

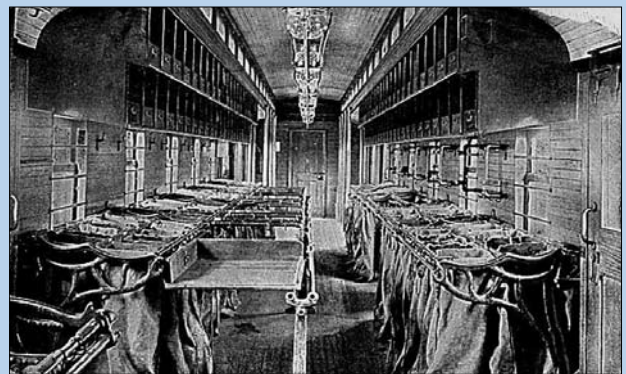
# The American Postal Network, 1792–1914

Editor: **Richard R John**

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The American postal system is widely regarded as a prototype of modern governmental organizations. It is also considered to be a precursor for a number of large-scale businesses and was central to the communications revolution of the nineteenth century. This four-volume reset collection documents the history of this remarkable institution, locating it within the wider administrative network that coordinated the circulation of people, information and goods. It involved several modes of transportation and communication (steamboats, railroads, telegraphs) and linked the many mass distributors of print media and consumer goods.

The pamphlets in this collection document major controversies over communications policy. They link the postal system with debates on cultural values, economic development, political corruption and public finance. The sources in each topic are organized chronologically and set in context with extensive editorial commentary. The collection will be of interest to specialists in the history of law, economics, business, politics and communication as well as historians of the long nineteenth century.



Interior of Railway Postal Car,  
from Charles Emory Smith, *Greatest Business  
Organization in the World: The United States Postal  
Service* [1899], courtesy of Richard R John

- Materials are selected from both public and private collections
- Includes more than eighty complete texts
- Provides full scholarly apparatus, including an extensive general introduction, volume introductions, headnotes and endnotes
- Consolidated index in the final volume

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