CATALOG of PRIVATE EXPRESS COVERS, LABELS and STAMPS

UNITED STATES
1839 – 1918

CANADA
1841 – 1926

MEXICO
1860 – 1918

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION ........................................................................................................ iv
PREFACE ............................................................................................................... v
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ..................................................................................... vi
PERMISSIONS and AWARDS ........................................................................... viii
INTRODUCTION ............................................................................................... ix
SECTION CONTENT .......................................................................................... xi

SECTION I - COLOR IMAGES OF NORTH AMERICA EXPRESS and DELIVERY COVERS, LABELS and STAMPS .......... 1
SECTION II - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EXPRESS and DELIVERY LABELS & STAMPS ......................... 13
• Addendum II .................................................................................................. 291
SECTION III - NORTH AMERICA EXPRESS COVERS ........................................ 295
SECTION IV - ALTERNATIVE UNITED STATES MAILING and SHIPPING SERVICES – COVERS, LABELS and STAMPS .......................................................... 407
SECTION V - COMMONWEALTH OF CANADA EXPRESS, DELIVERY and MESSENGER LABELS & STAMPS ...... 427
SECTION VI - REPUBLIC OF MEXICO EXPRESS LABELS ........................................ 459
SECTION VII - OVERSEAS EXPRESS COVERS, LABELS & STAMPS ......................... 463

INDICES ............................................................................................................. 477

APPENDICES
A. U.S. HISTORICAL INFORMATION .............................................................. 487
B. ABBREVIATIONS and SYMBOLS ................................................................. 490
C. CATALOG NUMBER REVISIONS ............................................................... 491
LATHROP & HOWE’S EXPRESS (Unkn.)
Regional parcel express company that operated between Boston, Auburndale and West Newton, Mass.

LABEL

Year Unkn. Imperf. 69x50 mm
L&HX-L1 Black/Aqua 25.00

LATHROP’S ALBANY BANK EXPRESS (Bogus?)
A presumed bogus label created by S. Allen Taylor. Augustus B. Lathrop did conduct a Bank Express in Albany between 1863 and 1877 (maybe longer), but no express labels that were used in his business have been reported.

BOGUS? LABELS

Bogus? Imperf. 437x327 mm
LABX-L1 Black/Buff 25.00
a. Black/Flesh 25.00
b. Black/Green* 25.00
c. Black/Magenta 25.00
d. Black/Pinkish-orange 25.00
e. Black/Red 25.00
f. Black/Red Orange* 25.00
g. Black/Tan 25.00
h. Black/White* 25.00
i. Black/Brown 25.00
j. Black/Peach 25.00

NOTE
*These three labels are cited in Reference 1 with this explanation: “This is for delivery of money parcels only, in the cities of Albany, Troy, Utica, &c., &c., the value is 25c.” However, George B. Sloane, Elliott Perry and Sherwood Springer classify these labels as Taylor fantasies.


LAURENCE’S EXPRESS (1875–76?)
Regional private mail(?) and parcel(?) express company that operated between Boston, Mass., and Farmington, Rochester and Wolfeboro’, New Hampshire.

LABEL

Year Unkn. Imperf. 32x24 mm
LARX-L1 Black/Light Orange 35.00

LAWS’ EXPRESS (1840–71?)
Regional private mail express company that operated between Boston and Portsmouth, Mass.

LABELS

Depicted label is truncated at right. “Portsmouth” is printed at LR.
ca. 1864 Imperf. 28x22 mm
LAWX-L1 Black/Green 20.00
[Known used on cover with November 1864 enclosure; on July 1865 letter]
* Complete label.

ca. 1864? Imperf. 28x23 mm
LAWX-L2 Black/Green 20.00
[Known used on November 1864 annotated cover]

CA. 1861? Imperf. 29x22 mm
LAWX-L5 Black/Orange 20.00
[Known used on January 1861 annotated cover]

CA. 1888 Imperf. 54x37 mm
LVBX-L1 Black/Orange 150.00

LEVY BROTHERS EXPRESS (Late 1880s?)
Regional private mail and parcel express company that operated in San Mateo County, Calif., via stage coaches managed by the Levy Brothers’ Stage line.

LABEL

Known with other town names.

Year Unkn. Imperf. 46.5x46.5 mm
LENX-L10 Black/Violet 25.00

Probably issued with other town names.

Year Unkn. Imperf. 47x47 mm
*LENX-L12 ◊Black/Violet 25.00

*LEVY BROTHERS EXPRESS (Late 1880s?)
Regional private mail and parcel express company that operated in San Mateo County, Calif., via staged coaches managed by the Levy Brothers’ Stage line.
OVERLAND MAIL & EXPRESS CO. (ca. 1875–88)
Regional private mail, parcel express and stage line company that operated in Colorado. Barlow & Sanderson Co., or J. L. Sanderson & Co., was the proprietor.

CORNER CARDS & COVERS

"PEUBLO" is an incorrect spelling. Depicted corner card is rotated 90º CCW as printed on cover.

ca. 1888 Printed Size Unkn.
OVMX-CC1 Black ................................. Unkn.
[Known on cover containing 1888 letter]

INCOMPLETE IMAGE

ca. 1888 (Thomas OVM-402)
OVMX-C1 White envelope .................. *1,000.00
* Entire legible cover.

COVER ILLUSTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.

ca. 1888 (Thomas OVM-401)
OVMX-C2 White envelope .................. *1,000.00
* Entire legible cover.

Ref: 1. Thomas, Oscar M., "Barlow, Sanderson, & CO., etc.," The Western Express Companies, etc., Volume 1, The United Postal Stationary Society, Inc., 2013, pp 161-64.

OVERLAND STAGE & EXPRESS CO. (1878–80's)
Regional private mail, parcel express and stage line company that operated between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast. J. L. Sanderson & Co., was the proprietor.

CORNER CARDS & COVERS

Year Unkn. Printed Size Unkn.
OSTX-CC1 Black ................................. Unkn.

Overland Stage & Express Co.
J. L. Sanderson & Co., Proprietors,
H. Sanderson, Genl' Sup't, H.C. Griffin, Cashier.
Principal Office, Peublo, Colo.

Year Unkn. Printed Size Unkn.
OSTX-C1 White envelope .................. 600.00

"Slide and American Mines" were located in Cripple Creek, Colo., according to the 1896 Colorado Mining Index.

Year Unkn. Printed Size Unkn.
OSTX-CC2 Black ................................. Unkn.

"Dee H. Biddle, Wilson, Colo."

Year Unkn. Printed Size Unkn.
OSTX-C2 Tan envelope .................... 600.00

OVERMYER'S EXPRESS (Unkn.)
Regional private mail(?) and parcel delivery company that operated in the Somerset, Ohio area.

CORNER CARD & COVER

1867 Docket Black Printing Legal Size
OVYX-C1 Tan envelope .................. 50.00
**MESSENGER SERVICE (Unkn.)**
Local expedited letter delivery service that operated in New York City.

**CUT SQUARES**

“The MESSENGER/SERVICE” is printed within the surrounding border.

Year: Unkn.  
Perf.: 31x35.5 mm  
*MGSM-CS1* Red/Buff .........................50.00

Image is similar to MGSM-CS1, EXCEPT printing is in white relief.

Year: Unkn.  
Perf.: 31x35.5 mm  
*MGSM-CS2* Red/Buff .........................75.00

**OAKLAND DISTRICT MESSENGER CO. (Unkn.)**
Local expedited private mail delivery company that operated in the Oakland, Calif. (?), area.

**LABELS**

Red control number “41” is printed near left center. “Stamp” value is unknown.

Year: Unkn.  
Perf.: 33.5x53 mm  
*OKDM-L1* Purple/Pink .........................20.00

Red control number “9” is printed above bicycle seat. “SPECIAL” (reading down) is overprinted at right. “Stamp” value is unknown.

Year: Unkn.  
Perf.: 33.5x53 mm  
*OKDM-L2* Red-black/Rose .....................20.00

**POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE CO. (1887–19??)**
Franchised (?) local expedited mail and parcel delivery service. This telegraph company is known to have operated nationwide and employed messengers in many cities.

**COVER**

BY RINGING THE POSTAL BOX OR BY TELEPHONING

MESSengers
MAY BE OBTAINED TO DELIVER NOTES, PACKAGES, ETC., AND TO CARRY TELEGRAMS AND CABLES TO OFFICES OF THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

* FORM 43 *V56* is printed at UL on front cover.

1917 Postmark  
Printed  
*PCTM-C1* Black/Brown .........................10.00  
[August 1917 Springfield, III., postmarked cover]

**RED BOY MESSENGER SERVICE (1909–16?)**
Local expedited parcel delivery company that operated in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Known to have been in business 1909–16.

**LABEL**

Red Boy Messenger Service  
Prospect 2370  
Cleveland 209

“©1914 BROWN & BIGELOW 100” is printed at bottom below design. Design is printed in black, brown, green, purple, and red colors.

Year: 1914  
Perf.: 12.75  
Size: 50.5x41 mm  
*RBYM-L1* Multicolors/White ....................35.00

**ST. LOUIS EXPRESS and MESSENGER CO.**
See listing in Section III.

**SPECIAL ERRAND SERVICE (Unkn.)**
Local expedited private mail and parcel delivery company that operated in the Miami, Florida area. May have been a post-1918 company.

**LABEL**

“Stamp” value is unknown. A messenger about to leave an office is depicted. “VII” is printed in box near LL corner. “COPYRIGHT 1909” is printed in scroll at LL. “EDWARD STERN & CO., INC.” appears in relief at bottom-center. “PHILADELPHIA” is printed in scroll at LL.

Year: 1909  
Perf.: 12  
Size: 36x21 mm  
*STNM-L1* Black, Brown, Red, Yellow/White ..20.00

**[THE] STERN ELECTRIC ALARM COMPANY (Unkn.)**
Messenger Department. Local expedited private mail and parcel delivery company that operated in the Pittsburgh, Penna., area.

**COVER**

April 1886 Pittsburgh, PA postmark.  
1886 Postmark  
Printed  
*SEAM-C1* Magenta/Tan .......................10.00


The PARCEL EXPRESS and MESSENGER COMPANY
See listing in Section II.
CANADIAN EXPRESS CO. (1865–1921)
Regional private mail (?) and parcel express company that operated throughout Eastern Canada. This company operated mainly over the lines of the Grand Trunk Railway. Succeeded by the Canadian National Express Co.

Only the labels known used in Canada are listed here. Additional Canadian Express Company items are listed in Section II (U.S. Express Labels & Stamps), Section III (N. A. Express Covers) and Section VII (Overseas Expresses).

FREE SHIPMENT

COMPLIMENTARY PASS
Given mostly to express, railroad and government officials to be used for free transportation of the recipient’s personal packages over Canadian Express lines.

**LABELS**

Many of these labels are known with other Canadian town city/names on them, some in different font styles.

1912 Imperf. Size Unkn. *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

* Thin rectangular frame.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1912 Imperf. Size Unkn. *CDNX-L35-C* Black/Orange .............70.00

* Complete legible label.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L40* Black/Light Green .............50.00

"FORM 263" is printed at UL above frame line.

1894 Left V. Perf. 11 90.5x54 mm *CDNX-F10* Black/ Light Peach/White ...........80.00

[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

1906 Imperf. 72x48* mm *CDNX-L15-C* Burgundy/ Buff ................50.00

[Known used on May 1906 postmarked cover]

1906 Imperf. Size Unkn. *CDNX-L10-C* Black ....................50.00

Red control number 296 is printed near UR corner. Facsimile signature of President ‘L. J. Seargeant’ is printed at LR.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L40* Black/Light Green .............50.00

1894 Left V. Perf. 11 90.5x54 mm *CDNX-F10* Black/ Light Peach/White ...........80.00

[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

1906 Imperf. 72x48* mm *CDNX-L15-C* Burgundy/ Buff ................50.00

[Known used on May 1906 postmarked cover]

1906 Imperf. Size Unkn. *CDNX-L10-C* Black ....................50.00

Red control number 296 is printed near UR corner. Facsimile signature of President ‘L. J. Seargeant’ is printed at LR.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L40* Black/Light Green .............50.00

1894 Left V. Perf. 11 90.5x54 mm *CDNX-F10* Black/ Light Peach/White ...........80.00

[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

1906 Imperf. 72x48* mm *CDNX-L15-C* Burgundy/ Buff ................50.00

[Known used on May 1906 postmarked cover]

1906 Imperf. Size Unkn. *CDNX-L10-C* Black ....................50.00

Red control number 296 is printed near UR corner. Facsimile signature of President ‘L. J. Seargeant’ is printed at LR.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L40* Black/Light Green .............50.00

"FORM 263" is printed at UL above frame line.

1894 Left V. Perf. 11 90.5x54 mm *CDNX-F10* Black/ Light Peach/White ...........80.00

[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

1906 Imperf. 72x48* mm *CDNX-L15-C* Burgundy/ Buff ................50.00

[Known used on May 1906 postmarked cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L40* Black/Light Green .............50.00

"FORM 263" is printed at UL above frame line.

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1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L40* Black/Light Green .............50.00

"FORM 263" is printed at UL above frame line.

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[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

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* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

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* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

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[Known with June 1894 m/s date]

1906 Imperf. 72x48* mm *CDNX-L15-C* Burgundy/ Buff ................50.00

[Known used on May 1906 postmarked cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L20-C* Black/Orange ............40.00

1893 Perf. 11x11.5 41x27 mm *CDNX-L30* White/Dark Blue .............25.00

[Known used on March 1893 docketed cover]

* Excluding FORM 263 inscription.
SECTION VI
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO
EXPRESS LABELS

This Section presents the labels issued by private express companies operating in Mexico up to 1918. The same catalog acronyms are used for companies already introduced in the UNITED STATES Sections. The same catalog numbers are used for identical label/stamp designs that appear in both Section II (U. S. Express Labels & Stamps) and this Section (NOTE: a “-M” suffix is added in this Section to previously used catalog numbers when appropriate for Mexican identification).

Mexican express covers issued by Wells, Fargo & Co., are listed in Section III (N. A. Express Covers).

All valuations are in U.S. dollars.

COMPANIA MEXICANA DE EXPRESS, S. A. (1909R1–13?)
Private mail express company that operated over the Mexican railroads as a Wells Fargo subsidiary.

LABEL
Form number “(?7)” is printed at UL.

ca. 1911 Imperf. 88x38.5 mm CMDX-L1 Black/Red ......................*250.00

[Known used on August 1911 cover]

* Complete legible label.

Ref. 1: Chandler, Dr. R. J., “Greening” Franks: Wells Fargo’s Mexican Venture, 1859 to 1885,” Western Express, June 2010, p. 91.

EXPRESS NACIONAL HIDALGO (1891R1–1900R3)
Private mail express company that operated over the railroads between Mexico City and Vera Cruz plus a southward extension to Puebla. Absorbed by Express Interoceano in June 1900.

LABEL

Clear illustration is not available. “EXPRESS NACIONAL HIDALGO” is printed on top line.

ca. 1892 Imperf. Size Unkn. XHID-L1 Black/Red ......................*125.00

[Known used on back of 1892 Hidalgo Express cover]

* Clear legible label.

Ref. 1: Express Gazette, January 10, 1892, p. 8.

EXPRESS INTEROCEANICO (1897R1–19??)
Private mail and parcel express company owned by the Interoceanico Railway. Its express service extended over railroad lines that extended across six states of the Mexican Republic.

The listed labels were probably also issued with other Mexican city/town names on them, some names possibly printed in different font styles.

LABELS

Year Unkn. Imperf. 43x30 mm XINT-L1 Black/Green .....................150.00

Year Unkn. Imperf. 68x52 mm XINT-L3 Black/Green .....................200.00

EXPRESS WELLS, FARGO Y CIA. (1885R1–1910R1)
Private mail express company that was operated throughout Mexico by Wells, Fargo & Co.’s Express (later Wells Fargo & Co.) from offices within Mexico. The official business name of this company was changed to Express Wells Fargo y Cia., (a.k.a. Wells Fargo & Co. Express) on August 1, 1898 (note the comma after ‘Wells’ is gone). See pg 344 for covers.

LABELS

COLLECT ON DELIVERY

PITT & SCOTT, INC./LTD. (1876–1918?)
Overseas foreign freight brokers and express carriers to all parts of the world from New York City and Boston.

CORNER CARDS & COVERS

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1911
Printed
PSLX-CC3 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on April 1911 postmarked cover]

1911 Postmark
PSLX-C3 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00

***

Same image as PSLX-CC1.

ca. 1912
Printed
PSLX-CC2 Dark Blue ......................... 7.50
[Known on September 1912 postmarked cover]

1912 Postmark
PSLX-C2 Light Blue envelope ............... 25.00