

1860-61 U.S. Star Die Postal Stationery: A Study of Uses

Printer: George F. Nesbitt & Co., New York, N.Y.

Embossed envelope design

Small Indicia, Stars at sides

Buff and white papers



Issued: August 1860 (3c value)

October 1860 (10c value)

December 1860 (1c and 3c + 1c Compound Die values)

All denominations demonetized in Confederacy on June 1, 1861. 3c, 6c and 10c denominations demonetized in the North, starting in August 1861, and continuing until the end of 1861 out in the far West.

This exhibit shows a wide variety of uses of the 1860-61 Star Die envelopes and wrappers, both domestic and foreign. Federal, Independent State and Confederate Uses are represented, both pre-war and after war was declared.

Significant items are outlined in **red**

Although the purpose of this exhibit is to show uses of the Star Die envelopes and wrappers, a number of exceptional examples of rare envelope types are shown and noted. Uses are shown from all across the country, representing 27 states, plus the District of Columbia and Utah Territory. Very rare foreign destination uses to Canada, Great Britain and Germany are included.

Examples illustrate important facets of mail handling during the period such as Pony Express, Western Express companies, across-the-lines, flag-of-truce, steamboat, advertised, multiple rates, printed matter rate, carrier, drop letter, supplementary mail, Independent State, Confederate and post-demonetization adversity use in the South, etc. that are uncommonly to rarely seen. The 6c value is not represented since only two used examples are recorded, and have been unavailable for many years.

To understand the domestic uses of Star Die envelopes, it is important to know the history of the demonetization or lack of such for each value. All values were demonetized for the Confederate States on June 1, 1861. The 3c, 6c, and 10c values were demonetized for the Federal States, starting in August 1861, and by the end of 1861 were demonetized everywhere. The 1c and 3c + 1c compound values were never demonetized in the Federal States, since virtually none were sent South.

Exhibit Plan: 1c value

- a. Envelopes
 - i. Circular rate
 - ii. Use to Canada
 - iii. Carrier uses
 - iv. Drop letter uses
 - v. Upgraded First Class use
- b. Wrappers
 - i. Printed Matter rate
 - ii. Use to Great Britain
- c. Demonetized Confederate uses

3c value

- A. Western uses
 - i. Expresses
 - ii. Postal uses
- B. Eastern Uses
 - i. Earliest Documented Use
 - ii. Embossed Advertising
 - iii. Civil War Patriotics

- iv. Carrier uses
- v. Supplementary Mail
- vi. Forwarded and Advertised Mail
- vii. Demonetized uses

C. Southern Uses

- i. Confederate Packet Boat
 - ii. Texas Independent Statehood
 - iii. Confederate Use of U.S. Postage
 - iv. Forwarded Mail
 - v. Confederate Expresses Across the Lines
 - vi. Flag-of-Truce exchange of mail
 - vii. Demonetized Confederate uses
- 3c + 1c Compound Die: Carrier uses**

10c value

- i. Western Expresses
- ii. Postal uses
- iii. Use to the Confederacy
- iv. Use to Germany