Wells Fargo Express Conquers Mexico

Purpose

The purpose of the exhibit is to show the postal historical aspect of Wells Fargo's **expansion** from California into Mexico1859 - 1884 and its spread **within** Mexico between 1885 – 1910 . based on **postal stationery** envelopes.
Four periods were defined, the **first two** of which relate to the expansion of WF to **Baja California and the Atlantic coast**, while **periods three** and **four** concern Wells Fargo's extension within Mexico. The exhibit features postal stationery envelopes issued by the US government and used by Wells Fargo, Mexican stamped to order envelopes (STO) and Mexican-issued postal stationery envelopes bearing the WF logo. To illustrate this development - especially in the early years - it is inevitable to include items that are **not** considered **postal stationery**.
The **rates** changed quite often. They are explained in the exhibit.

Rarity and Research

Rare items are highlighted. with **red text** or **frame**. **Important** items are emphasized with a **red frame**. Own **research**: **blue** text
Given the rarity of some items shown a decision was made to include some covers which otherwise may not be considered "Show quality".
In many cases top quality simply does not exist!

History

The process of Wells Fargo's expansion to and within Mexico can be divided into **four periods**.

1st. Period	2nd Period	3rd Period	4th Period	
1859 – July 1863	Aug. 1863 – 1878	1879 – 1885	USA>Mexico 1885 – 1895	Mexico 1885 - 1909
➢ Blank covers or folded letter sheets ➢ US- envelopes with Wells Fargo frank	➢ US Wells Fargo envelopes with line added below frank: «PAID OVER OUR MEXICAN COAST AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS«	**US & Mexico envelopes with** ➢ Shield Frank ➢ Scroll with Spears Frank ➢ Scroll Frank	**Green Mexican Frank on** ➢ US envelopes ➢ Mexican envelopes ➢ Hidalgo Medallion ➢ Numeral ➢ Mulitas ➢ Embossed Eagle	
Frame 1	**Frames 1 to 3**	**Frames 3 (Shield) and 4 (Scroll)**	**Frame 4 (USA)**	**Frames 5-8 (Mexico)**

Inbound 3¢ Wells Fargo Express Envelope from Mazatlan (4th Nesbitt issue)



Wells Fargo entire from **Mazatlan** by *ship* to **San Francisco**. Mazatlan **boxed** Oct. 25 **date stamp** and fancy **wreathed "Franco"** cancel. With blue boxed **"Collect"** handstamp and **manuscript "Col 2\"** express rate.

- **First period:** **1859 - 1863**. A WF office was established in San Francisco in 1855. The first **Mexican** office was opened in Guaymas. in 1863. During this period besides all sorts of covers or letter sheets WF used its own overprinted envelopes with US stamp imprints. **Traffic** was exclusively by ship and **limited to the west coast** of Mexico. Few items survived this period
- **Second period**: **August 1863 –1879**. Envelopes with the common black WF Type E Frank were provided with an additional two-line inscription **Paid over our Mexican Coast and California Express –xx Cts.** Up to 1870 the rate was **25** Cts. and then increased to **35** Cts. for the single rate letters. **Postal stationery** envelopes were used in **both ways**, US to Mexico and vice versa.
- **Third period**: **1879 – 1884**. Mexico joined the UPU on **April 1, 1879**. Wells Fargo had to adopt rates and franks. Few railroads existed at that time and WF expanded along the Sonora and the northern part of the Central Railroad between El Paso and Chihuahua. Until **the end of 1882** WF produced a **Shield** design frank in in three different colors for single rate envelopes and three other colors for heavier letters. From **December 1882 to July 1884** a specifically designed Spanish language Mexican frank called **scroll** in two different styles was used. For **mail destined to Mexico** WF used **postal stationery** envelopes, whereas vice versa **envelope blanks** received the WF **frank** only and had to be provided with Mexican adhesive stamps. The latter are by definition postal stationery.
- **Fourth period**: **1885 – 1909**. The specific Spanish language **Mexican frank** was introduced. Wells Fargo had spread along the newly built Railroads over most of the country. Until 1895 WF used **US preprinted envelopes** for mail into Mexico. **Mexican WF envelopes** were endued with handstamped or printed lines for Mexico, the United States and Europe.

➢ **Important Literature:**

1. **Bulak, C.P.**, "The Seven Year Gap: Covers of Wells Fargo 1878 – 1885" Mexicana, (Jan. 1971): pp.998-999.
2. **Chandler, Dr. Robert J.**, "Greening Franks: Wells Fargo's Mexican Venture" Western Express Vol. 60 (June 2010): pp.5-96
3. **Chandler, Dr. Robert J.**, "Wells Fargo during the Porfiriato: The Mexican Pictorial Frank goes Nationwide" Western Express Vol. 63 (December 2013): pp.5-88
4. **Mattoon, Dexter`**, "The Periods of Operation of Wells Fargo in Mexico" Mexicana April 2002
5. **Mattoon, Dexter**, „Wells Fargo Mexican Franks for Express Mail during the Third Period`, 1878 - 1885" Western Express Vol. 60(September 2008): pp.39-45
6. **Kirke, Nicholas M.** "A new look at New York Foreign Mail" Chronicle 250 / May 2016 / Vol.68, No.2

➢ **Catalogs / Books**:

1. **Bamert, P., Menuz, Wayne and Walton Bill** "Postal Stationery of Mexico" Publishers UPSS in cooperation with MEPSI 2017
2. **Berthold Dr. Victor M.** "Wells, Fargo and Co.'s Handstamps and Franks Scott 1926, Reprint Paul Bluss 1944
3. **Haller Austin P.** "Private Printed Franks on U.S. Government Envelopes" UPSS 1988
4. **Thorp-Bartels** Centenary Edition "United States Stamped Envelopes" APS 1953
5. **UPSS** "Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers" UPSS 2012
6. **Higgins and Gage** "World Postal Stationery Catalog" 1968
7. **Thomas Oscar, Melton** "The Western Express Companies 1850-1890. Vol.2, UPSS 2013
8. **Shimmer ,Karl H., and .John M. Heath** "Mexica Maritime Mail" Limassol 1977

➢ **Own research:**

1. **Bamert, Peter.** "The Knifes and Sizes of the Mexican Wells Fargo Covers" Mexicana Vol. 40 (October 1991): pp. 210-215
2. **Bamert, Peter.** "Some Remarks on the Wells Fargo Envelopes of Sonora" Mexicana Vol. 40 (October 1991): pp. 197-201
3. **Bamert, Peter.** "Second Period Wells Fargo Envelopes – An Attempt to Classify the Low Value Franks" Western Express Vol. 61 (September 2011): pp. 13-17.

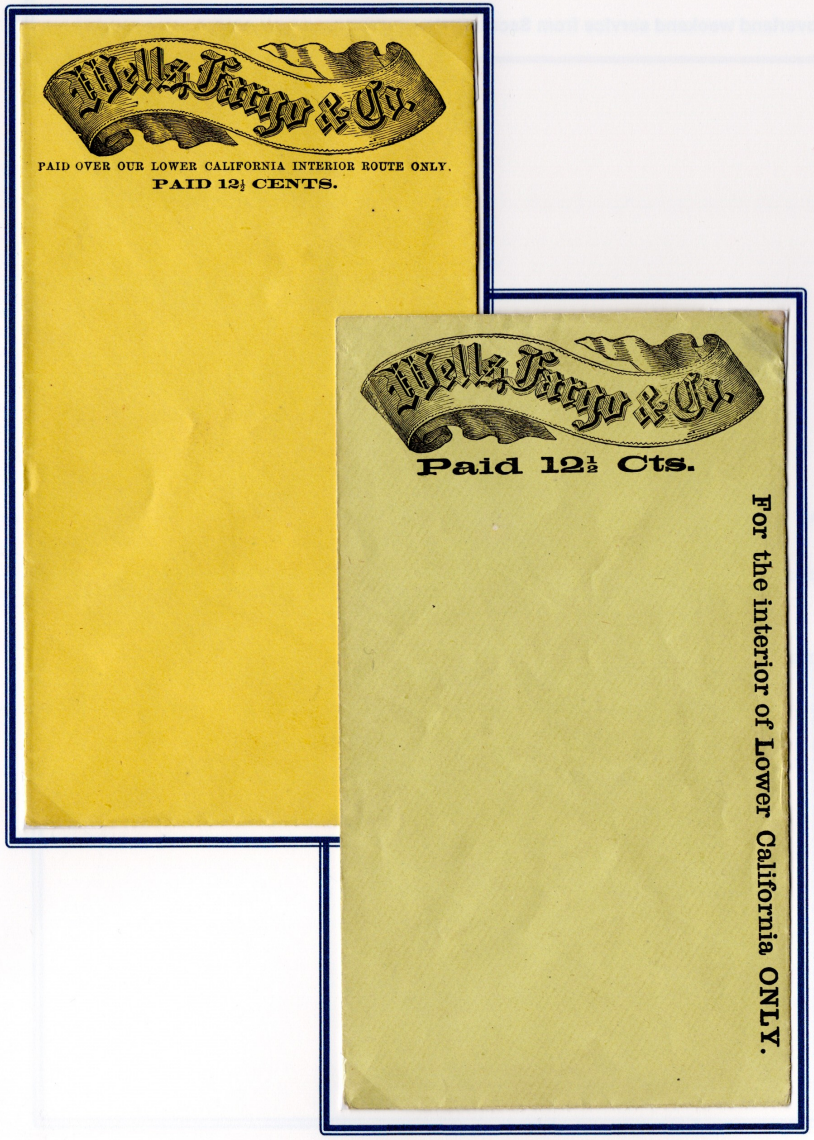
➢ **Other sources:**

1. **Taschenberg, Richard**. "The All New 10 Cent US Envelopes of 1870 - 1874" The eBook V1 2013
2. **Taschenberg, Richard**. "30c & 40c Nesbitt Envelopes Usage" .Personal communication

Intended for overland route from San Francisco to Baja California 12 ½ Cents rate

Prepared but not used

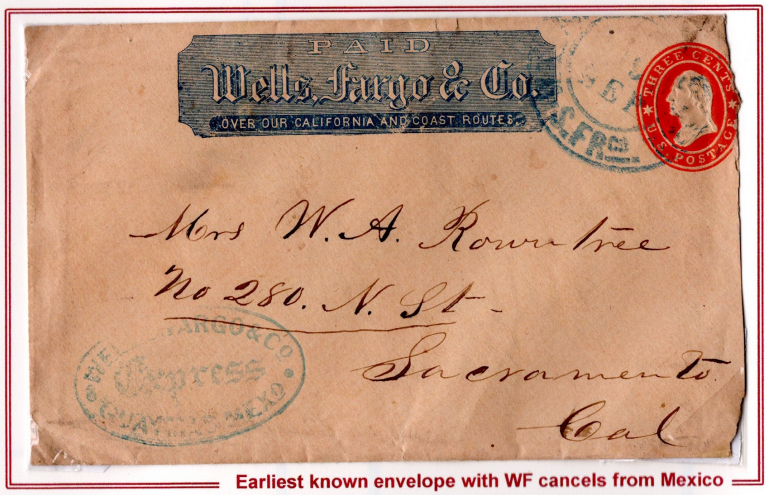
The first **Mexican Wells Fargo** office was opened in **Guaymas** in **1863**.
Traffic was slow, exclusively **by ship** and **limited to the west coast** of Mexico. Few items survived.
WF bought stamped envelopes from the U.S. government and **printed their company frank** on them. During this short period WF had **no specific envelopes for the use to or from Mexico** Instead they used their own overprinted envelopes, plain covers, letter sheets etc.



In the 1860s traffic between Upper and Lower California was carried almost **exclusively by ship**.
An **overland** route to the mines of Baja California Sur **did not** exist.

Some of these envelopes apparently were used between WF offices in California

Blue WF Frank originally intended for overland weekend service from Sacramento

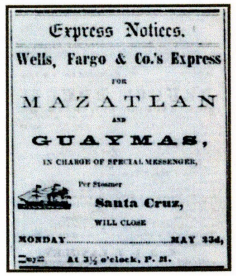


Earliest known envelope with WF cancels from Mexico



Guaymas, September 5,1861, aboard ship ***Panama*** via **Mazatlán, San Blas,** and **Cabo San Lucas** to **San Francisco.** Arrived September 19, 1861From there to **Sacramento**

Daily Alta May 12, 1859


Express Notices.
Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express
FOR
MAZATLAN
AND
GUAYMAS,
IN CHARGE OF SPECIAL MESSENGER,
Per Steamer
Santa Cruz,
WILL CLOSE
MONDAY.....MAY 23d,
At 3½ o'clock, P. M.

Wells Fargo advertisement
Opening of **Mazatlan** and **Guaymas** agencies



Unpaid cover from **Guaymas**, Mexico to **San Francisco**.
Endorsed: "N.H. Stinson "July 1. / 63 Guaymas – Mexico"
Fee collected from recipient

Robinson's Express

The only thing known about it is that Robinson run this short lived express sometimes in the 1870s between Hermosillo and Guaymas where it connected with Wells Fargo



Only known

EX LICHTENSTEIN

From **Hermosillo** to Scalmonini e Frappelli company in **San Francisco**.
Cancelled with blue **Wells Fargo Guaymas gothic** cancel. on the address side



REVERS

Wells Fargo Express

Earliest Wells Fargo Mexico cover bearing a Mexican adhesive
Only example of imperial mail to Baja California

1865, Eagle (4th Period), 2r orange, Guadalajara-Tepic. Cons 131-1865,



EX BASH

From **Tepic** (Guadalajara) to **La Paz Baja California.**
Cancelled with **negative Tepic** circular **cancel** and matching oval Tepic date stamp with manuscript **September 29, 1865**
By Wells Fargo contract ship to La Paz hence blue "Wells Fargo & **Co., Mex. Coast Messgr.**, Oct 2"

The second period from August 1863 to 1878 is characterized by the instruction lines printed below the frank on United States Wells Fargo envelopes.
During this period, which lasted almost 15 years multiple Wells Fargo envelopes mostly with type E franks were overprinted for the use into Mexico and vice versa.

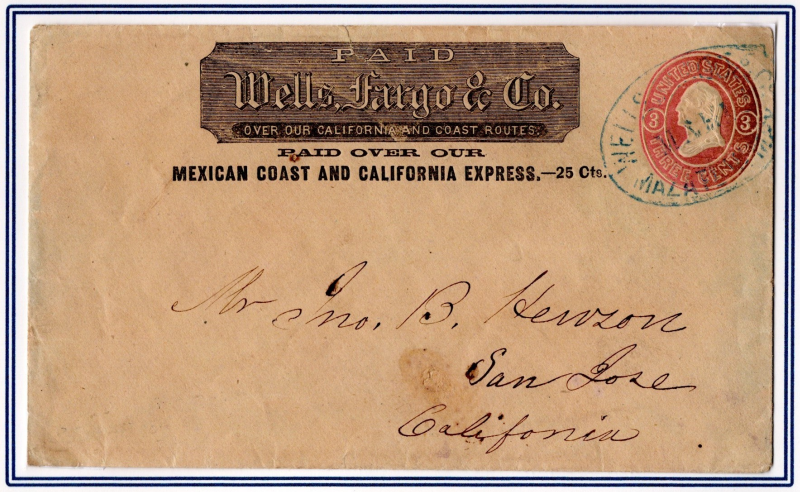
The earliest overprints were typeset **with bold characters and** are only seen on the **3 Cents die 15 envelopes** of the **1861 Nesbitt Third Issue** (Scott U 34 & U 35). Five types exist.



Die 15
Small "3"

Aug. 1863 - Feb. 1870 Rate Table		
Weight	**US**	**WF**
- ½ oz.	**3¢**	**35 CTS**

Type A1
Dot after "SS", Long dash Small "25 Cts."



Mazatlan to San Francisco by *ship*
and overland to **San Jose**, Cal
Blue oval WF cancel

Type B1
Second line serified upper case face type

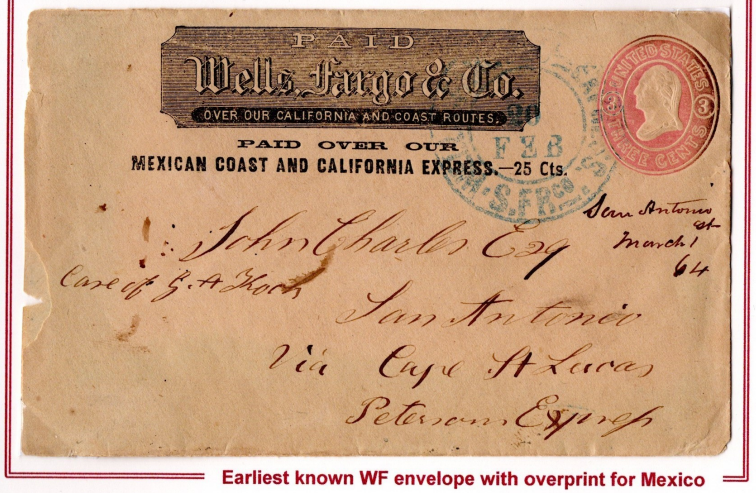


Type A4
No dot after "SS", **3 dashes** large "CTS."

Guaymas to **San Francisco**
6¢ due. Faint red "Franco" cancel
Discovery copy

Type A1
Dot after "SS", Long dash. Large "25 Cts."

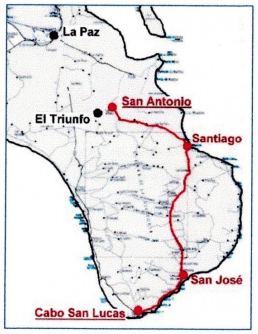
From **San Francisco February 20, 1864,** by steamer ***Oregon*** in charge of G. A **Raymond**, WF messenger to **Cabo San Lucas**.
Arrived in **San Antonio** March 1st, 1864 (Manuscript endorsement)



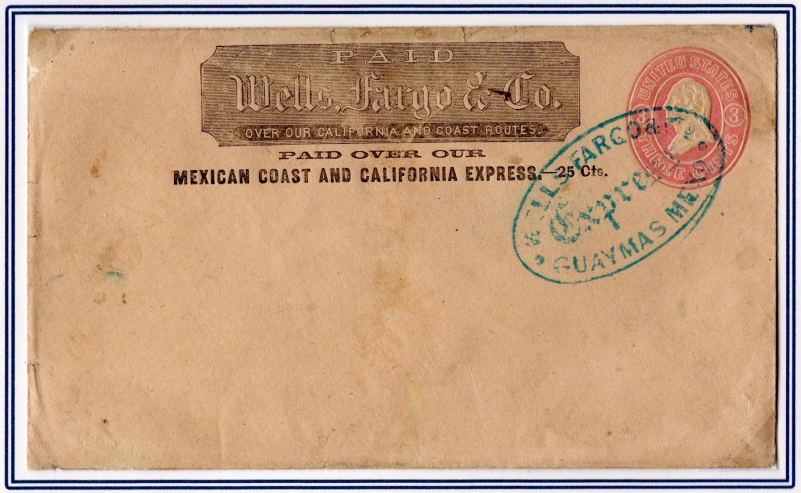
Earliest known WF envelope with overprint for Mexico

Handwritten instructions:
"**Via Cape San Lucas / Peterson Express**

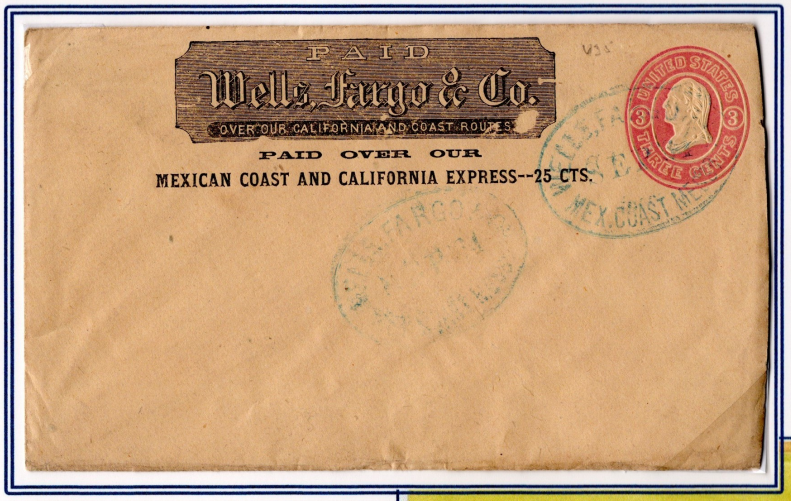
The **overland pony express** from **Cabo S. Lucas** via **San José** and **Santiago** to **San Antonio** was run by **Charles Peterson.** At this time, he already had sold out his express to Wells Fargo for $1000.



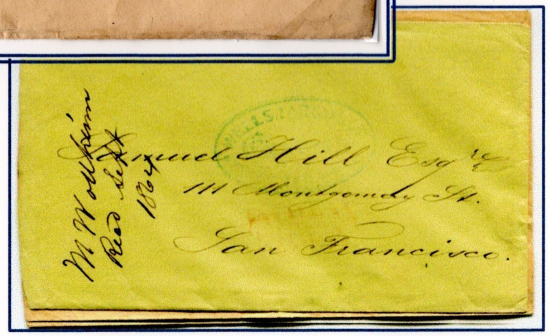
Wells Fargo only overprinted postal stationery envelopes (no stamps). Therefore, a WF envelope was pasted on a neutral addressed cover. Named "paste up"



Type A1 overprint with long dash, small "25" and small "Cts."
The old German script WF cancel in blue was used in Guaymas until ca. 1865



Type B1 overprint (Serified second line). Paste up **Mazatlan** September 21, 1864. Cancelled aboard *ship* with blue **Mexican Coast Messenger.**



Reverse at 60%

During the second period Wells Fargo carried stamped envelopes but also ordinary envelopes and letter sheets. These were carried out of the mails and the transportation fee was collected by WF in advance.

MEXICO to USA

Scarce combined Express usage

La Paz to **San Leandro**
Carried by **WF** to **San Francisco** and by **Bamber Express** to **San Leandro**. Wells Fargo was paid in advance (handstamp "**PAID**"). Bamber had to be paid by the **recipient** (red ms "Col" = collect)



USA to MEXICO



San Francisco by ship to **Mazatlan**
WF had been paid by the sender indicated by blue oval "PAID" hs

Mail within MEXICO

From Rowntree & Lubbard **Guaymas** to Echegura **Mazatlan**. Special handling by WF is documented by the very scarce red label. Fee 75c (ms notation)





From 1865 Wells Fargo used United States postal stationery envelopes of the 4th Nesbitt issue: 3 Cents die 26 (Scott U 58 & U59). Four specifiable types exist.



Die 26
Large numeral 3

Wells Fargo Messengers aboard ships had their own cancel
"WELLS FARGO & C° / Date / MEXICAN COAST MESS"

A prime example for the tangle with tariffs

USA to MEXICO

Type B1 overprint
P over A and R over PR. Envelope knife 24 without patent lines



From **USA** to **La Paz**, B.C.. The envelope was canceled by the **messenger** abord *ship*

MEXICO to USA

Type B3 overprint
P over T and R over X. Envelope knife 51 with patent lines



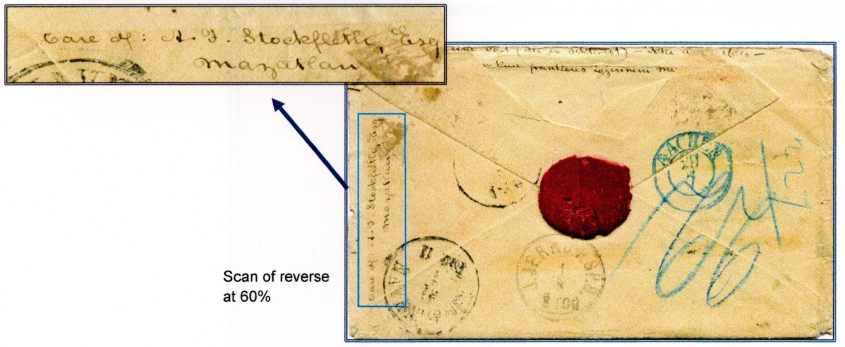
On board ship **May 29.1869** Endorsed: **"answ[d] June 21, 1869"**

MEXICO via USA to Europe

Type B1 overprint
P over A and R over PR. Envelope knife 24 without patent lines



Forwarding agent **Stockfleth** at **Mazatlan** sent the cover to San Francisco.
By rail to **New York** and **Boston.** Transatlantic transport by Cunard line (19.7.) to **Liverpool** and **London.**
Arrived 29.7. in **Aachen**. From there to **Copenhagen** and forwarded to **Skive.**



Scan of reverse
at 60%

Wells Fargo charged 25 Cents from **Mazatlan** to **San Francisco**. **S.F.** treats the cover as **unpaid** and charges 2 x 33 = **66** (Cents) for transport by **Prussian closed mail** (**PCM**) to **Denmark**. **New York** charges **Aachen** with the double **PCM** fee of **23 Cents**: "**N.YORK Br. PKT. 46**". (5 Cents US and 18 Cents maritime transport inclusive British transit). **Aachen** notes "**22**" Silver-Groschen (SG) in blue crayon. (46 Cents correspond to 20 SG plus 2 SG Prussian transit) There is no plausible explanation as to the meaning of the "129" red pencil fee.

For a short time **WF agents at Mazatlan and Manzanillo** were expected to use **stamps** to forward mail **to and from merchant firms in the interior**.

Mexican rate paid with **12C.**thin figures **Mazatlan** district nr. 8 **1868 issue**



One of five 2nd period covers with Mexican stamp known

12 C. stamp cancelled Nov. 15. 1869 at **Mazatlan** with the **Franco** cancel.
The **WF agent** used their oval Mazatlan cancel

In 1868 WF had **no agent** at **San Blas**. The office opened in 1870 only.

Obviously, there were no **WF Mexico** envelopes available

The sender therefore used an "ordinary" WF U.S. envelope

Mexican rate paid with **25C.**thin figures **Guadalajara** district nr. 3 **1868 issue**

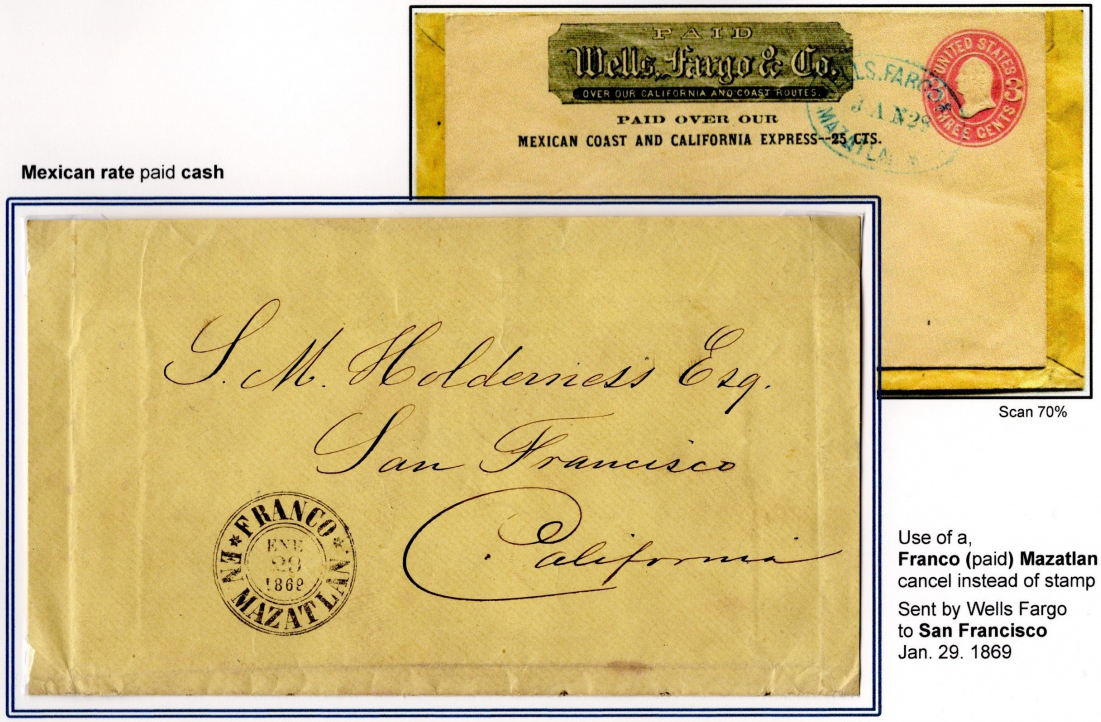


One of five up rated 2nd period covers currently known

25C. domestic rate for the transport from **San Blas** to **Mazatlan** From there by ship to **San Francisco**. The **contract rate was 10 Cents**.
3 Cents prepaid by embossed stamp: **7 Cents** due in blue crayon

EX LICHTENSTEIN

Mexican rate paid **cash**



Scan 70%

Use of a,
Franco (paid) **Mazatlan** cancel instead of stamp

Sent by Wells Fargo to **San Francisco** Jan. 29. 1869

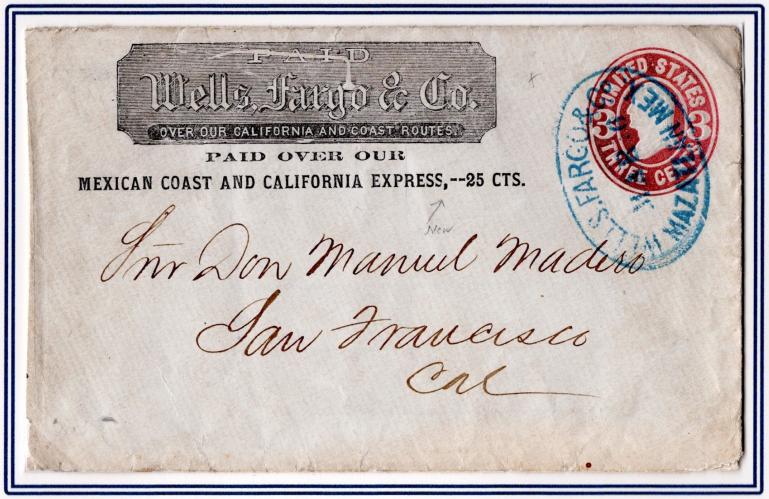
The sender used an **ordinary U.S. WF envelope**.
He paid for the coastal service to Mexico in advance



San Francisco to the agent of "La Blanca Gold and Silver mining Company" in **Guaymas**.
The oval "**PAID**" instructional handstamp indicates that the top-up fee for Mexico had been **prepaid to Wells Fargo** by the sender.

The new 35-cent rate went into effect in March 1870.
Wells Fargo as an economic company recycled the old 25-cent franks into domestic ones by obliterating the two-line overprint with a fancy ornament

During the last printing of the 3¢ envelopes the 2nd line of the overprint was in serified font. Fife types (B1 - B5) are known

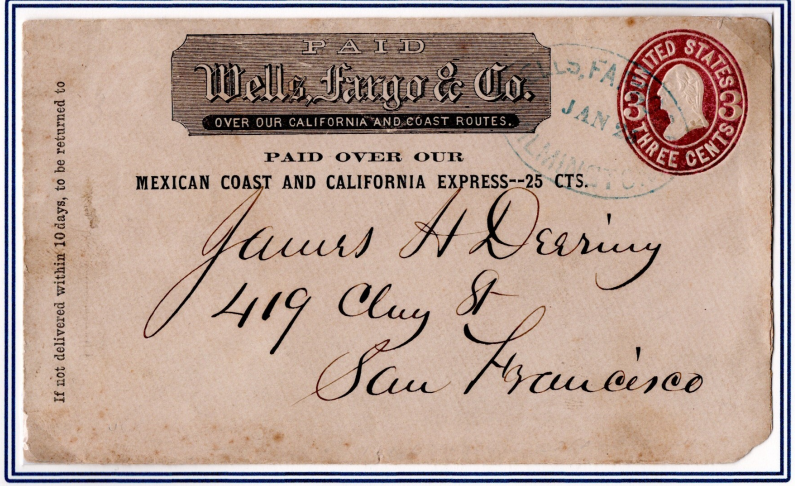


Type B5a overprint
Comma after EXPRESS

Mazatlan to **San Francisco**

EX LICHTENSTEIN

Extraordinary US domestic use of an envelope with a **Mexican line** overprint
The sender paid an unnecessary extra 25 Cts. for this mailing



Type B4 overprint
P over T and R over XP.

Wilmington (Los Angeles) to **San Francisco**

A Fancy scroll obliterates the two-lines PAID OVER OUR ...
Seen on 3c pink Scott U58 & U59 white and buff paper in two types



Type 1



3c pink on white paper
San Jose to **San Francisco**



3c pink on white paper
San Francisco to **San Jose**



Type 2



3c pink on **buff** paper **San Francisco** to **Virginia City**



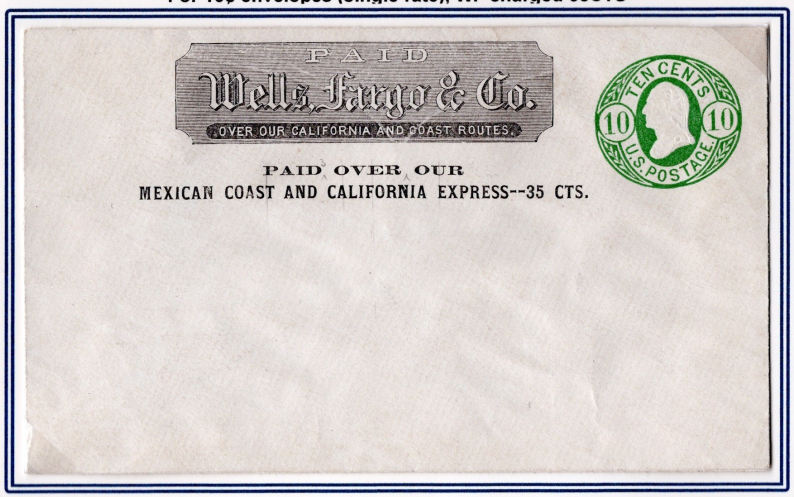
Die 17

Until March 1, 1870, Wells Fargo had argued that since it was contracting with the steamship lines for express shipments, which included mail, that they could charge the overland rate of 3¢ and NOT the 10¢ Steamship rate. In early 1870 however, the POD took exception, and beginning March 1, 1870, Well Fargo began charging the 10¢ steamship rate. Wells Fargo accordingly raised the Express fee to 35¢ (and multiples of it for higher rates)



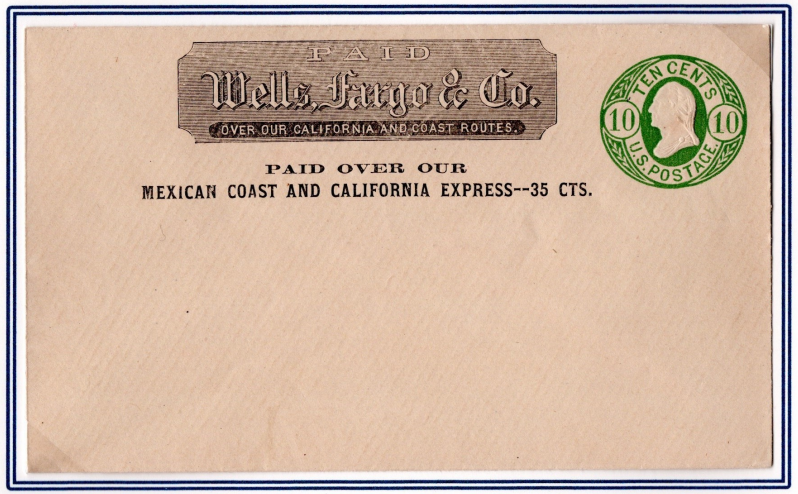
Die 21

For 10¢ envelopes (single rate), WF charged 35CTS



Nesbitt 10¢ Washington light green **Knife 24** on **white** paper

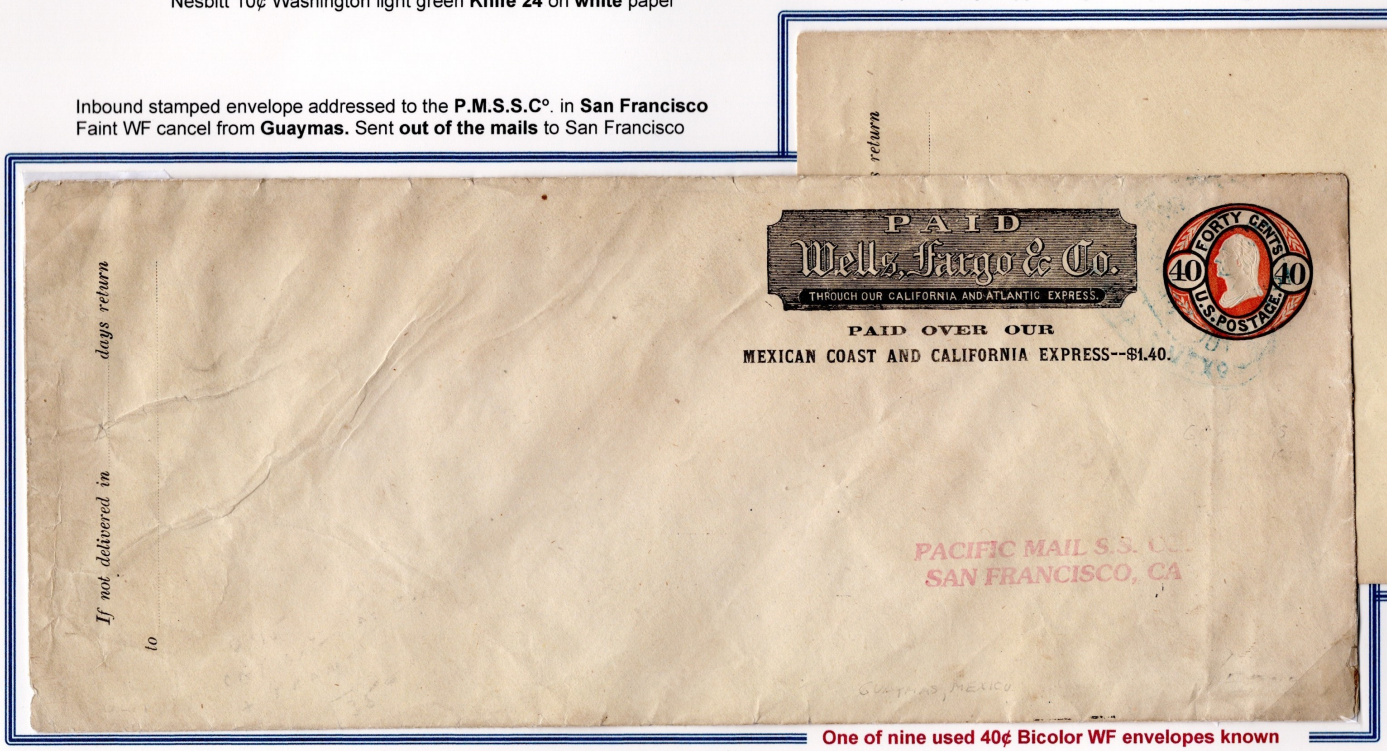
March 1870 rate table		
Weight	**US**	**WF**
- ½ oz.	**10¢**	**35 CTS**
1 –1½ oz.	**30¢**	**$1.05**
1 ½ - 2 oz	**40¢**	**$1.40**



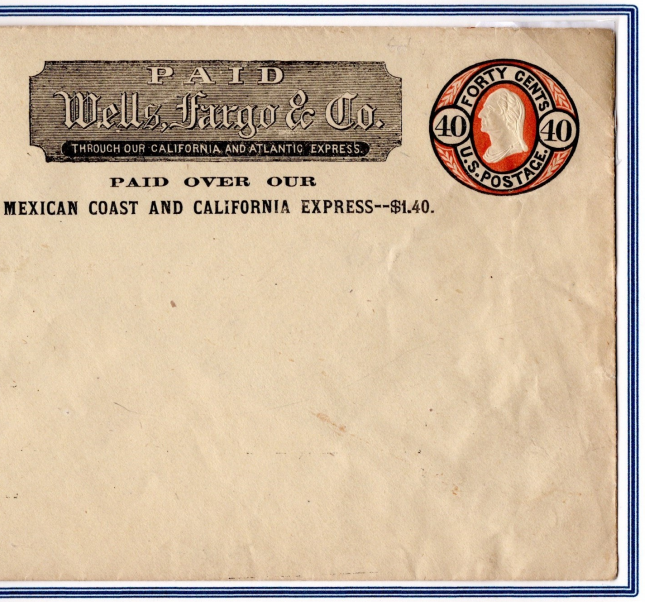
Nesbitt 10¢ Washington
Knife 24 on **buff** paper

For 40¢ envelopes (quadruple rate), WF charged $1.40

Inbound stamped envelope addressed to the **P.M.S.S.C°**. in **San Francisco**
Faint WF cancel from **Guaymas.** Sent **out of the mails** to San Francisco



One of nine used 40¢ Bicolor WF envelopes known



The 40¢ Die 21 black & red on amber was
the **only high denomination** envelope of the
1861 Nesbitt issue with **WF overprint** for **Mexico**

The35 Cts. WF included the 10 Cents Government fee although Wells Fargo transported all letters out of the mails



Die 17

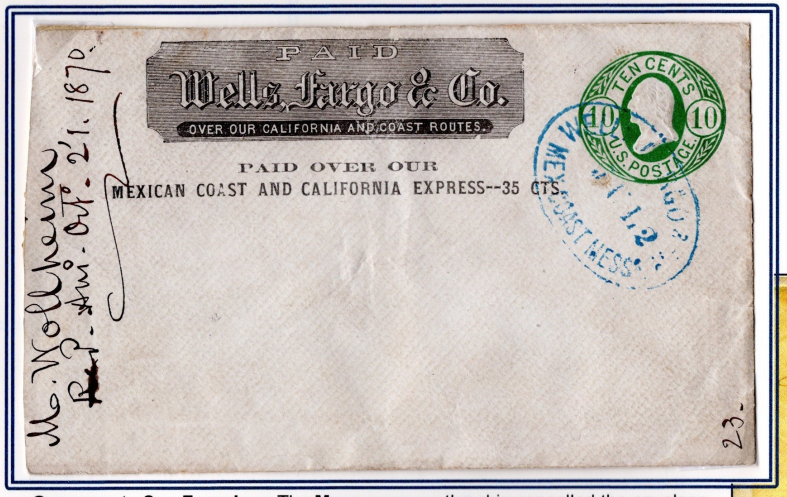


Outbound from San Francisco via Cabo San Lucas to La Paz



February 12, 1871 from **San Francisco** by *ship* to **Cabo San Lucas** and **overland** to **La Paz**

An early inbound paste up with the new 35 Cents rate July 2, 1870





Guaymas to **San Francisco** The **Messenger** on the ship cancelled the envelope. Mr. Wolheim was a merchant in **Guaymas**. He pasted the envelope to the back of a cover addressed to **Samuel Hill** a dealer in sewing machines in **San Francisco**

ms: "p^d 35" (Paid)



Scan of reverse at 60%

Outbound from Sacramento La Paz, B. C.





Sacramento to **San Francisco** and to **La Paz** (same route)

The usage of WF MEXICO envelopes within Mexico is scarce



La Paz by ship to **Guaymas** and overland to **Hermosillo.**
2 Reales due for the transport from Guaymas to Hermosillo

The 10¢ Jefferson envelopes on white and amber paper came in use only when the 10¢ green die 17 Washington envelopes of the Nesbitt issue had been used up.

Five types of "Mexican Line" overprints are known. They **differ** in the **position of the letters of the overprint**
About half of the recorded envelopes have a **Plain Request corner card** printed vertically on the left side.



Die 39
brown



10 Cents brown on **light amber** paper. **Type 3** overprint (P over ST / R over P)
An exceptional fine overprint!

Outbound USA>MEXICO

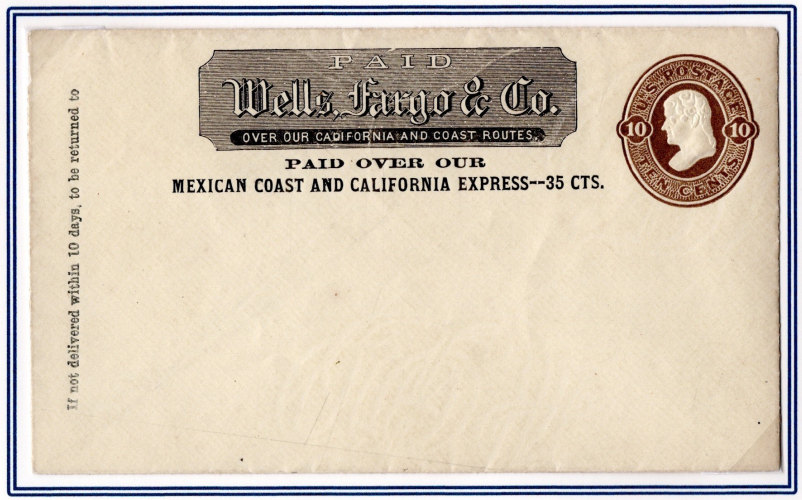
San Francisco to **Guaymas** by ship. Then by coach to **Colima**. From there forwarded to **Guanajuato**. The meaning of the blue and black "35" are not clear.



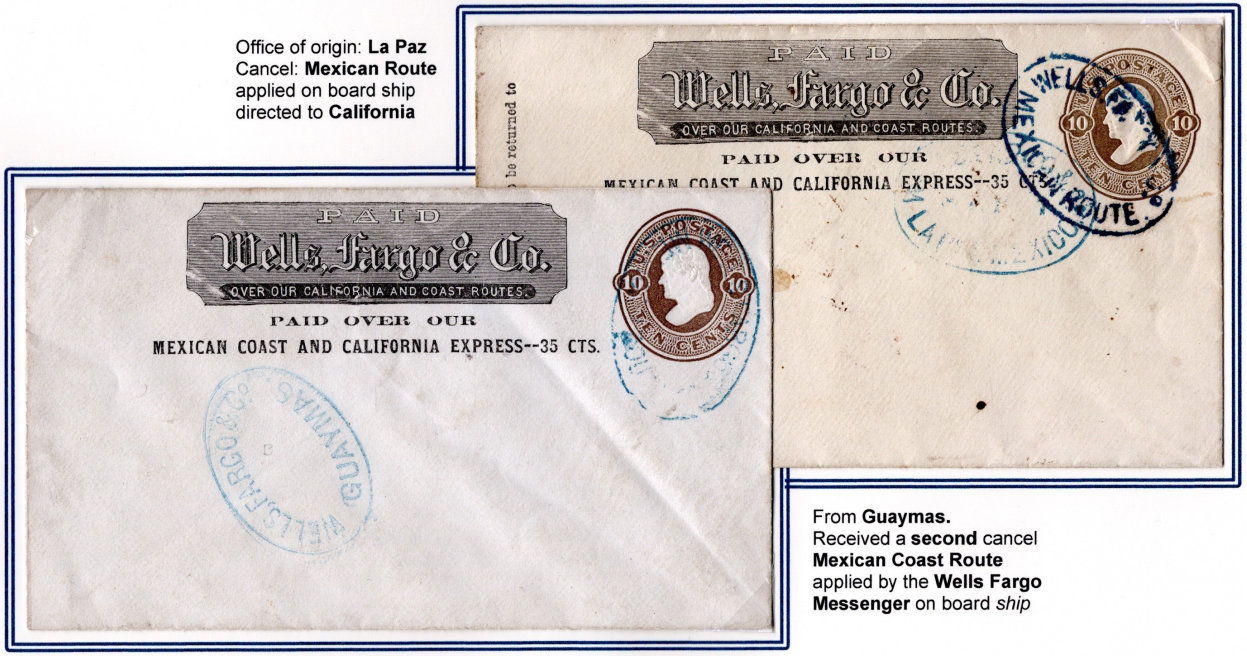
Combined use of departure- and Messenger cancels

Inbound MEXICO>USA

Office of origin: **La Paz**
Cancel: **Mexican Route** applied on board ship directed to **California**



10 Cents brown on **amber** paper. **Type 2** overprint (P over S / R over XP)



From **Guaymas.**
Received a **second** cancel **Mexican Coast Route** applied by the **Wells Fargo Messenger** on board *ship*



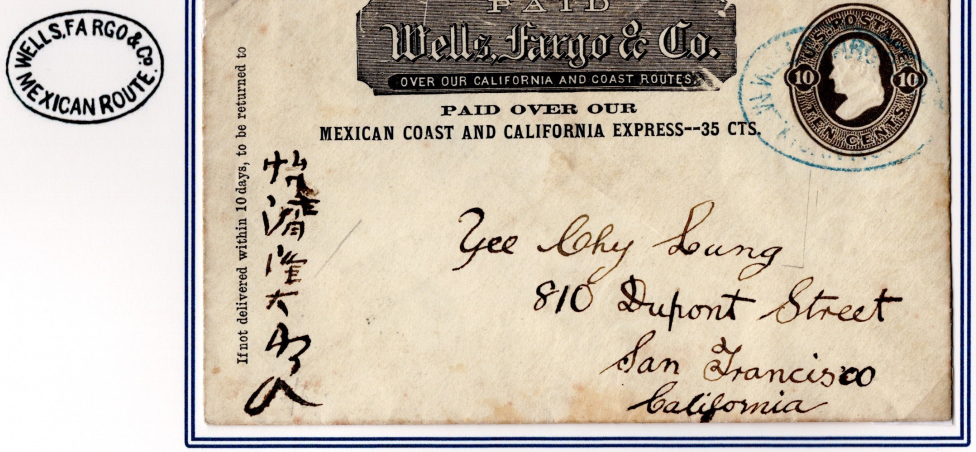
Die 39

The biggest anomalies to the Reay quality standard in the 1870 issue, are the Olive Black U89 and Olive Gray U90 shades found on a very limited number of 10¢ envelopes.



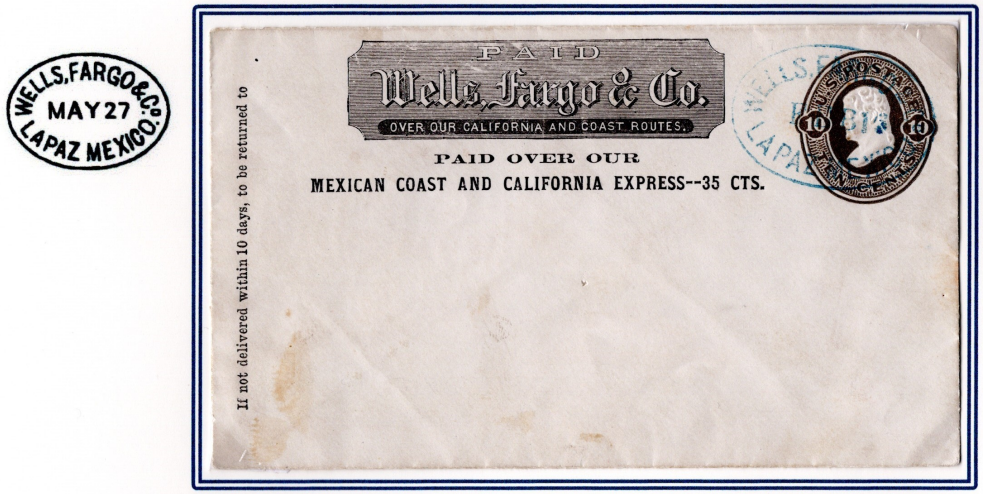
Die 39

A normal brown on amber envelope



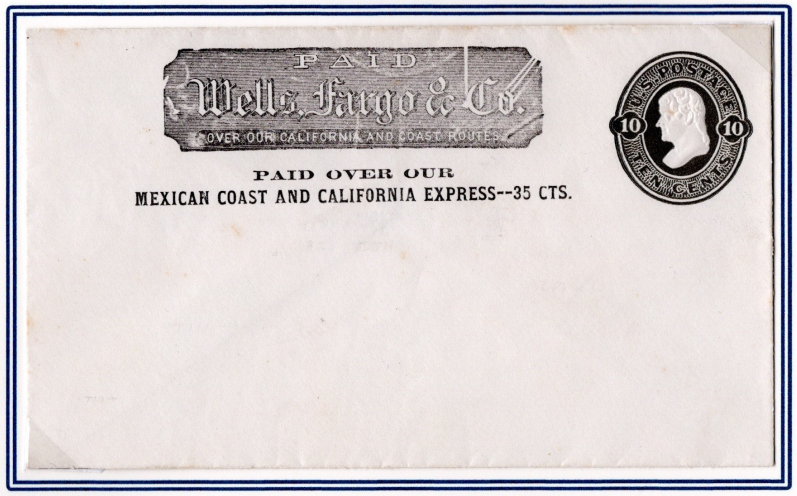
Addressed to **San Francisco.** Cancel **Mexican Route**
10¢ **brown**. Part paste-up entire

The olive-grey variety on white paper Knife 25



Used as **paste up** from **La Paz (Type 5 overprint)**

The olive-black variety on white paper Knife 25



Olive-black on amber paper (Type 4

The olive-grey variety on amber paper Knife 25



Olive-gray on **amber paper (Type 4 overprint)**
Addressed but uncancelled

2000 P.S.E. CERTIFICATE

2000 P.S.E. CERTIFICATE

In 1873 Wells Fargo exploits a loophole to drop the 10 Cents steamship rate established March 1, 1870, to 3 Cents, leaving the 35 Cents WF rate unchanged
In 1851 the United States established the 3-cent overland rate to Mexico. Through the late 1860s San Francisco almanacs and directories declared postage by sea to Mexico was 10 Cents. In 1873 these publications re-discovered the 3¢ 1851 rates and WF immediately applied the lower rates



Die 37
Small "3"

Envelopes from the west coast of Mexico via San Francisco through the continent New York and to Europe are few

1873 - 1882 rate table		
Weight	**US**	**WF**
- ½ oz.	**3¢**	**35 CTS**
½ –1oz.	**6¢**	**70 CTS**
1 ½ - 2 oz	**12¢**	**$ 1.40**

The earliest 3¢ Reay envelope (front) recorded



Posted ca. end of June 1873

From Mazatlan (ms endorsement) via **New York** to **Paris**.
Up rated to 10¢ with **1871 7¢ Stanton.**
In New York the intricated 8-pointed star **NY-Foreign Mail** was applied.
Arrived in Paris August 5, 1873.



The a e could not be found which is indicated by the **three** ms endorsements "**parti sans addresse**",

the **round carrier's mark** and the



Red cancel "**Rebuts de Paris**"
(**Undeliverable** Paris August 7, 1873)

The envelope (or parcel)on which the envelope was pasted ended in the DLO.
This front also bears the ms notation: "**Received in bad condition**". (Upper left)



NYFM cancel used in 1873

From **Acapulco** (Ms "**Acapulco** Dec. 8. 1873") via *P.M.S.S.* (red hs "**PACIFIC MAIL S.S.**") to **San Francisco**. By **rail** across the continent to **New York.** Stamps are cancelled with the black **eight-pointed star in circle** of the **N.Y. Foreign Mail** bureau. Arrived in **New York** December 27. and in **London** January 6, 1874. Transit time almost **4 weeks**.

Acapulco to London

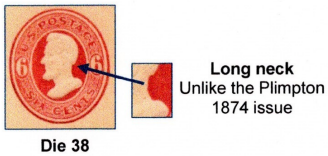


The 3 Cents up-rating was for **transcontinental transport**

Double rate envelope with overprint for single rate



Only recorded Reay 6¢ envelope for Mexican use



Die 38

Long neck
Unlike the Plimpton 1874 issue

From **Mexico** to **San Francisco** and then via **New York** to somewhere in **Europe**

35 CTS should have been corrected to 70 CTS



Die 37
small"3"

The 12¢ envelope Size 21 Sc U93 was the only high denomination (> 10¢) envelope of the 1873 Reay issue

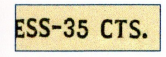


Die 40

The only known used WF envelope with one dash between "EXPRESS" and "35"







"One dash only"
variety





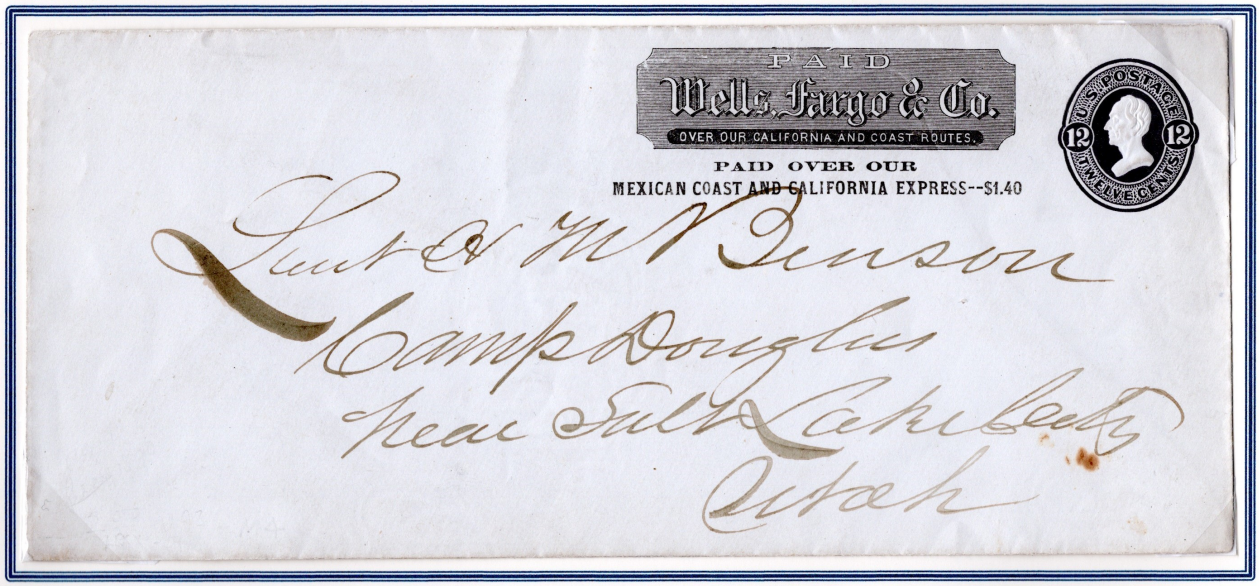
Single rate envelope from **La Paz** to **San Francisco**

EX LICHTENSTEIN

Mazatlan (undated) to **San Francisco**

For 12 Cents envelopes (quadruple rate) Wells Fargo charged $1.40

All but one of the currently **five known 12¢ Reay** envelopes with Mexico overprint are **addressed in the same handwriting**. All but one (with a fake cancel) are **uncancelled**.



Uncancelled 12c plum Clay Wells Fargo envelope addressed to **Camp Douglas.** **No traces of postal use**

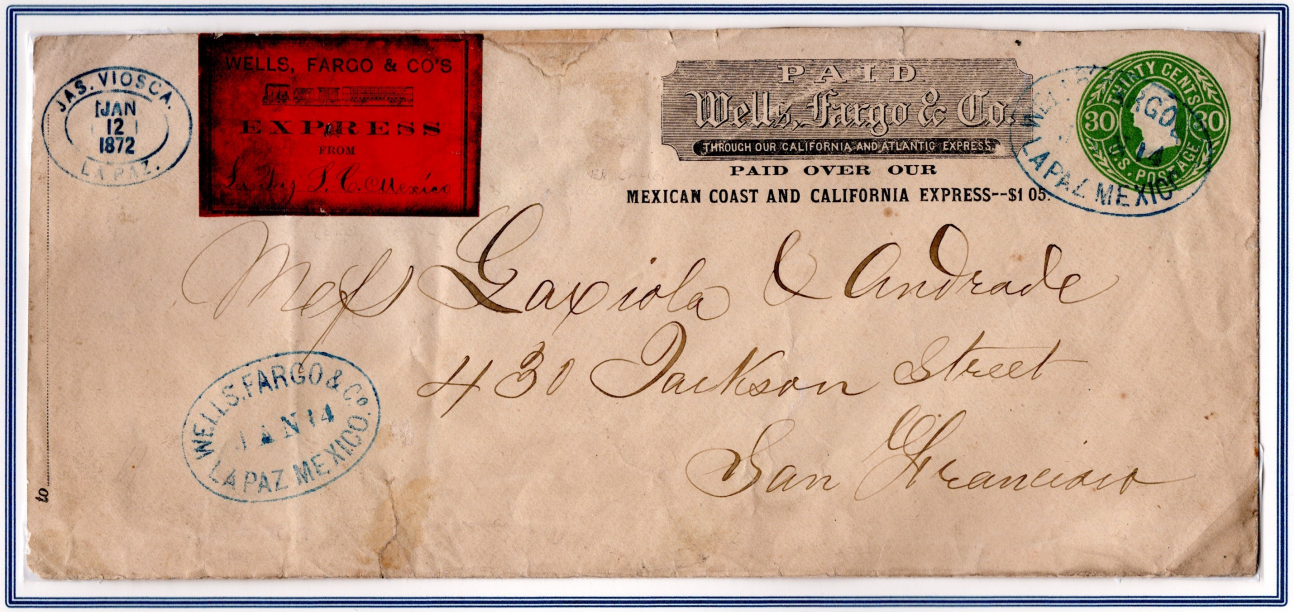
The 30 Cents US Government fee were included in the $1.05 Wells Fargo charge. The majority of these high value franks were used as past ups on heavy documents or parcels
A total of 26,250 30¢ envelopes were issued. It is unknown how many Wells Fargo bought

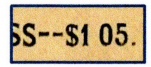


Die 32

March 1870 rate table		
Weight	**US**	**WF**
- ½ oz.	10¢	35 CTS
1 –1½ oz.	30¢	$1.05
1 ½ - 2 oz	40¢	$1.40

One of the most spectacular 30¢ Wells Fargo covers. The only addressed and with a red label

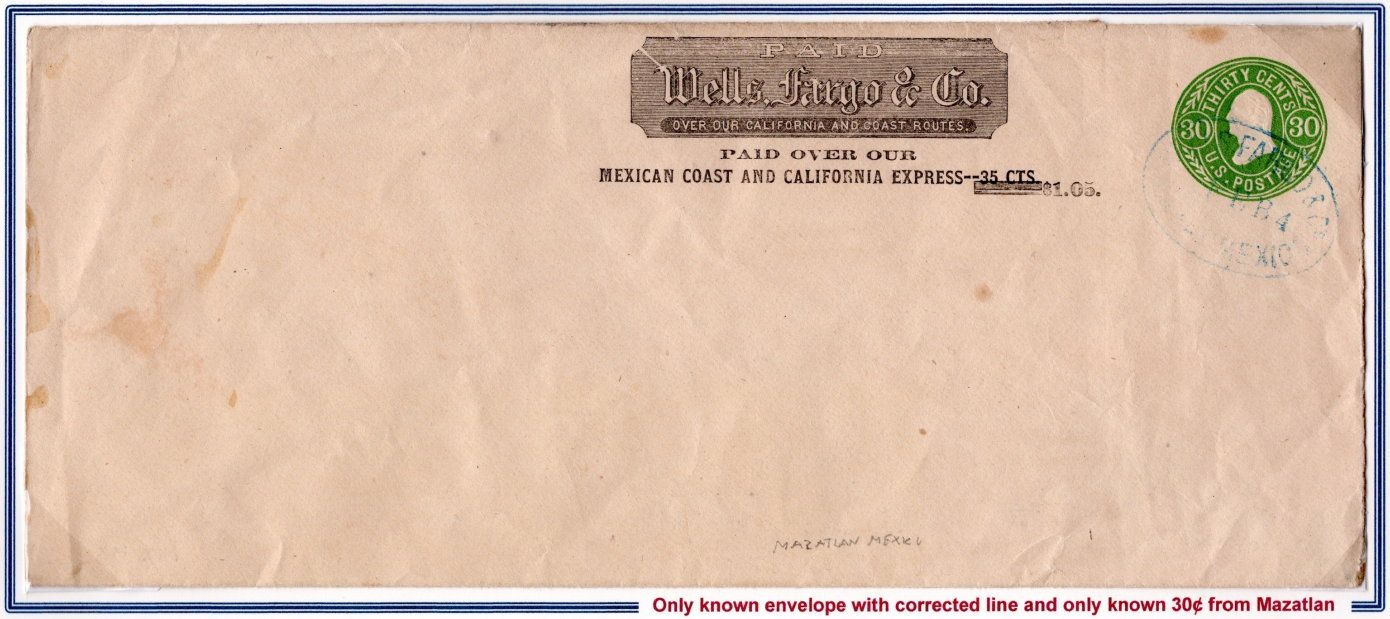




"No decimal point" varietv

Jas. Viosca was Wells Fargo agent in **La Paz**.
Gaxiola and **Andrade** were general commission merchants in **San Francisco**

From **La Paz** Jan.14, 1872 aboard ship ***Newbern*** to **San Francisco.**
The red label with ms "La Paz S.C. Mexico" denotes **special handling by WF messenger** for **covers** with **valuable contents**







With a rubber handstamp the 35CTS (**single rate**) on this envelope was adapted to the **triple rate** of $1.05

Paste up use from **Mazatlan**

Only known envelope with corrected line and only known 30¢ from Mazatlan

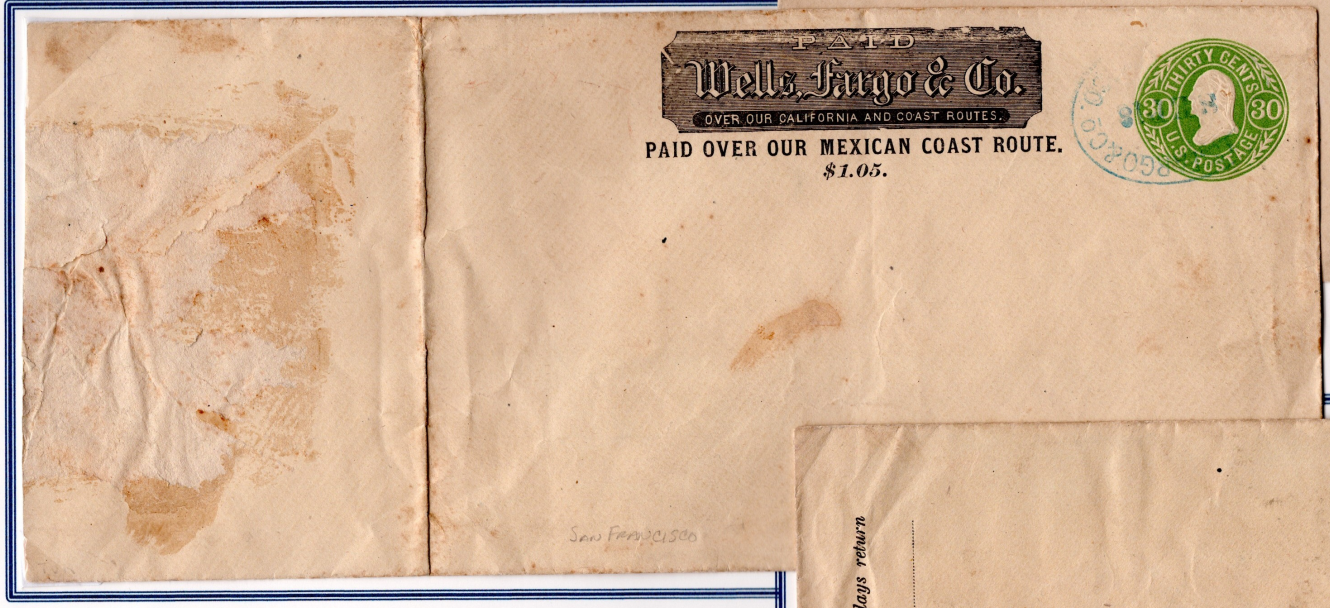
Six varieties of the frank and / or the line overprint on 30¢ WF envelopes exist
Currently fifteen used 30¢ envelopes with WF overprint are known to exist. Of these only two have Frank Type G.



Common Type **E** frank (3rd series)
"A" of "Paid" connected .**Over … and Coast Route**



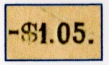
"PAID OVER OUR MEXICAN ROUTE / *$1.05*". Wells Fargo **Frank** in **center**
Most "common" of the **seven** specifiable types of the 30 Cents envelopes



Outbound **paste up** use from **San Francisco. Frank** top **right**
The left part of the envelope was folded back, glued and then pasted most likely to a parcel



Uncommon type **G** frank (4th series)
"A" of "Paid" open. **Through…and Atlantic Express**



"**Wide $**"variety



One of two known 30¢ envelopes with frank type G

Frank type G. Top right position. **$1.05 Wide Dollar sign**
Paste up use from **Guaymas**, Mexico probably to San Francisco out of the mails



Die 33

The large "PAID OVER OUR / MEXICAN COAST... $1.40" overprint is the only seen on U73 40¢ envelopes
The envelope has been printed with size 24 and knife 120 only



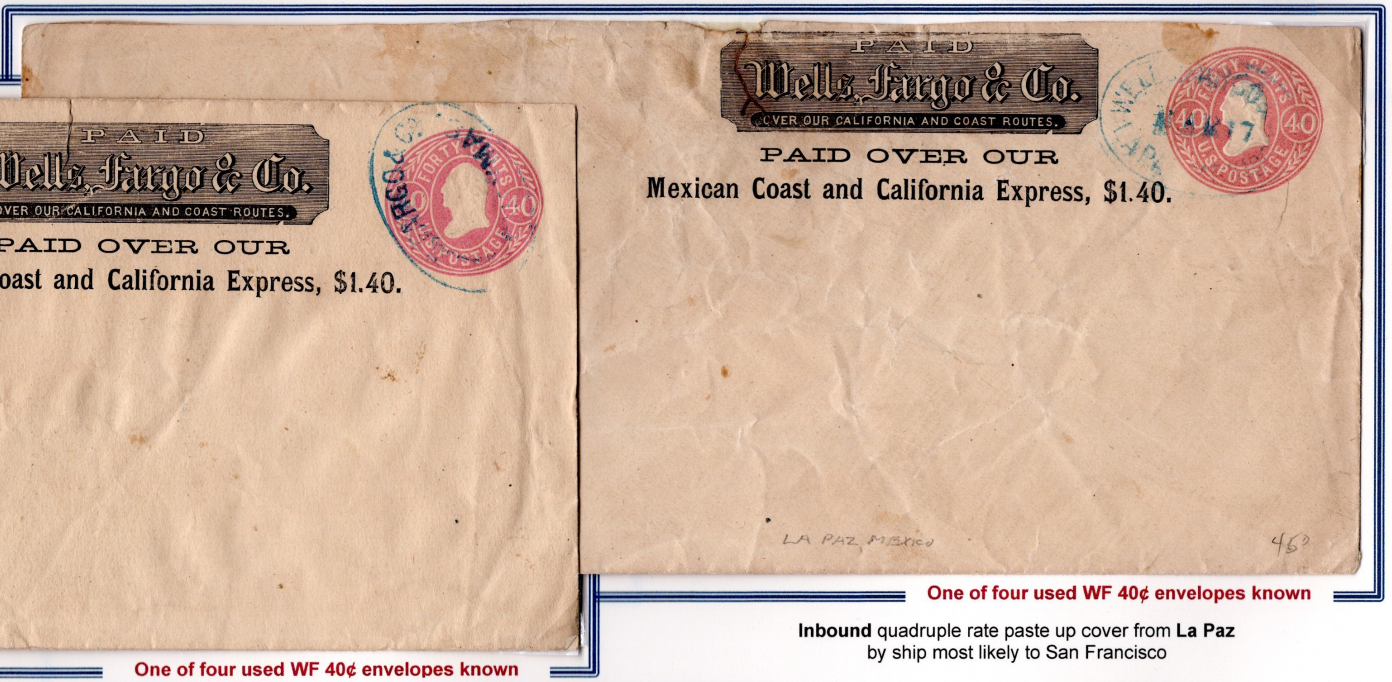
Die 30





One of four used WF 40¢ envelopes known

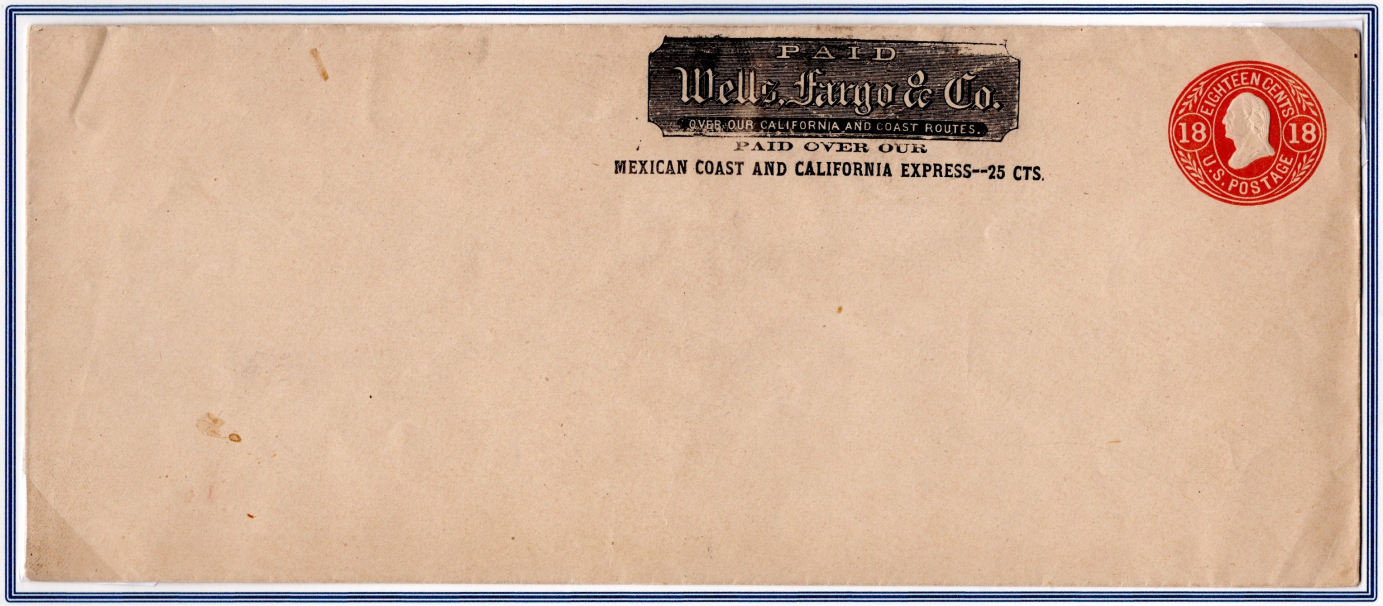
Inbound quadruple rate paste up cover from **Guaymas**



One of four used WF 40¢ envelopes known

Inbound quadruple rate paste up cover from **La Paz** by ship most likely to San Francisco

A Mystery Cover



For **steamship** rate mail to and from Mexico, Wells Fargo charged **35¢ per ½ - 1oz** which included the **10¢** US fee.
For the **3¢ overland route** they charged **25CTS**
Theoretically this **U70** envelope could be a **sextuple** rate (6x 3¢) = **18¢**. / 6x 25CTS WF fee **=$1.50**.

However, at this particular time the 10¢ steamship and not the 3¢ overland rate was in effect.



Die 56



Large "3"

In 1874, Plimpton won the new contract to produce stamped envelopes for the US government. Wells Fargo only overprinted 3¢ single rate and 6¢ double rate envelopes with their two-line overprint for Mexico. The dies used are similar to those of Reay but not in the same high quality.

Die 56 & 57 3¢ envelopes were printed on white or amber paper in size 7 only



La Paz to **San Francisco**. **Amber** paper. (Front)

The 6¢ light to dark red envelopes were printed in five different sizes and on white and amber paper





Hair curls over forehead



Die 57

The 70¢ frank was corrected manually to 35 CTS.

The agent sold the sender a single rate cover. for 35 Cents and made a **loss of 3¢**

Wells Fargo ran the envelope to **San Francisco** on the *steamer.*
Then put on the **Overland** train to Ogden
Entered U.S. mail at **Ogden,** for **Charlottesville**. Forwarded to **New Garden VA.**
(Cancel FORWARDED in circle)



Die 57



Small "3"



Mexican Route
White paper



A paste up
from **La Paz.**
Amber paper

Red stamp imprint
Size 10 / Knife 52
White paper



Light red stamp imprint
Size 8 / Knife 36
Amber paper

Paste up from **Guaymas** with the **old-style German script cancel**



Die 59



Top stroke thick



Die 61

In accordance with the UPU Wells Fargo had to adopt their rates. The UPU convention established a uniform 5 Cents / half oz rate.
Mexico did no longer tolerate that the US Government collected revenues for mail sent from Mexico to USA.
Therefore, Wells Fargo printed their frank on US stamped envelopes for outgoing mail and on plain envelopes for incoming mail from Mexico

UPU Rates 1879		
Weight	**US**	**WF**
- ½ oz.	**5¢**	**10CTS**
½ –1oz.	**10¢**	**20CTS**
1 ½ - 2 oz	**20¢**	**40CTS**

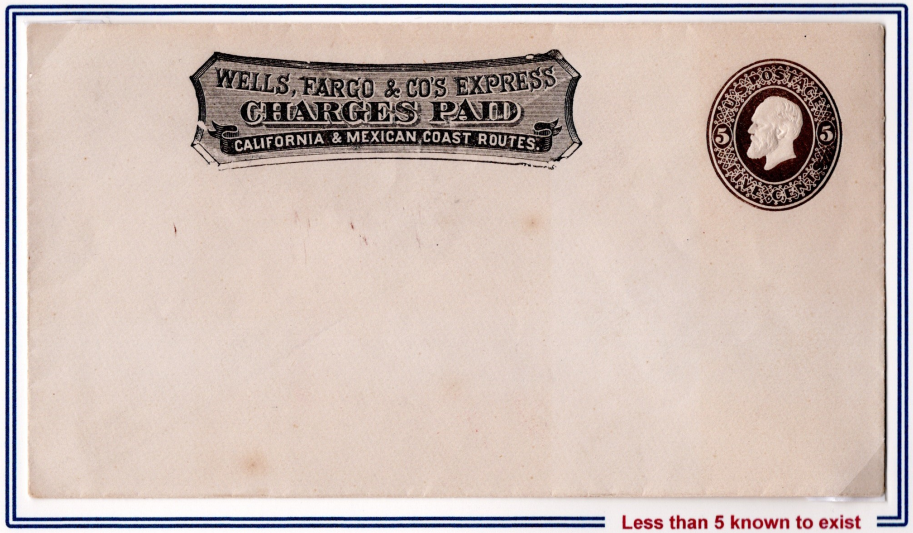
The SHIELD franks. Single rate covers in black, blue, and green for mail to Mexico

Essays



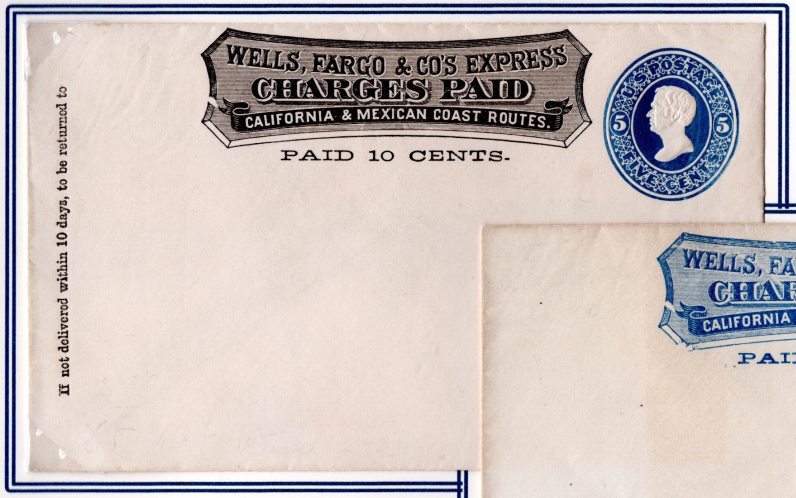
Less than 5 known to exist

MEXICAN ROUTE - PAID 10 Cts. printed below the **Wells Fargo frank type E**
This frank is an attempt to reflect the new UPU rates
Taylor 5¢ blue **Die** 59. **Size** 7. **Knife** 30



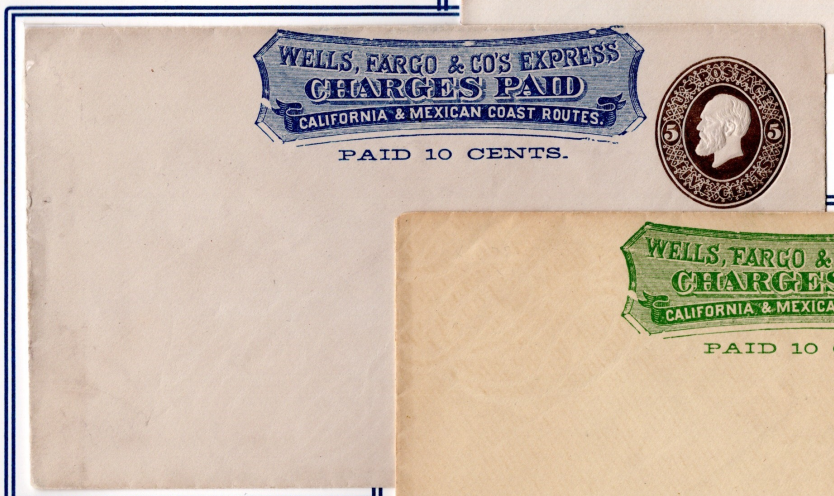
Less than 5 known to exist

Without printed **line** below frank
Garfield 5¢ brown **Die** 61. **Size** 10. **Knife** 54

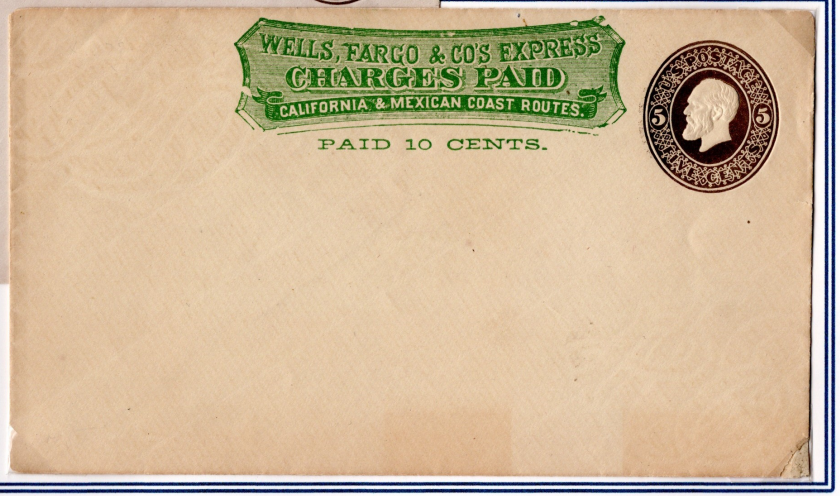


The **earliest** frank was **black**
Taylor 5c blue **Die** 59. **Size** 7. **Knife** 30
Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents

Later, the frank was **blue**
Taylor 5c blue **Die** 59. **Size** 7. **Knife** 30
Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents



Blue frank. **Garfield** 5¢ brown
Die 61. **Size** 8. **Knife** 38 **White** paper
Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents



The **latest** frank was **green**.
Garfield 5¢ brown **Die** 61. **Size** 8.
Knife 38 **Amber** paper
Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents



Die 59



Top stroke thick



Die 61

In accordance with the UPU Wells Fargo had to adopt their rates. The UPU convention established a uniform 5 Cents / half oz rate.
Mexico did no longer tolerate that the US Government collected revenues for mail sent from Mexico to USA.
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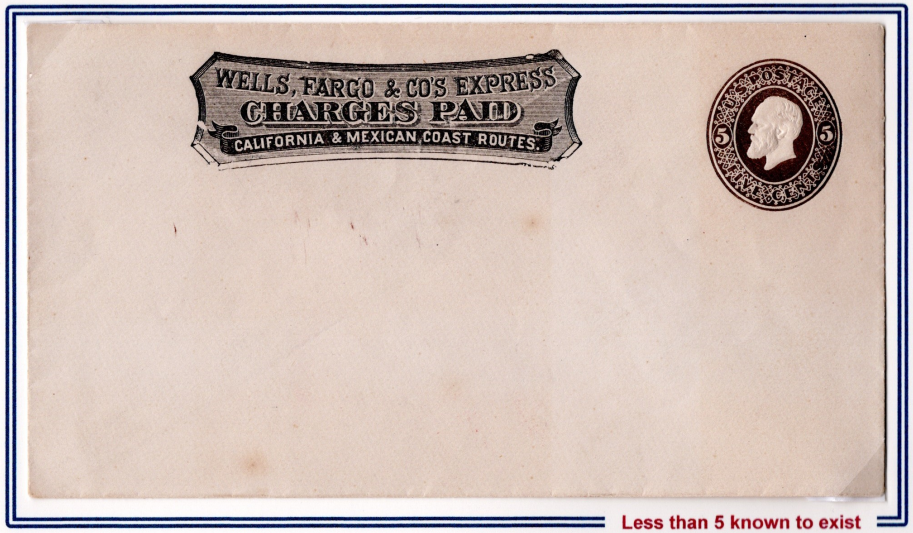
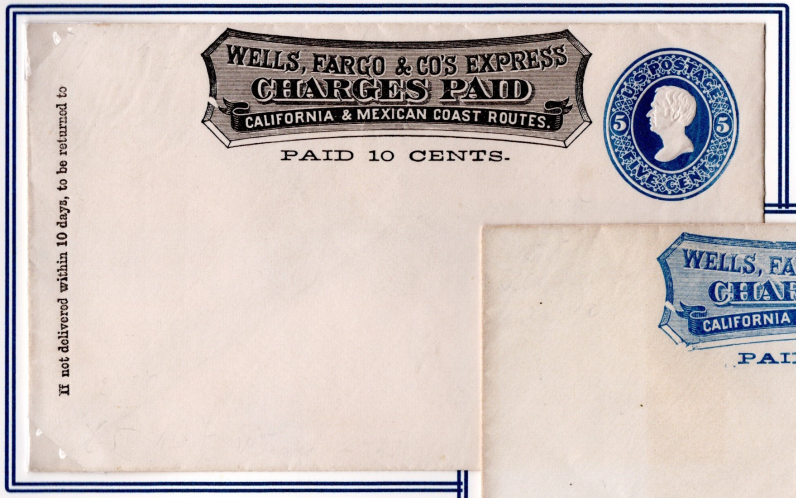


Less than 5 known to exist

Without printed **line** below frank
Garfield 5¢ brown **Die** 61. **Size** 10. **Knife** 54



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Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents

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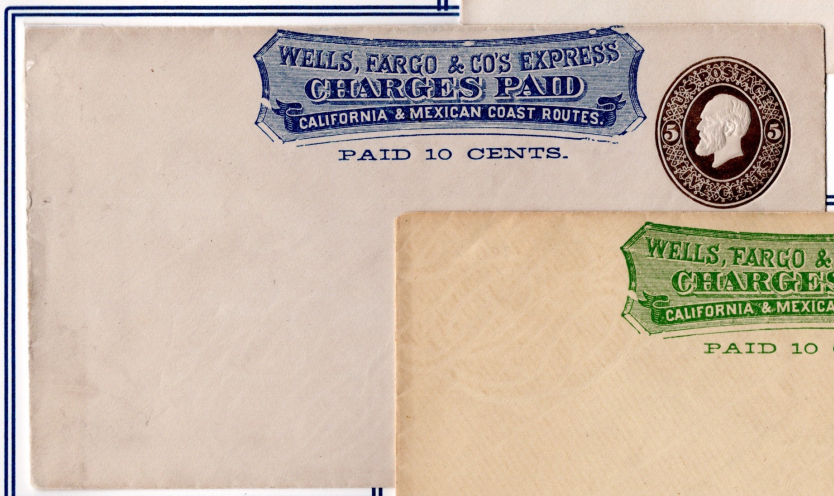
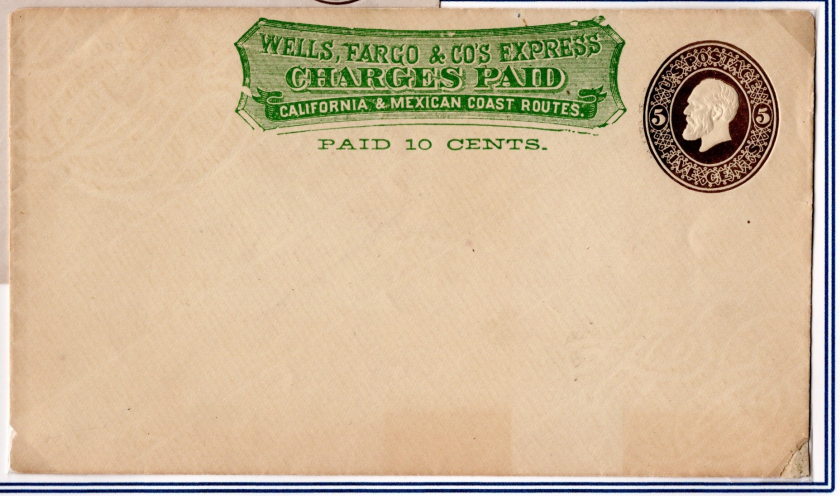
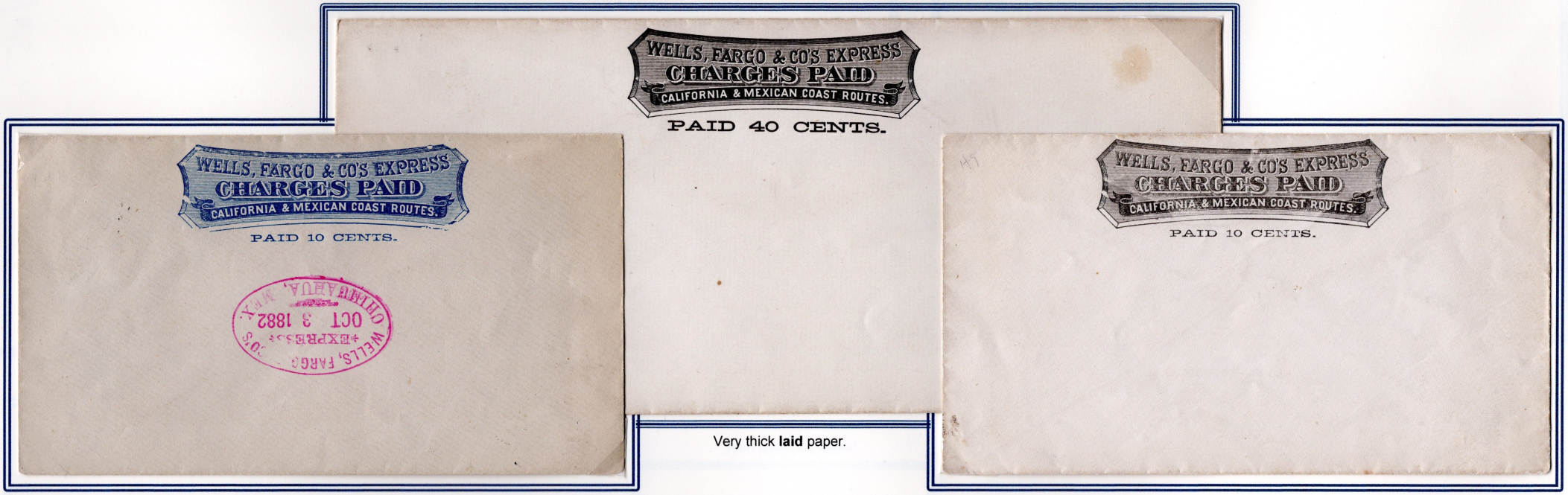


Blue frank. **Garfield** 5¢ brown
Die 61. **Size** 8. **Knife** 38 **White** paper
Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents



The **latest** frank was **green**.
Garfield 5¢ brown **Die** 61. **Size** 8.
Knife 38 **Amber** paper
Large size (43 mm) Paid 10 Cents

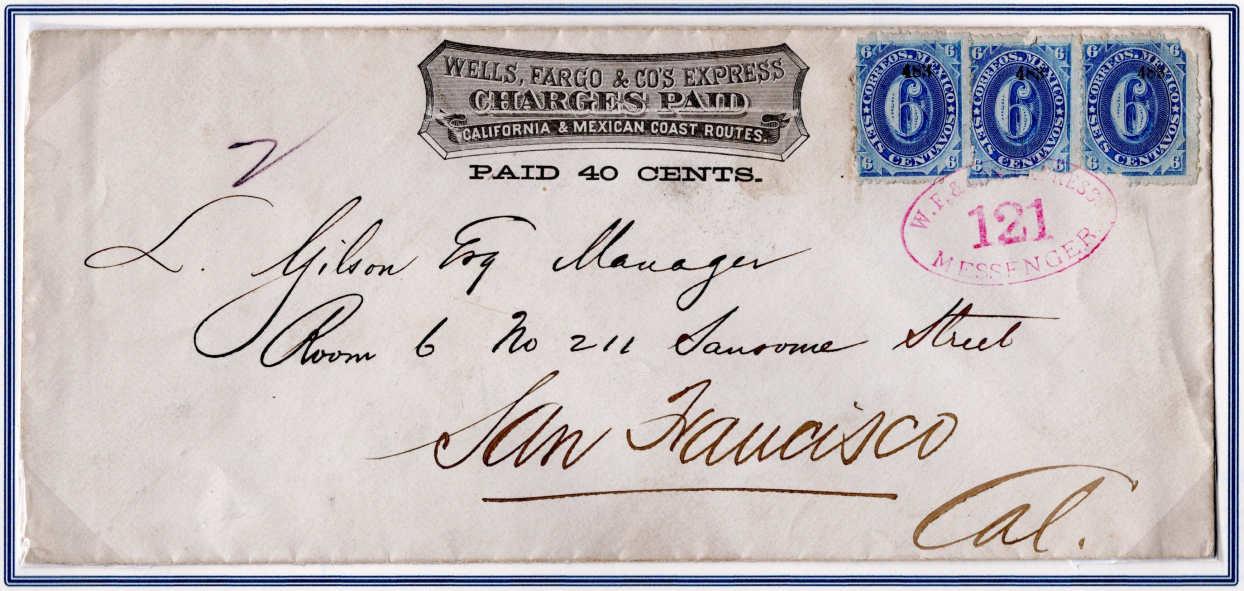
Printed on plain envelopes and to be used exclusively for mail from Mexico to the US. The amount paid to Wells Fargo included the Mexican postage
The shield Franks for Mexico were printed in black and blue only on laid or wove paper and with or without blue liner inside



Very thick **laid** paper.

Thin **wove** paper. Blue liner inside. Paste up use from **Guaymas**

White **laid** paper



Quadruple rate cover from **Miñas Prietas Company** In the region south-east of **Hermosillo, Sonora** to **San Francisco.**
Cancelled with **messenger cancel 121.** The messenger **"121"**worked on the Sonoran railroad



Single rate paste up envelope with 2x3 Centavos "**small numeral**" stamps from **Chihuahua** Nov. 16, 1882 Cancelled in **New York** Nov. 21 1882 "Late arrival / mail train / detention

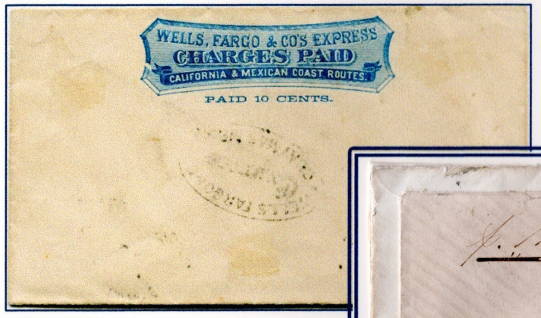
Envelopes from Mexico to USA had to be prepaid either by stamps or cash aboard the ship.

Paid in cash to the "Agencia de Correos en el vapor New Bern".



Two covers with the "Newbern" cancel known

Commission merchant **Joe Arce** handed the letter to the **La Paz Wells Fargo agent** who in turn paid the Mexican postal agent on board ship ***Newbern***. Payment was acknowledged with the **"Agenzia de Correos en el vapor Newbern"** and the "**PAID**" cancels. Therefore, no postage stamp was necessary



Copy at 60%

Handed over to the **WF agent** at **Guaymas** for the ship ***New Bern*** **in February 1881.**



Sent to **Baker & Hamilton in San Francisco.** They had a hardware store on Front Street who at that time primarily supplied miner's tools



A Foreign mail **6 Centavos large Numeral** stamp from district **2783 Mazatlan** was used to **frank** this letter sent by Lic. Luis Mendoza from **La Paz** to **San Francisco** sometimes in 1883
The **Mexican route** cancel was applied onboard the ship by the WF agent



5 C. Hidalgo imprint. **Mazatlan** (District no. **27**, issued in the fiscal year 1**882**).
From **Guaymas** to **San Francisco**.
The "**Old German script**" **WF cancel** was the most long lived of the 1st and 2nd period

Mining engineer Livingston Gilson was manager of the Miñas Prietas silver mines in San Francisco. The mines themselves were in the vicinity of Torres, Sonora. According to the official Wells Fargo directories Torres should have had an WF office since 1883

A WF agent brought a bunch of letters to the local post office which provided them with stamps and cancelled them. Only when WF brought them en route they received the WF cancel



Franked with 3 x 2 Centavos Juarez foreign mail stamps.
Paste up from **Chihuahua** (Nov. 27, 1882), via **Deming** (Dec. 1) to **New York**.(Dec. 4)
WF canceled the envelope **two days** earlier, **Nov. 29, 1882**

Fancy negative
"E in. circle"

Double rate cover. Blue frank



Likely from **Torres**, Sonora by rail to **Nogales** and to **San Francisco** where the strip of three 3¢ U.S. franking was cancelled.

Double rate cover. Black frank
Although Torres was the railway hub for the surrounding mines, a WF office opened in 1886 only



A **manuscript** cancel "**Torres 23 de 1884**"devalues the pair of **6c** blue **Numerals** of 1882. **Nogales**, May 25, 1884, and **Benson** May 27, transit cancels. Arrived at **San Francisco** Aug. 28,

The WF quadruple rate cover came in only one size and knife



The **block of six** & pair of **3c lake issue 1882** remained uncancelled .The arrival **WF cancel** of **San Francisco** on reverse is dated **May 28, 1884**

Transition period with an Essay and a short-lived "Scroll with Spears" frank. Wells Fargo decided on green for its Mexican franks

Essay



Produced in late 1882 to inaugurate the Spanish language.
WF used a **battered Type E frank** with marks of deteriorated straight pins on this U189 envelope.

The scroll frank with spears was in use for a few weeks from late December to January 1883

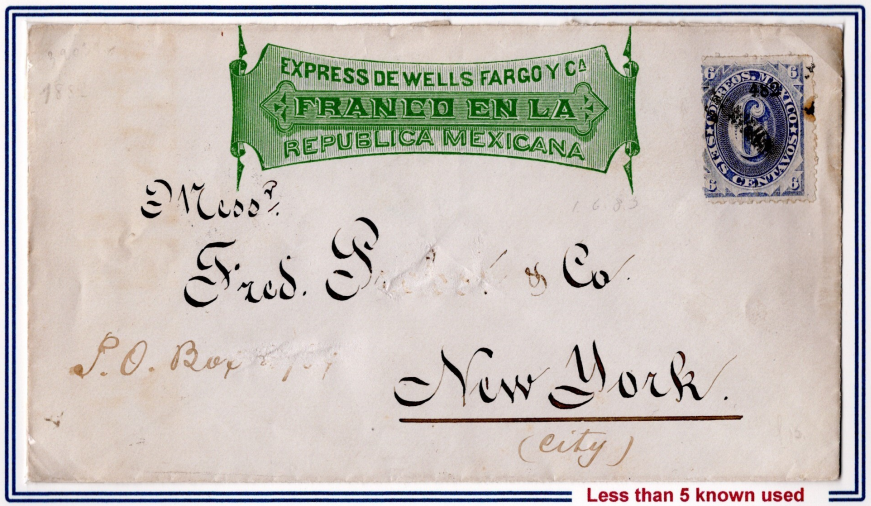


Earliest known use

From **Chihuahua** Dec. 22, 1882
Arrived in **New York** Dec. 27, 1882. Paste up use.

The spears proved to be too delicate to print and were removed after a few months

The scroll frank was engraved by Eleanor P. Gibbons



Less than 5 known used

6 C. Numeral **Hermosillo** to **New York** Arrival cancel Jan. 6, 1883



The only envelope with the new frank (U190, Size 21, knife100, WM 5) printed for use from the USA to Mexico.
Not known used.

As of December 1882, the frank was green and in Spanish. No printed line "Paid X Cents" below frank

Three legal-size (size 21) envelopes with WF frank have been issued. They differ in the position of the frank, the color of the paper and the watermark.

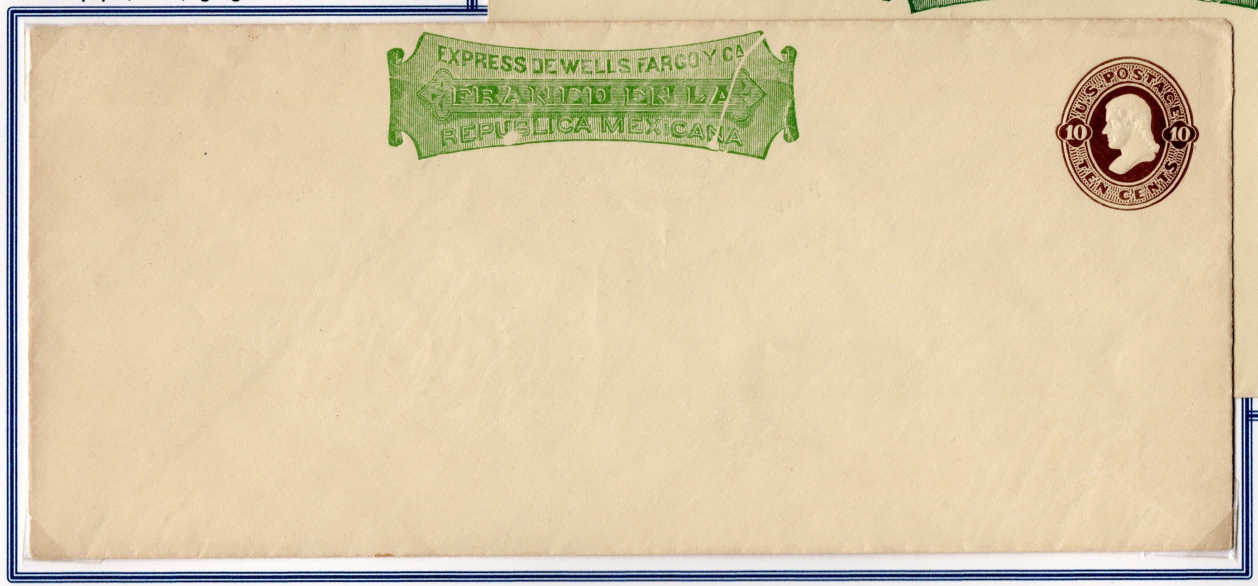
White paper WM 7, frank at right



Amber paper WM 5 green frank top center



Amber paper, WM 5, light green frank left of center





Die 60
Top stroke
thin





Die 61
WM 5
Size 8 on
white paper



Die 61
WM 6
Size 8 on
amber paper

Taylor 5¢ blue, Size 8. Knife 38.
Only envelope of the
"scroll issue" with **Taylor5¢** die

WF Mexico envelopes had to be franked with stamps. Although not indicated (as on US envelopes) Wells Fargo charged their transportation fee which included the amount paid with stamps. Therefore, Mexican envelopes with frank only are considered postal stationery.

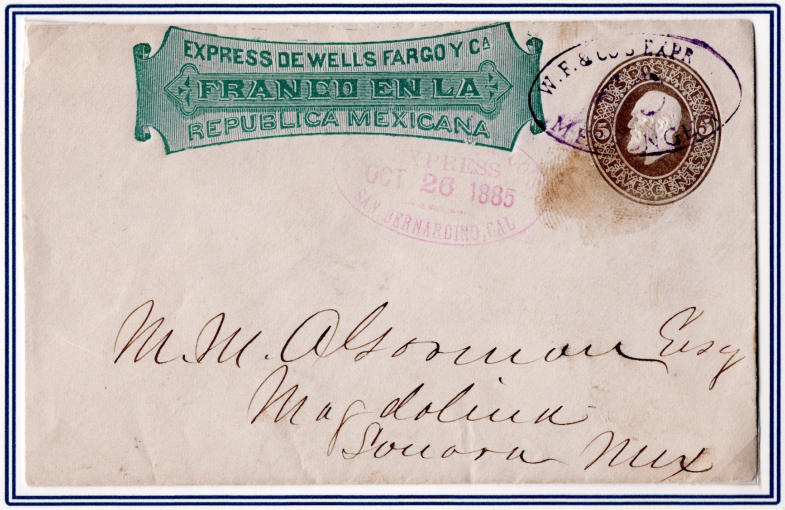
USA to Mexico

For correspondence to the west coast of the USA no additional franking was necessary.

The majority of the very few existing used WF postal stationery envelopes with scroll frank emanate from the Woods correspondence



To John **Woods** from **El Paso** to **Chihuahua**



San Bernardino Cal. to **Magdalena**, Sonora by rail.
Faint red WF cancel S. Bernardino and W.F Express / Messenger cancel.
Number not readable

Mexico to USA and beyond

Both paste up's from **Guaymas** to **San Francisco**



For correspondence to the east coast additional franking for the transcontinental transport was mandatory.

Single weight paste up from **Chihuahua** cancelled 23. March 1883





Double weight envelope from **Guaymas to Berlin** cancelled March 23, 1883. Arrived Oct 24.

A WF clerk brought a bunch of franked envelopes to the post office, which placed stamps on them and cancelled them. Thus, the postmark often is some days earlier than the WF handstamp.

Exceptionally WF transported ordinary covers without frank to their destination. The fee for the express company was paid cash



February 1, 1883. **Single weight** cover from **Hermosillo** via New York (Feb. 23) to **Hamburg**, Germany. Arrived **March 3, 1883,** a one-month journey



Copy of reverse at 60%



August 30, 1883, **double weight** cover from **Guaymas** by the **Kansas City & Deming** RR through the continent to **New York** and from there to **Bremen**, where it arrived September 18, 1883



Copy of reverse at 60%



Quadruple weight paste up cover from **Guaymas,** April 18, 1884 (Guaymas octagonal cancel) **sent by WF one day later** via **New York** to **Bremen** Arrived May 8, 1884

Obviously, there were quite a few envelopes with shield franks left.
Ever thrifty Aaron Stein started to overprint unused envelopes for his Purchasing, Supply and Commission Department to use for official interoffice business
Most of these envelopes came from a later printing with a characteristic straight pin imprint from a loose envelope guide pin.

Size 153 x 86mm, thin, wove paper. Inside blue liner



For **official** (Wells Fargo) business. Without pre-printed address

Varying
form numbers

(180.) **(159.)**

Size 153 x 86mm, thin, wove paper. Inside blue liner



Used to **Salem** Oregon. Additional magenta **OFFICIAL** handstamp.
With pre-printed address

White wove paper without blue liner. Size 151 x 85mm



Tiny Corner Card upper left

Thick white wove paper. Large (172x96mm) format. From an earlier printing with intact frank without pin



Local use in **San Francisco**

[EX L

In June 1885 the new green pictorial Mexican frank followed the shield frank. It was in continuous use to 1910

Size 21, knife 100. Die 65 10¢ Washington



Die 61 5¢ Garfield brown

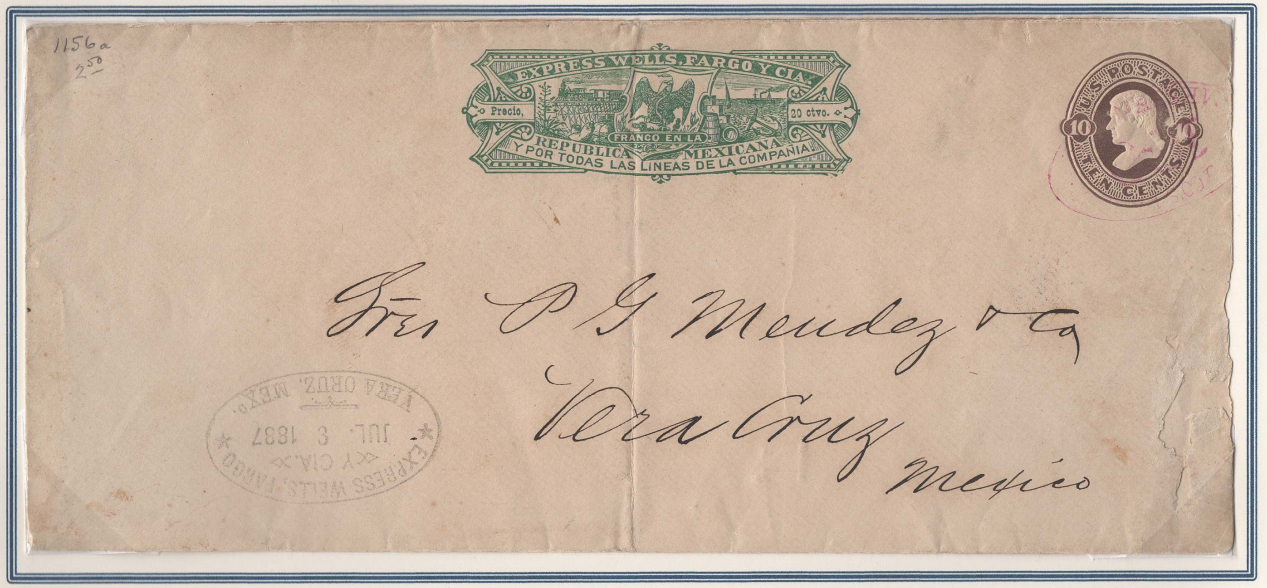


WF10c, WM 7, white paper size 10 / WF 10 c, WM 7, amber paper size 8-

Ketelsen & Degetau were one of the leading drugstores in **El Paso,** with a branch in **Chihuahua**

[EX LICHTENSTEIN]

Used legal size envelopes of this issue are rarely seen



Sent to **Veracruz.** Arrived July 3, 1887. The **Messenger** cancelled the envelope while on the train to **Veracruz**

From June 1885 to June 1887 the 5 Cents Garfield and the 10 Cents Washington dies of the 184 Plimpton issue were used for southbound envelopes

From June 1885 into early 1886 WF issued franked covers with 1882 the 5¢ Garfield die which carried a handstamped two-line inscription in Spanish and English.

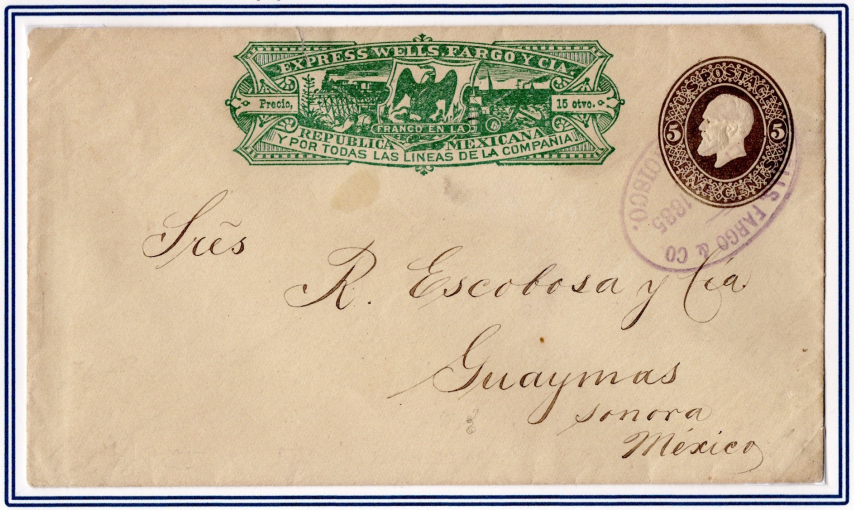
Size 10, Kf. 54, WM 7, amber paper / Size 8, Kf. 38, WM 6 ,white paper

A recently discovered envelope



Less than five known used

Size 8 knife38 WM 6 on amber paper.



October 27, 1886, from **San Francisco** to **Guaymas**

Two single weight WF envelopes were tied together the second being folded and glued to the back of the first one. This resulted in a double weight envelope





Copy at 60%

Wells Fargo charged **30 Centavos** (2x15C.). This included the **10¢** (2x5¢) **US** postage on this **1885** paste up to **Guaymas.**
Sent August 17, 1885, ms "aswd. Aug 21, 1885".

Size 10 knife 54 WM 6 on white paper.



September 3, 1885, from **San Francisco** to **Guaymas**

The two-cent envelopes made from the new die 88 were issued in late September1887. Wells Fargo used to print their frank on these envelopes until 1895. The envelopes could still be used up for several years. WF charged 10, 15 or 20 Centavos according to the distance the cover travelled

The long period of use entailed the production of several electrotypes which over time show varying degree of ware

WF 10 Ctvo.
Size 10
Knife 54
WM 7
White paper

Frank undamaged



WF 10 Ctvo.
Size 10
Knife 54
WM
Amber paper

Round spots in frank

The latest use of the 2¢ Washington envelopes seen is September 1897

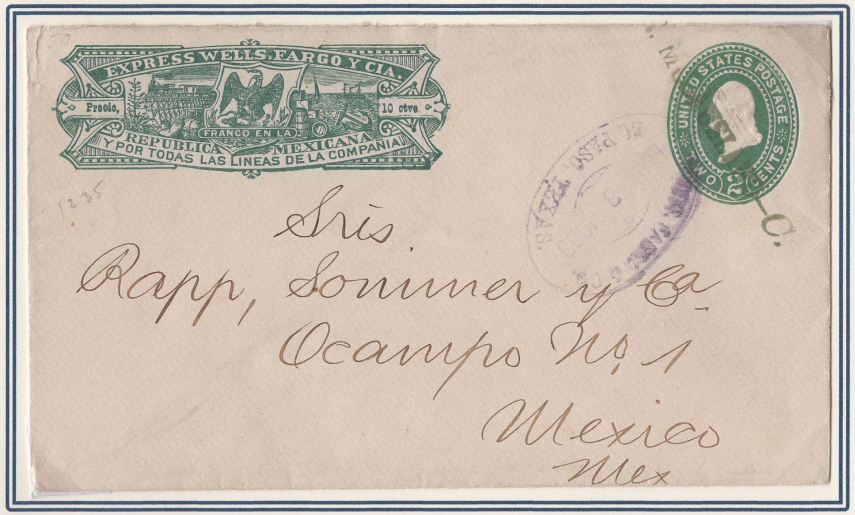


In El Paso, **Messenger 260** canceled the letter on September 17, 1897, in vibrant red Messenger **W.B. Lane** added his **name** and **cancel No. 253** on the train of the **Mexican Central RR** down to **Chihuahua**

Very few envelopes are known used before 1890



May 1, 1888: Paste on from **Kansas City** to **Ensenada,** Baja California via **Chicago** RPO. **Rare undated** arrival **cancel** of **Ensenada**



March 2, 1889, P. Sandoval sent this cover from **Nogales AZ**. The Railroad **Messenger** cancelled it **on** the train to **Mexico.** Arrived **March 6, 1889**. The **Mexican Central RR** was only **partly** built.

July 1 1886		
Weight	US	WF
- ½ oz.	2¢	10CTS
½ –1oz.	4¢	20CTS

On July 1, 1887, the Mexico – United States postal convention went into effect. The result was a rate reduction. The two-cent and four-cent envelopes made from the new dies were issued in late September1887 Wells Fargo probably bought the new envelopes with the red die 91 in the early 1890s only.


Die 81


Die 79


Die 91

The 2¢ Washington Die 81 envelopes were used for a short period only

Size 8, knife. 100, WM 7,white paper



El Paso. Mexican Central RR **Messenger 153** cancelled the cover to **Guanajuato.**

Paste up cover. October 26, 1887. From **El Paso** to **Zacatecas**

The green 4¢ Jackson Die 79 envelopes were printed on rather low-quality manila paper



San Francisco October 2, 1889, via **WF El Paso** (Oct. 6) to **Guadalajara.** Arrival cancel WF Guadalajara **Oct.8.**

The US envelope with die 91 exists in 12 varieties (size, knife, watermark , paper).

This is the last US envelope with a Mex. WF frank



From June 1885 to 1899 Mexican postal service by order of President Dias Wells Fargo had to use Stamped to Order (STO) envelopes.
From 1900 to 1910 Mexican Postal stationery envelopes with the embossed Eagle die were bought by Wells Fargo and franked with their logo plus printed lines underneath.
These envelopes with the WF frank were for use in Mexico as well as to foreign counties. Rates and directives frequently changed resulting in a vast number of varieties.

STO envelopes (to 1899)

1. One of five (5, 10, 15 or 25 ctvo.) **basic Wells Fargo franks** 1 was printed on plain envelopes.
2. The Mexican **Government** provided the envelope with one or more **stamp dies.** 2
3. **WF** handstamped the **directives** 3 and the **weight** 4 on the envelopes.
4. In the course of time **manuscript** or/and **handstamped** 5 **revisions** of rates etc. were necessary.

1
3/4
2



A basic ½ oz. domestic rate envelope. The buyer paid Well Fargo 15 Centavos which included the 10 Centavos paid by WF to the government

Mexican postal stationery envelopes (from 1900)

1. The WF frank was printed on **Mexican post office** envelopes of the1900, 1903 & 1906 issues 1
2. The **frank** and the **directives** were printed at the same time 2
3. **Lines** were printed in **normal** or **italic** script.3

2
1



A Mexican post office envelope (E61) with the WF frank and line applied privately by Wells Fargo
Line in **normal** serified (3) script
For domestic use and for the United States

5

5



A 1 Peso frank didn't exist. "20 ctvo" in the frank was crossed out and replaced by UN PESO (for 4 oz. to the United States.) Later on, the line was changed to "2oz. to Europe" and the UN PESO reduced to 60 cts. in ms. leaving the Government rate at 40 Centavos.



A Mexican post office envelope (E62) with the WF frank and line applied privately by Wells Fargo
Line in ***italic*** serified (3) script
For a single rate envelope (15gr.) to Europe

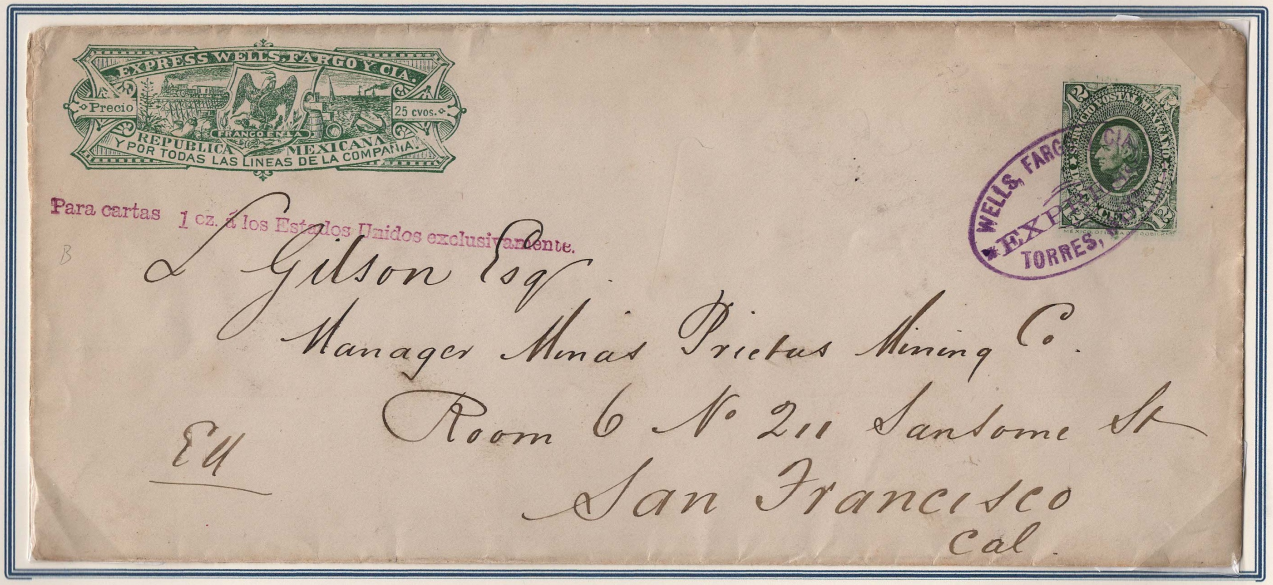
During the first printing in 1885 Wells Fargo Mexico had two different franks-dies. Die I with "cvos." was printed for a short period only and is considerably scarcer than Die II with "ctvo."



Wells Fargo Rates July1885						
Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10 c	15 c	6 c	15 c	12 c	15 c
-1	20 c	25 c	12 c	25 c	24 c	35 c
-4	-	-	100 c	48 c	-	-

Line 2 ½ oz. domestic rate to **Mexico.** **WF** realized a **profit** of **5 Centavos**





Line 2 Double weight envelope sent from **Torres** January 11, 1887, to **San Francisco.** Arrived January 14. 1887



Line 1 ½ oz. **domestic** rate
Single rate envelope from **Zacatecas** Dec. 7,1885 to **Sierra** Mojada. Unusual triple oval WF cancel



One of less than 5 known Line 3 / 1oz. **international** rate envelope from **Guaymas** to **Paris**
For the transcontinental transport of mail from the Pacific coast to New York and beyond the government charged an additional 5¢ per ½ oz.



Frank in center



Frank 2 ctvo.

Frank at left



Scan of cut outs at 60%

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10 c	15 c	6 c	15 c	12 c	15 c
-1	20 c	25 c	12 c	25 c	24 c	35 c
-4	-	-	1 Peso	48 c	-	-

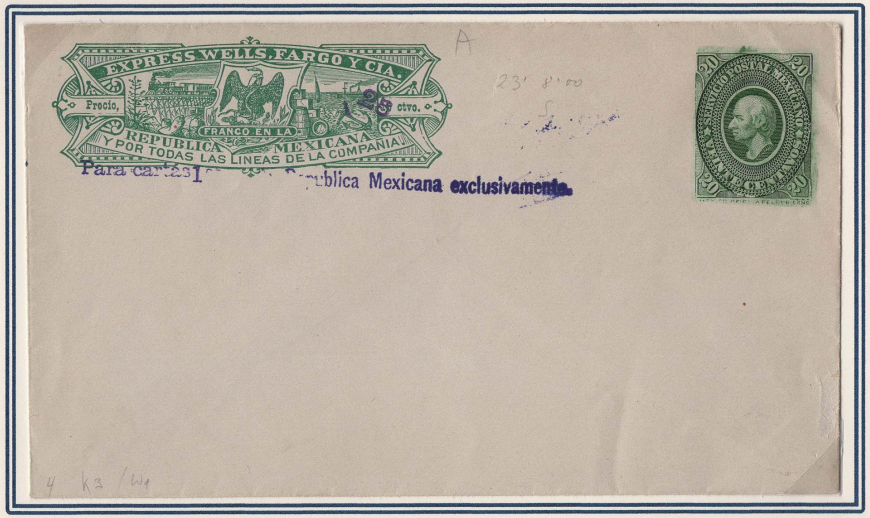


October 28, 1885. A **double** weight envelope from **Mexico** to **Lagos JAL.**

Up rated with **cut outs** from a 10 C. envelope which turns it into a **triple weight** cover.



A common ½ oz single rate envelope
Jan. 22, 1888, **Lagos** to **Mexico** City, Arrival cancel on back Jan.23.

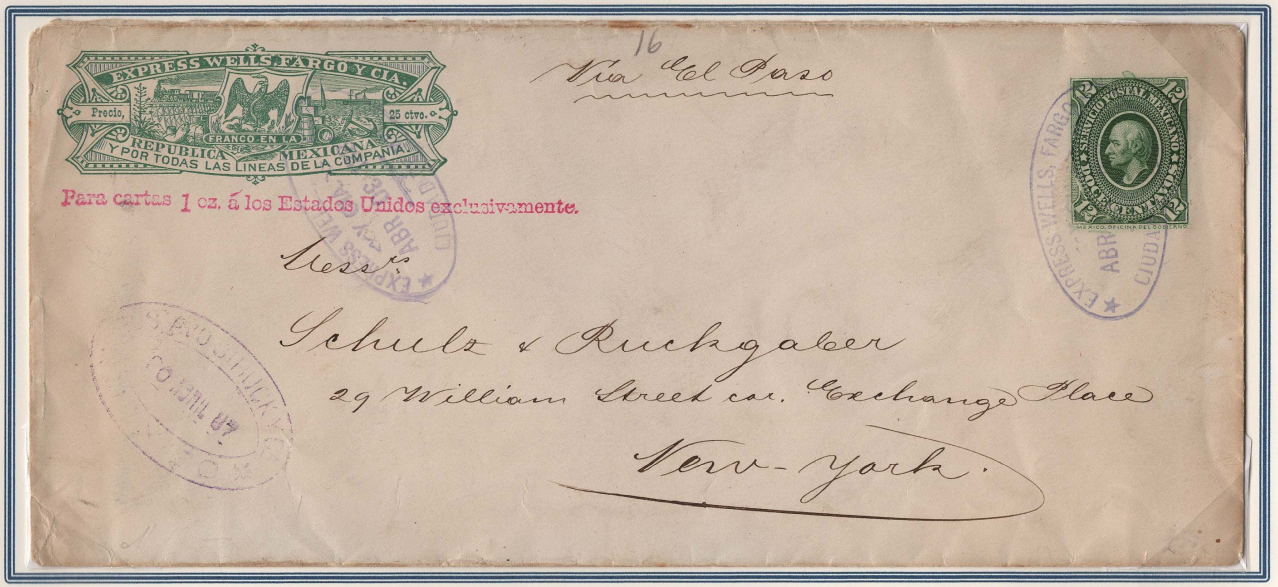


Small envelope for **1 oz.** in **Mexico. Handstamped "25" over 15 ctvo. in frank**
Not known used

The only envelope with three dies Wells Fargo ever issued was the one for line 2 (- 4 ounces to the USA).
The 3 Centavos and 25 Centavos dies were used exclusively for this issue.

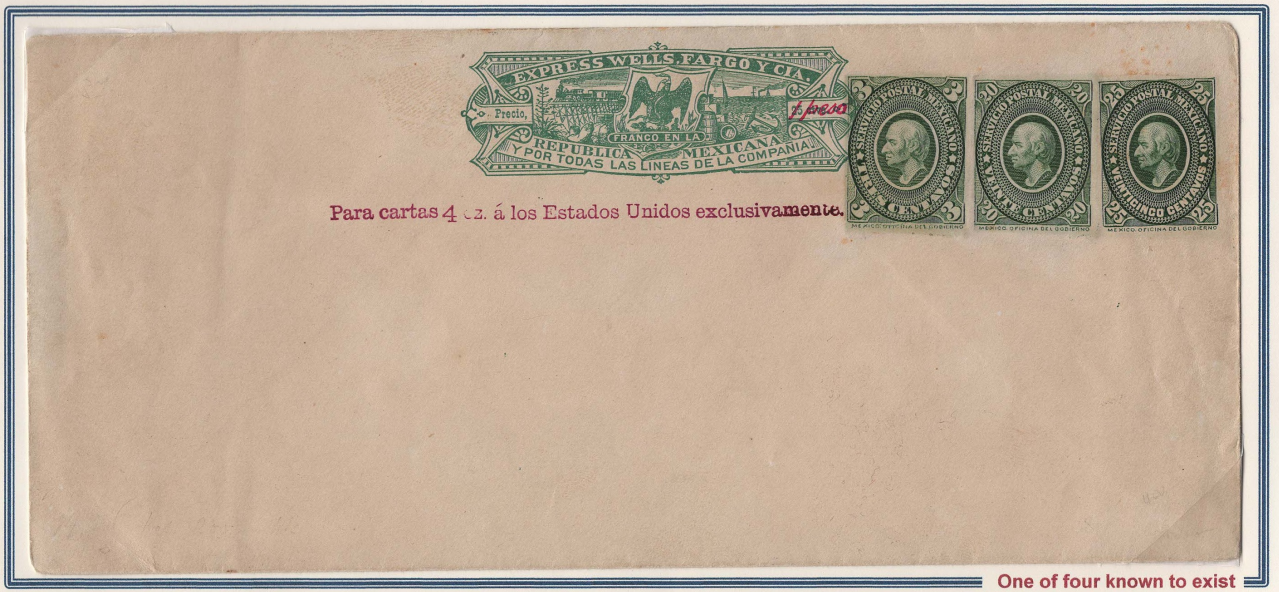


Single rate envelope from **Escalon,** Chihuahua to **El Paso,** New Mexico
One of the **earliest** known covers sent **July 24, 1885**



April 30, 1887. A double weight envelope from **Mexico** to **New York**. **Laredo** TEX transit cancel on back

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10 c	15 c	6 c	15 c	12 c	15 c
-1	20 c	25 c	12 c	25 c	24 c	35 c
-4	-	-	1 Peso	48 c	-	-



One of four known to exist

25 ctvo. in the frank was corrected by **manuscript** to **1 Peso.**
Only WF envelope with three stamp dies

For the transcontinental transport of mail from the Pacific coast via Benson to New York and beyond the US government charged an additional 5¢ per ½ oz. The U.S. stamps were cancelled in Benson AZ. with their cork killer. Wells Fargo likely added the stamps at the place of origin.

For a brief time in 1885 WF sold envelopes for 15 Centavos only making a profit of mere 3 Centavos.



From **Guaymas** Jan. 26, 1886, to **Paris.** Arrived in Paris February 9, 1886
Benson AZ cancelled the stamp on Jan.27.

In October 1885 WF raised the fees to 20 / 35 Ctvo. increasing its profit to 15 Centavos



From **Guaymas** Oct. 8, 1886, via Benson and New York to London
Arrived October 25, 1886 .(red cancel on back)

An extraordinary triple rate envelope of 1 ½ oz. with two ½ oz. envelopes pasted to the back

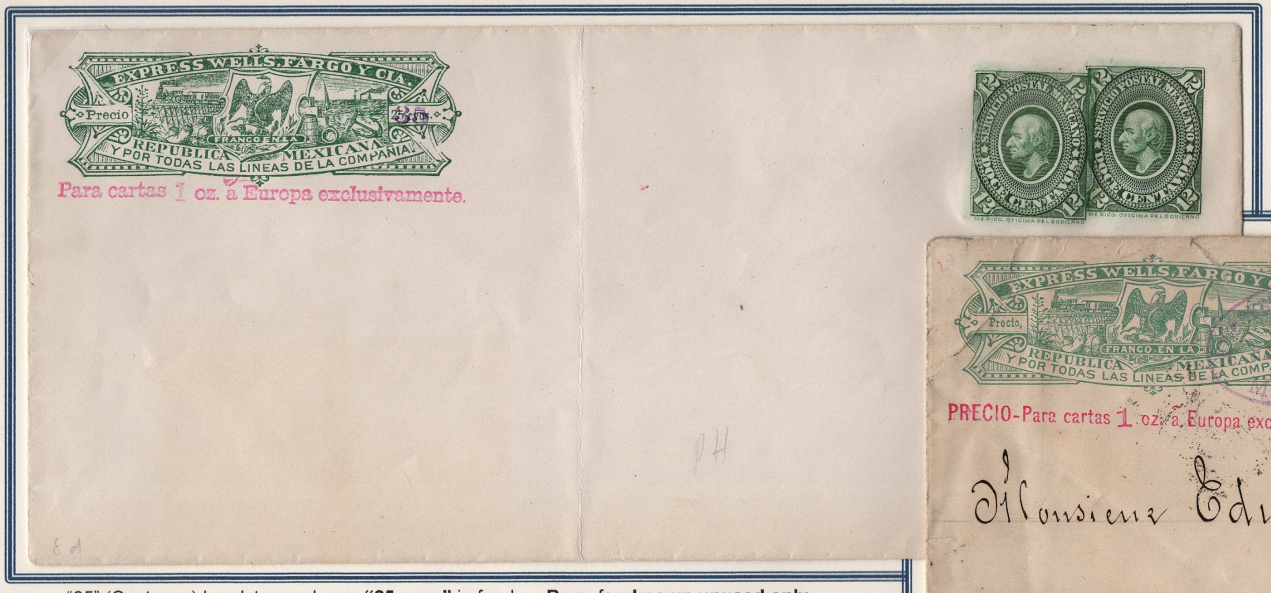
WF	36 Centavos
Mexico	50 Centavos
US	15 Cents (5c per ½ oz)



Nov. 21, 1885. From **Guaymas** to **Paris** .Arrived Dec. 12, 1885. Transit cancels **Benson** (Nov.22) and **New York** (Nov.29). Arrived Dec.12. in **Paris**
Transit through USA: **15¢** paid by 1c Franklin, 2x2¢ Washington and10¢Jefferson)

There were no 20 ctvo.and 35 ctvo. franks available in 1885. For mail going beyond USA franks had to be corrected usually by handstamps.
For the large double weight envelopes up to 1oz.WF a second 12c Hidalgo die was necessary. it was printed separately. The position of the die therefore varies considerably.

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10 c	15 c	6 c	15 c	12 c	20 c
-1	20 c	25 c	12 c	20 c	24 c	35 c
-4	-	-	1 Peso	48 c	-	-



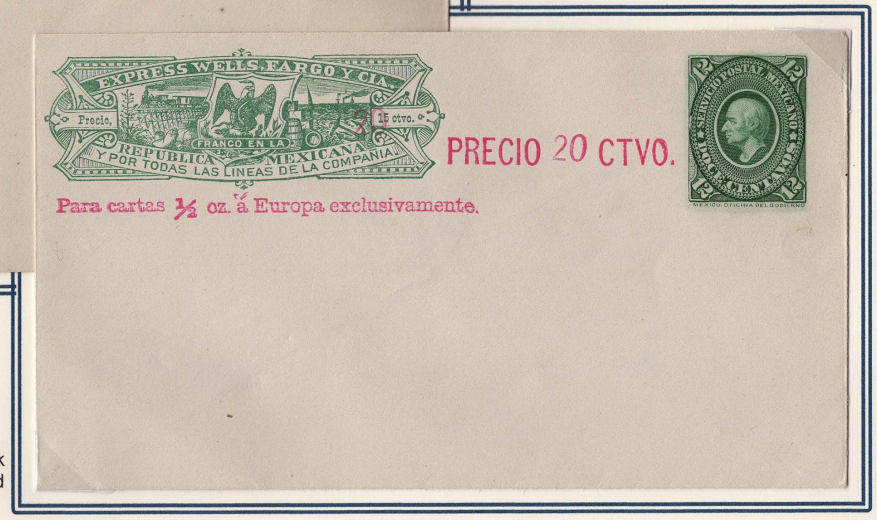
"35" (Centavos) handstamped over **"25 cvos"** in frank. **Rare,** few **known unused only**



A common double weight 1886 envelope from **Mexico** via N.Y. to **Anvers**



"**20**" handstamped over 15 ctvo.in frank
"Para cartas....exclusivamente"
in serified script



"**20**" handstamped over 15 ctvo.in frank
"PRECIO 20 CTVO" added



"**20**" handstamped over 15 ctvo.in frank. **"PRECIO"** and "**CTVO**" enframes line 3. "**20**" stamped into line

No envelopes for up to 2oz. weight existed. To solve this problem, larger companies uprated 1oz. envelopes with a half-ounce envelope pasted on the back of the WF envelope



Single weight envelope from **Mexico City** (Feb. 13, 1886), via **New York** (Feb.21) to **Antwerp** Belgium. **Arrived** March 5, 1886

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10 c	15 c	6 c	15 c	12 c	20 c
-1	20 c	25 c	12 c	25 c	24 c	35 c
-4	-	-	1 Peso	48 c	-	-





Mexico Aug. 44, 1885, via **N.Y.** (Aug. 12) to **Constantinople Asia** Minor.
Arrived in **Constantinople** after a journey of 23 days August 27, 1885
A rare destination



Scan at 60%

Up rated with a 12 C. envelope for a weight up to **2 ounces**.
In total: **36 Centavos** for Mexico, **55 Centavos** for Wells Fargo
WF made 19 Centavos out of it



From **Ciudad de Mexico** October 30, 1885, to **St. Gallen** in Switzerland
Transit New York Oct. 21. Swiss **TPO** cancel "Ambulant 26" and arrival cancel 31. Oct. 1885



September 9, 1885. A double weight (1 oz.) envelope from **Mexico** to **Paris** .Arrived Nov. 1st, 1885

In 1885 the green 1884 Hidalgo Medallion stamps became colored. So did two of the Wells Fargo envelopes. At the same time rates changed. to UPU rates This was a short-lived issue.

Knife 1, Shallow throat. Size 152x85mm



Knife 1

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10 c	15 c	05c	15 c	12 c	15 c

Half ounce envelope for domestic use. Government rate lowered from 12c. to 10c UPU.
Color of Hidalgo die was changed from **green** to **ochre**.

Knife 1, Shallow throat. Size **152x85mm**



Half ounce envelope for use to USA. Government rate lowered from 6c. to 5c UPU.
Color of Hidalgo die was changed from **green** to **blue**.

Knife 2

Knife 2. Deep throat. Size **152x89mm**

Leon, June 27, 1886, to **Mexico**. Arrived June 29.



Queretaro, July 7, 1886, to **Mexico**. Same day arrival.

Knife 1, Shallow throat. Size **152x85mm**

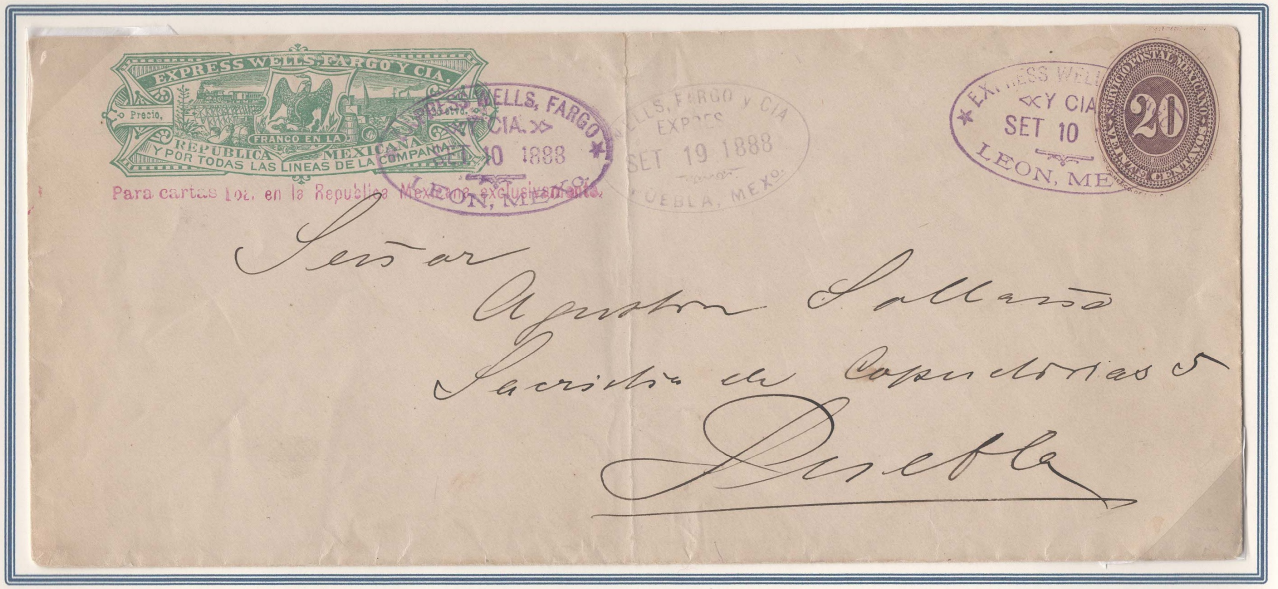


Paste up with red **RR Messenger** 105.

Paste up 13. July 1887 from **Guadalajara** to **San Francisco**

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10c	15c	-	-	-	-$
1	20c	25c	10c	25c	20c	35c
2	40c	50c	20c	50c	40c	70c
4	-	-	100c	40c	-	-

July 1st, 1886, Mexico issued a new series of stamps with a numeral in oval. The embossed die on all these envelopes is lilac to lilac brown.



Leon, September 10, 1888, to **Puebla**. Arrival cancel on front. The only legal-size envelope for **domestic** use in this issue.

Shipping route through two countries due to geographical conditions





Mailed on 1 July at **La Paz**, then across the Gulf of California to **Guaymas** further on by ***Ferocaril Occidental Mexicano*** to **Benson, Arizona Territory** thence by ***Southern Pacific Railroad*** to **El Paso Texas**, and finally by ***Ferrocaril Central Mexicano*** to **Mexico**



A 25 ctvo. frank was **manually** changed to 15 cvos in red ink.
Mexico 1886 to **Leon**



Rate for 3 oz (domestic)	
Mexican post	**60** Centavos
Wells Fargo	**75** Centavos

No triple weight (up to 3oz.) envelopes were available.
Two envelopes had to be **pasted** on an addressed cover.

During July 1886 October 1887 the minimal WF rate for letters from 1/2 to 2 ounces to the USA was 25 Centavos. Most of the franks had to be corrected

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-1	20c	25c	10c	25c	20c	35c
2	40c	50c	20c	50c	40c	70c

"**1**" of "15" corrected to "**2**" in black ink



2 oz. envelope with frank corrected from **25** to 50c.
4 oz. envelope with additional 20c die and frank corrected from **20** c to 1 Peso



The **most common** overprint
25CVOS. Mexico to **New York**



The only one seen used





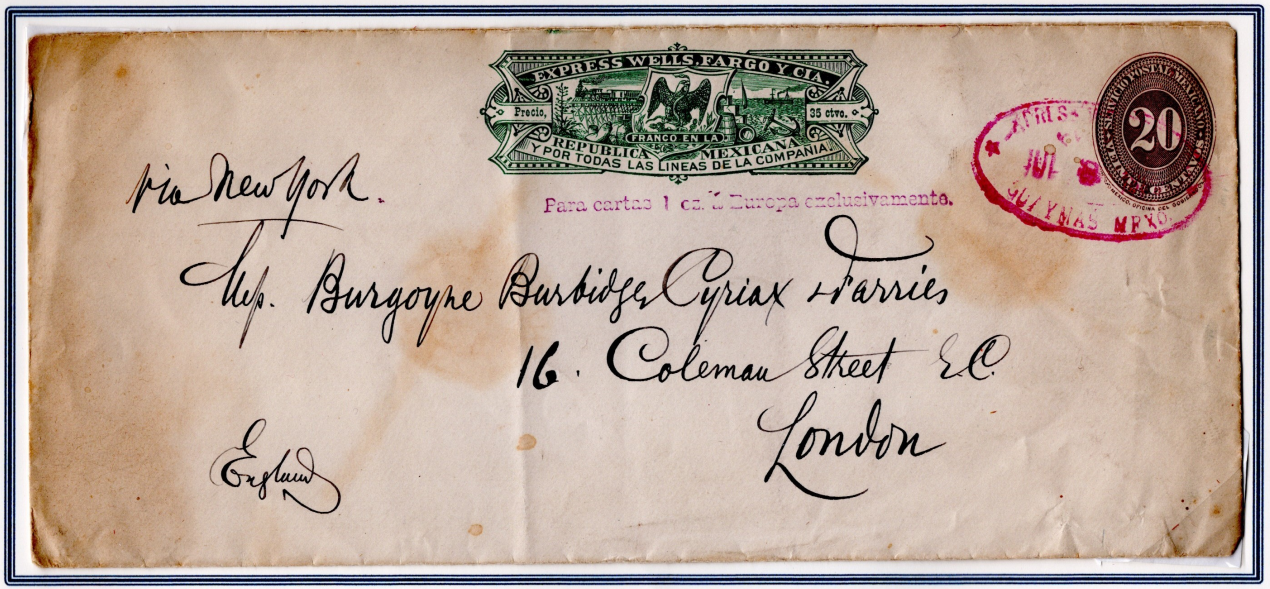
One ounce envelope to **San Francisco**. A four-day travel from **Guaymas**. (Uprated on reverse with cut outs of two ½ oz. envelopes for 2 oz.).



"**25**" over "**15 ctvo.**"in frank Paste on Guaymas to **San Francisco**.

WF envelopes to Europe were only available for up to 2 oz. For heavier envelopes companies had to combine envelopes to paste on's

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
1	20c	25c	10c	25c	20c	35c
2	40c	50c	20c	50c	40c	70c
4	-	-	100c	40c	-	-

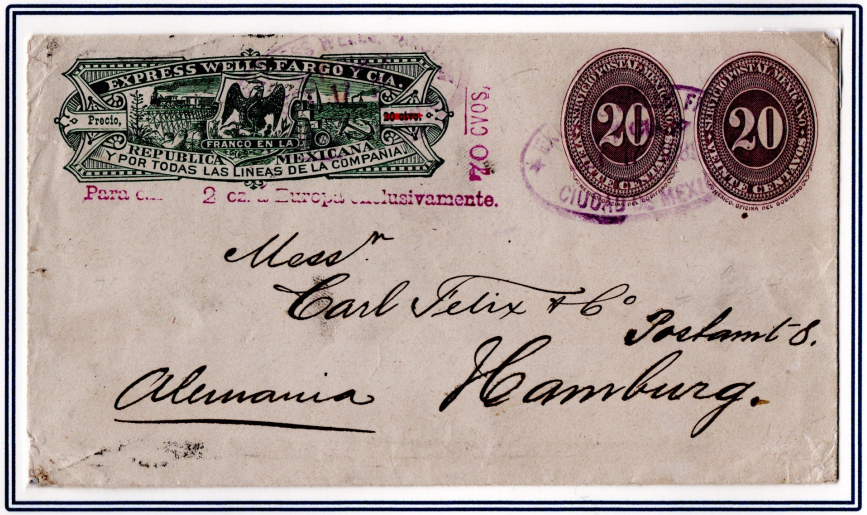


1oz. envelope with **35** ctvo. in frank July 8 from **Guaymas** to **London**.
Although for transcontinental transport 10¢ in US stamps were mandatory this envelope travelled unchallenged



Copy 80%

WF sold the envelope for 70 C. whereof
40 C. went to the Mexican government



2 oz. envelope from **Mexico** City via New York to **Hamburg**. Arrived after 1 month.



One ounce envelope from **Mexico** City via New York to **London**. an 18 day travel
25 ctvo. in frank blanked out and replaced with handstamp **PRECIO 35 CTVO**.



1887 1 oz. paste up envelope from **Guaymas** to **Paris**. The additional franking of **$1.20** in stamps was for transcontinental transport (5¢ / half oz.)
This and another eleven 1oz. envelopes must have been pasted on a large, addressed cover containing business documents.
Most likely from the Boleo mine Company in Sta. Rosalia B.C.

EX BURRUS

The Boleo Copper mines in Santa Rosalia, Baja California had their headquarters in Paris. The management regularly sent heavy documents to Paris.

Both envelopes shown here were carried from **Santa Rosalia** B.C. (**boxed Santa Rosalia cancel**) across the **sea of Cortez** to **Guaymas**. The WF envelopes were cancelled in **Guaymas**. Carried in a **Wells Fargo** mailbag along the **Sonora Rail** system to **Benson** Arizona where the stamps were cancelled. Then by **Southern Pacific RR** to Deming and along the **Santa Fe** system to Kansas and to **New York**. Thence across the Atlantic to **Le Havre**, and by rail to **Paris**.



Explanation of tariff

Wells Fargo: **4.20 Pesos** (12 x 35 Centavos) for **12 oz**.
Mexican Government: **2.40 Pesos** (12 x 20 Centavos)
US Government: **$1.00** (**10 x 10¢** for transcontinental transport
The **WF** envelopes are **without** the **35 Centavos** handstamp







Explanation of tariff

Wells Fargo: **4.90 Pesos** (14 x 35 Centavos) for **14 oz**.
Mexican Government: **2.80 Pesos** (14 x 20 Centavos)
US Government for transport to New York: **$1.30** (26 x 5¢)

< 10 documents with more than 5 paste up envelopes are known

In 1887, the colors of the Numeral dies changed from lilac to red & blue. During the 7 years of use the issue saw many printings with different knifes and sizes. With the passage of time franks heavily deteriorated.

The ½ oz. envelopes exist in twelve knifes and four sizes. Two examples



Knife 7 153x86mm.
Top flap clipped corner and round point

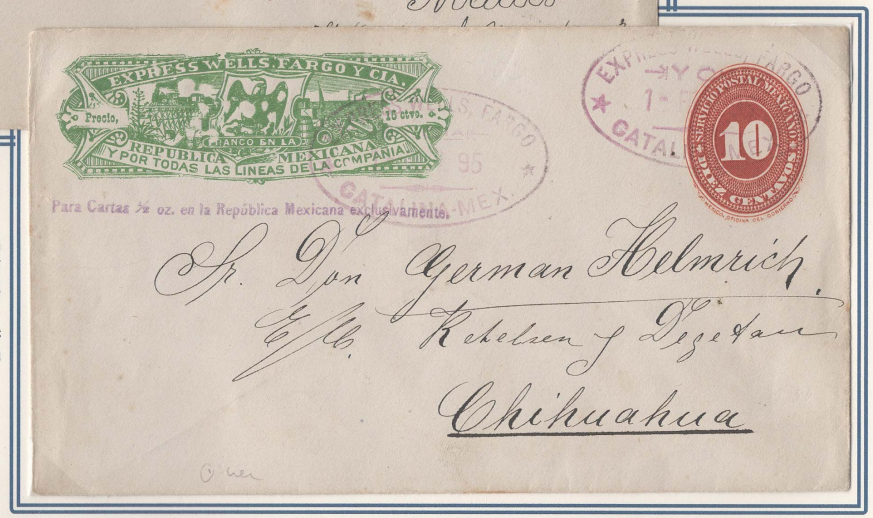
A **pristine** frank seen only on the earliest printings

Knife **10** 153x88mm.
Top flap rounded corners and points

There was much **wear** in later printings.
Misprints with **inverted** die and missing line



An ordinary domestic use from **Pachuca** to **Mexico in 1893**



Santa Catalina in Durango was a WF agency from 1894 to 1904.
Little postal traffic by WF makes this a **rare cancel**



Few of the ½ oz. envelopes had line **2** instead of line **1** handstamped below the frank.
"**à los Estados Unidos**" therefore had to be corrected to **"República Mexicana»**
A paste up sent from **Orizaba** to **Veracruz** in 1893. The arrival cancel is on front.

A **domestic** envelope from **Hermosillo** (May 12, 1895) via Deming and El Paso to **Mexico City**.
There was no railway connection between **Sonora** and the rest of Mexico. **All mail had to be routed through the USA.**



Part reverse at 60%

Messenger 162 of the **Sonora RR** cancelled the envelope **May 12.**
Messenger 123 the next day. and **El Paso May 14**. Arrived in **Mexico May 18**, 1895



The 1 oz. envelopes exist in four knifes and 1 size. Knife 2



A **rare** paste up with **inverted stamp die. Guadalajara** to **Mexico**

Only one seen used

Salinas S. Luis Potosi to **Guanajuato**. Arrived June 29, 1889, Yellow-green frank, early printing

Only one **2 oz**. envelope for domestic use was issued by WF. **15ctvo** in frank crossed out replaced by **50cvos** handstamp. An additional **20c die was** added for the **40c government rate**



Provisional issue due to a shortage of 20c./1oz.envelopes. A 2nd 10c die was added to 10c envelopes in stock



Frank: 25 ctvo **Line 1** Mexico

Berriozabal is a tiny railway station in the state of **Zacatecas** on the **Mexican Central RR**. Arrived in Mexico August 31, 1891.



Frank: 25 ctvo Line 2 to USA **blocked out** and replaced by **line 1** for **Mexico**

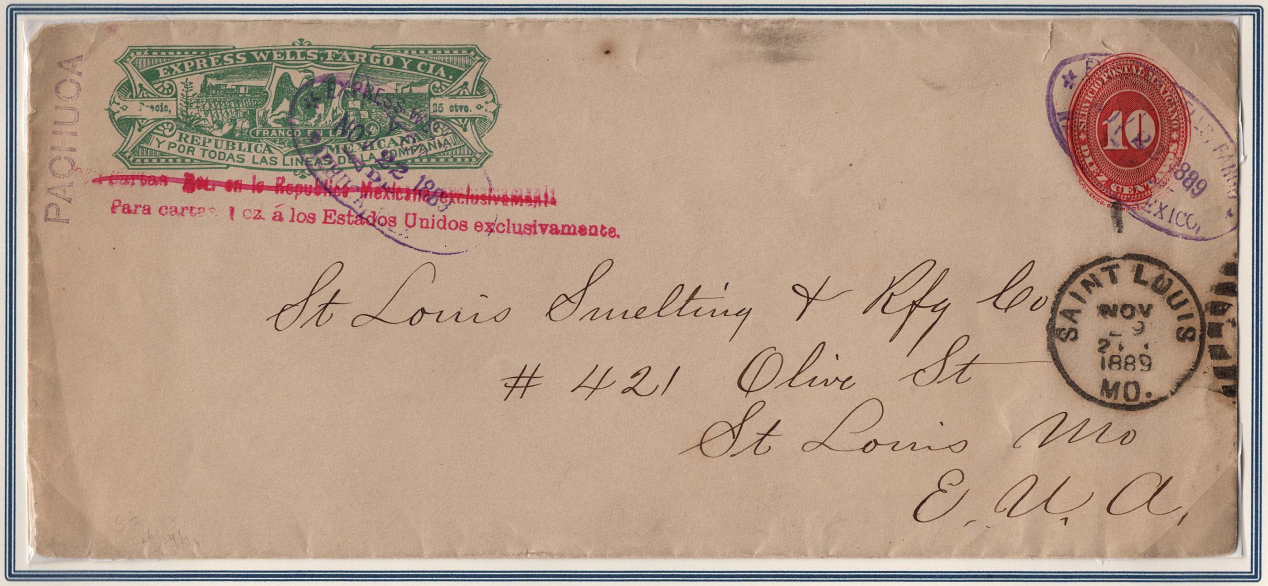


Frank: 15 ctvo raised to **25 cvos** by handstamp **Line 1** Mexico

In 1891 the rate for ½ oz envelopes to the USA was lowered thus making this a lower tariff than the one for Mexican domestic use (15ctvo WF and 10c Mexican government).



Guaymas via **Messenger 123 on** the **Southern Pacific Railroad to Nogales** and **San Francisco**
A **rare commercial** use with **inverted indicium**



Pachuca Nov. 22,1889 to **St. Louis** MO. Nov, 29, 1889 The wrong line for domestic mail has been blanked out and replaced by **line 2 USA**

For this issue exist no small envelopes with a 25ctvo frank. All had to be corrected manually or with a handstamp



The 15ctvo in frank has been crossed out and replaced **by 25 CVOS**.
Paste up from **Mexico City** to **San Francisco**

The"**1**" in "**15 ctvo.**" was corrected to "**2**" in black ink.
The least common correction



A greenish blue "**PRECIO 25 CTVO** " corrects the price on this envelope.

In 1891 the rates were lowered for ½ oz. and 1oz. envelopes to the USA. Double and quadruple rate envelopes in the small size appeared.

The ½ oz. envelopes had several printings in one size with and 3 knifes.



"**15** ctvo ."in frank crossed out and replaced by "**Precio 10** cvos." handstamp. **Guaymas** to **San Francisco**. Messenger # **123** left his cancel on the back

Torres sometimes used the **RR cancel** on WF envelopes



Torres to **San Francisco** .Wells Fargo now sold for 20c instead of 25c Most of the covers seen originate from the **Gilson** correspondence.



Part reverse at 65%

Hermosillo	March 14, 1895
Messenger 176	March 15
Messenger 122	March 16
Nogales Son.	March 16, 3 PM
WF Nogales Son	March 16
Nogales AZ	March 17, 8 AM
N:Y. PONY	March 23



10 ctvo in frank. Well documented voyage from **Hermosillo** via **Sonora** and **US** railroads to **New York**.

2oz. to USA. Frank corrected from 25 ctvo. to **40 cvos**. and line adapted to **2oz**



"**4 oz.**" **and** "**80 cvos**" added **handwritten**

During the 1887 - 1889 period WF issued small envelopes with line 3 for ½ to 2 ounces only

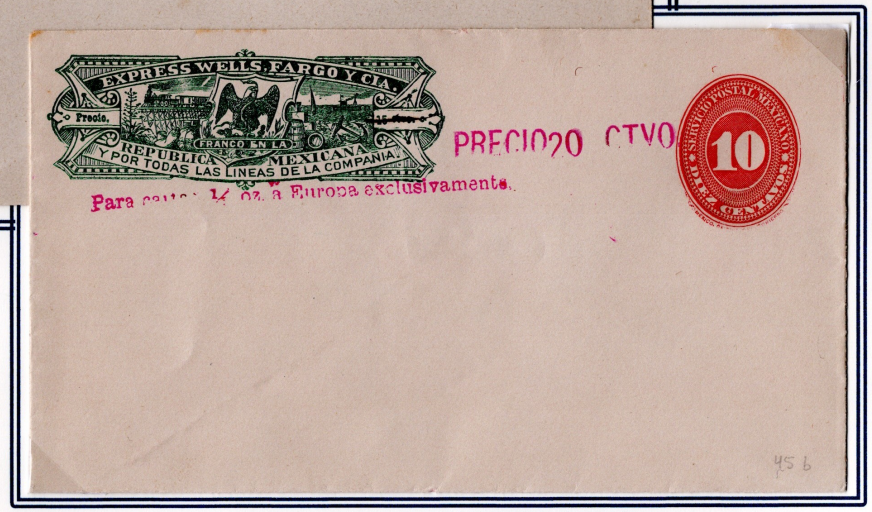
Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10c	15c	5c	10c	10c	20c
1	20c	25c	10c	20c	20c	35c
2	40c	50c	20c	40c	40c	60c

Knife **1** 152x85mm. Top flap tongue shaped



20ctvo. in frank.
Knive **1** only
Not known used.

Knife **6** 153x86mm.
Top flap clpd. corners



15 ctvo. in frank replaced by **PRECIO 20 CTVO.**

Knife **4** 152x88mm. Top flap clipped corners and sharp point.



15ctvo. in frank.
replaced by
35 CVOS
Knife **4** only



Paste up from **Mexico City** to **New York** (and beyond?)



For **two** ounces envelopes WF charged **60** Centavos. **Mexico** via Cd. Juarez & N.Y. to **Munich**



Commercial use from **Guaymas** to **San Francisco** Handstamp "35 CVOS" **omitted. Few** known

In 1892 Wells Fargo issued a special frank to celebrate the quadricentennial of the landing of Columbus in America.

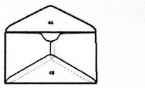
1492 * EMISION COLOMBINA * 1892

Both envelopes exist in **knife 12** only. The **font** of both lines is identical: capital **"E"** in **"Exclusivamente"**.

Line 1 Mexico



Guanajuato to Mexico City.
Wells Fargo **Messenger 157** was working on a train of the **Mexican Central RR**



Knife **12** 152x88mm.
Top and bottom flaps
rounded corners

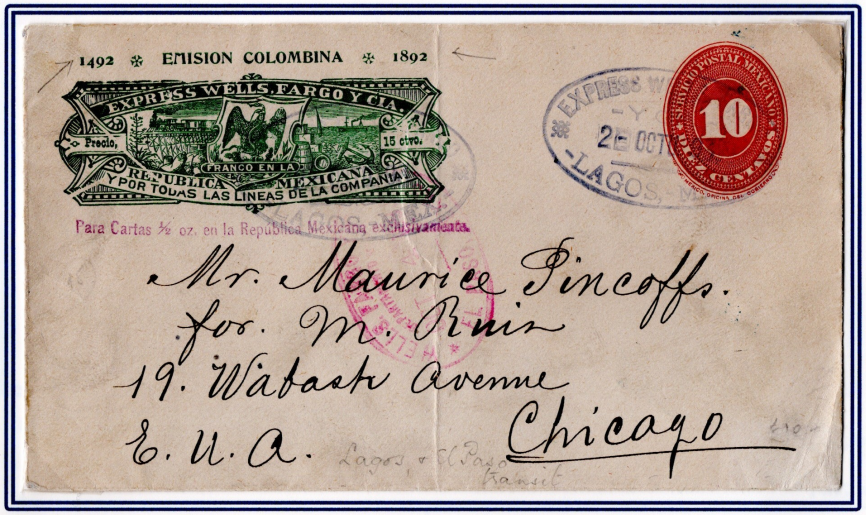


Part reverse at 60%

Line 2 USA



Monterrey to the **WF head office** in **San Francisco. H. Whittle H** acted as Messenger on the **Mexican Central** between **Durango** and **Cd. Porfirio Diaz** (the former Piedras Negras)



Lagos to **Chicago**. A domestic envelope used to the USA. Overpaid by 5 Centavos



Part reverse at 60%



Hermosillo April 20, to **San Francisco** April 24). Messenger **176** (Apr.20) consigned the envelope to **H. J. Chevallier** of the **New Mexico & Arizona & Sonora Route** on the train Guaymas to Benson.

WF accepted no registered mail in the common sense. However, a special treatment (with costs) for mail with valuable contents was possible. This mail was carried under supervision of the WF messenger personally and separated from "normal" mail. Such "special" mail received a red label with the place of origin printed or written on it.



Tapona Durango to **Mexico.** This WF office opened in 1894 and had no printed labels. Tapona therefore in manuscript. "**Value $5^{00}**" and return address

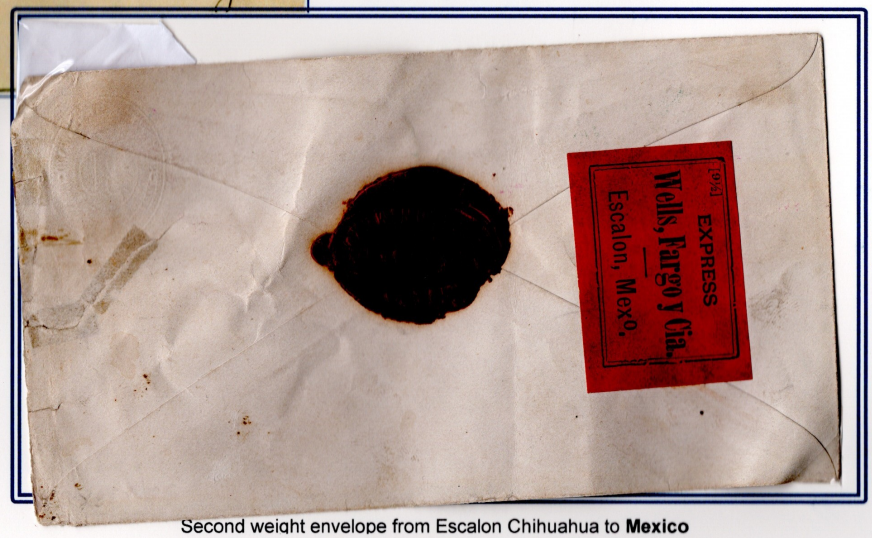


From **Mexico** to **San Francisco** Dec. 26, 1893
Most declared value envelopes were **domestic.** All others are rarely seen



Averse at 60%

Sealed with: "**Para uso publico /Escalon**" (For public use)



Second weight envelope from Escalon Chihuahua to **Mexico**





Seal at 60%

In very rare instances declared value envelopes were sent without label yet show all other characteristics such as: **return address** / **value** / company **seal** on back.
This envelope from **Paso del Norte** to **Mexico** proofs that the service was **liable to pay costs.** Manuscript "**Chgs. 0.^{25} paid**"

Wells Fargo did not waste envelopes Multiple corrections on envelopes were a daily occurrence in a thrifty company!

20 ctvo. in frank replaced by **Precio 15 Cvos.**



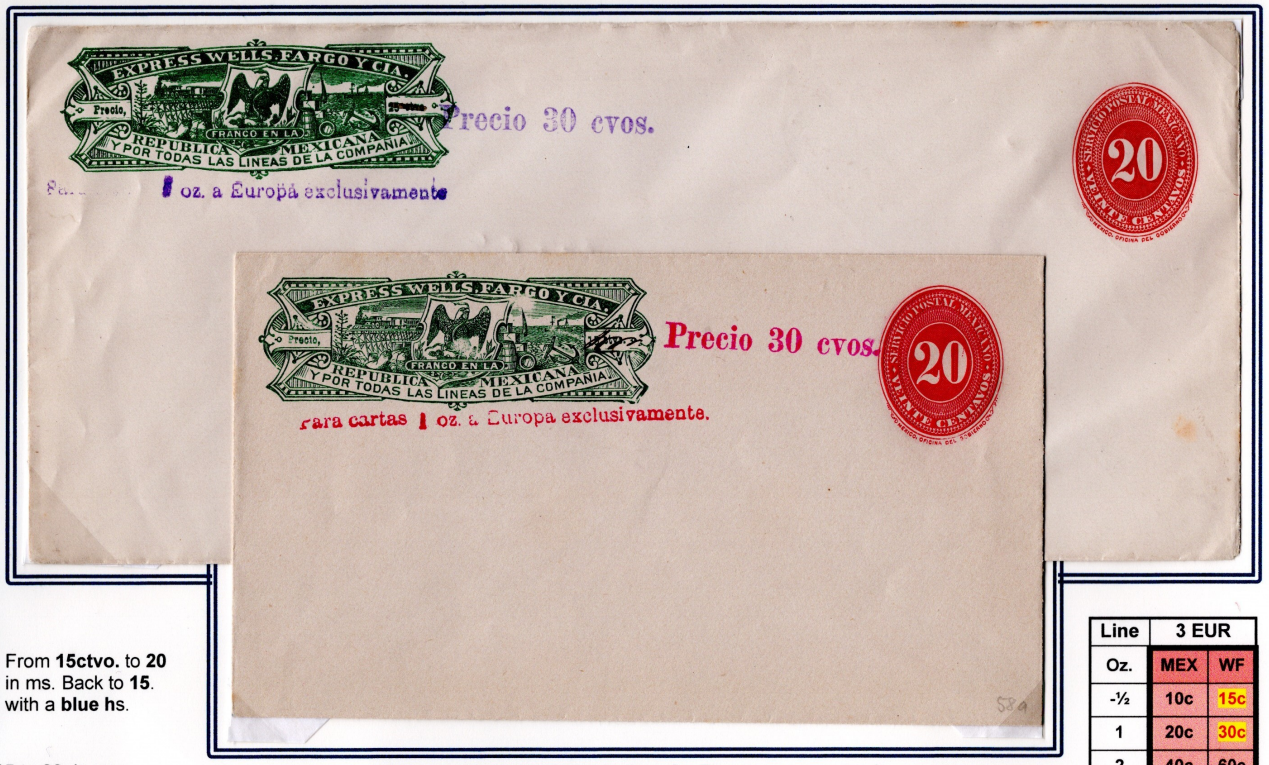
Domestic use from **Zacatecas** to **Mexico**. Rates to Europe were the same!

15ctvo. to **20 CTVO** and back to **15 Cvos.**

From **15ctvo.** to **20** in ms. Back to **15**. with a **blue hs**.

From **15** to **20** in ms Then reduced to 15. **Precio 15 Cvos hs.**

Mexico via Paso del Norte & N.Y. to **London**. The final destination is not clear.



Only one legal size 1oz. envelope for Europe was prepared

Line	3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF
-½	10c	15c
1	20c	30c
2	40c	60c



WF even issued a simple **uncorrected** envelope.

Commercial use from **Mexico** to **Munich**

Mid-1895 most rates between Mexico and United States were lowered and harmonized. Directives were complemented "y a los Estados Unidos" "y en la Republica Mexicana". In 1897 Mexico went metric.

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	5c	10c	5c	10c	10c	15c
1	10c	15c	10c	15c	-	-
2	20c	30c	20c	30c	-	-
4	40c	60c	40	60c	-	-

Directives adapted for Mexico **&** USA.
1 oz. Rate lowered from **20** to **15 Centavos**.

Manuscript devaluation somewhere.
Veracruz arrival cancels



The lowered rates made it easy to correct the **directives** for **USA** to those for **Mexico**



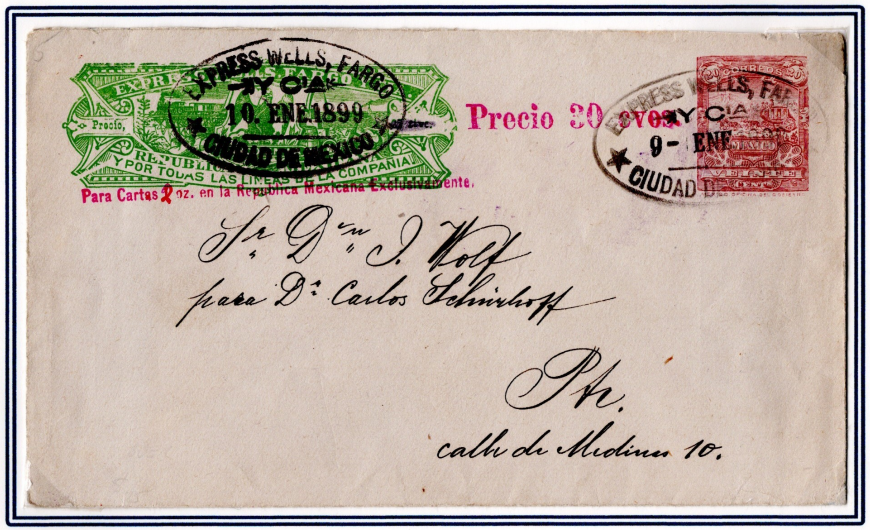
10 ctvo. in frank and 5 Centavos indicium: The new single rate domestic envelope
Sierra Mojada to **Mexico**. Arrived August 27,1895



Chihuahua to **Cd. Juarez.** Directives adapted. USA **&** MEX. **25** in frank replaced by **15 cvos. 1oz**. replaced by **Para cartas de 30 gramos**
Late use in 1901!

Directives **not** adapted.
Oz. **not** replaced by **gramos.**
Everything was possible!

2 oz. written over **1oz**. in domestic **line 1**.
WF rate was **30 Centavos** even if **locally** used .
WF Cartero No.1 handstamp on back.



New stamps and postal stationery were issued April 2, 1895. Three of the stamp designs were also used as indicia for postal stationery: 5 C. depicting the statue of Cuauhtémoc the 10 C. and 20 C. a mail coach

Due to the rate change mid 1895 **all** except single rate envelopes are seldom seen **used**



Magdalena was just 6 stations south of Cd. Juarez on the Mexican Central RR. May 11, 1895, arrival cancel of **Cd. Juarez** on back. The wrong date in the cancel was corrected manually from "8." to "10"



An **exceptional** WF **station cancel** was used in **Picardias** DGO south of Torreon. Arrived in **Mexico City** after a two-day journey April 23, 1895



Mexico to **Guadalajara**
Paste up use. Arrival cancel on front. **10C**. in frank corrected to "**Precio 25 cvos**" handstamped in red

1 oz. envelopes with **correct** frank and indicium (25C. / 20 C.)

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10c	15c	5c	10c	10c	15c
1	20c	25c	10c	20c	20c	30c
2	40c	50c	20c	40c	40c	60c
4	-	-	40c	80	-	-

Until the second half of 1895 the rate for a 2 oz. envelope was **50 Centavos** for **WF** and **40 Centavos** for the Mexican post.



Up to mid-1895 rates remained the same as for the previous 1891 issue

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10c	15c	5c	10c	10c	15c
1	20c	25c	10c	20c	20c	30c
2	40c	50c	20c	40c	40c	60c
4	-	-	40c	80	-	-



Cancel at 60%



A **rare** use of a **formular envelope** with added **5C. stamp** from **Chihuahua** via the WF "**Departamento Mexico**" to **New York**. Forwarded to the WF Money department Chicago.



Hermosillo to **San Francisco** Messenger **122** cancelled Sept. 9 and Messenger **162** Sept. 10, 1895



The **legal** size **1oz. envelope** "**25**" in frank changed to "**20** cvos"

The **normal** size **1oz. envelope** "**15**" in frank changed to "**20** cvos"



"**15**" in Frank corrected to "**40** cvos" for **2oz.**



"**10**" in Frank corrected to "**80** cvos" for **4oz.**

The **2¢ stamp** paid the transport to San Francisco

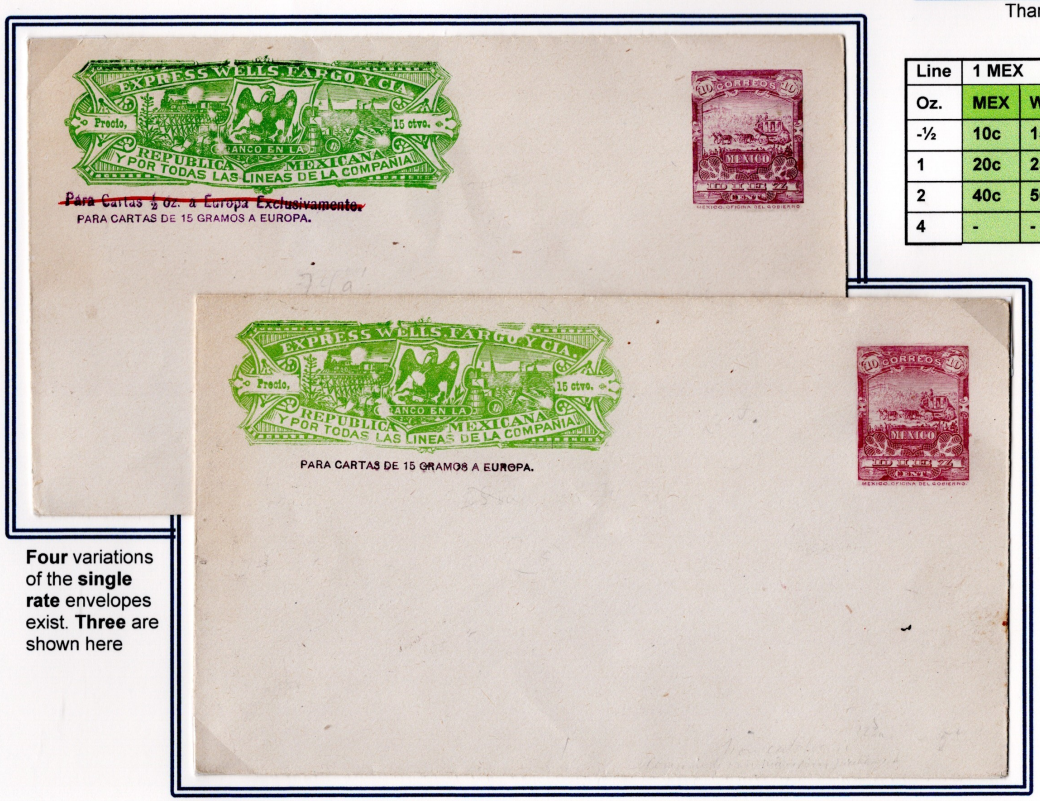
The rates for envelopes to Europe remained unchanged up to the 1900 issue. Wells Fargo envelopes to Europe were very seldom used. Thanks to philatelists a few survived. No 4oz. / 120gr. envelopes were issued



Although for the destination **Europe** the envelope could be used in **Mexico** (same tariff)
Sent in 1897 to the bank of Mexico.



Thanks to an avid collector of Mexican postal stationery, we have an envelope which went through the mails without Wells Fargo.
Sent by Mexican mail from **Mexico** to **Bern** Switzerland April 12, 1898



Four variations of the **single rate** envelopes exist. **Three** are shown here

Line	1 MEX		2 USA		3 EUR	
Oz.	MEX	WF	MEX	WF	MEX	WF
-½	10c	15c	5c	10c	10c	15c
1	20c	25c	10c	20c	20c	30c
2	40c	50c	20c	40c	40c	60c
4	-	-	40c	80	-	-





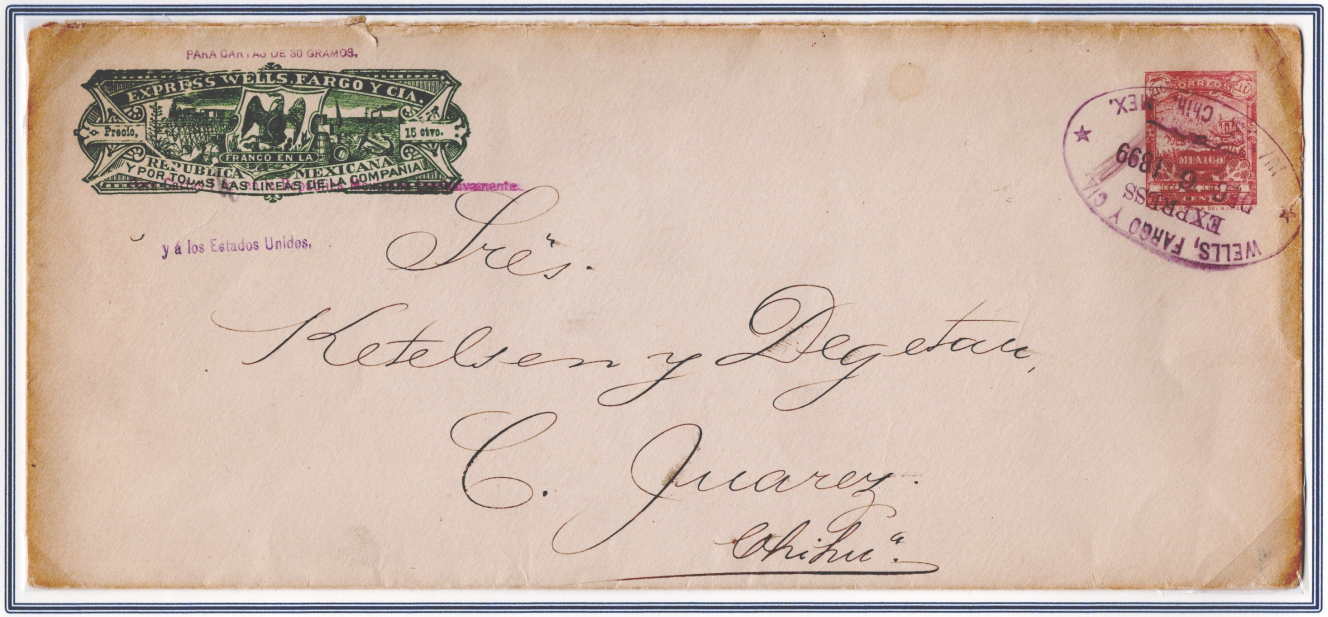
Line and weight are metric. Correction from: 15gr. > 30 gr and 25c > 30 cvos.

2 oz . envelope not yet metric. "**3**" of 30 corrected to "**6**".

From ounces to grams. Metric weight specification



Combined lines 1 & 2. 1oz. replaced by 30 grams
Sent in 1897 from **Cuernavaca** to the bank of Mexico.



Directives adapted for USA **&** MEX. **1oz.** crossed out **30 gramos** added. The **largest envelope** WF issued in Mexico. (239 x 106 mm)
From Chihuahua Dec.5, 1899 to Cd. Juarez Dec. 6, 1899. Arrival cancel only



Seven variations of the **2oz. / 60 grams** envelopes exist.
Only **one** of them is known used.
(See previous page)

The **4oz. / 120 grams** envelopes exist in **two** varieties and **unused** only.



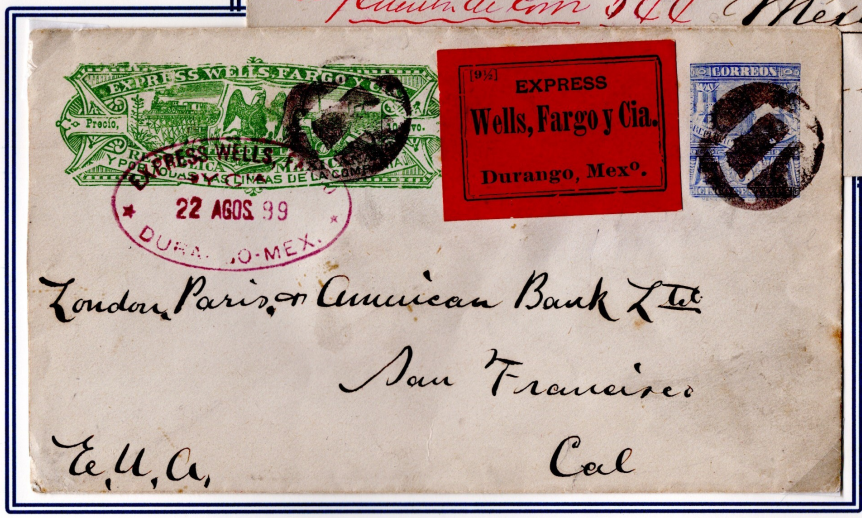
WF accepted no registered mail in the common sense. But "special" mail received a red label with the place of origin.



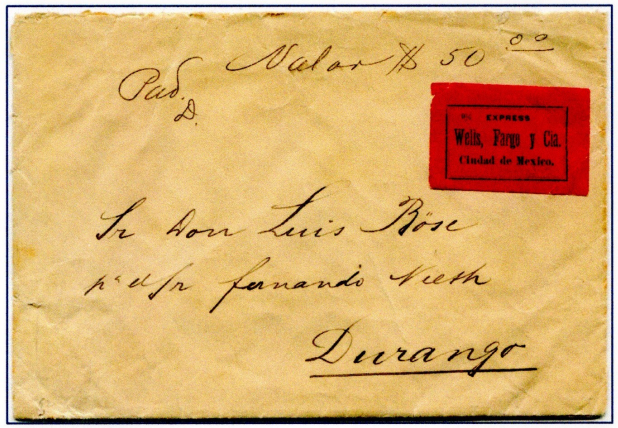
Triple weight cover with declared value of **50.00 Pesos** from **Mexico City** to **Durango**.
The upper envelope was intended for 15 grams to **Europe** which equals **30 grams** for **domestic** mail.
WF received **25C**.

Guanajuato WF and standard **red label** with **form number** [9 ½] and pre-printed name on value cover to **Mexico.**
Standard line 1 handstamp





Durango standard label on cover to **San Francisco Fancy negative "D"** cancel.
Without printed line. As the tariff was the same for **U.S & domestic mail** in 1895 no directive handstamps were used in that year



Reverse at 60%

For **10** Pesos "Valor" (value) Mexico charged the sender 25 Centavos. or for **$50** a total of **$1 25**.



Averse at 60%

Manuscript "0.25 Paid" at left



Form no. [8 ½] From **Sierra Mojada** Endorsed **Valor** (value) **$10 00**

Two different kinds of **Paste ups**



A 1oz. / **double** weight envelope with combined lines and a **single** weight envelope without line result in a **triple weight** paste up cover sent Aug. 5, 1899, to Hillebrandt & Co. in **Mexico**



A paste up WF envelope with a **cut out** of the indicium of another envelope for a triple weight cover from **La Barca** to **Mexico**. 7. / 8. Feb. 1896.
Indicia **cut outs** for the up rating of WF envelopes are less often seen than entire envelopes

Second weight. paste up envelope with combined lines MEX / USA sent 1899 to **Charenton - le - Pont** in **France**. The postal rate was the same as for Mexico and USA

Combined line **MEX / USA** used to **Europe**



WF envelope sent with **Mexican mail**



Sept. 1895 **Monterrey** to **Carlsbad** N.J. Transit cancel New York and arrival cancel Carlsbad on reverse.

Commercial use of a WF envelope sent with **Mexican** mail.
The vast majority are **philatelic**!

A large 1848 coin from Frankfurt was used for sealing



Part of reverse at 60%

WF envelope sent with **Mexican mail** to **Europe**



The sender **crossed out the WF frank** to emphasize the use by the **Mexican** mail

During a short period in 1896 Wells Fargo issued envelopes without line and from 1897 with printed directives



Envelopes with **inverted frank** are very uncommon

Intact paste up sent from **La Barca** to **Mexico.** "Mailman No.2" brought the cover to Max. A. Philipp Co.



A very attractive "**Mexican Central / Ojo Caliente"** WF **railroad cancel** on an **intact** paste up envelope to **Cd. Juarez** Ojo Caliente is a small station halfway between Chihuahua and El Paso



From **Tula Hidalgo** (Tula Allende HID) to **Mexico City.** Arrived 18.September 1896
"**Mensajero 164**" served as messenger on the **Mexican Central** RR
Messenger cancels in **Spanish** are **much less frequent than those in English**



Ometusco MEX to **Puebla**
Printed **directives far from frank**



Bluegreen Estacion **Temoaya** HID. to **Mexico**. Arrived Feb.9, 1897.
Printed **directives close to frank**

Mexico's 1899 eagle issue was the final postal stationery series appearing with WF franks. By 1900 the volume of WF's letter carrying had dropped precipitously and in 1903 WF's service virtually disappeared. Twentieth century WF covers are very scarce indicating the collapse of Wells Fargo's Mexican Letter Express. Their share of the total amount of envelopes issued by WF is approximately 3% only.

By 1900 WF ceased the **own production** of franked covers with Mexican dies.(**Stamped to order / STO**). Instead, the company **bought** postal stationery envelopes from the **Mexican** government on which they printed their frank.



The three printings of the 1900 envelopes:

1 "Old" frank of the Mulitas envelopes with "**ctvo**."
2. New frank with printed directives. "**cts**." instead of "**ctvo**." Directives in **normal** script.
3. The directives are in ***italics***.



First printing. Used **June 3, 1900**, as a paste up from **Guanajuato** to **Mexico**.

The printing with **bold** "**Precio**" and "**10 ctvo.**" was replaced **very shortly** by the next frank.

For **double rate** covers (30 grams) WF bought **10 Centavos envelopes** from the Mexican government. The **earlier** printing has the directives in **normal** script and the later in ***italics***



10c envelope with the printed-directives **European frank** commercially used from **Mexico City** Aug.21,1902 via New York Sep.4, 1902 to **Hamburg**, Germany (15. 9.1902)

Only known used

On the second printing of the 5 C. envelopes the directives are in *italics.* The third printing has the directives printed in normal script

The types of the second and third printing have not yet been described in the literature.

Second printing. Two types

Third printing Two types



Santa Maria JAL
April 3, 1901,
Paste up to **Mexico**



Tetepango HID to **Mexico.**
Arrived **Oct. 12, 1902**.
WF office opened in 1900
Length of first line 67 mm.



2nd. printing **Type 1**
Lines of directives are **close** together and near the frank

Stgo. Papasquiaro DGO to **Durango**



3rd printing Type 1
First line of directives **67 mm**

An **unusual Zacatecas local** use. **Magenta** Dec. 29 and **black** Dec. 30 arrival



2nd. printing **Type 2**
Lines of directives are **farther apart** and more distant from the frank

F. A. Athearn from the N.M. & A. & Sonora route cancelled this envelope **to San Francisco.**



3rd pr. Type 2
First line of directives **70 mm**

An elaborate **route messenger's** handstamp of **Fred R. Kampfner** of the **Mexico - Puebla** route graces this 1903 envelope from **Pachuca** to **Mexico.**

In 1903 Mexico issued postal stationery in new colors. WF bought 5C. envelopes for domestic use. In 1906 a corner card was added to the envelopes. These are the last and scarcest envelopes with WF franks



Type 1
Line of directives **66.5 mm.**
Seen used in **1903** & **1904**

Aguascalientes June 20, 1904 to **Ciudad Juarez.**
Latest date seen for **type 1 directives**



Type 2
Directives **69 mm.**
Seen used in:
1905 & **1906**

From **Iguala** to **Mexico.**
May 26. 1906.
This is the **latest date** seen for the **1903 issue.**

The **1906** postal stationery envelope with **corner card** in upper left is the **last** and **scarcest** envelope with frank of the Wells Fargo express company.



Only known

A **unique** envelope with **20 instead of 15 grams in directives**.
WF never had 20 grams weight in their directives. Status unclear



F. V. Valdes-R was agent on the **Ramal** (branch line) **de Ameca** which operated between Ameca & Irapuato

The cover originated in **San Andrés Ixtlàn** JALAPA (**Dec. 23, 1903**). From there it went north to the **Ameca branch line** of the **Mexican Central RR** and via **Guadalajara** to **Mexico,** where it arrived **Dec. 27, 1903.**

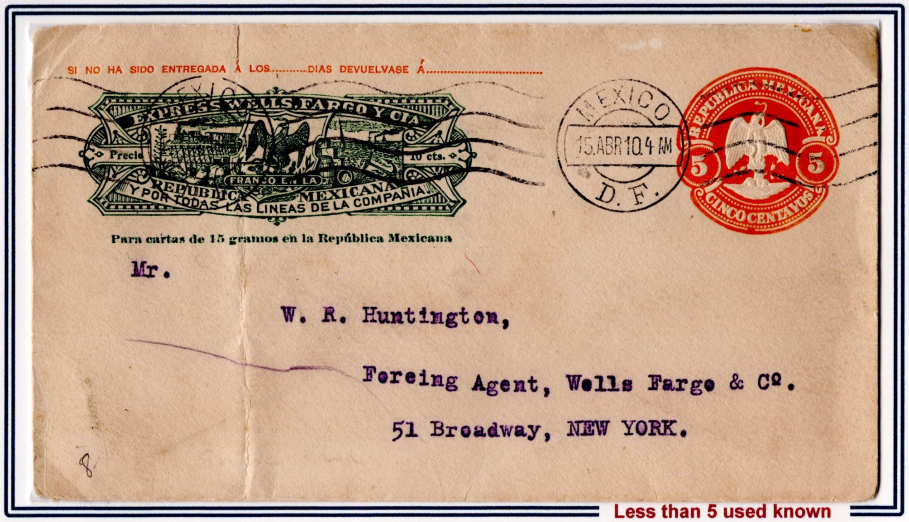


Six used known to exist

Paste up use from Pachuca HID. **August 30, 1906**

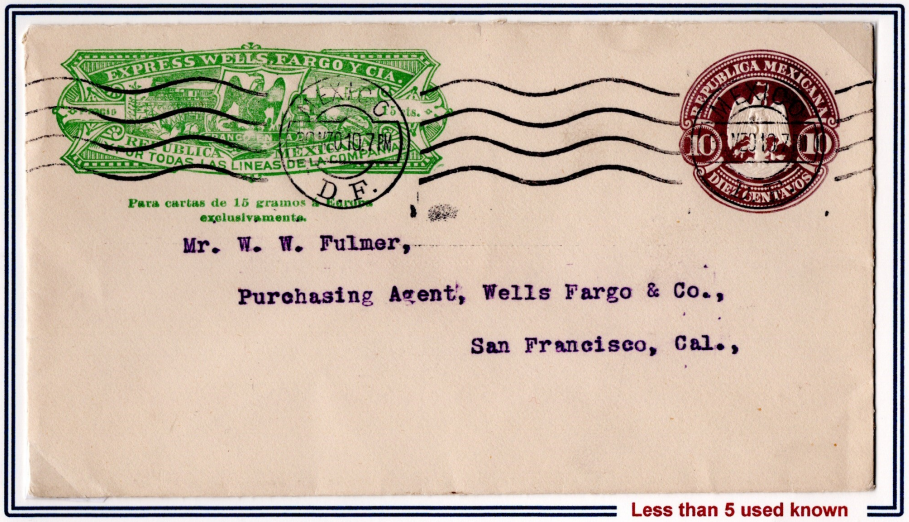
On September 1, 1909, Wells Fargo joined the government's "Compañia Mexicana de Express S.A." Without the need that existed 25 years ago coupled with an efficient government post office the new express did not run a Letter Express. Later the company was named "Wells Fargo & Co Express S.A (Sociedad Mexicana)" and temporarily during the Mexican revolution " Express Constitucionalista de Mexico".

It seems likely that the successor company the "Cia. Mexicana de Express, S.A." used remines of the Wells Fargo envelopes in stock up as ordinary envelopes



Less than 5 used known

WF cover sent through the mails from **Mexico** to the **Wells Fargo** agent in **New York** dated **April 15, 1910. Most probably from Wells Fargo's successor the "Cia. Mexicana de Express, S.A.", Mexico** which used up the WF envelopes in stock



Less than 5 used known

WF cover sent through the mails from **Mexico** to the Wells Fargo purchasing office at **San Francisco** dated **March 30, 1910.** Likely from Wells Fargo's successor the "**Cia. Mexicana de Express, S.A.**", Mexico.
(A similar cover with a handstamp of the new company exists)

The "Compania Mexicana de Express S.A." was the successor organization of Wells Fargo





Reverse part of label 60%

1911 official inter office envelope sent between two agents from **Cd. Juarez** and back to **Chihuahua** on the former Mexican Central RR.

"Compania Mexicana de Express S.A." > "Wells Fargo & Co. Express S.A." > "Express Constitutionalista de Mexico"



During the tumultuous times the successor organization changed its name several times which is expressed by this **Receipt of Values**.