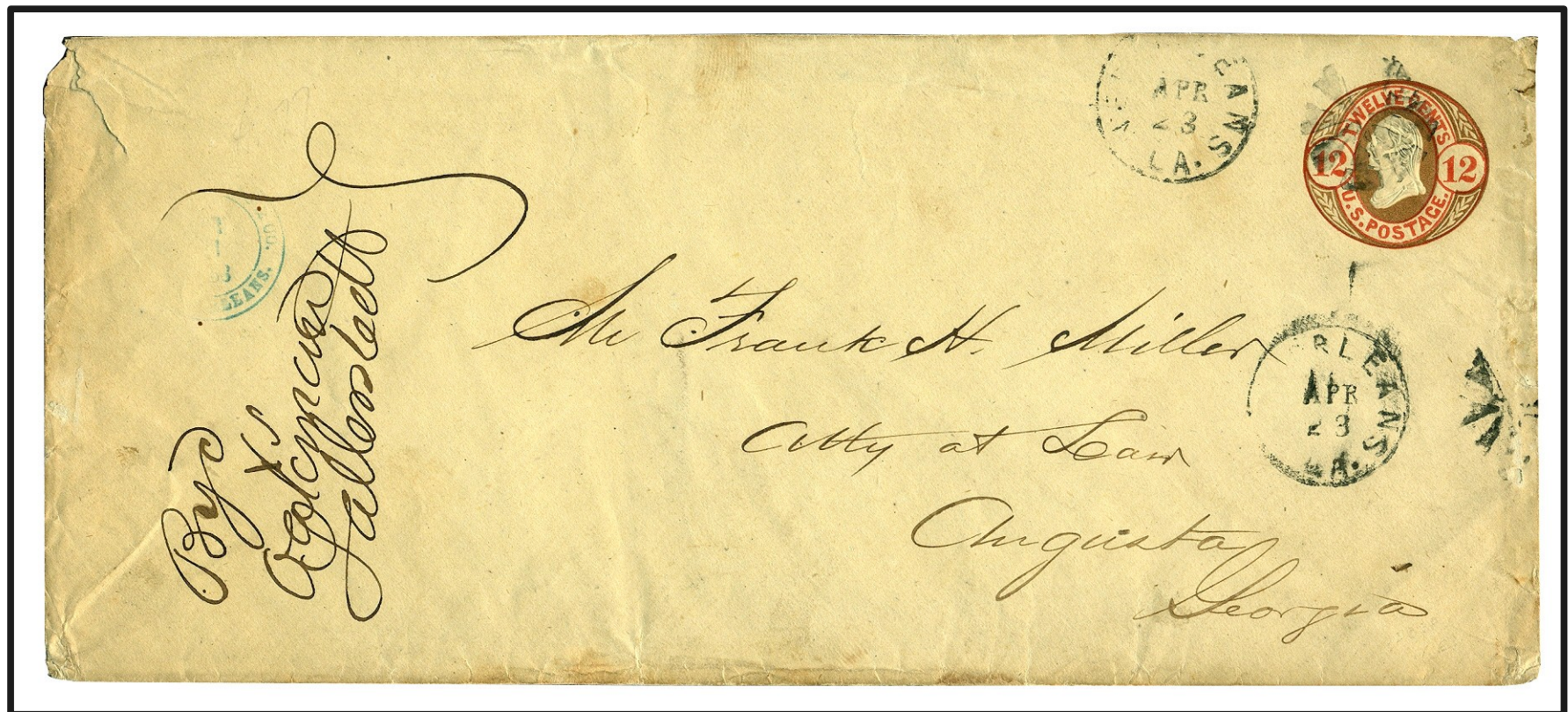
EDU; Transcontinental 2x 10¢ “California” Rate:



Earliest Known Use: Aug 12, 1862. Postal use paying part of the double 10¢ >3000 mile “California” rate. Marked Due 8¢ **Earliest known use of any high denomination envelope.** Not yet available in California on Aug 12 1861, and the 10¢ rate ended July 1, 1863, therefore this is 1862. **Only known 12¢ use under the 10¢ “California” rate. One of less than 10 known postal uses.**

Domestic Postal:

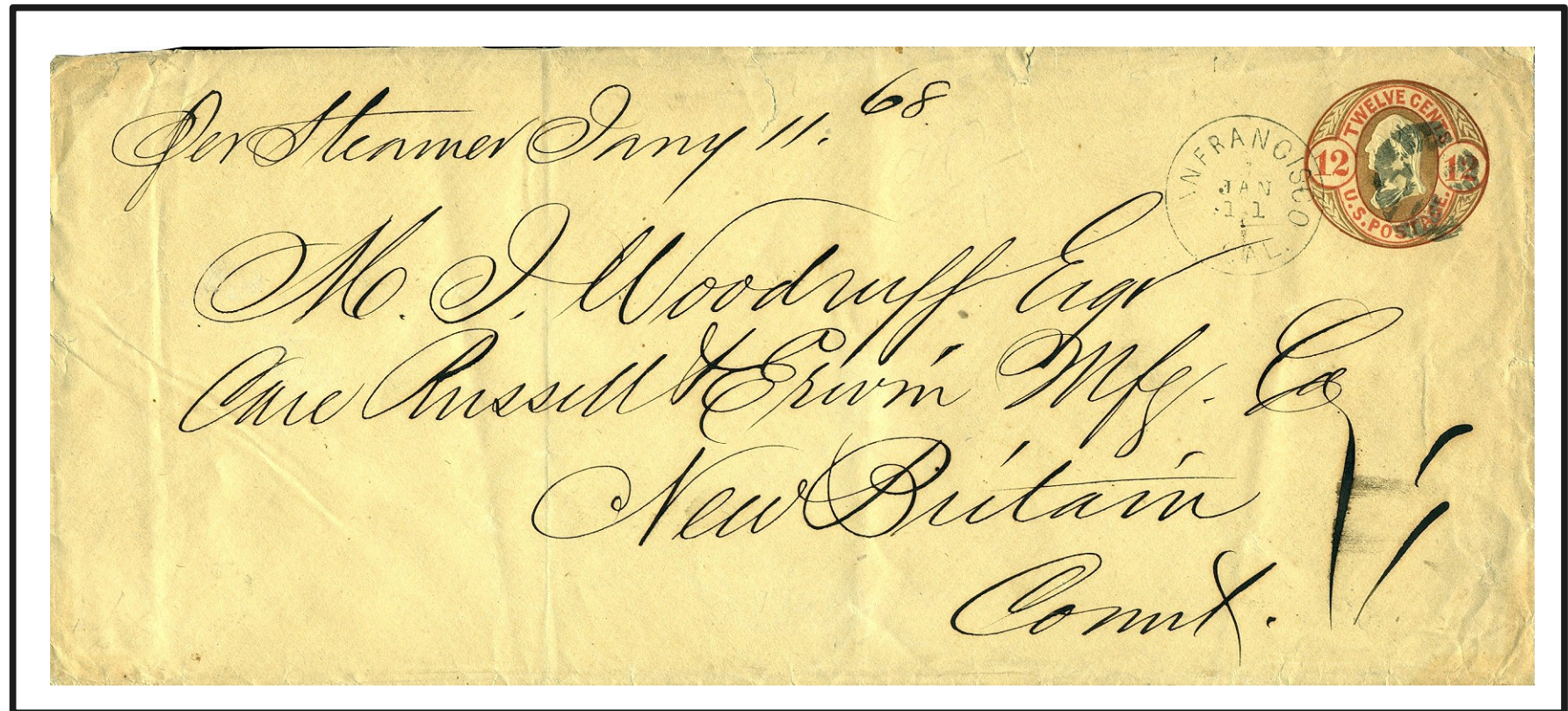
4x 3¢ Letter Rate:



1868 Postal use New Orleans to Augusta, Georgia: 4x the 3¢ per ½ oz rate. Carried legal documents. New Orleans, at the time, was the 3rd largest US city, and is the 3rd highest origin for high denomination envelope usage. **One of less than 10 known postal uses.**

Domestic Postal:

Transcontinental 4x 3¢ Letter Rate:



1868 Transcontinental postal use via Panama: 4x the 3¢ per ½ oz letter rate, San Francisco to New Britain, Conn. **One of less than 10 known postal uses.** Two examples are known from this correspondence, both in the same hand.

Trans-Atlantic Postal:

3x 15¢ NGU Rate:



An exceptional and rare foreign, in-period use of a 12¢ envelope, with 34¢ in adhesives, 1868, overpaying 3x the 15¢ North German Union rate by 1¢, San Francisco to Dresden, Germany. One of 4 known foreign uses.

Trans-Atlantic Postal:



Verso

Registered 3x 5¢ UPU Rate:



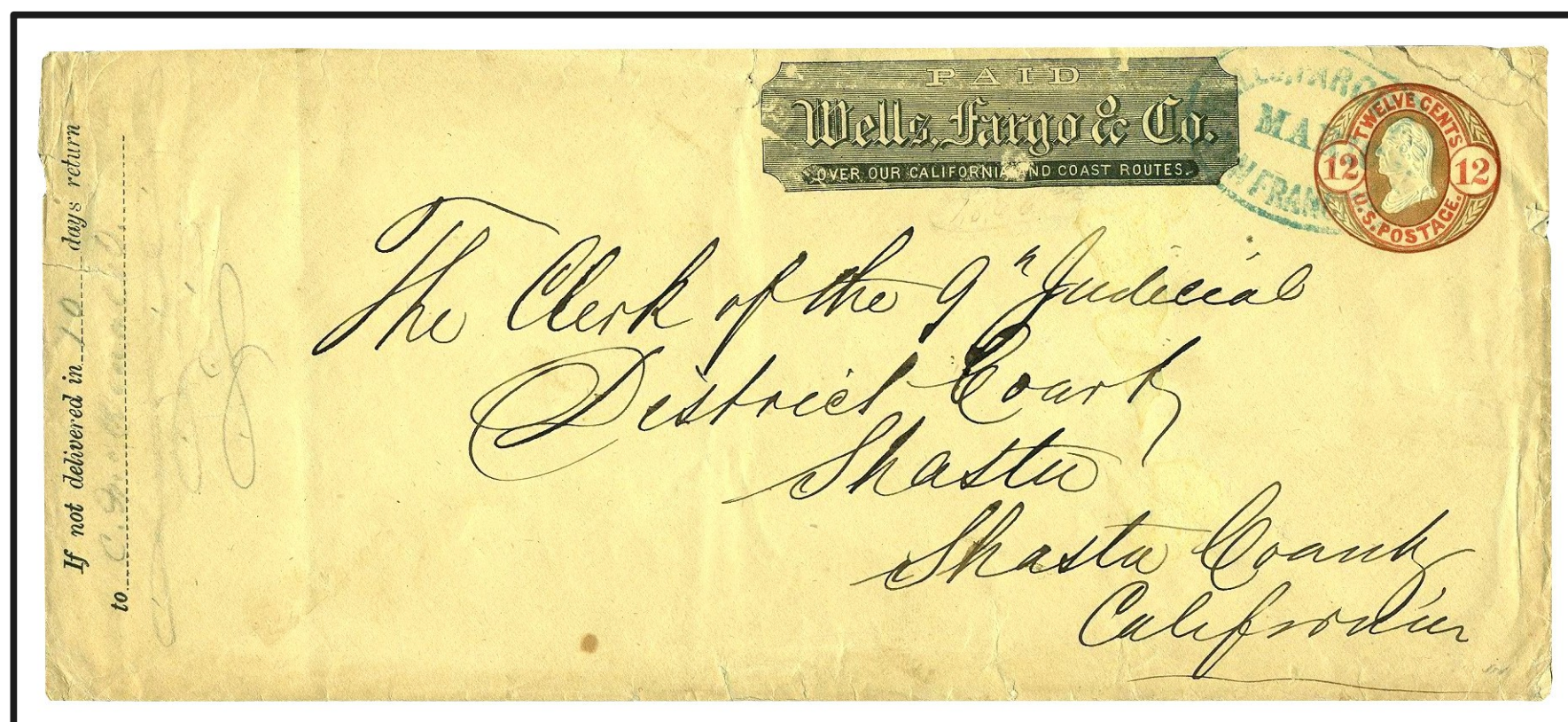
Late, 1883 UPU registered San Francisco to France: 13¢ of additional adhesives on back paying 3x the 5¢ UPU rate + 10¢ registry fee. Sent by a stamp collector. **One of 4 known foreign uses.**

Express:

Wells Fargo & Co. was the largest of the express companies, offering services throughout the West, to the East Coast, and to foreign destinations. This blue San Francisco oval is, perhaps, the most common company marking of the 1860's.



Express 4x 3¢ Letter Rate:



Wells Fargo within California: 4x the 3¢ Letter Rate. Wells Fargo California and Coast frank. Carried completely outside of the mails. Typical of the most common 12¢ Bi-Color usage, many of which carried legal documents.

Express:

Express Company Franks:

The express companies were required by law to use US stamped envelopes for all mail they carried. The *Paid Franks* printed on the envelopes signified that the express fee had been paid, just as the Government stamp paid the postage.



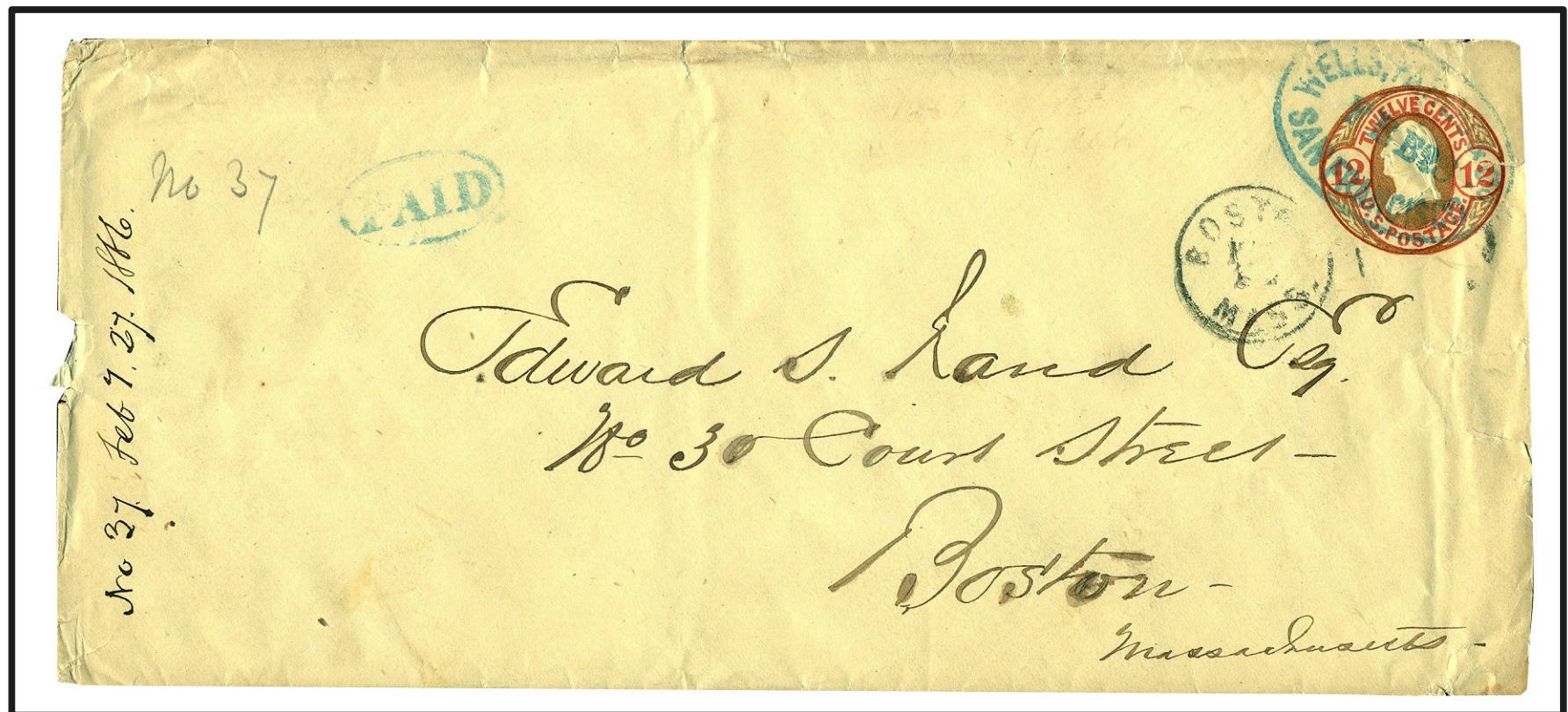
Westbound Express Transcontinental:



Westbound Wells Fargo, New York to San Francisco: 4x the 3¢ Letter Rate. Wells Fargo California and Atlantic frank (early, upper left placement). Weak Wells Fargo New York DCDS. Carried completely outside of the mails. **Only known westbound, transcontinental use.** (Damage retouched on image)

Express:

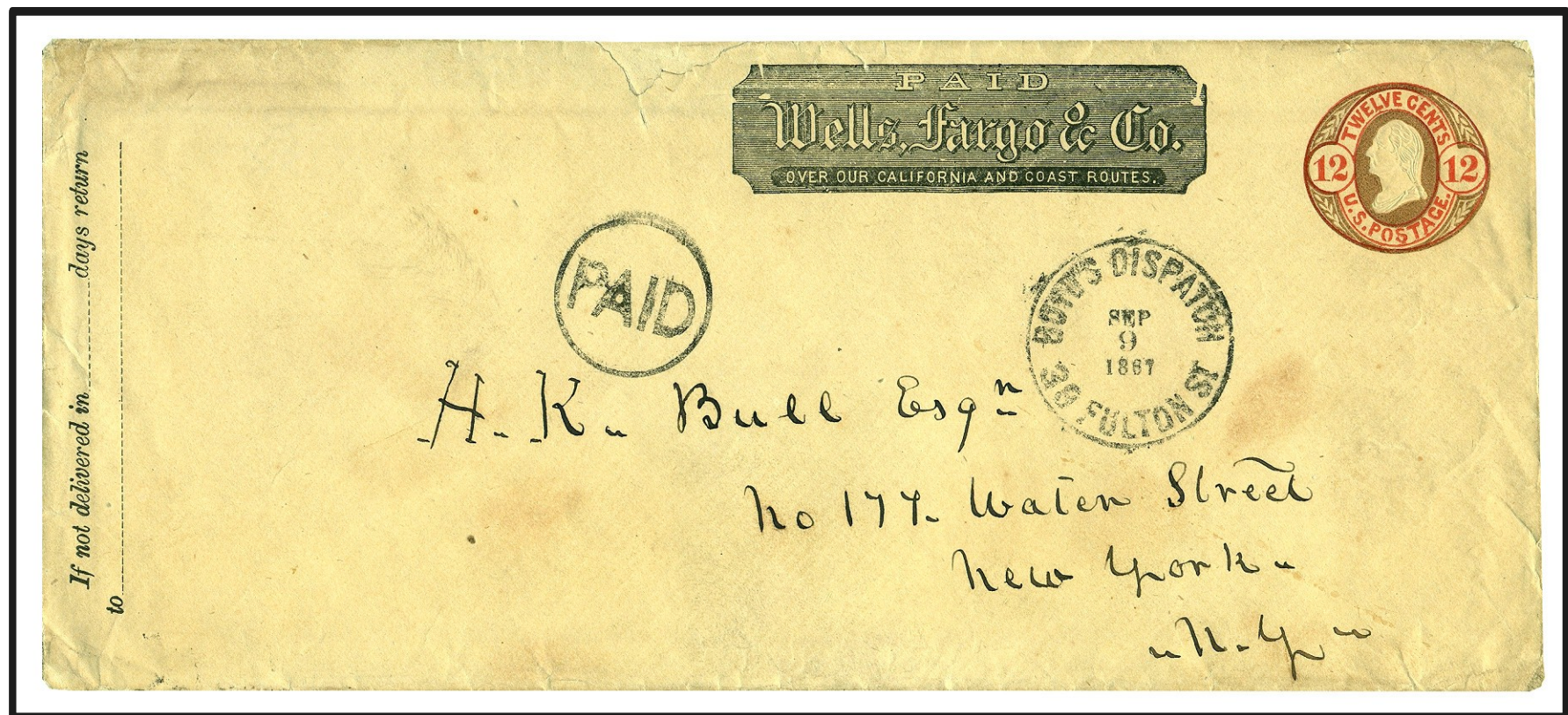
Express / USPOD Conjunctive:



1866 Unfranked Wells Fargo, California to Boston: 4x the 3¢ Letter Rate. PAID handstamp applied due to the lack of an express frank, indicates that the express fee was paid. Carried to Boston by Wells Fargo, then placed in the mails for delivery with Boston CDS. **Only known express / postal conjunctive of any high denomination Nesbitt envelope.**

Express:

Express / Local Conjunctive:



1867 Wells Fargo / Boyds conjunctive: 4x the 3¢ Letter Rate. Wells Fargo California and Coast frank. Carried completely outside of the mails, Wells Fargo, San Francisco to New York, then Boyd's Dispatch for local delivery. Wells Fargo markings were far less consistent than the USPOD. The lack of a Wells Fargo handstamp is not rare. Boyd's CDS and PAID in circle. **Only known Wells Fargo / Boyd's conjunctive 12¢ Bi-Color.**

Express Paste-up:

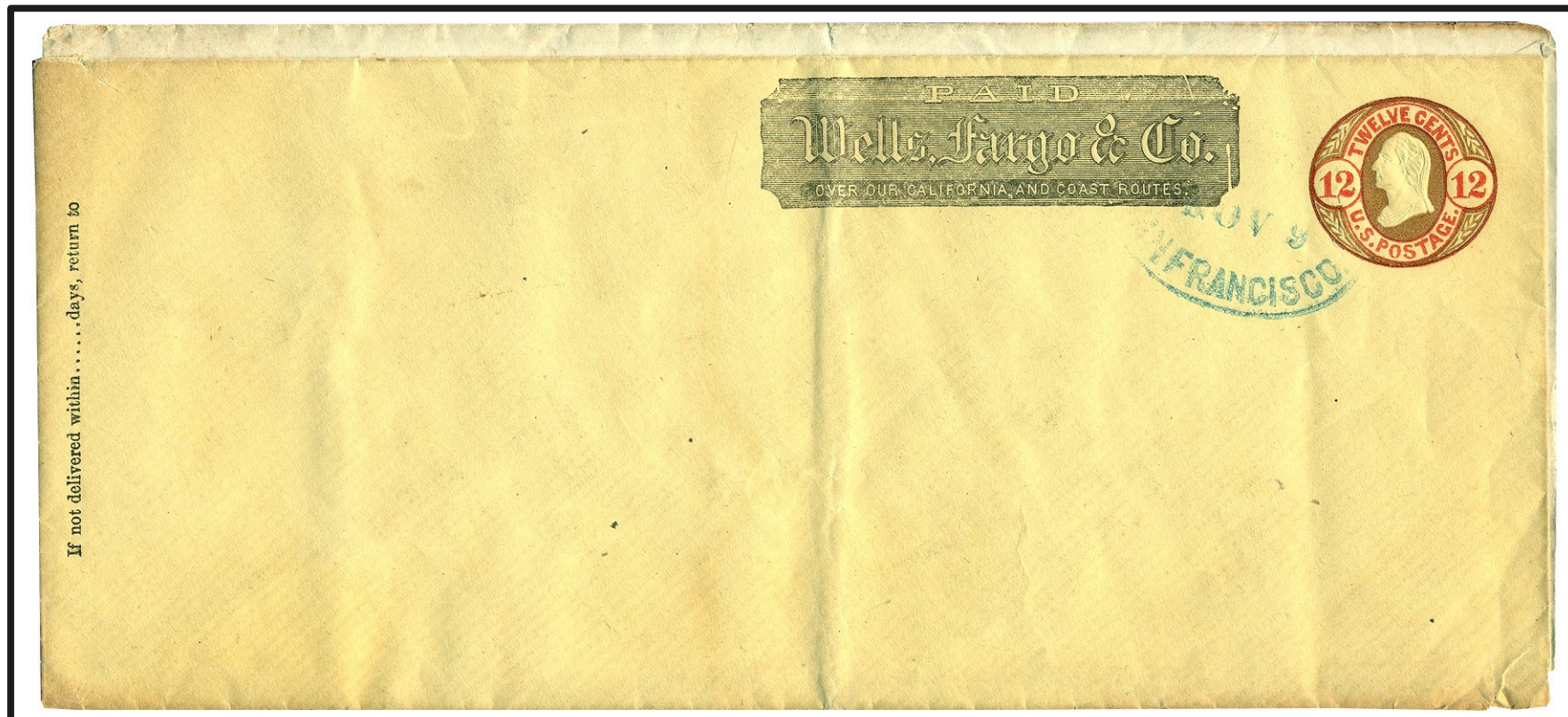
Paste-up's:

The express companies were required to use stamped envelopes. If a customer brought in a plain envelope, or parcel, one or more franked, stamped envelope were pasted on to pay the postage and express fee.



Recto

Simple Paste-up:



1868 Wells Fargo, San Francisco to Portland Oregon. 4x the 3¢ letter rate. Plain, addressed envelope with company date stamp likely taken to Wells Fargo office where a franked 12¢ Bi-Color was pasted on the back to meet the government stamped envelope requirement, and pay the express fee.

Express Paste-up:



Recto

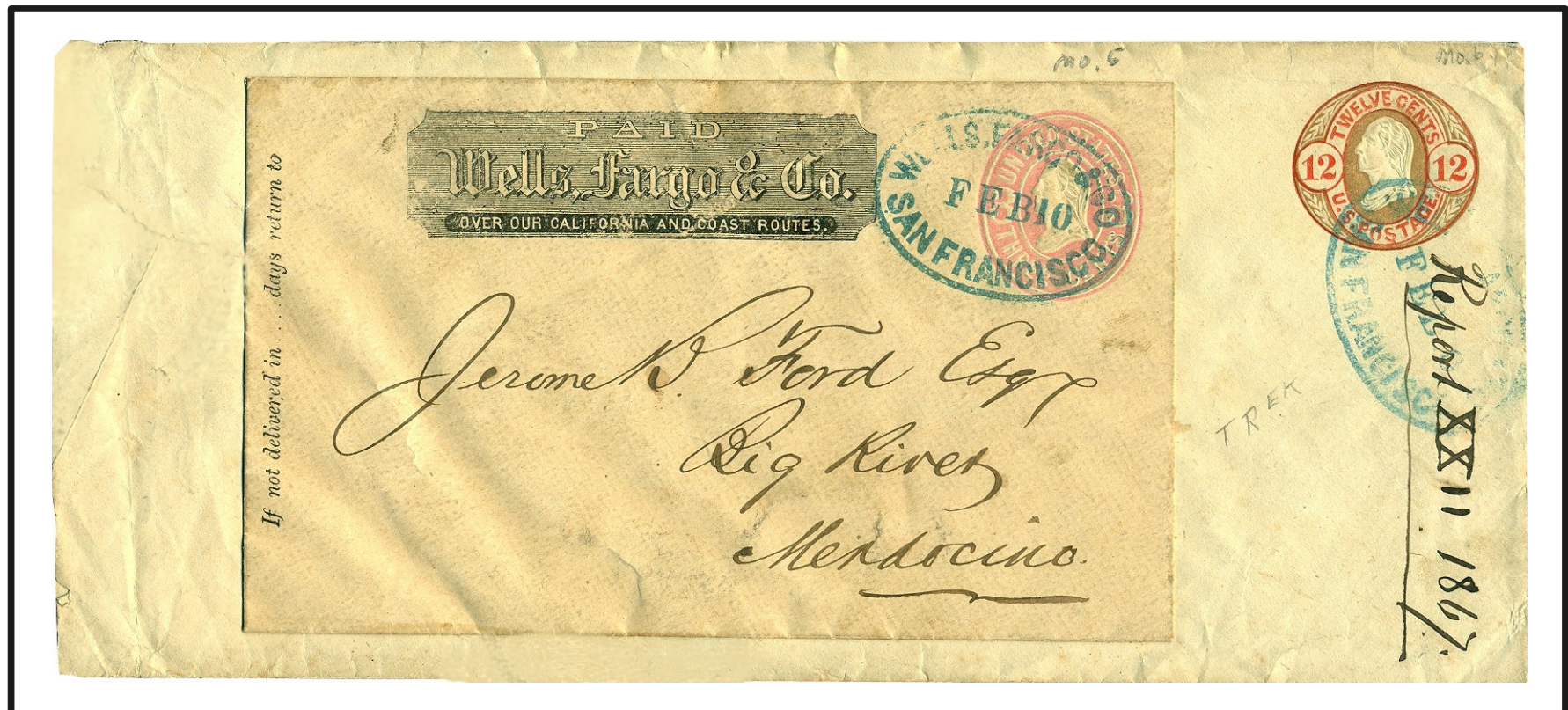
Compound Paste-up:



Wells Fargo San Francisco to New York. 6x the 3¢ letter rate. Addressed, franked 1863 6¢ envelope with an unfranked 12¢ Bi-Color pasted on to pay additional postage. PAID handstamp applied due to the lack of an express frank on the 12¢, indicating that the express fee was fully paid.

Express Paste-up:

Compound Face Forward Paste-up:



1868 Wells Fargo, within California: 5x the 3¢ letter rate. Addressed, franked 1863 3¢ letter size envelope pasted on the front of an unfranked 12¢ Bi-Color. Face forward paste-up's like this are less common than back to back. Docketing refers to a December 1867 report.