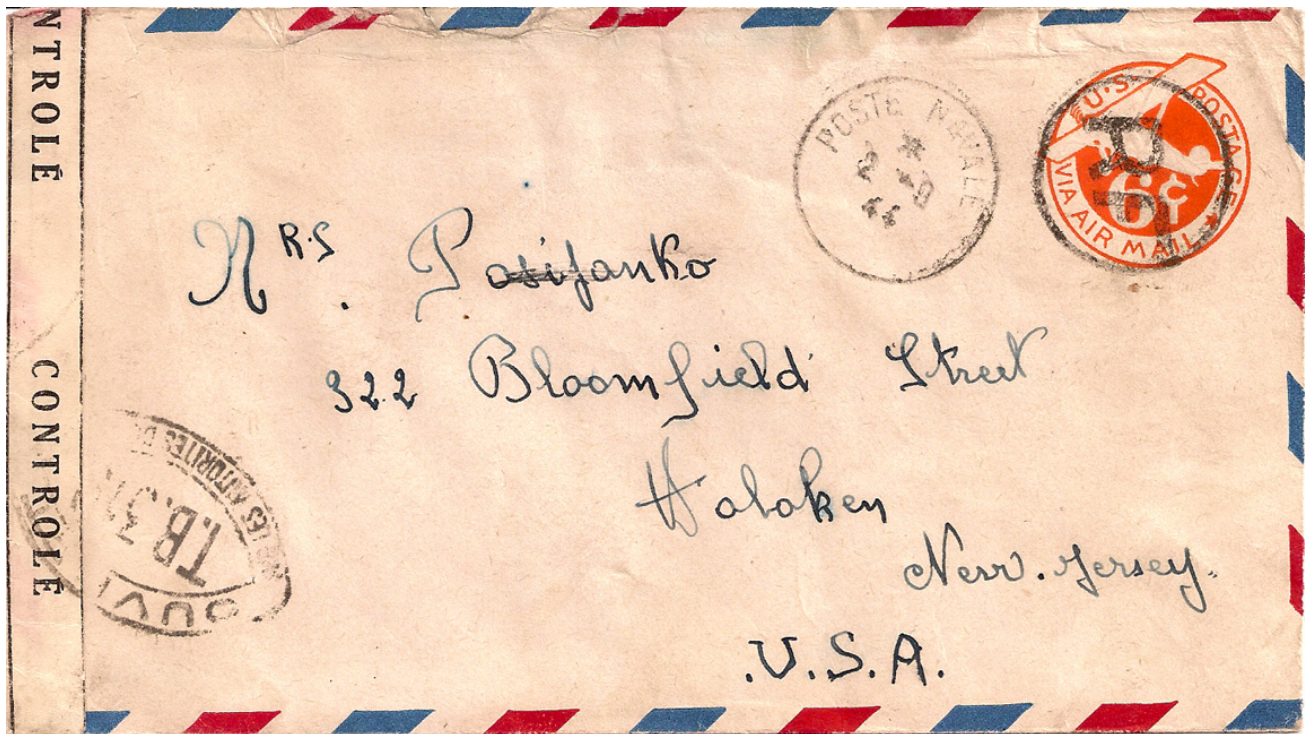


# POSTAL STATIONERY



USA Airmail Envelope overprinted "RF"  
See Article on Page 216

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# First Issue Stamped Envelopes of Peru

By Ross A. Towle

In 1874, Peru placed an order for stamped envelopes. The question is, which company received the order? According to Herbert Moll<sup>1</sup>, the American Bank Note Co. received the order. Also according to Carlos Nicoletti Gonzales<sup>2</sup>, the American Bank Note Co. received the order, except he confuses the National Bank Note Co. with the American Bank Note Co. This article uses archival documents to show which company received the order and which company manufactured the envelopes.

In 1858, seven engraving companies united to form the American Bank Note Co. These companies were

- Danforth, Perkins & Co.
- Toppan, Carpenter & Co.
- Draper, Welsh & Co.
- Bald, Cousland & Co.
- Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson
- John E. Gavitt
- Wellstood, Hay & Whiting.

Members of Danforth, Perkins & Co. who did not join the American Bank Note Co. formed the National Bank Note Co. In February 1879, the firms of American Bank Note Co., National Bank Note Co., and Continental Bank Note Co. joined together to form the consolidated American Bank Note Co.

The Museum of American Finance ([www.moaf.org](http://www.moaf.org)) in New York City, holds a number of business records of the American Bank Note Co. and the National Bank Note Co. On page 14, Nicoletti reproduces an order of March 3, 1874, from the Director General of the Peruvian Post Office to "Compania Nacional de Billetes de Banco" which is Spanish for the National Bank Note Co. Using this date, I searched the 1874 American Bank Note Co. and National Bank Note Co. sales books. The sale was not listed in the American Bank Note Co. sales book. But the order was listed on April 5, 1874 (page 118), in the National Bank Note Co. sales book. In addition to stamped envelopes, the order included 2 centavos stamps.

The order called for engraving 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, and 50c stamped envelope dies, and to furnish 100,000 2c envelopes (size # 4), 50,000 5c envelopes (size # 1), 50,000 10c envelopes (size #2), 50,000 10c envelopes (size # 2), 10,000 20c envelopes (size # 5), 10,000 20c envelopes (size #5), and 10,000 50c envelopes (size # 7). It is not clear what the difference is between the two 20c (size #5) listings. Paper quality? Paper color? On August 18, 1874, 12 cases containing the completed stamped envelopes were shipped from New York on the *City of Panama*.


A year later, on June 12, 1875, the National Bank Note Co.

received an April 30, 1875 order for additional stamped envelopes (page 218). The order called for furnishing:

- 150,000 5c envelopes (size #2, 3<sup>rd</sup> quality)
- 275,000 10c envelopes (size #3, 1<sup>st</sup> quality)
- 50,000 20c envelopes (size #5, 2<sup>nd</sup> quality)
- 25,000 50c envelopes (size #7).

An update was sent on June 5 that the size of the 50c envelopes was to be 7-1/8 x 8-7/8 inch on linen paper. The order was shipped to Peru in 23 boxes on August 26, 1875, on the *Acapulco*.

Receipt of Order	Date of Order	SPECIFICATIONS	Price	Amount
Apr 5	Mon 3	Government of Peru Post Office Rechartrant		
		Engraved 100-2 Centavos Stamp plates 240-00	200	
		Engraved 2c Envelope die	57.00	
		Engraved 5c Envelope die	35	175
		Engraved 10c Envelope die		375
		Engraved 20c Envelope die		
		Engraved 50c Envelope die	120	500
		Engraved 2c Envelope die		
		Engraved 5c Envelope die		
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		Engraved 20c Envelope die		
		Engraved 50c Envelope die		
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		Engraved 20c Envelope die		



*SPECIMEN.*

ORDERS.		New York, <i>June</i> 1875		
Receipt of Order.	Date of Order.	Specifications.	Price.	Amount.
<i>June 12</i>		<i>Government of Peru Post Office Department</i>		
	<i>Apr 20</i>	<i>order Circular Station to deliver Circulars post</i>		
		<i>Peru</i>		
		<i>10,000 Stamped Envelopes 5" x 2 1/2" quality</i>	<i>3.80 2.04</i>	<i>4.86</i>
		<i>250,000 do do 10" x 3 1/2"</i>	<i>5.02</i>	<i>1270.50</i>
		<i>50,000 do do 20" x 5 2 1/2"</i>	<i>4.62</i>	<i>231</i>
		<i>25,000 do do 50" (7)</i>	<i>8.58</i>	<i>214.50</i>
	<i>June 5</i>	<i>50 Envelope to be square on lined paper (7 1/2 x 8 1/2)</i>	<i>1.15</i>	<i>57.50</i>
		<i>Printing 25,500</i>	<i>3.55 5</i>	
		<i>Freight</i>	<i>1.02 24</i>	<i>56.80</i>
		<i>Insurance 715.00 2 1/2%</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>3.948 50</i>
		<i>After the same as last</i>		
		<i>Postage to be ruled by the Great of Peru</i>		
		<i>Amounts made by drafts to be remitted 6%</i>		
		<i>Each month</i>		
		<i>Address: Phys. To Director General de Correos</i>		
		<i>Lima Peru S.R.</i>		
<i>June 20</i>		<i>Government of Peru has directions to change shape &amp; quality of 250,000 envelopes</i>		
<i>July 1</i>		<i>delivered by the Govt. to be made on 100,000 50" x 10"</i>	<i>2.04</i>	<i>1.50</i>
<i>Aug 1</i>		<i>Received from the Govt. 1 box each for 5, 10, 20, 50"</i>	<i>2.04</i>	<i>1.50</i>
		<i>scrips amounts transferring Sept. receipt acknowledged by Mr. Brown</i>		