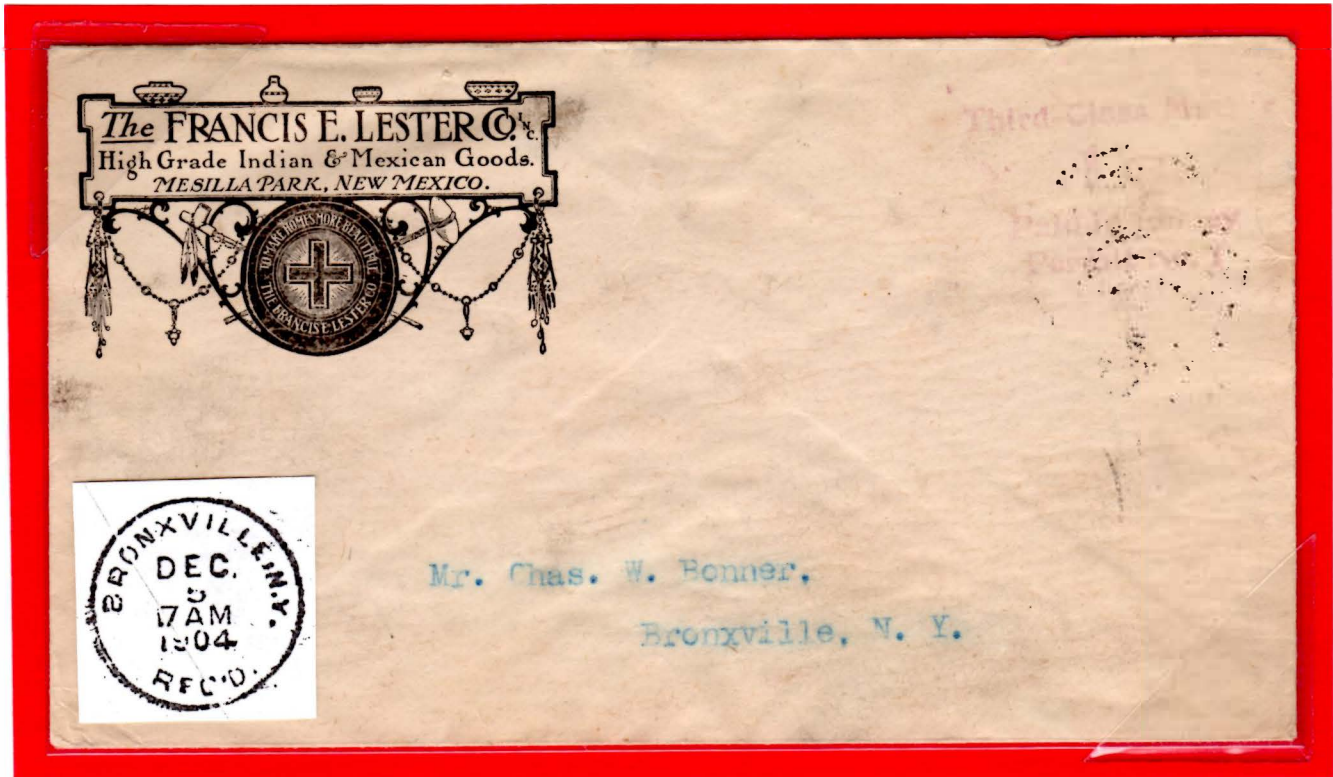


## UNITED STATES THIRD CLASS MAIL

Third class mail deals with a variety of material with the most common single piece mail being circulars, miscellaneous printed mater, and transient rate newspapers. Most often the cancellations do not show a date and year. As such this mail could not be tracked for how long it took to deliver it. However, circular date stamps do appear, infrequently, on third class mail. Third class mail was to be sent unsealed. This requirement eventually led to the development of tension (tie-string) and clasp envelopes. This exhibit provides an overview of third class mail for a period of about 100 years (1850's to the 1950's). Mail of printed matter in the 1850's was not classified as third class mail but was called "circular mail". This can be considered a "precursor" to third class mail. The sections of this exhibit are divided by rate. Significant items have a red matte.



Third class permit mail from December 5, 1904. It is the earliest documented territorial permit mail usage. It came from Mesilia Park, New Mexico. (APES Cert.)

### EXHIBIT PLAN:

1. Circular Mail 1851-1863
2. Third Class Mail 1863-1872
3. Third Class Mail 1872-1925
4. Permit Imprint Mail
5. Third Class Mail 1925-1949
6. Third Class Mail 1949-1958
7. Bulk Mail