SOUTHERN CLASSICS

THE GENERAL ISSUES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

The Confederate States of America Post Office Department during its brief existence issued fourteen different stamps using five different contractors for their production. Stamps were produced using Lithography, Typography and Line Engraving. The lack of supplies, equipment, and experienced personnel resulted in a wide range of printing quality and many color shades.

This exhibit, which is traditional in form, presents the stamps in their order of issue and includes Progressive Die, Trial Color, Finished Die and Plate Proofs wherever possible, along with both unused and used stamps and covers. Also shown are some of the many color shades, plate/printing varieties and colored cancels available.

Covers are shown which illustrate Basic rates, Multiple rates, Adversity uses Military Field cancels, Patriotic Envelopes, Smuggled mail, Louisiana Relief Committee mail, Hand Carried Blockade, and Prisoner of War mail. Semi-Official mail, Official mail, (The only covers in this exhibit without stamps) Inland Waterway uses, Private Express mail and Trans-Mississippi Express mail, are also shown along with Overpaid, Underpaid, Missent, Advertised, Held For Postage Postage, Forwarded, Valentines, Mourning Covers, Railroad Cancels and College Cancels.

Philotelic Map of The Confederate States
1861 Five Cents Green

The first stamp issued by the Confederate Government. used to Pay the one half ounce under 500 mile rate of five cents

Lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Virginia

Proof

Plate proof on wove paper

Issued stamps

Unused examples from the three printing stones

Stone A/B

Stone 1

Stone 2

Dry Print (Printers Waste)
1861 Five Cent Green

Unused multiples

Stone A/B

Block of eighteen
Stone 2
1861 Five Cent Green

Used examples and varieties

Stone A/B  Stone 1  Stone 2

The two major types of New Orleans, La. Cancels

Single Circle CDS  Double Circle CDS

Montgomery, Ala.  Charleston, S. C.

Printing Varieties

Acid Flaw  White Tie
1861 Five Cent Green

Colored cancels

Blue Target

Blue Grid

Blue Town (Columbia, S. C.)

Red Grid

Red Paid

Red-Orange Town (Smithfield, Va.)
1861 Five Cents Green

Used multiples

Montgomery, Ala. Apr. 14, 1862

Richmond, Va. Nov. ( ), 1861

Mobile, Ala. Feb. 8, 1862

New Orleans, La. Feb. 7, (1862)
1861 Five Cent Green

Single Rate (5 cents per half ounce) for letters traveling under 500 miles prior to July 1, 1862

Richmond & Petersburg R.R. corner card

Use of Pre-war Canceler before removal of ‘5 cts’
Blue town cancel
1861 Five Cents Green

Single rate (5 Cents per half ounce) for letters traveling under 500 miles prior to July 1, 1862

Pendleton, S.C. to Charleston, S.C.
Blue town cancel

Memphis, Tenn. to Bayou LaChute, La.
1861 Five Cent Green

Single rate (5 cents per half ounce) for letters traveling under 500 miles prior to July 1, 1862

Nashville, Tenn. to Abington, Va.
Blue town cancel

Little Rock, Ark. to Spring Hill, Texas
1861 Five Cents Green

Pre Printed Prices Current Circular dated Feb 16, 1862, with an added hand written note.

Without the added hand written note, this folded circular
Would have been eligible for the Two Cent circular rate.

1861 Five Cent Green

Pair of Five Cent Stamps Paying the basic rate of 10 Cents per Half Ounce for letters traveling over 500 miles prior to July 1, 1862

EARLIEST KNOWN USE ON COVER

Richmond, Va. Oct. 17, 1861 to Cartersville, Georgia

1861 Five Cent Green

Single rate (10 cents per half ounce) for letters traveling over 500 miles prior to July 1, 1862

Yorktown, Va. to Athens, Ga.

Gordonsville, Va. to Woodruffs, S.C.
1861 Five Cent Green

Block of four paying 4 times the single rate for distances under 500 miles

Columbus, Miss. to Jackson, Miss.
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Used to pay the one half ounce over 500 mile rate
Lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig

Proof

Plate Proof
on wove paper

Issued Stamps
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Hoyer & Ludwig Printing

Used examples

Atlanta Ga.
Yorktown Va.
Tudor Hall Va.

Colored cancels

Alexandria, La.
Red town cancel

Southern Express
Red cancel
Raleigh N.C.
Blue town cancel
Columbia S.C.
Blue town cancel
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Hoyer & Ludwig Printing

Tudor Hall, Va. to Mobile, Ala.

Liberty, Va. to Glenwood, Va.
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Patterson Printing

Trial Color Proof

Black on wove paper

Issued Stamps

Gutter Strip of four
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Patterson Printing

Used examples

Mobile, Ala.  
Little Rock, Ark.

Blue town cancel


Stone Y

Columbia, S.C.  
Charleston, S.C.  
Staunton, Va.
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Patterson Printing

Manuscript Semi Official Use

Greensborough, N.C. to Salem, N.C.
Red town cancel

Greensborough, Ala to Mobile, Ala.
1861 Ten Cents Blue

Patterson Printing

Stone Y

Blue town cancel

Lynchburg, Va. to Georgia
Blue town cancel
1861 Ten Cent Blue

Patterson Printing

Double rate combination use

1861 ten cent Patterson print used in combination with a Type I 1863 10 cents blue Archer & Daly print, paying the double rate to Liberty Hill, N.C.
1862 Two Cent Green

Unused examples

Light Green

Dark Green

Used examples

Augusta, Ga.

Blue town cancel

Richmond, Va. Jan 24, 1862
1862 Two Cent Green

Two Cent Drop Letter Rate

A Drop Letter was defined as originating from and being delivered to the same city/town

Savannah, Georgia to Savannah, Georgia

Strip of Five paying the Ten Cent letter Rate

Montgomery, Texas (Mar 1) to Washington, Washington Co. Texas
1862 Two Cent Green
Circular


Reduced photo copy of Circular Showing the Pre - Printed content
Which qualifies it for the 2 Cent Circular Rate

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
Richmond, October 22, 1862.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, AND TO RECEIVERS UNDER THE SEQUESTRATION ACT.

The Act of the thirtieth of August, 1861, declares that certain property "held, owned, possessed, or enjoyed by, or for any alien enemy, since the 21st day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one," is thereby sequestrated, and that it shall be held for the full indemnity of a class of persons therein specified. The Act vested the property in the Confederate States, and declared a trust, and you are instructed to proceed in all cases, in which that trust seems to be impaired by subsequent legislation, as if no such legislation had been made. The object is to settle judicially the constitutionality of such subsequent legislation.

Instances wherein the trust seems to be impaired by the amendatory Act of the 15th February, 1862, readily come: as the seventh section thereof, which gives the property of certain alien enemies to the next of kin. Independently of any trust, the section is a nullity. If the property be not sequestrated, it remains in the alien enemy; if sequestrated, the title is in the Confederate States, and the Congress cannot make gifts nor grant bounties.

The fourth section of the amendatory Act seems also to be violative of the trust, as in contravention of the original Act, it exempts from sequestration property transferred by an alien enemy to a citizen of the Confederate States, prior to the 30th August, 1861; and so of the sixth section of the amendatory Act, if it shall appear that it limits the class of persons known as alien enemies, at the time the first Act was approved. But these are given merely as instances, the better to call the whole subject to your careful consideration.

WADE KEYES.
Acting Attorney General.
1862 Five Cents Blue

Stone 2

Unused Examples
1862 Five Cent Blue

Hoyer & Ludwig Printing

Unused examples

Stone 2 Gutter Block
1862 Five Cent Blue

Stone 2

Used Examples

Richmond, Va.  Atlanta, Ga.

Blue Cancel

1862 Five Cent Blue

Printed Circular with added hand written note

The addition of a hand written note to this circular changed
the rate from the two cent pre-printed circular rate to
the five cents letter rate for distances under 500 miles.

New Orleans, La. to Memphis, Tenn.
1862 Five Cent Blue

Last day of the Five Cent per Half Ounce rate for distances under 500 miles
June 30, 1862

Danville, Va. to Lynchburg, Va.

First Day of the 10 Cents per Half Ounce regardless of distance
July 1, 1862

This letter marked Due 5 because of a Five Cent Underpayment of the new rate
1862 Five Cent Blue

Uniform 10 Cent rate regardless of distance traveled
After June 30, 1862


Petersburg, Va. to Palmer Springs, Va.
Blue town cancel
1862 Five Cent Blue
Stone 3

Unused examples

Light Blue

Blue

Used Examples

Greenville, Tenn.

Milky Blue Shade

Blue Grid

Milky Blue Shade
1862 Five Cent Blue
Stone 3

EARLIEST KNOWN USE
Single stamp paying the five cents per half oz. rate for distances of up to 500 miles.
Prior to July 1, 1862

Suffolk, Va. to Marion C.H., S.C.

Pair of stamps from stone 3 paying the ten cent rate
After July 1, 1862

Mobile, Ala. to Marion Station, Miss
1862 Ten Cent Rose

Unused Examples

Imprint strip of four

Used Examples

Mt. Carmel S.C.

Harrisonburg, Va.

Hazlehurst, Miss.

Colored cancels

Carmine Shade

Blue

Red
1863 TEN Cent Blue

Richmond, Va. May 2, 1863 to Sangersville, Va.

Pair paying 20 cent rate for over one half ounce weight
Adams Run S.C. Spartsnburg C.H. S.C.
1862 10 Cent Rose

Single Stamp
(Letter Rate for Under One Half Ounce)

Selma, Ala. (JUL 21) To Mobile, Ala.

Pair
(Letter Rate for Over One Half Ounce but Under 1 Ounce)

Blue town cancel
1862 Ten Cent Rose

Selma, Ala. to Mobile, Ala.

Richmond, Va. to Lexington Va.
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Progressive Die Essays and Proofs

Progressive Die Essays on Glazed Card
cut to size

Black Progressive Die Essays on full size glazed card

Intermediate-Advanced State of Vignette Design

Advanced State (Nearly Complete) Vignette Design
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing
Black Progressive Die Essays on full size glazed card

Complete Vignette Design

Oct. 30, 1862 BEFORE STRIKING

Completed Stamp Design before Striking

Trial Color Die Proof in Black
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Trial Color Die Proof

Pink

Trial Color Die Proof

Blue

Trial Color Die Proof

Trial Color Plate Proof

Trial Color Plate Proof

Black on card
Black on wove paper (Discovery copy)
Grey Blue on stamp paper
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Unused examples

Dark Blue

Blue

Upper Left sheet margin block of four

Sheet Margin copy
With De La Rue Accountancy Marking
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Used examples

Colored Cancels

Red  Blue  Green
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Five Cent Single Rate for distances under 500 miles Prior to July 1, 1862

Montgomery, Ala. to Abbeville, Ala.

Mobile, Ala. to Livingston, Ala.
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Two Cent Circular/Newspaper Rate
one cent over payment for two papers

Richmond, Va. to Greenville, Augusta County Va.

Over Paid Drop Letter
three cent over payment of the two cent drop letter rate

Richmond, Va. to Richmond Va.
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Ten Cents per Half Oz. Rate for distances over 500 miles Prior to July 1, 1862

Richmond, Va. to Level Land, S.C.

Richmond, Va. to Greenville, Ala.
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

LAST DAY OF THE FIVE CENT RATE
June 30, 1862

Danville, Va. to Richmond, Va.
Single Five Cent Blue London Print stamp paying the Five Cent per Half Ounce under 500 mile rate on the Last Day of use for this rate.

FIRST DAY OF THE UNIFORM TEN CENT RATE.
On July 1, 1862 a uniform rate of Ten Cents per Half Ounce regardless of the distance traveled was established.

July 1, 1862
Charleston, S.C. to Aiken, Barnwell District, S.C.
Single Five Cent Blue London Print stamp underpaying the new Ten Cent rate. This letter was accepted and sent at the old five cent rate either in error, or as having been deposited at the Post Office the previous day (June 30) and was deemed eligible for the old rate.
1862 Ten Cent Rose

Covington, Ga. (AUG. 19) to Athens, Ga.
Used after the rate change of July 1, 1862
(Ten Cente per Half Ounce regardless of distance traveled)

Carmine Shade

Atlanta, Ga. to (NOV 15, 1862) Conwayboro, S.C.
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Single stamp under paying the 10 Cent Rate after June 30, 1862
(Rated Due 5 to correct the deficiency)

Charleston, S. C. to Greenville, N. C.

Lynchburg, Va. to Yellow Branch, Campbell Co. Va.
Blue town cancel
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

Trial Color Plate Proofs

Carmine
On wove paper
Carmine
On thin card

Issued Stamps

Printed on London Paper
with local gum

Gutter block
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

Constant Printing Varieties

Scratched plate

White tie

Printing anomalies

Short inked plate

Dry print

Ink spots
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing
Used examples

Richmond, Va.
(Cobalt Shade)
Estell Springs N & C R.R.

Richmond, Va.

Colored Cancels

Green
Raleigh, N.C.

Blue
Lynchburg, Va.

Brown
Midlothian, Va.

Red

Violet

Alexandria, La.

Lynchburg, Va.
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

Used Multiples

Charleston, S.C.

Columbia, S.C.

Richmond, Va.

Richmond, Va.
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

EARLIEST RECORDED USE ON COVER
August 15, 1862

Richmond, Va. to Chattanooga, Tenn.

Cobalt Shade

Savannah, Ga. to Richmond, Va.
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

Over Paid Drop Letter
Three cent overpayment of the two cent drop letter rate

Petersburg, Va. to Petersburg, Va.
Blue town cancel

Blue town cancel
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

Richmond Mute Cancels

Richmond, Va. to Palmetto, Ga.

Richmond, Va. to Dry Pond, N.C.
1862 Five Cent Blue
Local (Richmond) Printing

Five Cent underpayment of the Ten Cent rate.
Hand stamped DUE 5 with the oval due marking of Savannah, Ga.

Savannah, Ga. to Richmond, Va.

Underpaid double rate letter
Hand stamped (10) to show a ten cent underpayment of the double rate.

Charleston, S.C. to Greenville, S.C.
1863 Two Cent Brown Red

Trial Color Proof

Black on wove paper

Issued Stamps

Brown Red

Pale Rose Red

Gutter Block of Eight
1863 Two Cent Brown Red

Used examples

Typical town cancel
Charleston, S.C.

Two Cent circular/newspaper rate

Richmond, Va.

Colored cancels

Red

Blue

Greensborough, N.C.

Greensborough, N.C.
1863 Two Cent Brown Red

Manuscript Semi Official Use

Unsealed homemade envelope, using a single stamp to pay the two cent circular rate to the Sheriff of Spotsylvania, Va.

Richmond, Va. to Spotsylvania, Va.

CSA Navy Department envelope
Semi Official use of two cent drop letter rate

Richmond, Va. to Richmond, Va.
Strip of five of the two cent stamps used to make up the ten cent rate

Columbia, S.C, to James Island, S.C.
Blue town cancel
1863 Two Cent Brown Red

Locally used wrapper
Two cent circular rate


Wrapper
Double circular rate (four cents) for 2 papers

1863 10 Cent Blue “Frame Line”

Unused Examples

Blue

Greenish Blue

Strip of Three
one of a very few unused multiples
to survive

Used examples

Mobile, Ala.
All Four Frame Lines Complete

Mobile, Ala
Horiz. Pair
1862 Five Cent Blue
London (De La Rue) Printing

Pair paying the Single Rate after June 30, 1862


Double rate
Two Pair paying the Double Rate after June 30, 1862

Savannah, Ga. (Mar 6 ___) to Charleston, S.C.
1863 TEN Cents Blue

Unused examples

Used examples

Variety
Bruised Plate
(Lower LH Margin)

Colored cancels

Blue cancel
Glade Springs Depot, Va.

Red cancel
1863 10 Cent Blue “Frame line”

Richmond Va. Mute Cancel (no Month, Day, or Year logo)
Blue ink was used for a short time in May of 1863.
This cancel is usually found on soldiers letters.


Addressed to Commander Catesby A. P. R. Jones CSN

Commander Catesby A.P.R. Jones was the Commander of the Confederate ram Virginia (Merrimac) during the Battle of Hampton Roads on March 9, 1862. This was the first battle between two ironclad vessels.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I

Unused examples and multiples

RH Stamp
Short Transfer At Top

Gutter Block of Four

Imprint Block
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I

Used Examples

Used over
U.S. 3 Cent
Star Die

Fancy Star

R.R. Cancel

Tuscalousa, Ala.

Mayesville, S.C.

(Estelle) Springs
N & C R.R.

Bridgewater, Va.

Taladaga, Ala.

Richmond, Va.

Pollard, Ala.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I
Used Examples

Shreveport, La.


Georgetown, S.C.

Richmond, Va.

Martinsville, Va.

Big Island, Va.

Colored Cancels

Red

Green

Violet

Lynchburg, Va.

Lynchburg, Va.

Red Brown

Richmond, Va.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I

Double Rate

Macon, Ga. to Mobile, Ala.

Double Rate

Montgomery, Ala. to Marietta, Ga.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I

Forwarded Mail rated Due 10

Staunton, Va. to Charleston, S.C.
Then forwarded to Cedar Springs, S.C.

Columbia, S. C. to Columbia, S. C.
Forwarded to Greenville C. H., S. C.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II

Proof

One of two recorded copies

Unused Examples

Gutter Block
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II

Used Examples

Raleigh, N.C.

Taladaga, Ala.

Oxford, N.C.

Enfield, N.C.

Wilmington, N.C.

Charleston, S.C.

Cheraw, S.C.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II
Military Field Cancels

Army of Tenn.
Hand Carved woodblock

Army of No. Va.
Target

Modified canceler
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Sep 8, 1863 to Dec. 1863

Colored cancels
Red
Blue
Brown
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II

Lynchburg, Va. to Amelia Court House, Va.
Brown town cancel

Overpaid Drop Letter

Richmond, Va. to Richmond, Va.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II
Double Rate

Blakley, Ga. to Albany, Ga.

Double Rate

Thomasville, Ga. To Breckenridge's Division (Army of) Tenn.
Five times the basic rate of 10 cents per one half Ounce
Bridgewater, Va. to Staunton, Va.

Delayed Mail

This letter was captured by Federal forces and held for examination.
After examination the letter was sent on for delivery.
The letter was in transit from Nov. 1, 1864 to Feb. 1, 1865

Wytheville, Va. to Natural Bridge, Rockbridge Co. Va.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I
Keating & Ball Printing
Unused examples

Chilled Plate

Overheated Plate

Used examples

Raliegh, N.C
Petersburgh, Va.
Raliegh, N.C.
1863 10 Cent Blue 
Type I 
Keating & Ball Printing

Petersburg, Va. to Cedar Brush, Davidson County S.C.

Overpaid Drop Letter and Manuscript Semi Official use. 
(Eight cent overpayment of the two cent drop letter rate)

Richmond, Va. to Richmond, Va.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II
Keating & Ball Printing

Unused examples

Gutter block

Used examples

Blue town Cancel
Red Brown town cancel
Red Grid
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II
Keating & Ball Printing

Charleston, S.C. FEB 8 (1865) to Columbia, S.C.

Double Rate

Charleston, S.C. to Columbia, S.C.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II

Keating & Ball Printing

Tuskegee, Ala. to Watkinsville, Ga.
Blue town cancel

LATE USE
Used May 6, 1865 twenty seven days after the surrender at Appomattox, C.H. Va.

1863 Twenty Cent Green

Proofs

Trial Color Proof
(Red Brown)

Issued Stamps

Color shades

Dark Green  Green  Blue Green  Light Green

Blocks

Lower Right Hand Sheet margin  Unevenly inked plate
1863 Twenty Cent Green

Unused multiples

Imprint block

The Plate imprint was present on the initial printing, but was removed from later printings.

Gutter block of eight
1863 Twenty Cent Green

Used examples

Augusta, Ga.

Columbia, S.C.

Third day of use (June 3, 1863)

Bisected stamp used to pay the ten cent rate

Savannah, Ga.

Strip of three used from Richmond, Va.

Blue Cancel

Red Cancel

Glade Springs Depot, Va.

Greensborough
1863 Twenty Cent Green

Richmond, Va. (FEB 1, 1864) to Columbus, Ga.
Double weight letter (weight greater than 1 ounce)

Bisected 20 cent stamp to pay the 10 cent rate
Bisecting a stamp to get the 'correct rate' was not legal, but was commonly accepted.
Selma, Ala. (NOV __, 1864) to Talladega, Ala.
Turned (Reused Envelope)
1863 Twenty Cent Green

Petersburg, Va. Jan. 3, (1865) to Raleigh, N.C.

Petersburg, Va. Used black ink on their cancellers from Dec. 1864 until Petersburg Fell to Union forces on April 2, 1865.
1863 One Cent Orange

Preliminary Essay in Black

Vignette design and outline of Frame

Trial Color Die Proof in Black

July 31, 1863

Die Proof on Glazed Card
1863 One Cent Orange

Proofs

Combination Die Proof

1862 Five Cent Blue and 1863 One Cent Orange
Both designs on a 79 mm by 129 mm Glazed Card
Only Recorded Example

Plate Proof

Trial Color – Brownish Orange
(Differs slightly from the final color)
1863 One Cent Orange

The two primary color shades

Orange

Dark Orange

Upper Right Sheet Margin Block

These stamps were designed, printed and delivered to The Confederate Post Office Department by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. London, England but they were never placed on sale or used.
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I

Experimental Government Perforations

Unused

Strip showing partial plate imprint

Used examples

Red town cancel
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type I

Experimental Government Perforations

Army of Tennessee Military Field Cancel
Seven bar grid with rim

Army of Tennessee field cancel to Madison, Ga.

Brookhaven, Miss. to Tangapahoa, La.
(inverted date in canceler)
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II
Experimental Government Perforations

Unused examples

Block of six showing partial plate imprint

Used example
1863 10 Cent Blue
Type II

Experimental Government Perforations

Demopolis, Ala. to Summerfield, Ala.

Demopolis, Ala. to Charlottesville, Albermarle, Co. Va.
Privately Perforated Uses

Privately perforated Stamps are known from a small number of Confederate Post Offices. In most cases it is believed that these perforations were applied in very limited quantities by local postmasters for their own use.

Baton Rouge La. Roulette Postmaster’s Private Perforation
Baton Rouge, La. (FEB 16) to Buffalo, Miss.

Harrisonburg, Va.

(Postmaster’s Private Perforation)
Inland Waterway Uses

Hand stamp, STEAM
Via Natchez, Miss. to Monmouth, near Natchez, Miss.

Hand stamp, STEAM BOAT
Via Montgomery, Ala. to Brandon, Miss.

Steam and/or Steamboat hand stamps indicate that the mail was picked up along the way by an inland waterway or coastal steamer or steamboat. The hand stamps and town cancels were applied at the next Post Office and the mail was placed in the regular postal delivery system and it continued on to its destination via. normal overland routes.
Trans-Mississippi Express Mail
The Express Mail Rate of 40 Cents per Half Oz was established for mail between the Eastern & Western parts of the C.S.A.. With the fall of Vicksburg, Miss. this Express Mail very rapidly became an important if not critical communication link between the now divided Confederacy.

EAST TO WEST

To Waco (Village), Texas Via. Jackson Miss. By Express

WEST TO EAST

Auxiliary Uses

Forwarded Mail

Five Cent blue 1862 lithographed Stamp used to pay forwarding fee.

Basic postage paid by a hand stamp PAID 5
Original destination was Fort Caswell
Forwarded destination was Tawboro N. C.

Solder’s letter from 6th Texas Inf. Cleborne’s Division
Forwarded without the required forwarding charge

Basic postage paid from Mansfield La. To Victoria Victoria Co., Texas.
Forwarded to Port La Vaca, Texas
Private Express Mail

Arthur E. Edey Express

This express service carried mail from the Fifth Reg. Texas Volunteers for which it was an agent, across the Mississippi river to various locations in Texas where they were placed in the regular Confederate Mails for delivery in Texas. Edey’s Express service operated for a very short time (June, 1862 to October, 1862) and very few covers have survived. Most recorded covers bear either two of the 5 Cent De La Rue Typographs or a single copy of a 10 Cent Lithograph. The Label signifying that express service was provided by Edey's Express is usually found on the back of the envelope.

By Edey Express Courier to Hempstead, Texas where it was placed in The CSA mail for delivery to Columbus, Texas. Two of the 5 Cent De La Rue Typographs pays the postage.

Photo copy (reduced)

Reverse side of envelope showing Edey Express Label.
LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE AT MOBILE

From June 1863 to Sep. 1864 a group of Citizens in New Orleans La. and Mobile Ala. operated in secret to process and smuggle mail out of New Orleans, La. to Mobile Ala. The mail was then placed in the Confederate mails for delivery. Mail which traveled By this route is readily identified by the manuscript notations on either the front or the back of the envelope indicating that it was handled by the Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile. Very few of these endorsed covers have survived.

Drop Letter

This Mourning Letter was smuggled from New Orleans La. to Mobile Ala. by The Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile and put into the mail as a Drop Letter for local delivery. The Endorsement of the Louisiana Relief Committee is shown on the cover front in its short form. (La. Com.)

A single 2 Cent Red Brown stamp pays the Drop Letter Rate
LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE AT MOBILE

'Forwarded by The Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile'

Received outside the mail, (smuggled out of New Orleans) endorsed by The Committee and placed in the Confederate Mail at Mobile Ala. for delivery to Montgomery, Ala. The 10 Cent Type I issue of 1863 pays the postage of 10 Cents per half ounce regardless of the distance traveled.

Photo copy (reduced)

Reverse side of envelope showing endorsement
(Forwarded by The Louisiana Committee at Mobile)
Smuggled Mail

Folded Letter dated New Orleans, La. June 24, 1864

SMUGGLED out of New Orleans and traveled overland to Mobile, Ala. where this letter entered the Confederate mail, was canceled and delivered as a Drop Letter.

Hand Carried BLOCKADE LETTER smuggled out of New Orleans.

New Orleans, La. to Augusta, Ga.

This letter was SMUGGLED out of New Orleans, La. on a Union vessel to Havana, Cuba where it was given to a Confederate agent, and was hand carried on a Confederate Blockade Runner to Charleston, S.C. When the letter arrived in Charleston it was placed in the Confederate Mails to Augusta, Ga. where on its arrival it was rated "DUE 5" and delivered to the addressee.
Patriotic Envelope Uses

Eleven Star Flag with Verse

"Gather around your Country's flag,
Men of the South! the hour has come—
None may falter, and none may lag;
March to the sound of the fife and drum.

Mrs. J. M. Hunter
Speedwell
Wythe County

Franklin Depot, Va. to Speedwell, Va.
Blue town cancel

Captured Union Patriotic envelope

Richmond, Va. to Cobham Depot, Va.
Patriotic Envelope Uses

10 Star Flag in Color

Fredericksburg, Va. to Lenoir, Caldwell Co. N.C.

Eleven Star Flag with Verse

Raleigh, N.C. to Waughtown, N.C.
Auxiliary Markings
HELD FOR POSTAGE

This letter was received at the Richmond Post Office without pre-paid postage. It was hand stamped HELD FOR POSTAGE and stayed at the office until the postage was paid. (NOV 22) It then entered the mails for delivery to its destination.

The HELED FOR POSTAGE hand stamp is a seldom seen CSA use of a Pre-War P.O. Marking

Richmond, Va. to Fredericksburg, Va.

MISSENT hand stamp of Wilmington, N.C. indicating that this letter was received at the wrong location, and sent on to its destination with no additional charge because the mistake was made by the Post Office, not the sender.

Greensborough, N.C. MISSENT to Wilmington, N.C. and then, on to Wilmington, S.C.
Red town cancel
Auxiliary Markings

✓

Straight line Blue FORWARDED hands tamp and Raleigh N.C. cancel and a manuscript 5 (DUE) to pay the forwarding fee.

Salem N.C. to Raleigh, N.C. then forwarded to Gibsons (Store), N.C.

Boxed FORWARDED hand stamp and Lexington, Va. Cancel with a manuscript 10 (DUE) to pay the forwarding fee.

Lynchburg, Va. to Lexington, Va. then forwarded to Vernon Hill, Va.
Auxiliary Markings

Advertised Cover
Notched Advertised Hand Stamp of Richmond Va.

Petersburg, Va. To Richmond, Va.
Back stamped Richmond, Va. Nov. 17
Flag of Truce Mail

Flag of Truce interior envelope bearing a single five cent Local (Richmond Printing) stamp. This letter entered the CSA Mail at Richmond Va. where it was received as a three cent overpayment of the two cent drop letter rate. The letter was canceled APR 24 it was not called for and was ADVERTISED as indicated by the Richmond, Va. Apr. 29 cancel and hand stamp on the back of the envelope.

The absence of any examination marking or POW notation indicates a civilian origin.

Unknown Origin via. Flag of Truce to Richmond, Va. (APR 24)

PHOTOCOPY
Envelope back, showing
Richmond, Va. Apr. 29 Cancel and ADVERTISED hand stamp
Prisoner of war Letters

Inner envelope from a POW at Camp Douglas, Illinois

Via City Point Va. per Flag of Truce to Richmond, Va. for delivery to Rutherfordton, Rutherford Co. N.C.

Double franked POW envelope from a prisoner at Fort Delaware.

Flag of Truce Via. Fortress Monroe, thru Delaware City, Del. to Richmond, Va. for delivery to Pleasant Hill, Ga.
Military Field Cancels

Army of Tennessee

The Chattanooga, Tenn. town canceler with year logo removed was used as a military field cancel after the evacuation of Chattanooga on Sep. 8, 1863

to Pleasant Lane, S.C.

Manuscript Chickamauga, Tenn. Cancel
Forerunner to the wood block Army of Tenn., and Chickamauga Cancel

Miss Pauline Semmes
Washington
Georgia

to Washington, Ga.
Military Field Cancels

Army of Tennessee

Wood block canceler
ARMY
OF
TENN

to Mt. Jefferson, Chambers County Ala.

Seven bar grid with rim

to Columbus, Ga.
Military Field Cancels

Army of Northern Virginia

Seven bar rimless grid

to Paineville P.O. Amelia County, Va.

Ten bar rimless grid

to McFarlands Lunenburg, Va.
Military Field Cancels
Army of Northern Virginia

Four ring target

William P. Poff
Lewis Fork, po.
Wilkes Co.
N.C.

to Lewis Fork P.O. Wilkes County, N.C.

Seven bar grid with rim

to Talladega, Ala.
CAMP SHENANDOAH, VIRGINIA

Military Camp Postmark

A post Office for the military was established at Camp Shenandoah, Virginia (about 20 miles northwest of Staunton, Virginia) in early April of 1862. The Camp ceased operation on April 20, 1862 when it was abandoned. Both postmarked and manuscript canceled mail is known from this camp. The total number of covers recorded from Camp Shenandoah of both types is Seven.

Camp Shenandoah, Virginia April 15, (1862) to Bedford County, Virginia

A single 5 Cent Green Lithograph of 1861 pre-pays the 5 cents per half ounce rate for letters traveling less than 500 miles.
Valentine

From the date of issue of the first Confederate postage stamps in October of 1861, until the end of the war in 1865 there were only 4 Valentines days.

"Accept this little token, And may it speak of me; The spell can. thes be broken That binds my soul to thee."

I know no form so graceful, So fair so near so divine, These hands that love, oh! treasure, And be my Valentine."

Richmond, Va. Feb. 13, 1863 to Mocksville, N.C.
Valentine

Emory, Va. Feb. 13, (1864) to Carters Depot, Tenn.
Blue town cancel
College Mail

University of Virginia

University of Virginia to Savannah, Ga.
Blue cancel

Trinity College
(Predecessor of present day Duke University)

Trinity College to Army of Northern Virginia
Railroad Mail

Wartrace (Station) N & C R. R.

To Chattanooga, Tenn.

Bristol (Station) V. & T. R. R.

To Starrsville, Ga.
Mourning Covers

Mobile, Ala.
to
Flat Rock,
Henderson, Co. N.C.

Tallahassee, Fla.
to
Raleigh, N.C.

Thomasville, Ga.
to
Charlottesville, Va.
Adversity Uses

Wallpaper envelopes

Charleston, S.C. to Spartanburg, S.C.

Savannah, Ga. to Adams Run, S.C.
Adversity Uses

Envelope made from a pre-war Insurance Form

Mobile, Ala. to Greenville, Ala.

Envelope made from a cotton invoice form

Blakley, Ala. to Livingston, Ala.
Adversity Uses

Turned (reused) envelopes

First Use: Summit, Miss. to Jackson, Miss. (Manuscript Paid 10)
Second Use: Jackson, Miss. To Summit, Miss. (10 Cent Rose Adhesive SEP 19, 1862)

First Use: Richmond, Va. to Mechum’s River, Va. (20 Cent Green Adhesive JUL 29 1863)
Second Use: Mechum’s River, Va. to Richmond, Va. (10 Cent Blue Type 1 Adhesive Aug 1)

Note: The first Use contents apparently exceeded One Half Oz. While The second Use contents apparently were under One Half Oz.
Adversity Uses

Turned (reused) envelopes

First Use: Liberty, Va. to Richmond, Va.
Second Use: Richmond, Va. to Liberty, Va.

First Use: Columbia, S.C. to Salem, N.C.
Second Use: Salem, N.C. to Hillsboro, N.C.
Adversity Uses

Envelope made from a legal form

Army of Tenn. grid cancel to Bellsville, Ala.

Refolded commercial envelope

Savannah, Ga. to Athens, Ga.
Weldon, N.C.
to
Richmond, Va.

Semi Official Mail

Confederate States of America
Department of State
Milledgeville, Ga.

to

Stovall’s Brigade
Army of Tenn.

in

Georgia
Official Mail

The Franking privilege was limited to Post Office Department Official Business

Post Office Department Official Business, Contract Bureau
Signed by: H. St. Geo. Offutt

FREE, Richmond, Va. to Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Co. Va.

Post Office Department Official Business, Finance Bureau
Signed by: A. Dimitry

FREE, Richmond, Va. to Fredericksburg, Va.
Free
Richmond, Va.
to
P.M.
Acworth
Ga.
Richmond, Va.
To
Postmaster
Acworth
Cobb (County)
Ga.

Auditor's Office P.O.D.
Official Business
FREE

Signed by
B. Baker
Auditor
Marshall Texas May 20, (1863) to Port Lavaca, Calhoun Co. Texas

With the threat of the fall of Vicksburg Miss. and Port Hudson, La. the Confederate States Government authorized the creation of the Trans Mississippi Express mails in early May of 1863. The rate was set at 40 cents per half ounce. With the fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi and Port Hudson, La. The Confederacy was split and control of the Mississippi river was lost. The Trans-Mississippi mail became vital as a primary communication link between the Eastern & Western parts of the Confederate States.