

CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA
& PIKE'S PEAK EXPRESS COMPANY



This company was the immediate predecessor of The Pony Express. It was organized by the firm of Russell, Majors & Waddell for the purpose of saving the partnership's freighting operations to army posts in the West. They were one of two firms that carried mail to the Pike's Peak region when the gold rush began there.

COC&PPE had obtained the mail contract from St. Joseph to Salt Lake City operating over the Platte River Road. They carried the express Pike's Peak mail over this route as far as Julesburgh, where it was diverted south to Denver, which had a post office, but no mail route serving the town.

This cover originated in Illinois. At St. Joseph it was handed to the express company, which delivered it to Mountain City, Kansas Territory. In addition to the St. Joseph COC&PPE oval, it has a black on yellow label of the company, one of four known examples.

As the company's finances deteriorated, COC&PPE was said to mean "Clean Out of Cash & Poor Pay."

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2783
1-88
VY

'00.
307240
Nutmeg

3188

462

'80 S. eqd 570- Only 4 reported examples of lab

0/24/40 NY. HXO

MAN TOASPERY



The Philatelic Foundation

501 Fifth Avenue • Suite 1901
New York, NY 10017

No. 0356855
8/14/00

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color
26	1957	3¢	dull red

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

SINGLE, PEN CANCEL, ON COVER ADDRESSED TO MOUNTAIN, CITY, KY. BLUE OVAL ST JOSEPH, MO EXPRESS MAIL HANDSTAMP WITH "C.O.C. & P.P. EXPRESS" LABEL PASTED AT LEFT.

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS A GENUINE USAGE, THE LABEL WITH SMALL TEARS, THE COVER AND LABEL WITH A SMALL REPAIR AT TOP LEFT. * * * * *



For The Expert Committee
R. P. [Signature] Chairman

Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.

Submitted by

THOMAS J. ALEXANDER

D048298