

KELLEHER AUCTIONS_{LLC}

THE
JEFFREY WICHMANN

Pony Express Collection



June 16, 2026
DANBURY, CT • SALE 841

Kelleher Auctions, LLC

Sale No. 841 - Public Auction Sale

To be held at our office:

22 Shelter Rock Lane, Unit 53, Danbury, Connecticut 06810

THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



June 16, 2026

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 - 11:00 A.M.

Lots 2001 - 2020

LIMITED ON-SITE VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

KELLEHER AUCTIONS, LLC
STAMPS | COINS | SPORTS CARDS | MEMORABILIA



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KelleherAuctions.com





KELLEHER AUCTIONS

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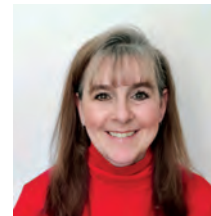
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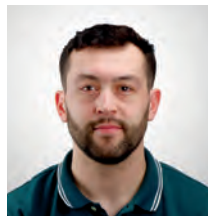
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Bidders Information

Bid Live
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 For Phone Bidding call us at 203.830.2500

Bidding Increments:

Bidding shall proceed in accordance with the following schedule:

Up to \$200; increase by \$10	Over \$7,500 to \$15,000; increase by \$500
Over \$200 to \$500; increase by \$25	Over \$15,000 to \$30,000; increase by \$1,000
Over \$500 to \$1,000; increase by \$50	Over \$30,000 to \$70,000; increase by \$2,500
Over \$1,000 to \$3,000; increase by \$100	Over \$70,000 to \$130,000; increase by \$5,000
Over \$3,000 to \$7,500; increase by \$250	Over \$130,000 at discretion of auctioneer.

Symbols Used

★★ Mint Never Hinged	☒ Cover	NYFM New York Foreign Mail
★ Mint with Gum	○ Used	TC Trial Color Proof
(★) Unused, No Gum/Regummed	S Specimen	SL Straight Line
R Reprint	E Essay	MS Manuscript
P Proof	▲ Piece	
o.g. Original gum	▣ Block	

Gum Categories:	MINT N.H.	ORIGINAL GUM (O.G.)				NO GUM
						
	Mint Never Hinged Free from any disturbance	Lightly Hinged Faint impression of a removed hinge over a small area	Hinge Mark or Remnant Prominent hinged spot; may have part or all of the hinge remaining	Large part o.g. Approximately half or more of the gum intact	Small part o.g. Approximately less than half of the gum intact	No gum Only if issued with gum
Commonly Used Symbol:	★★	★	★	★	★	(★)

Table from the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*, ©2020 Amos Media

Grading and Condition

Superb	Extraordinary item in the finest condition.
Extremely Fine (XF)	A stamp or cover of outstanding and exceptional quality.
Very Fine (VF)	Scott Catalog's standard. Stamps will present a nice, balanced appearance. Covers appear new or show only minimal wear.
Fine-Very Fine (F-VF)	Stamp and/or covers are sound. Stamps are fully margined but noticeably off-center. Covers show normal travel wear.
Fine (F)	Sound in all aspects. Perforated stamps will have the perforations clear of the design; imperforate stamps will not be cut into to any significant degree. Covers show extensive wear.
Very Good (VG)	Stamps with imperfect centering, stamps or covers with poor general appearance.

Covers

Minor imperfections are normal for 19th-century envelopes that have been postally transmitted. These include, but are not limited to, nicks, edge or flap tears, or slight reductions; folded letters will often have at least one file fold. Further, covers may have an ordinary stamp with a minor defect. Acceptable forms of conservation include light cleaning and edge mending. These conditions, even if not described, are not grounds for return.

Catalog Values

Unless otherwise noted, the currently available (2025 edition) Scott Catalogue values are quoted in U.S. dollars and rounded to the nearest dollar. Other catalogues are often used for foreign countries or specialized areas as required.

Collection Lots

Please note that **all** collection lots are sold on an "as-is" basis and therefore **not returnable for any reason**. Every attempt has been made to provide an accurate description, and extensive imaging is available on our website. Most collection lots will contain stamps and/or covers with varying imperfections or faults. We strongly suggest that all lots of interest be viewed in advance of the sale.

Please note that late payment for purchases may, at Daniel F. Kelleher's option, be considered just cause to revoke all return privileges.

Featured Biography



Jeff Wichmann

Jeff Wichmann, founder of American Bottle Auctions and self-proclaimed “Bottle King,” was a passionate antique bottle collector for over 50 years. A California native, he established the company in 1990, transforming it into a leader in the field of antique bottle appraisals, brokering, and auctions.

Known for his innovative contributions, Jeff raised the standard for bottle auctions through his dynamic bottle photography, detailed descriptions, and early adoption of online bidding and full-color auction catalogs.

Jeff was a published author, having written *The Best of the West: Antique Western Bitters Bottles*, a seminal resource in the hobby. His bottle photography is renowned, with his work featured in prestigious publications like *Kovel’s Antique Bottle Price Guide* and *Warman’s Antique and Collectible Price Guide*. Jeff’s groundbreaking sales included the record-breaking auction of “Bryant’s Stomach Bitters” for \$67,500 and the \$2.5 million Bryan Grapentine collection.

When he wasn’t immersed in antique bottles, Jeff enjoyed baseball, golf, bonsai, marble and stamp collecting, and sports cars, bringing the same enthusiasm to his personal pursuits as he did to his professional endeavors. Friends and fellow collectors remember him for his generous knowledge, steady encouragement of newcomers to the hobby, and his deep enjoyment of the history of glass.

Jeff Wichmann is survived by his wife and son, Lynne and Tyler Wichmann, and will be greatly missed by extended family and many friends. He will be remembered for the community he helped strengthen, the knowledge he contributed to the hobby, and the lasting impact of his work in the world of antique bottle collecting.

CONDITIONS OF SALE - Public Auction

THE PLACING OF A BID SHALL CONSTITUTE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE CONDITIONS OF SALE BETWEEN BIDDER AND DANIEL F. KELLEHER AUCTIONS, LLC ("KELLEHER")

BIDDING

1. Unless announced otherwise by the auctioneer, all bids are per lot, as numbered in the printed Catalogue. Kelleher, as agent for the consignor or vendor, shall regulate the bidding and shall determine the manner in which the bidding shall be conducted. Kelleher reserves the right to withdraw any lot prior to sale (without liability to any potential purchaser or agent), to re-offer any withdrawn lot, to divide a lot or to group two or more lots belonging to the same consignor or vendor, and to refuse any bid believed not made in good faith. Estimates of sales prices contained in the printed Catalogue reflect the best judgment of Kelleher and are not minimum or upset prices.

2. (a) Bids shall be made in the steps set forth on the bidding page for increments. (b) The highest bid acknowledged by the auctioneer shall prevail. Should a dispute arise between bidders (including a dispute between a floor or internet bidder and the auctioneer acting on behalf of a mail bidder, consignor or vendor, the auctioneer alone shall determine who the successful bidder is and whether to reoffer the lot in dispute. Should a dispute arise after the sale, the auctioneer's sale records shall be conclusive. On all lots sold, a commission of 20% * on the hammer price is payable by the buyer to the auctioneer together with any sales and use tax or customs duties. (c) Lots may be re-opened as necessary to accommodate connectivity issues or incorrect bids.

3. (a) The auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of clients (and consignors or vendors) but shall not be liable for errors and omissions in executing instructions to bid, however received, and whether such errors or omissions be those of the bidder or agent or those of the auctioneer.

(b) Lots are offered subject to a reserve price. The auctioneer will implement such reserve price by bidding on behalf of the consignor/ vendor. (c) It may also be assumed that all consignors have been advanced monies against the sale of their consigned material and Kelleher therefore has a security interest in the consigned material over and above the normal auction commission.

(d) Purchases made by a consignor or vendor or his agent on his own lots shall be considered as a sale subject to commissions and sales tax as applicable.

(e) Agents are responsible for the payment of the purchase price for all purchases made on behalf of their clients, unless other arrangements with the auctioneer have been confirmed in writing prior to the auction.

PAYMENT FOR PURCHASES

4. (a) Payment for lots, including those on which opinions are desired (Extensions), shall be as follows:

(b) Floor Bidders. Payment of the purchase price, or such part thereof as Kelleher shall require, shall be made by the purchaser in cash, bank or certified check, credit card, PayPal or in such other manner as Kelleher may determine. The name and address of the purchaser of each lot shall be given to the auctioneer immediately following the sale of such lot.

(c) Mail/Internet/FAX/Website Bidders. A successful mail bidder will be notified of lots purchased. Before Kelleher will send such lots, payment in full must be received by Kelleher within three (3) business days of receipt of the aforesaid notification by the mail bidder. However, a purchaser known to Kelleher at its option may have purchases delivered or forwarded for immediate payment (by a dollar draft, ACH or wire transfer from a U.S. bank in the case of overseas purchasers). Mailed delivery will be to the address on the bid sheet and proof by Kelleher of receipt of a sending at the advised address shall constitute delivery. This includes disputes for payments made via PayPal and/or credit card. Buyer acknowledges that he/she waives their right to file a dispute in such cases with PayPal or their Credit Card Company. All charges for handling, delivery and insurance obtained by Kelleher on behalf of the purchaser shall be added to the purchase price; a minimum charge of \$20.00 will be made for same.

5. Title shall not pass to the purchaser until full payment has been received by Kelleher as agents for the consignor or vendor.

6. (a) Purchasers agree to pay for lots as specified in Condition of Sale 4 (or as the same may be modified by Condition of Sale 8), and no credit is extended; a late payment charge of 2% per month or fraction thereof shall be added if payment is not made in accordance with the aforesaid conditions.

(b) In the event that a bidder shall fail to comply with these Conditions of Sale ("Non-Complying Bidder"), then, as to any lot with respect to which such failure to comply occurs, Kelleher, in its sole discretion, re-offer such lot during the same auction or at an auction at a later time, or by private treaty sale at such time as Kelleher Auctions, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate and the Non-Complying Bidder shall be liable for the deficiency, if any, between the hammer price and the net proceeds of a sale to a subsequent purchaser, whether at auction or by private treaty, as well as for all costs and expenses of both sales, including all other charges due thereunder, including commissions with respect to both sales, whether payable to Kelleher or to a third party and all incidental damages. It shall be in Kelleher's sole discretion to determine whether to re-offer the lot theretofore hammered-down to a Non-Complying Bidder at the same auction, or by private treaty in due course, or at a subsequent auction conducted by Kelleher. In no event shall any surplus arising from the sale of a re-offered lot be payable to a Non-Complying Bidder.

(c) A defaulting purchaser shall be deemed to have granted Kelleher a security interest in property in Kelleher's possession owned by such purchaser. Kelleher shall have all of the rights afforded a purchase money secured party under the Connecticut Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) with respect to such property and may apply against such obligations all monies held or received by it for the account of, or due from Kelleher to such purchaser. Kelleher is authorized to file a Financing Statement in order to perfect its rights as a secured party.

(d) If Kelleher takes any legal steps to secure payment of a delinquent account, the defaulting purchaser shall be liable for all legal and other expenses incurred by Kelleher to secure such payment, including but not limited to a reasonable allowance for attorneys' fees. For purposes of this paragraph, the term legal steps shall be deemed to include any and all consultation by Kelleher with its attorneys with respect to all matters arising out of a delinquent account.

(e) Unless otherwise acceptable to Kelleher, payment is to be made only in the form of cash, bank check or certified check, personal check (which must clear prior to delivery of lots), credit card (AMEX, Visa, MasterCard and Discover), PayPal or a bank ACH or wire transfer. Payments made by credit card are accepted as a courtesy without surcharge.

WIRING INSTRUCTIONS:

Please contact us for our wiring instructions.

EXHIBITION AND INSPECTION OF LOTS; QUALITY AND AUTHENTICITY

7. (a) See viewing schedule for on-premises viewing and please note that we are a certified State of CT, COVID-19 compliant business. As the guidance and rules change, please refer to the CT.GOV

or CDC.GOV websites. Ample opportunity is given for on premises inspection prior to the auction date, by appointment only, and upon written request and at Kelleher's discretion. Live video viewing is also available, please contact our offices to arrange same, at least one week prior to the sale date.

(b) Each lot is sold as genuine and correctly described, based on individual description as modified by any specific notations in this Catalogue or as announced at the time of sale.

(c) Quality. Any lot which a purchaser considers to be incorrectly described and was not examined by the bidder or his agent prior to the sale, may be returned to Kelleher within two weeks of its receipt by such purchaser ("Returning Purchaser"), provided, however, that the same is received by Kelleher within four weeks of the date of the auction and in its original packaging; however, Kelleher may, in its discretion, refuse acceptance of such returned lot. If an opinion of a mutually acceptable authority is desired (Extension), the period of time within which a lot must be received by Kelleher will be extended in accordance with Condition of Sale 7(g). In the event that a dispute cannot be resolved by reference to a mutually acceptable authority, and Kelleher thereupon undertakes to re-offer the lot with a description identical to the description disputed, the Returning Purchaser shall be liable for the deficiency, if any, between the proceeds of the sale to the Returning Purchaser and the proceeds of a sale to a subsequent purchaser, as well as for all costs and expenses of the re-sale, including commission, and all incidental damages. Any lot, the description of which is disputed, must be returned intact and in the original packaging and in the condition received (unaltered) by the purchaser. The following lots are not returnable except at the discretion of Kelleher: (i) lots from purchasers who attended the exhibition of the lots; (ii) lots examined by postal viewers; (iii) lots on account of their appearance, if they are illustrated in this Catalogue or online; (iv) lots described as having repairs, defects or faults for any reason. (v) lots containing more than ten (10) items. (d) Authenticity. Any lot which is declared other than genuine by a mutually recognized authority is returnable, provided such lot is received by Kelleher within four weeks of the date of the auction. Proof that a mutually acceptable authority declines to express an opinion is not grounds for the return of a lot. (e) Expenses incurred by a purchaser in the submission and the return of a lot under Conditions of Sale 7 is not subject to refund. (f) Numerical grading is subjective and is based upon the condition of each issue. Lots may not be returned if a third party grades a stamp at lower than our grade. (g) Lots with existing certificates from the Philatelic Foundation (PF) or Professional Stamp Experts (PSE), British Philatelic Association (BPA), Royal Philatelic Society (London) (RPSL) and Australia (RPSA), Vincent Graves Greene Foundation (VGG) or any other expertizing authority as recognized by the International Association of Philatelic Experts (AIEP), for items within their specialty and dated within the last seven (7) years from the date of sale, will be offered and sold on an "as-is" basis and as so stated on the certificate. Such lots may not be returned for any reason, including but not limited to a contrary verbal or written opinion or certificate.

SALES TAX/CUSTOMS DUTIES

8. Unless presentation of satisfactory proof that it is exempted by law, a purchaser shall pay to Kelleher the compensating Sales and/or use taxes of any State claiming jurisdiction, which is being collected, reported and remitted to said State, based upon the Supreme Court Wayfair legislation enacted June, 2018. Buyers outside the U.S. are responsible for all customs duties. A purchaser shall indemnify Kelleher and hold it harmless of and from any claims of any jurisdiction for sales taxes relating to the purchase of articles at the auction, whenever the same may arise.

APPLICABLE LAW, JURISDICTION, ETC.

9. All matters arising out of this auction shall be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut without giving effect to the choice of law principles thereof.

ARBITRATION

10. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this auction shall be settled by arbitration in the City of New York, State of New York in accordance with the Rules of the American Arbitration Association and judgment upon the award rendered by the Arbitrator or Arbitrators may be entered in any Court having jurisdiction.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE OF ACTIONS

11. The purchaser at this auction (a) consents and submits to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the State of Connecticut and of the Courts of the United States for a judicial district within the territorial limits of the State of Connecticut for all matters arising out of this auction sale, including, without limitation, any action or proceeding instituted for the enforcement of any right, remedy, obligation and liability arising under or by reason thereof; and (b) consents and submits to the venue of such action or proceeding in the City of Danbury, County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut (or such judicial district of a Court of the United States as shall include the same, and (c) further consents that service of process in any action relating thereto may be effected by registered mail, return receipt requested address to the purchase at the address given to the auctioneer at the time of the sale.

BIDDING STEPS

12. Bidding Steps (Increments) are as published; bids made out of increment will be reduced to the next increment. Example: \$603 bid will be reduced to \$600, etc. "Split" or "Slice" bids are not accepted.

BIDS BY TELEPHONE

(a) Must be confirmed in writing unless waived by the auctioneer. (b) Any errors are the responsibility of the bidder. (c) No bids accepted less than 1 hour before the commencement of the sale.

BIDS BY FAX OR EMAIL

Bids must be received at least 1 hour before sale commences — be sure to use FAX: (203) 297-6059 or EMAIL: bids@kelleherauctions.com

PHONE BIDDING DURING THE SALE

Phone bidding space is limited and available on a first-come, first served basis. The importance of reserving early cannot be overstated!

Please call us at (203) 830-2500 to reserve your phone bidding space

STAMP AUCTION NETWORK (SAN)

Live internet bidding. To bid, you must be registered and be approved by both Stamp Auction Network and Kelleher. Please contact us for further instructions or go to www.stampauctionnetwork.com and find the Kelleher link.

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Session 1

Sale 841

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Beginning at 11:00 A.M.

At our offices in Danbury, CT

Lots 2001-2020



UNITED STATES
LOCAL



2001

- 2001 ○ Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$2 red (Scott 143L1), position 11 with wide left sheet margin, full even margins other three sides, light partial strike of blue Pony Express Sacramento May 1861 oval datestamp; shallow thin at bottom right, Very Fine appearance, *while there has never been a census, we suspect around 40-50 used off-cover/entire examples exist*, ex Twigg-Smith (sold for \$2,000 hammer in 2009) and Middendorf. Scott \$1,100. Estimate \$1,000 - 1,500



2002

- 2002 ○ Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$2 red (Scott 143L1), 3½ full margins to just touching at top left, strong but partial blue Wells, Fargo & Co. Sacramento circular datestamp; small faults, Very Fine appearance, *while there has never been a census, we suspect around 40-50 used off-cover/entire examples exist*. Scott \$1,100. Estimate \$750 - 1,000



2003

2003 ★

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$4 green (Scott 143L2), matchless GEM-quality example of this popular Wells Fargo stamp; unbelievably fresh and choice with ample margins on all sides; a true condition rarity; toss out the Scott catalog when bidding on this stamp, as it will certainly elicit spirited bidding as these stamps just don't come like this, o.g., lightly hinged, Extremely Fine. *The popular Horse & Rider stamps of Wells, Fargo & Co. are scarce and the vast majority do not have gum or four margins, with 2015 P.F. certificate. Scott \$850.* Estimate \$750 - 1,000



2004

2004 ○

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$4 green (Scott 143L2), position 19, clear margins on three sides, just touching at bottom; rich color, cancelled by small part of blue San Francisco Running Pony oval datestamp; small thin spots, Fine, *fewer than 10 used examples are believed to exist, and only one example on cover is known*, ex Middendorf, with 2014 P.S.E. certificate. Scott \$6,000. Estimate \$3,000 - 4,000

The \$4.00 Green paid the double \$2.00 per half-ounce rate, and was in use for a short period of time.



THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



2005

2005 (★)田

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$1 red (Scott 143L3), wide right margin block of 4 with full even margins other 3 sides, unused without gum, rich color on gleaming white paper, Extremely Fine and extremely beautiful, ex Kuphal. *The popular Horse & Rider stamps of Wells, Fargo & Co. are scarce and the vast majority do not have gum or four margins.* Scott \$1,150 for o.g. Estimate \$500 - 750



2006

2006 ○

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$1 red (Scott 143L3), mostly clear margins to just in, partial strike of blue Pony Express San Francisco oval datestamp; small repair at right, thin spots, otherwise Fine. Scott \$1,250. Estimate \$300 - 400



2007

2007 ★

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$2 green (Scott 143L4), ample margins to just touching, deep rich color, traces of o.g., Fine and sound. *The popular Horse & Rider stamps of Wells, Fargo & Co. are scarce and the vast majority do not have gum or four margins; from May 2006 to May 2026, this is the 11th example of an unused #143L4 to appear on Stamp Auction Network*, with 2016 P.S.A.G. certificate. Scott \$475.
Estimate \$350 - 500



2008

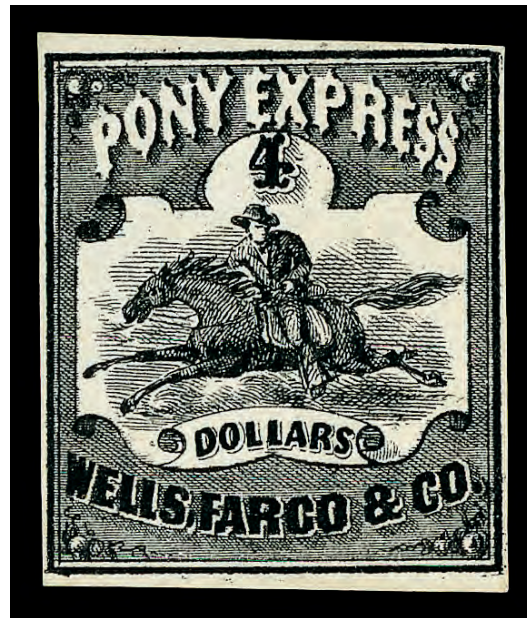
2008 ○

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$2 green, only 23 known used off cover (Scott 143L4), large margins at right and bottom, full to clear at top & just touching at left, rich color on fresh crisp paper, **blue San Francisco Running Pony oval datestamp**, Fine and sound, ex Middendorf, with 2011 P.F. certificate. Scott \$4,500.
Estimate \$2,000 - 3,000

The Tom O'Rourke/Larry Lyons census published in the April 2020 issue of *The Penny Post* (pp. 31-34) records 24 used off-cover examples (one dubious). The census provides sales history and sometimes provenance and certification, but nothing on condition. O'Rourke also notes three covers are known to exist. A copy of the census accompanies.



THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



2009

2009 (★) Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$4 black (Scott 143L5), full margins at top left and bottom, clear at sides and top right, strong dark color and clean brilliant paper, unused without gum, Fine and sound. *The popular Horse & Rider stamps of Wells, Fargo & Co. are scarce and the vast majority do not have gum or four margins, with 2016 P.S.A.G. certificate. Scott \$275 for o.g. Estimate \$150 - 200*



2011

2011 (★)田 Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 10¢ brown (Scott 143L7), vertical block of 6, unused without gum, large margins at sides, full at top and bottom, Extremely Fine, ex Hall (as part of a complete plate reconstruction), Twigg Smith and "Erivan" (Haub). Estimate \$750 - 1,000



2010

2010 ○

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$4 black, only 5 known off-cover (Scott 143L5), blue San Francisco Running Pony oval datestamp, position 9, full and nearly even margins all around; tiny and virtually invisible surface scrape at top right, attractive Very Fine appearance, ex Caspary (noted in pencil covering back), "Golden Oak", "New Helvetia" and Middendorf, with 2005 P.F. certificate. Scott \$12,500.

Estimate \$10,000 - 15,000

The other recorded used off-cover examples consist of one defective with a piece out at bottom, one with a thin spot and small tear (ex Gorham & Irwin Vogel), one with small faults (ex Alyeska, position 2), and one sound (ex D.K.); only two covers are recorded which have sold in the mid-six figures. We also note an example that appeared with central toning and a small tear but a very dubious cancel.



THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



2012



2012 ✉

1860 (Dec. 1), California Pony Express New-York, earliest recorded use of the 12 known examples, clearly struck oval cancel in greenish-blue on 3¢ red star die entire (#U27) with patent address lines, manuscript “Pony Express” at bottom left and small “2.50” (rate) adjacent to indicia, addressed to “Messrs Crosby & Dibbler” in San Francisco; reverse with well-struck “Pony Express St Joseph Dec 6” oval Running Pony handstamp and manuscript “O.F.G.”; very slightly reduced at left, Very Fine, *this being the earliest recorded of the only 12 known westbound Pony Express covers with the California Pony Express dated handstamp.* Estimate \$15,000 - 20,000

The Pony Express, A Postal History book by Frajola, Kramer & Walske notes this westbound cover is part of the second period (July 31, 1860 to March 31, 1861); on page 28, it is written, “*The Pony Express rate for a letter carried between San Francisco and St. Joseph was \$2.50 per quarter ounce or less. The \$2.50 rate... was often written in pencil... on covers carried. Unfortunately, many covers have had these notations erased.*” Illustrated on page 35 as part of the text and on page 138 as part of the census (#W25).

This cover demonstrates a loophole that allowed westbound mail to be sent in bundles from the East Coast to St. Joseph by mail with only 3¢ domestic postage (rather than 10¢ for over 3,000 miles) prepaid. This loophole was eliminated in the Act of February 27, 1861 and required 10¢ postage on any letter crossing the Rockies.



2013



2013 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$2 red on 10¢ Nesbitt (Scott 143L1 on U33), huge to large margins at top and right including small parts of neighboring stamps, touched at bottom and left, tied by a wonderful strike of the blue “Pony Express San Francisco Jun. 5” (1861) Running Pony handstamp, manuscript “ans. June 20/61” at top between indicia and handstamp, addressed to New York City, the indicia cancelled by blue grid and matching indistinct St. Joseph Mo. circular datestamp, the stamp professionally repaired at top right and the entire gently cleaned, top backflap with a portion missing reinforced along the top of the entire, attractive Very Fine appearance. *This stamp was in use for April, May and June 1861 (91 days) and the census in the Frajola, Kramer and Walske book records 37 143L1 covers (this is #E93), and images this cover on page 117, ex Lyons & Middendorf, with 1992 and 2020 P.F. certificates. Scott \$32,500.* Estimate \$15,000 - 20,000

This cover was carried on the Wednesday, June 5, 1861, trip from San Francisco, which arrived at St. Joseph on June 17.



THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



2014



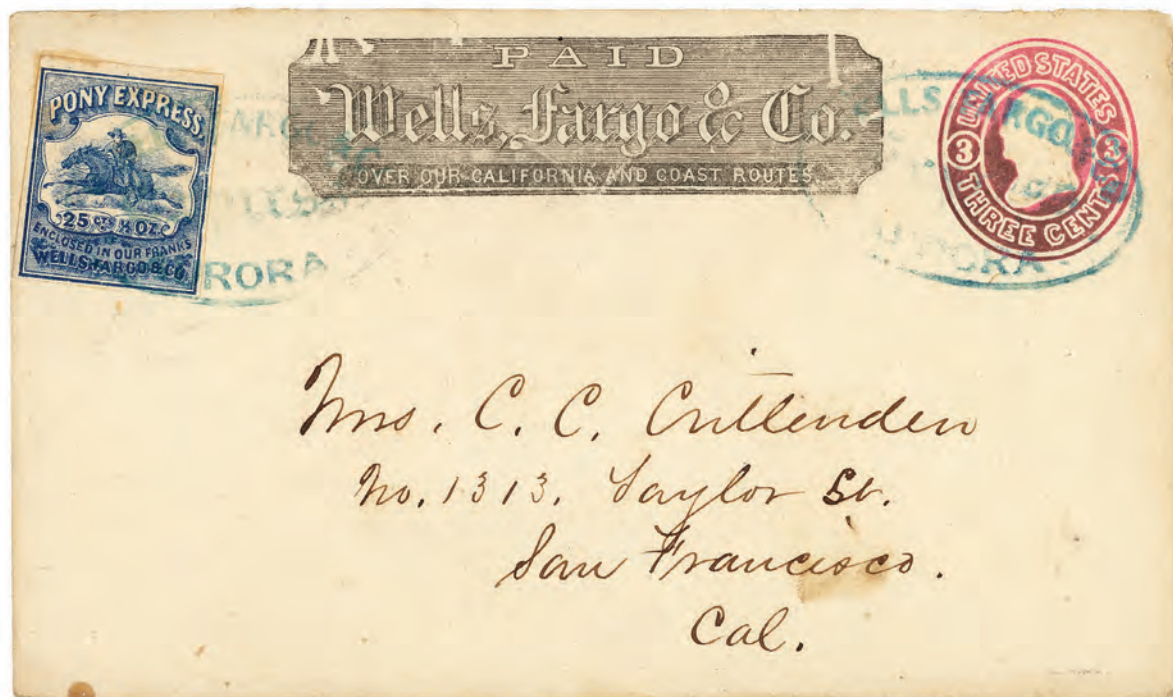
- 2014 (✉) **Wells Fargo & Co., 1861, \$1 red on 10¢ Nesbitt, the only recorded example of the Wells, Fargo & Co. Surcharged Entire Carried by the famed Pony Express (Scott 143L3 on U32), #143L1 position.** R17, large top margin, other sides clear to slightly in, tied by blue “Pony Express, San Francisco, Aug. 7” (1861) Running Pony oval datestamp on rebacked front of 10¢ green on white star Die (#U32), with Wells Fargo & Company red printed frank and “PAID 50 Cts.” surcharge overprint, addressed to New York City, where the indicia received a circular grid cancel, attractive Very Fine appearance. *This is the only recorded example of the Wells, Fargo & Co. surcharged entire carried by the Pony Express*, ex Dale Liechtenstein (lot 1515; purchased by Kramer) and Kramer (with his notes in pencil on the reverse). Scott \$16,500. Estimate \$7,500 - 10,000

Illustrated in Frajola, Kramer & Walske (census p. 124); this entire is a wonderful example from the fourth rate period (July 1 to October 26, 1861). The service technically ended on October 24 with the completion of the telegraph line and officially ended with a formal announcement of the end of eastbound mail on October 26 and westbound mail on October 31.

The “PAID 50 Cts.” surcharge on Wells Fargo & Company franked entires was intended to indicate a premium rate for service, similar to Special Delivery, but not all surcharged entires were used for its intended purpose, including this entire. It is more likely, but not necessarily true, that this surcharged entire was used as a matter of convenience.



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2015

2015 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 25¢ blue on 3¢ Pink (Scott 143L8 on U34), with printed frank, stamp position 3 with ample to large margins all around and tied by blue “Wells, Fargo & Co. Express, Sonora” oval datestamp, second strike cancels indicia; addressed to Mrs. C. C. Crittenden, San Francisco, the original letter datelined “Aurora April 24th” (1863) from her son Howard sadly no longer accompanies; P.F. notes the stamp with small faults and the entire with edge tears, which do not detract, Very Fine appearance, ex Reinhart, Gamett and Walske (with his initials and notes in pencil on reverse including “Boggs Type 3” and “sheet pos. 3”), with 2007 P.F. certificate. Scott \$4,500. Estimate \$3,000 - 4,000

Illustrated in Gamett’s *Nevada Express: Wells, Fargo & Co. and Other Letter Expresses 1857-1895* (p.38).



2016

2016 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 25¢ blue on 3¢ Pink on Buff (Scott 143L8 on U35), with printed frank, stamp with huge margin at left, large to barely touched at top left, tied by blue “Wells, Fargo & Cos. Express S. Frco. 1 Jun” (1863) double circular datestamp, addressed to Gold Hill, Nevada Territory; small tear at top center just touches printed frank, Very Fine appearance, ex Walske (with his initials and notes in pencil on reverse including (stamp) “used 2/9/63-2/22/64”), with 2007 P.F. certificate. Scott \$4,500. Estimate \$3,000 - 4,000



THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



2017

2017 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 25¢ blue on 3¢ Pink on Buff (Scott 143L8 on U35), with black Wells Fargo company frank at top center, stamp with four margins, tied by blue “Wells, Fargo & Co. Express, Virginia Cty, N.T.” oval datestamp which also cancels indicia, addressed to San Francisco; entire restored at bottom and top left, handsome Very Fine appearance. Scott \$4,500. Estimate \$750 - 1,000

This was a private enterprise of Wells, Fargo & Co. for the rapid handling of mail between San Francisco and the mining region around Virginia City, Nevada. Mail traveled from San Francisco to Sacramento by boat, and from Sacramento by pony. The service began on Aug. 11, 1852 with an extra 10¢ fee, which was increased in 1863 to 25¢. The color of the 25¢ stamp was changed from blue to red in 1864. The service ended in early 1865.



2019

2019 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 25¢ red on 3¢ Pink on Buff (Scott 143L9 on U35), with printed frank, stamp with huge sheet margins at left, full margins other three sides, single strike of blue “Wells, Fargo & Co. Virginia Cty. N.T. Feb. 9” (1865) oval datestamp ties stamp and cancels indicia, addressed to Clara C. Crittenden in San Francisco; tiny nicks at top from rough opening, which are not noted on the certificate, Extremely Fine, ex Dr. Martin and Walske (with his initials and notes in pencil on reverse), with 1990 P.F. certificate. Scott \$8,000. Estimate \$6,000 - 8,000



THE JEFF WICHMANN PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION



2018



2018 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 25¢ red on 3¢ Pink, Traveled west to San Francisco then East via Panama Steamer carried completely by Wells, Fargo outside of the mails (Scott 143L9 on U34), stamp with three large margins including frameline of neighboring left stamp and traces of neighboring stamps at right and bottom, ample to just into at top right, tied by blue “Wells Fargo & Co. Austin N.T. [Jan. 3]0” (1865) oval datestamp; blue “Wells, Fargo & Cos. Express S. Frco. 3 Feb.” double-circle datestamp does double duty tying the stamp and canceling the indicia; printed frank at top center and addressed to Philadelphia; stamp with light soiling, Very Fine condition, ex Dale-Liechtenstein (lot 1525; purchased by Walske) and Walske (with his initials and notes in pencil on reverse, including route), with 1990 P.F. certificate. Scott \$8,000 for typical use. Estimate \$10,000 - 15,000

This phenomenal cover began its journey in Austin, Nevada Territory, traveling westward by Pony Express to San Francisco, then began its eastward journey on the PMSS *Golden Age* to Panama (which departed San Francisco on Feb. 3), the lack of *any* postal markings indicates “door-to-door” delivery by Wells Fargo only and outside of the mails. **This cover is the only recorded Virginia City Pony Express Cover to the east coast, as well as the only recorded Virginia City Pony Express Cover that traveled by steamer via Panama to the east coast.**



2020

2020 ☒

Wells Fargo & Co., 1862-64, 25¢ red on 3¢ Pink on Buff (Scott 143L9 on U35), with printed frank, stamp with three full margins and clear at left, tied by blue “Wells, Fargo & Co. Virginia Cty. N.T. Feb. 28” (1865) oval datestamp (Leutzinger type 12-3 with “Cty”), second strike cancels indicia, addressed to R.A. Van Brunt in San Francisco; professional restoration including top backflap expertly reattached, sealed tear at top right, Extremely Fine appearance, with 2014 P.F. certificate (only noting the sealed tear).
Scott \$8,000. Estimate \$3,000 - 4,000

Ex New Helvetia (where described as having a letter dated February 19, 1865, which no longer accompanies). This is significant because the Virginia Pony was terminated in July 1864 because the roads had improved so that stagecoaches could travel close to the same rate as the pony riders. However, rough weather the following winter engendered a need for the premium service which was revived from December 29, 1864, to March 2, 1865. This cover was carried during that short winter revival period.

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