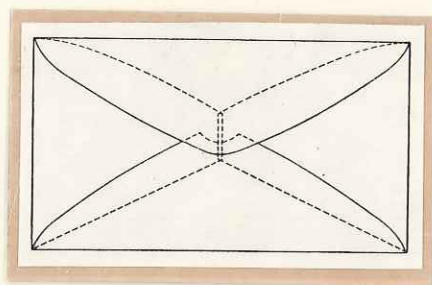


1871 Issue

New Flap Knife

By 1870 the Postal Department absorbed an annual average cost of 115,000 francs to manufacture envelopes. However, it felt that rapidly increasing sales of pre-stamped envelopes (11.6 million in 1870, 20 million by 1875) more than offset this cost by simplifying the handling of posted letters.



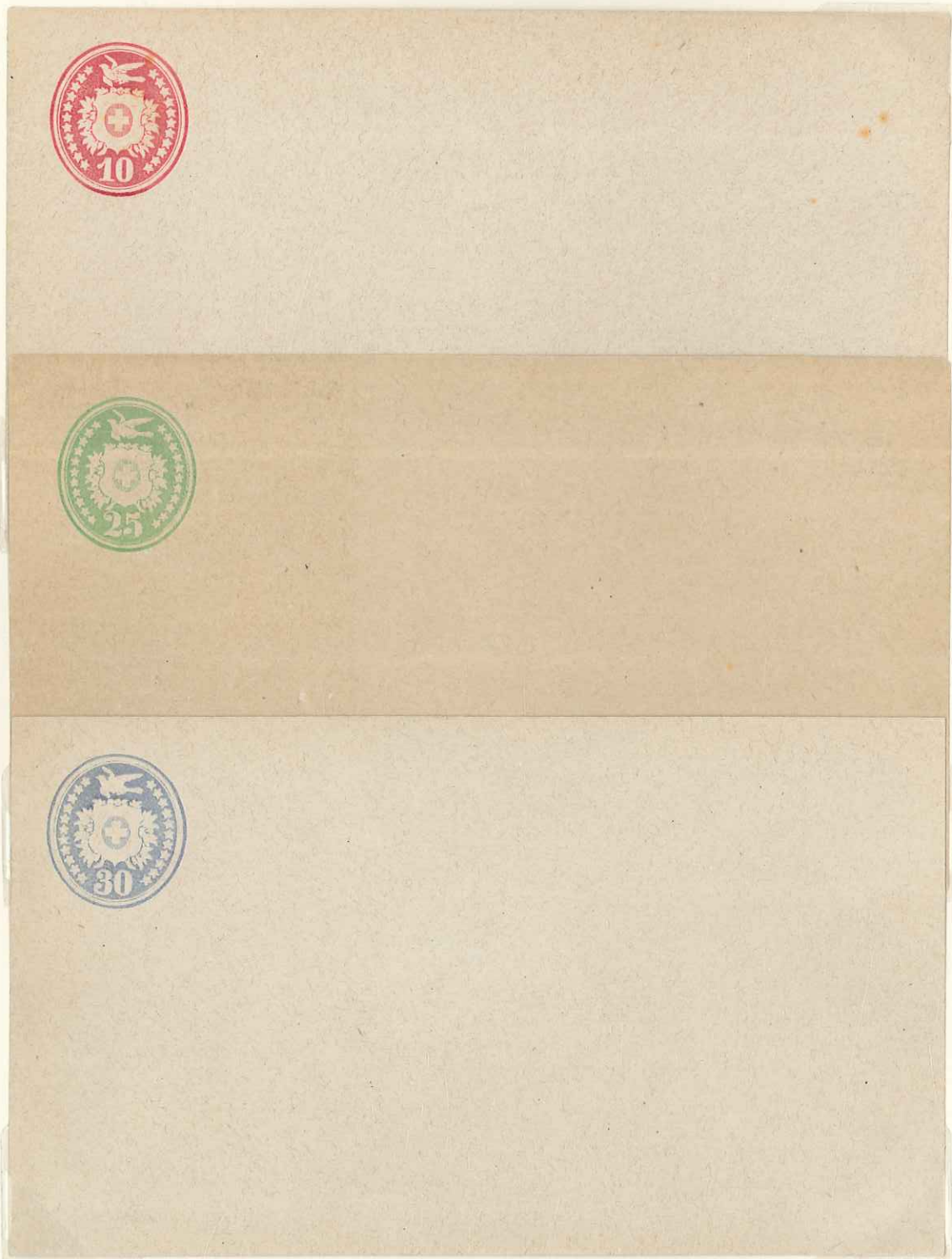
New knife for rounded outer flap.



Dove control mark facing up. Envelope's earliest recorded use Nov. 7, 1871.

1871 Issue

New Flap Knife



Earliest recorded uses: 10c Apr.13,1871; 25c Dec.13,1871; 30c Nov.19,1871.