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cover it's subject  
so uniquely...



turn to voices of  
the past...



and look to those who  
came before...



to gain perspective on  
where we are now,



"Superbly edited, beautifully designed and illustrated, *Lapham's Quarterly* is a godsend, a genuine treasure for any and all who care about history and ideas and the love of learning. Bravo!"

— David McCullough

"Brilliant and much-needed."

— Dave Eggers

"The Thinking Person's Guide to where we've come from, where we are and where we may be going."

— Morley Safer

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— James Wolcott

"A unique, pleasant marriage of great storytelling and important historical accounts."

— Morgan Winters, *Utne Reader*



present its material  
so gorgeously...

*Lapham's Quarterly* is published by the not-for-profit American Agora Foundation, Inc., with the sole purpose of encouraging and fostering an acquaintance with history.

Rarely, if ever, does  
one magazine...

to add context to  
the present...



# Introducing you to the *Lapham's Quarterly*, the extraordinary new publication that brings the voices of the past up to the microphone of the present.

**You're invited to join us — without risk — at a savings so significant it's like getting one issue free!**

Faulkner said, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." At *Lapham's Quarterly*, we rely on the past to help us find our way in the present. To give meaning and perspective to current topics. And to enlighten and inspire us as we look to the future.

We think you'll find *Lapham's Quarterly* to be unlike any publication you've ever encountered. Never has a Table of Contents attained the status of "must-read" as it does in *Lapham's Quarterly*. So varied are the contributors, so extraordinary the juxtaposition of voices, that the Tables of Contents — over 90 entries running to four pages — serves as an inventory of the treasure in the bank vault otherwise known as western civilization.

You'll find essays, literary narrative and philosophical commentary — carried across the distance from ancient to modern times — letters, diaries, speeches, maps, charts, landscape painting, photographs, bills of lading, writs of execution, notes, songs and poems.

You'll hear from historians, generals, poets, scientists, scholars, politicians, novelists, musicians, athletes, artists, explorers, dictators and prophets — each with something to say, each in their own words.

Suddenly, you'll feel a kinship with historic figures — reading their words, sensing their passion, realizing they were much like you with the same hopes and dreams, fears and misgivings, struggles and forebodings. Their words bring the historical record vividly alive and bring you to the mindset of former times.

And that's the magic of *Lapham's Quarterly*. It's George Gershwin recalling his inspiration for Rhapsody in Blue. Voltaire speaking out against the senselessness of war. Leonardo da Vinci advising young artists on how to master their craft. And Abraham Lincoln's private reflections on the role of God's will in the Civil War, written only weeks before the battle of Antietam claimed more than 23,000 American lives.

It's a love letter from Napoleon Bonaparte to Josephine. A transcript from the trial of Joan of Arc. Plutarch examining Alexander the Great's claims to divinity. And a report by Louis Pasteur espousing the use of boric acid as a germ killer.

It's Marco Polo on the splendors of the city of Kinsai. Hermann Melville on the surfers of Tahiti. Vince Lombardi on studying game films. And Frédéric Chopin on his dislike of playing music for Englishmen.

Contemporary voices also find a place in *Lapham's Quarterly*. Salman Rushdie. Stanley Fish. Caleb Carr. Tom Holland. Tim Parks. Daniel Mason. Joan Didion. Philip Roth. David Foster Wallace. And Francine Prose. Among others.

If you agree, as *Lapham's Quarterly* does, that we have little else with which to build the future except the lumber of the past, it's time you discovered and enjoyed this fascinating new publication for yourself.

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## A few of our contributors...



Winston Churchill  
(1874–1965)



Confucius  
(551–479 BC)



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756–1791)



Frederick Douglass  
(1817–1895)



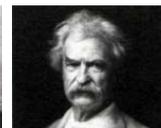
Harriet Beecher Stowe  
(1811–1896)



Joseph Goebbels  
(1897–1945)



Machiavelli  
(1469–1527)



Mark Twain  
(1835–1910)



William Shakespeare  
(1564–1616)



Marquis de Sade  
(1740–1814)



Billie Holiday  
(1915–1959)



Elizabeth I  
(1533–1603)



Janus is the Roman god of opposites — of exits and entrances, beginnings and endings. January is named for him; on Roman coins he was depicted with two heads facing in opposite directions. For *Lapham's Quarterly*, his image represents our mission of looking to the past to understand the present and find a way to the future.

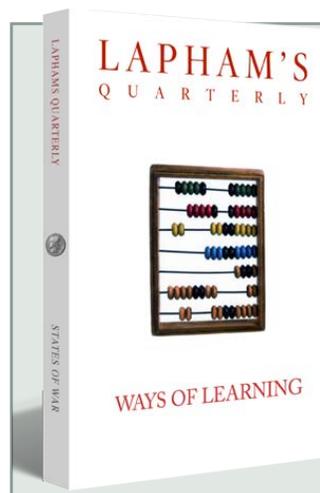


### The man behind *Lapham's Quarterly*

The founder and editor of *Lapham's Quarterly* is Lewis H. Lapham (pronounced lap um), the editor emeritus of *Harper's Magazine*. A 2007 inductee into the American Society of Magazine

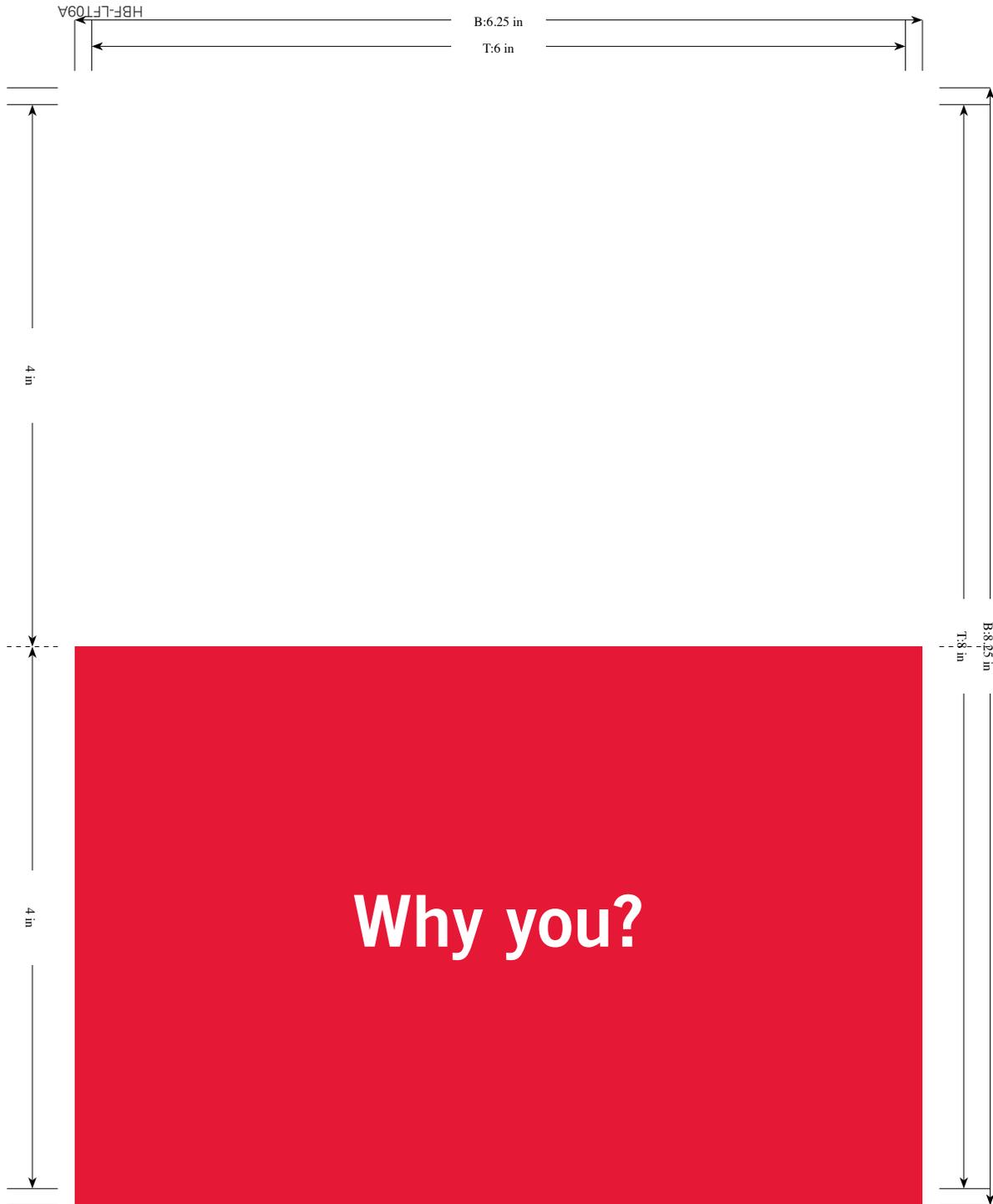


Editors Hall of Fame, he is the author of thirteen books. He produces a weekly podcast, "The World in Time" for Bloomberg News, and his documentary film, *The American Ruling Class*, has become part of the curriculum in many of the nation's schools and colleges. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Lapham launched *Lapham's Quarterly* in 2007.



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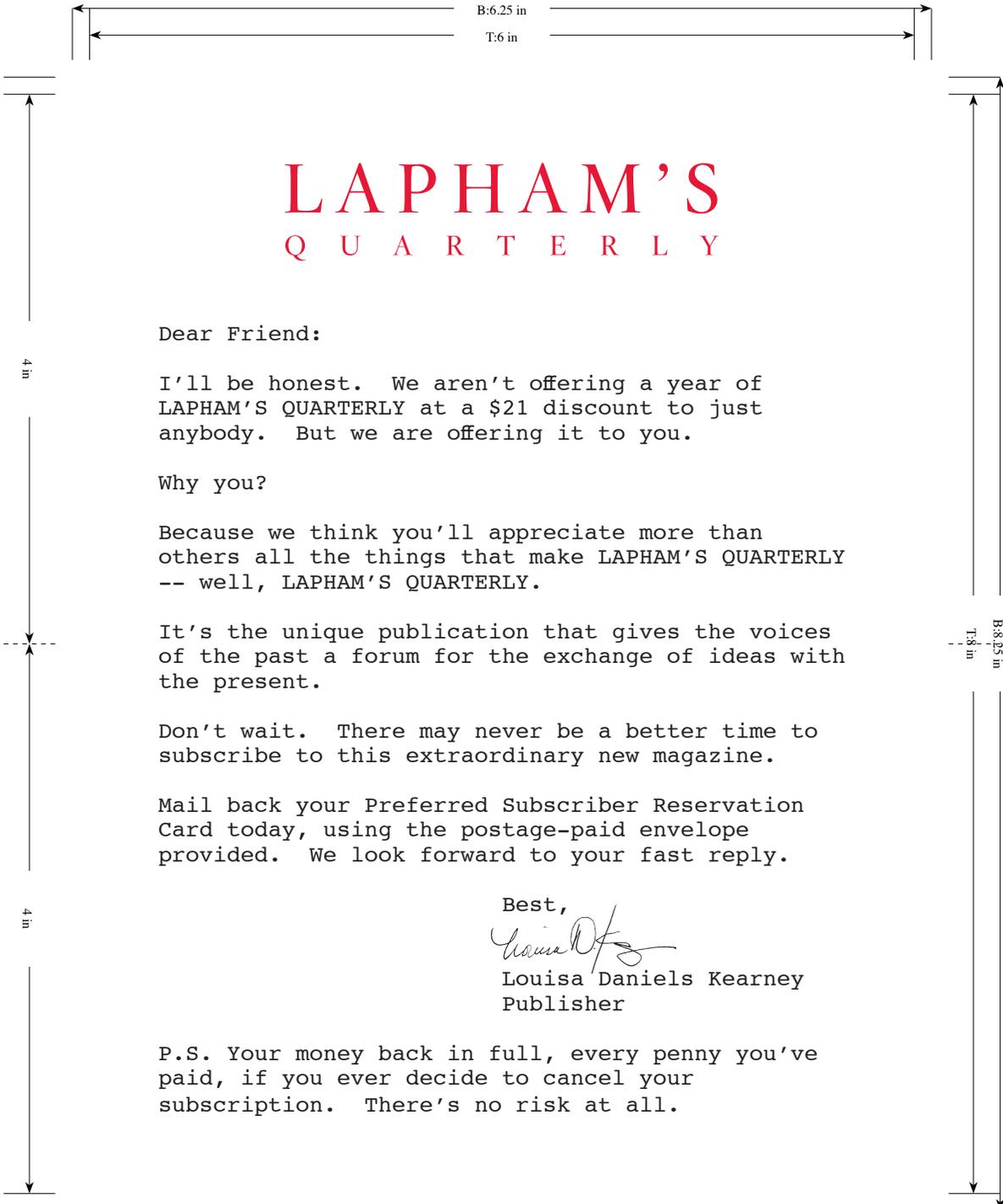
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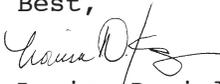
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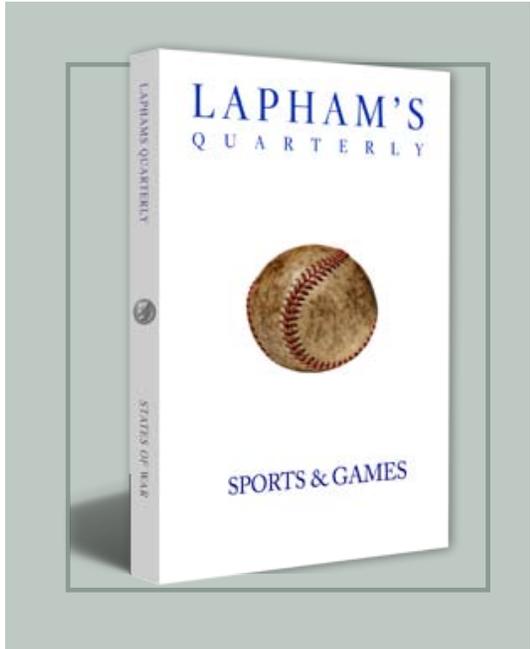
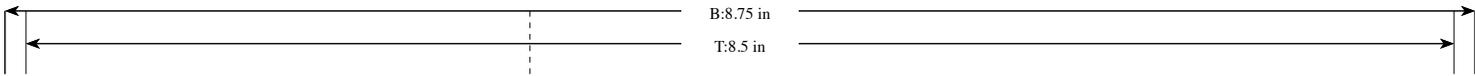
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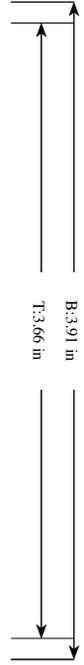
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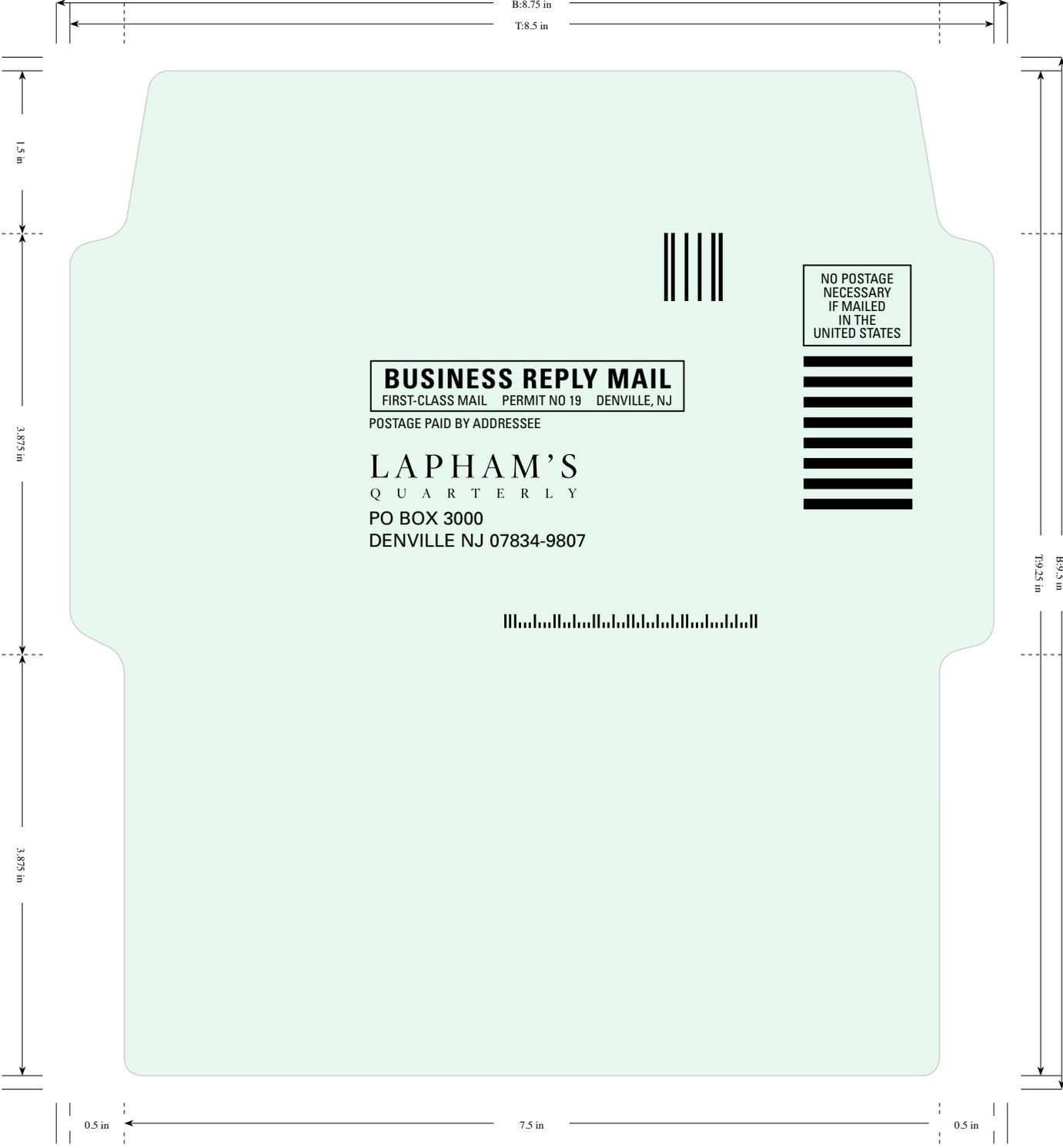
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