

Confederate States Postmasters' Provisionals

STAMPS AND PRESS-PRINTED ENVELOPES

The Confederate States Post Office Department assumed control of the mails in seceded states on June 1, 1861. The old United States rates were replaced by a two-tier structure: 5c per half ounce for distances up to 500 miles, and 10c per half ounce over 500 miles. Beginning June 1, U.S. stamps and stationery were no longer valid for postage in the Confederacy.

From June until the first Confederate government stamps were made available in October—and at later times when wartime conditions disrupted stamp distribution—Southern postmasters resorted to provisional means of prepayment. Handstamped markings were applied to letters and envelopes when payment was accepted at the post office or through charge accounts. Some post offices prepared and sold envelopes bearing markings to indicate that postage had been prepaid.

At least 53 Confederate post offices issued adhesive stamps and press-printed envelopes. These are the only types of Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals shown in this exhibit.

Before the war, Southern citizens grew accustomed to the attractive engraving and convenient perforations of U.S. stamps. During the war, Southerners could consider themselves lucky if they had any form of adhesive stamps or printed stationery available for use.

Many Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals were hand-made by the postmaster, using woodcuts or postal markings. Some were set from loose type and printed at the local newspaper office or commercial printing establishment. A few were elaborately designed and printed from woodcuts, lithographic stones or stereotype plates. There are no engraved Confederate provisionals.



“SOUTH^N LETTER UNPAID”

This June 15, 1861, cover from New Orleans to Kentucky was franked with the New Orleans Postmaster's Provisional and the U.S. 3c 1857 Issue. Starting June 13, the Louisville postmaster, Dr. John J. Speed, decided to hold the northbound mail received from Nashville, rather than divert it to the U.S. Dead Letter Office. Beginning on June 24 the mail that was held or received at Louisville was sent through the U.S. mails. However, U.S. stamps used from seceded states were considered contraband and letters bearing them were marked “SOUTH^N. LETTER UNPAID” with postage due. Only two such covers are recorded with the New Orleans provisional.

ATHENS, GEORGIA
T. Crawford, Postmaster



5c Purple—Pair with Type I (Small Paid) at Left and Type II (Large Paid) at Right

This pair shows the relative positions of Types I and II from the two-subject woodcut plate. The pair pays the 10c over-500 miles rate to a military address in Yorktown, Virginia, in November 1861.



5c Purple—Pair with Reversed Types

Type II (Large Paid) at Left and Type I (Small Paid) at Right

The two-subject woodcut plate was impressed multiple times on a sheet. When a pair comes from two different impressions, the result can be a tête-bêche variety (vertical pair) or reversed-types variety (horizontal pair).

This pair is one of three recorded multiples with Type II at left and Type I at right.

ATHENS, GEORGIA
T. Crawford, Postmaster



5c Purple
Tête-Bêche Pair—Types I and II Foot to Foot

Only four post offices are known to have produced tête-bêche provisional varieties: Athens, Macon, Memphis and Nashville. In each case the tête-bêche multiple was created by the work-and-turn printing method, whereby multiple impressions from the plate are made on a single sheet of paper.

Two of the three recorded covers bearing the Athens tête-bêche variety are shown here (another three pairs are recorded off cover).

ATHENS, GEORGIA
T. Crawford, Postmaster



5c Red
Type II

All genuine covers bearing the Athens 5c Red provisional are dated in March or April 1862. They probably come from a separate printing, possibly the last from the plate, as no Athens provisional covers are recorded after April 1862.

This is one of eight recorded examples of the Athens 5c Red on cover.

An additional six to eight examples are known off cover.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster

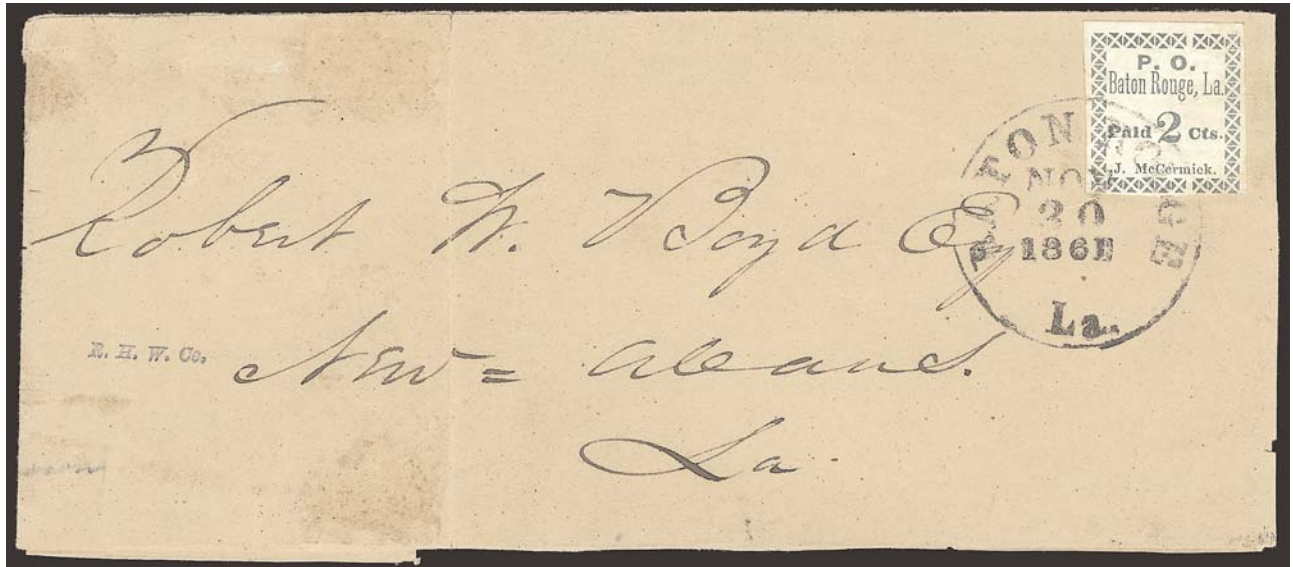


2c Green—“McCrmick Error (“c” in place of “o”)

In one position in the setting of ten, the postmaster’s name is mis-spelled “McCrmick”. There are three recorded examples of this error (one unused, one used and one on cover). Plating by Richard Calhoun assigns the error to Position 7.

This is the only recorded unused example of the 2c “McCrmick” error.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster



2c Green—"McCormick Error" ("c" in place of "o")

The 2c rate applied to printed matter (as used above) and drop letters. There are only six recorded covers with the 2c Baton Rouge (with or without the error).

This is the only recorded example of the 2c "McCormick" error on cover.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster



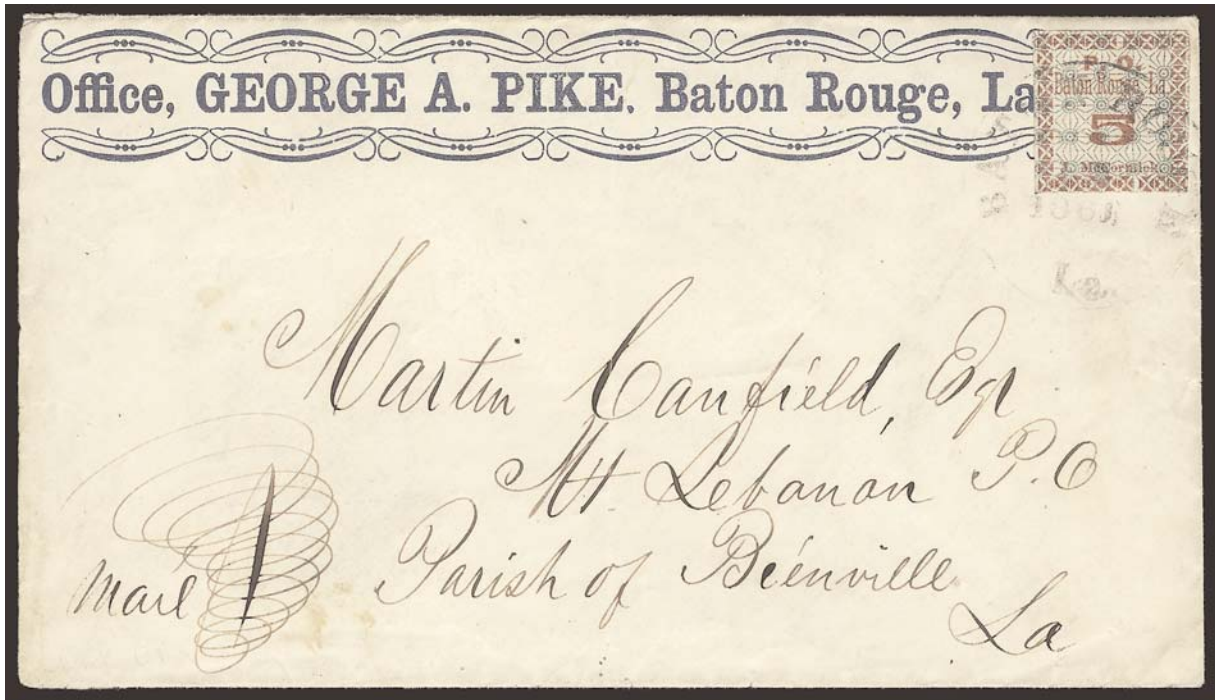
Positions 1-5 and 6

5c Green and Carmine, Maltese Cross Border

The Baton Rouge 5c provisional was printed in Carmine with a background pattern printed in Green. It is one of four Confederate stamps printed in more than one color. The others are the Greenville Ala. (5c and 10c) and Lenoir N.C. provisionals. Plating studies by Richard L. Calhoun indicate that the same basic setting of ten subjects (two rows of five) was used to print all of the Baton Rouge provisionals. The printer changed the denominations and also made minor changes to the border positions. The second type of 5c (Cross-Cross Border) was adapted from the Maltese Cross setting.

The strip of five on this piece is the largest recorded multiple of any Baton Rouge provisional.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster

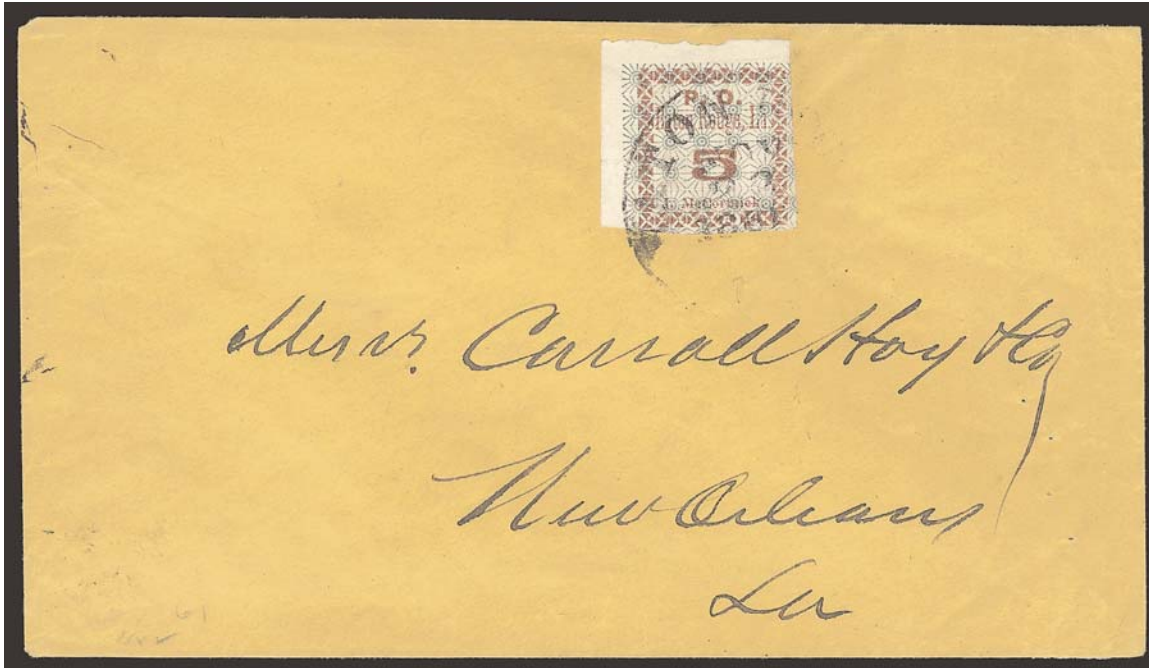


Position 5

5c Green and Carmine, Maltese Cross Border

The office of George A. Pike is where the *Cornet and Gazette* newspaper and provisional stamps were printed.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster



Position 1

5c Green and Carmine, Maltese Cross Border

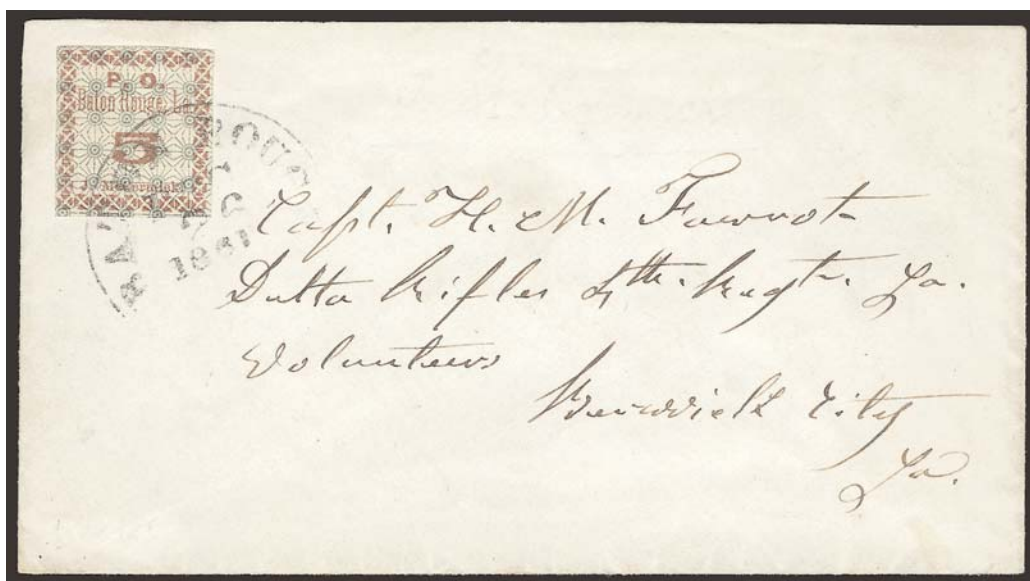


Position 1

5c Green and Carmine, Maltese Cross Border

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster

Position 7

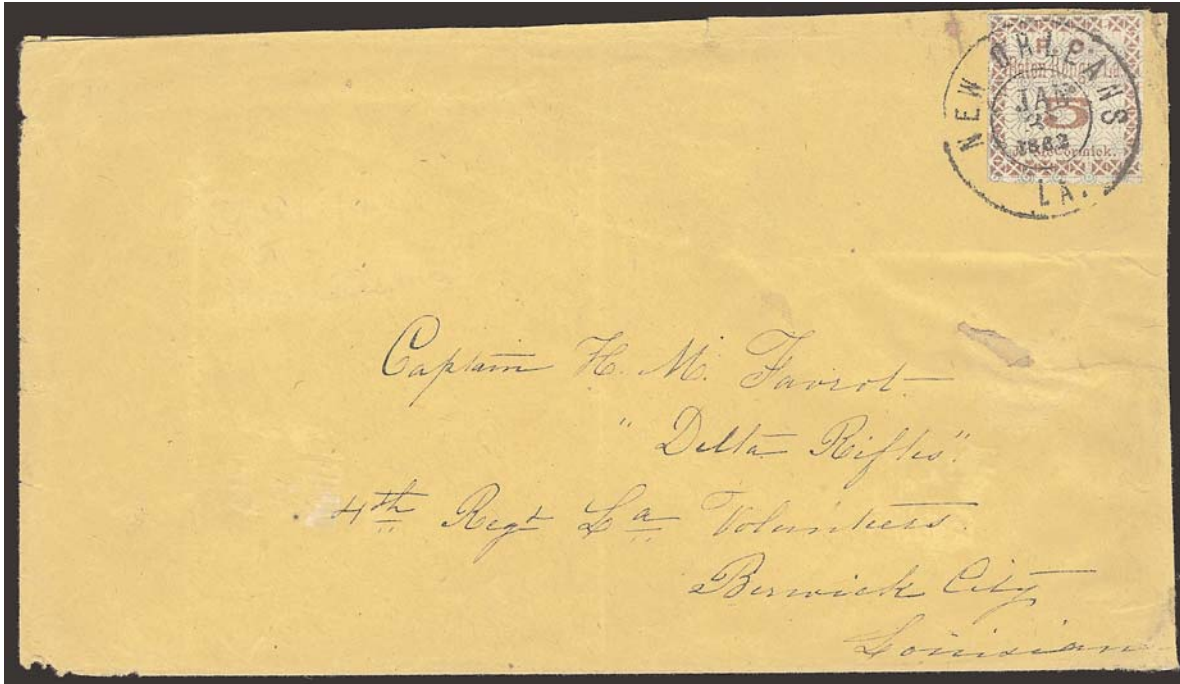


5c Green and Carmine, Maltese Cross Border—"McCormick Error ("c" in place of "o")

The "McCormick" error occurs in the 2c and both 5c printings. Plating by Richard Calhoun assigns the error to Position 7.

This is one of three recorded examples of the 5c "McCormick" error on cover.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster



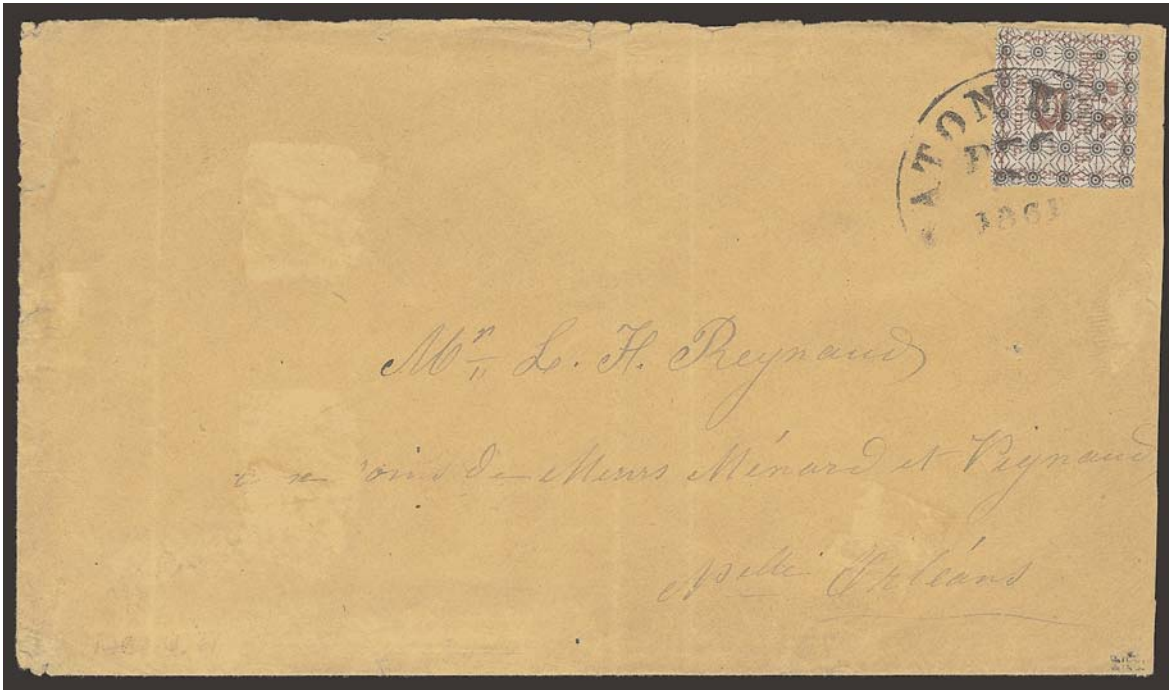
Position 6

**5c Green and Carmine, Maltese Cross Border
Cancelled at New Orleans**

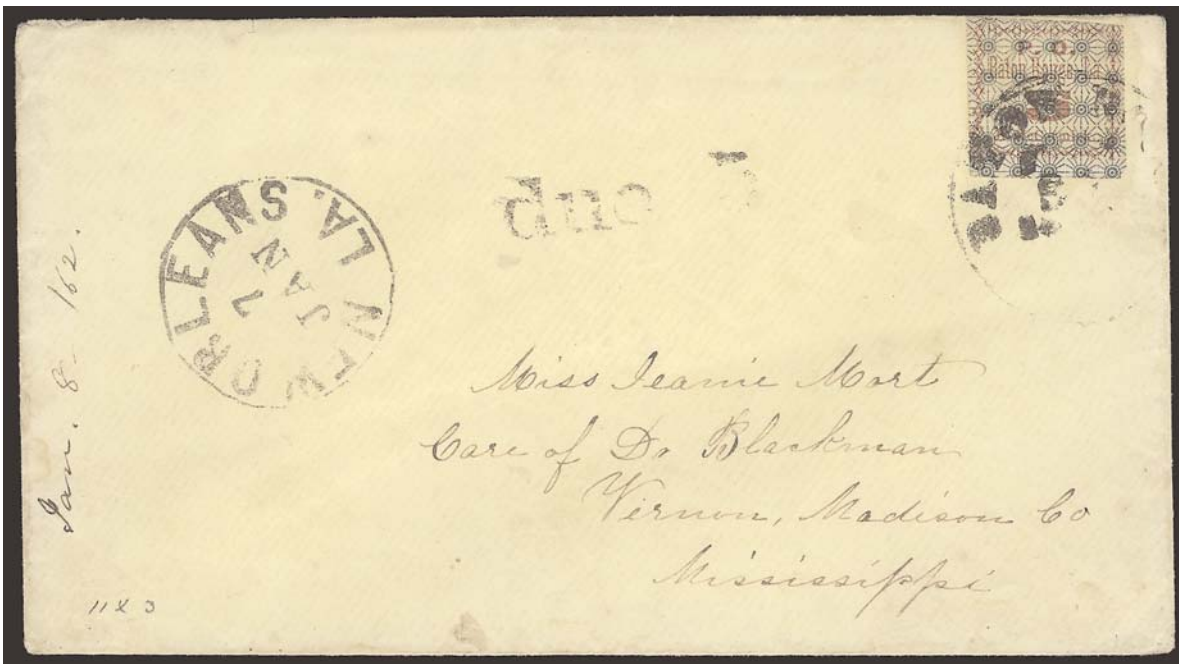
This cover travelled 129 miles down river, entering the mails at the New Orleans wharf office, then to Berwick City La.

One of two recorded covers with the Baton Rouge provisional cancelled at New Orleans.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
J. McCormick, Postmaster



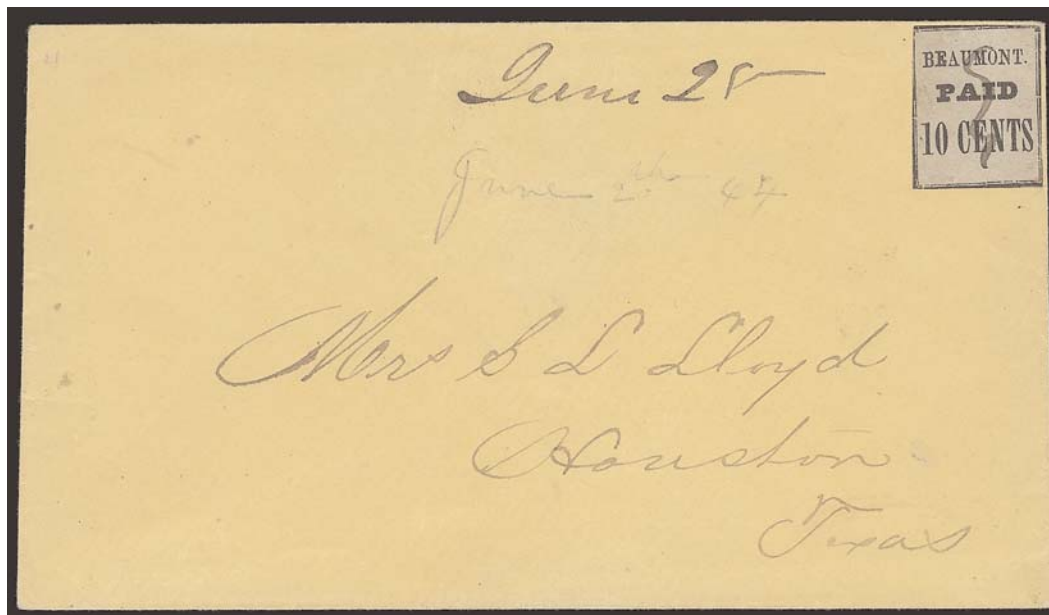
5c Green and Carmine, Criss-Cross Border



5c Green and Carmine, Cross-Cross Border

The weight of the letter exceeded the half-ounce limit, which incurred 5c postage due, indicated by the “due 5” hand-stamp applied at New Orleans on January 7, 1862.

BEAUMONT, TEXAS



10c Black on Dark Pink Paper

The Beaumont provisionals were issued on Pink (two shades) and Yellow paper. There were three settings: one on Pink and two on Yellow. A setting of four (2 by 2) has been reconstructed from Pink singles (there are no recorded multiples). This stamp comes from the upper right position with left frame pieces in long-short-long configuration.

This is one of twelve recorded covers with the Beaumont provisional on Pink paper.

All recorded Beaumont provisional covers are dated in 1864.

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Alfred Huger, Postmaster



5c Blue

The Charleston 5c provisional stamp is used to forward this cover to Columbia. It originated at Hamburg S.C. on December 5, 1861, with the Hamburg handstamped provisional markings at upper left. The Charleston stamp is postmarked December 7, 1861, the first day the Confederate General Issue was placed on sale.

This is one of two recorded covers with a Confederate provisional adhesive stamp used in combination with another postmaster's provisional of any kind.

The other cover is franked with the Fredericksburgh Va. adhesive and Montgomery Ala. handstamped provisionals.

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Alfred Huger, Postmaster



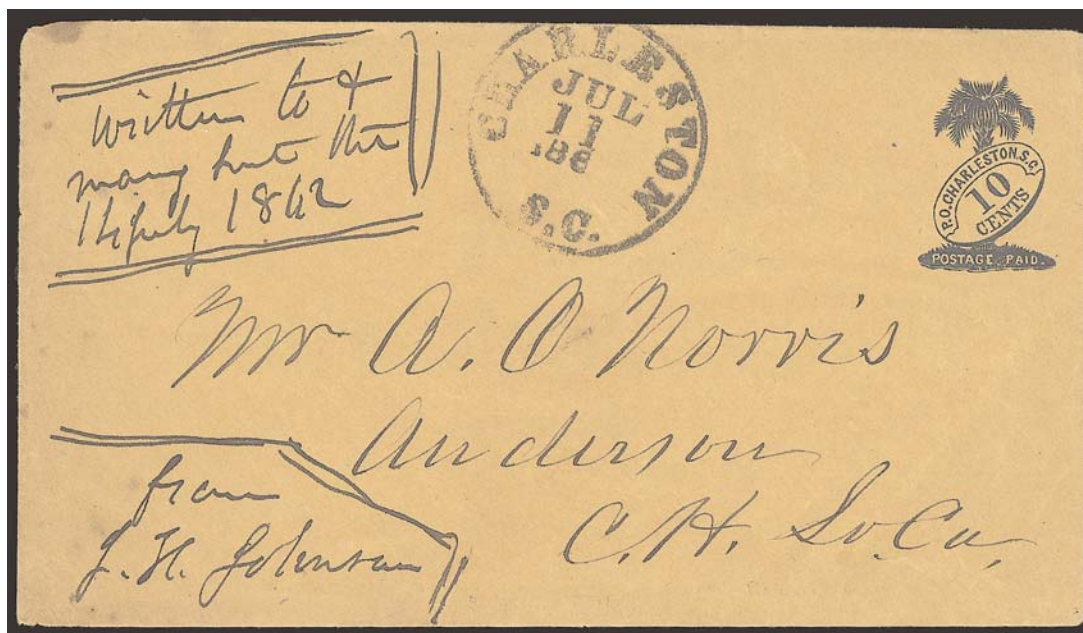
5c Blue on Blue Entire—One of eight recorded on this color of envelope.



5c Blue on Buff Entire

The Charleston 5c envelopes were press-printed from a typographic plate cut from wood. They were the first provisionals issued at Charleston (earliest recorded usage is August 16, 1861).

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Alfred Huger, Postmaster



10c Blue on Buff Entire—Palmetto Tree Design

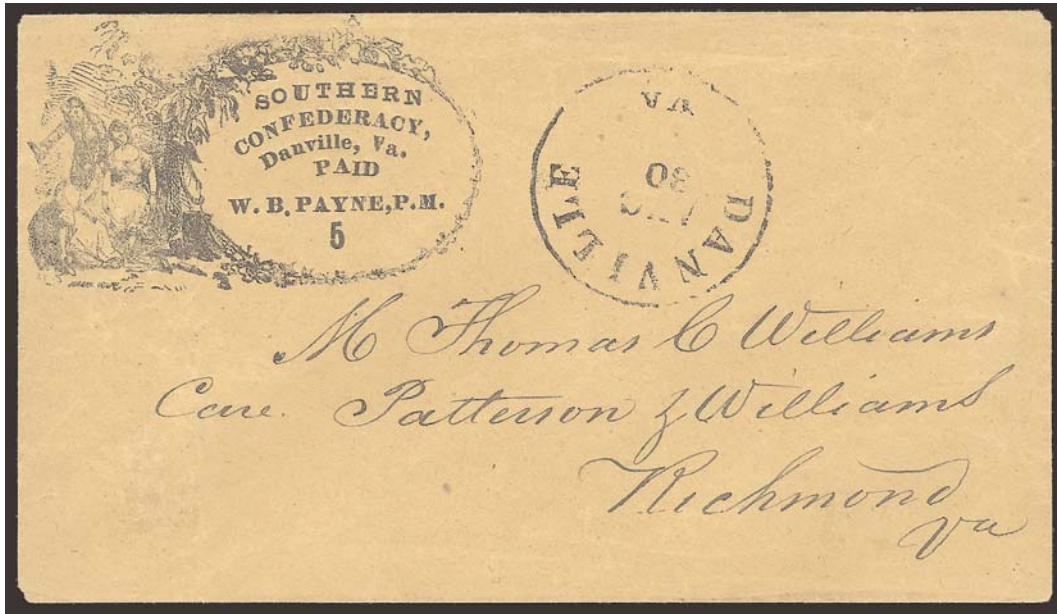
This Palmetto Tree design is unique among Confederate postmasters' provisionals, although the symbol was also used on the unissued 10c adhesive stamp prepared by the Charleston postmaster. On this entire—the sole surviving example—the woodcut is printed in a dark blue identical in shade and consistency to the 5c provisional. The circular datestamp is struck at the center of the upper half of the entire, a position consistent with virtually all recorded genuine examples of the earlier 5c entire. Charleston did not have a separate cancelling device and used the datestamp to cancel adhesive stamps.

The first provisionals used in Charleston were the 5c envelopes issued in August 1861 and used consistently until the estimated 5,000 prepared were sold out in November 1861. Approximately 25,000 5c adhesive stamps were produced and placed on sale as early as September 1861 (eku Sep. 4). Both provisionals were used concurrently with the handstamped "Paid" markings, but the surcharge on the price of provisionals made these less popular with the public. When Confederate General Issues were finally received and put on sale at the Charleston post office on December 7, 1861, the large number of 5c provisionals still on hand was withdrawn, although letters franked with the provisionals were still accepted as prepaid.

In June 1862 the supply of 5c General Issues available at the Charleston post office was evidently depleted, and Postmaster Huger authorized the renewed sale of provisional adhesive stamps. The rate increase from 5c to 10c for any distance became effective July 1, 1862, during the shortage of General Issues. Charleston covers are recorded in early July 1862 with the 5c Blue Lithograph or 10c Rose Lithograph stamps, but these are scarce, indicating that only a small supply of the newer General Issues was available. The 10c provisional envelope was probably issued in anticipation of the July 1862 rate change and in response to the shortage of General Issues.

This is the only recorded example of the Charleston 10c provisional entire.

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA
W. B. Payne, Postmaster



5c Black on Buff Entire
“Southern” Curved

The press-printed provisional entires were issued by Danville’s second Confederate postmaster, W. B. Payne, who served from April to October 1861. The design was typeset within a stock pictorial frame used for advertising ladies’ shoes. They were printed on white, amber and dark buff envelopes. The 10c entire of the same design is known only as a remaindered envelope with additional Confederate postage (sometimes removed from the cover). The Danville provisional adhesive stamp was issued by William D. Coleman, who served from October to April 1861, then again from October 1861 to the end of the war.

The Crown census records 20 examples, including some remainders with additional Confederate postage.

EMORY, VIRGINIA
I. C. Fowler, Postmaster



5c Blue on Sheet Selvage of United States 1c 1857 Issue

The Emory postmaster, I. C. Fowler, created his provisional issue by stamping his "Paid" and "5" rate markings in the blank selvage of demonetized 1c 1857 Issue sheets. This method is unique among Confederate provisionals and, in all of philately, there are few issues created from sheet selvage. The Philadelphia carrier stamps made from the selvage of imperforate 1c 1851 sheets are similar in concept to the Emory provisionals.

Nine covers with the Emory provisional are recorded (no off-cover stamps are known), ranging in dates from June 24, 1861 thru February 11, 1862. There are three known stamp formats: Paid over 5; Paid under 5; and 5 with Paid at top and side (narrow selvage). Two of the nine recorded covers have manuscript town postmarks, and four have stamps left uncanceled.

This is one of three recorded Emory provisional stamps with the "5" over "Paid".

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
Reuben T. Thom, Postmaster



5c Blue on Thin Bluish Pelure Paper

The Fredericksburg postmaster, Reuben T. Thom, prepared 5c and 10c provisional stamps, but only the 5c is known genuinely used. Postmaster Thom mailed this letter to John M. Forbes on September 24, 1861, and used his own provisional to prepay postage (Confederate postmasters did not have the franking privilege). The letter indicates that Thom was enclosing a copy of a letter he wrote to President Jefferson Davis, commenting "I only wish I could influence him".

This is the only one of 27 Fredericksburg provisional covers recorded by Crown that is addressed and mailed by Postmaster Reuben T. Thom himself.

GOLIAD, TEXAS
J. A. Clarke, Postmaster



5c Black on Rose—Type I Signed “Clarke PM” in Magenta Ink

According to August Dietz, the Goliad provisionals were printed by Rev. A. M. Cox, who published *The Messenger*, a local newspaper. The first provisionals (Type I) did not have the postmaster’s name, but were individually signed by J. A. Clarke. The second provisionals (Type II) have the postmaster’s name set in type and were printed on two papers: Gray and Dark Blue Glazed. The Type I stamps were probably issued in 1861 and 1862, and the Type II stamps in 1863 and 1864.

The stamp is cancelled by the “PAID” handstamp on a front addressed to Comptroller in Austin, Texas, with pencil June 21, 1862, docketing date. There are seven recorded 5c Type I stamps and four 10c Type I stamps. All but one of the eleven recorded 5c and 10c Type I provisionals bear the postmaster's manuscript signature in either black or red ink. The stamps were printed on a variety of papers, classified as White, Gray and Rose.

Only two of the seven recorded Goliad 5c Type I stamps are on covers (one in the British Library).

GOLIAD, TEXAS
J. A. Clarke, Postmaster



10c Black on Gray—Type II with Postmaster's Name

The stamp is tied by the Goliad "Paid" without a town datestamp. The letter is dated October 21, 1863.

There are eight recorded examples of the 10c Type II on Gray (five on covers).

This is the earliest recorded use of any Goliad Type II provisional.

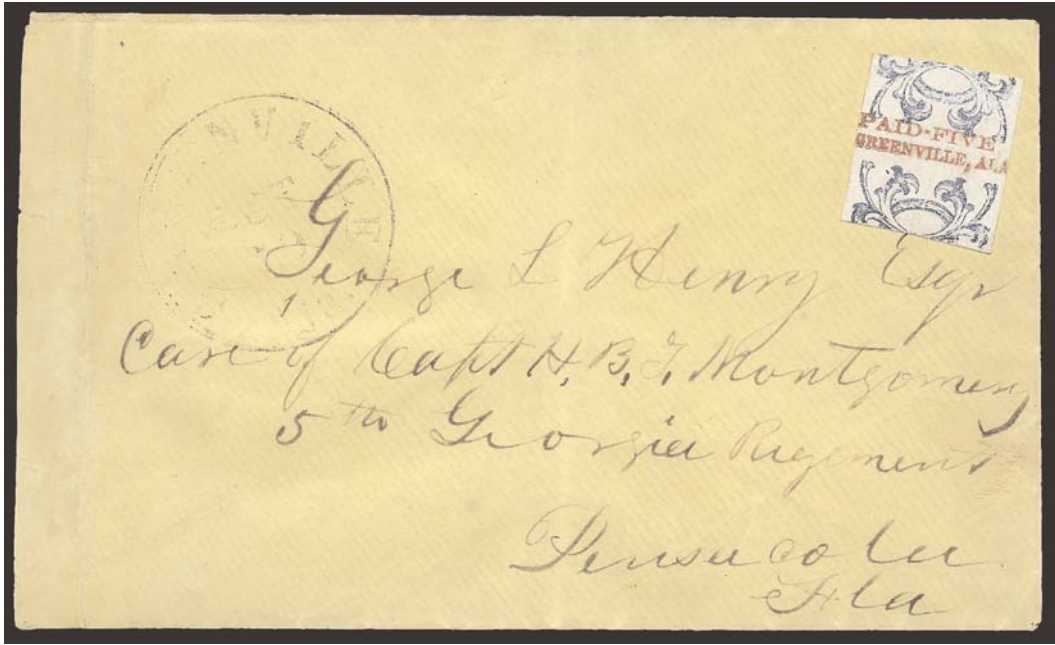


10c Black on Dark Blue Glazed Paper—Type II with Postmaster's Name

The Goliad provisionals on Dark Blue Glazed paper are extremely rare. Only one 5c and three 10c on Dark Blue have been recorded.

There are three recorded examples of the 10c on Dark Blue (one on piece and two stamps).

GREENVILLE, ALABAMA
B. F. Porter, Postmaster



5c Red and Blue on Pinkish Glazed Paper

The Greenville postmaster, Judge B. F. Porter, issued bicolored provisional stamps in 5c and 10c denominations. The ornamental frame is made from four separate pieces, and the label is set from two lines of type. The frame was printed in blue for the 5c stamp and in red for the 10c. Along with the Baton Rouge and Lenoir provisionals, these are the earliest bicolored stamps issued anywhere in the Western Hemisphere.

This example is used on a cover to a member of the 5th Georgia Regiment at Pensacola, Florida. As always, the stamp was not cancelled at Greenville, but the cover was postmarked (October 19, 1861).

A total of eight examples of the Greenville provisional stamps are recorded:

Six are 5c (four off cover and two on covers)

Two are 10c (both on covers).

This is one of two Greenville 5c provisional stamps recorded on cover.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
C. H. Charlton, Postmaster



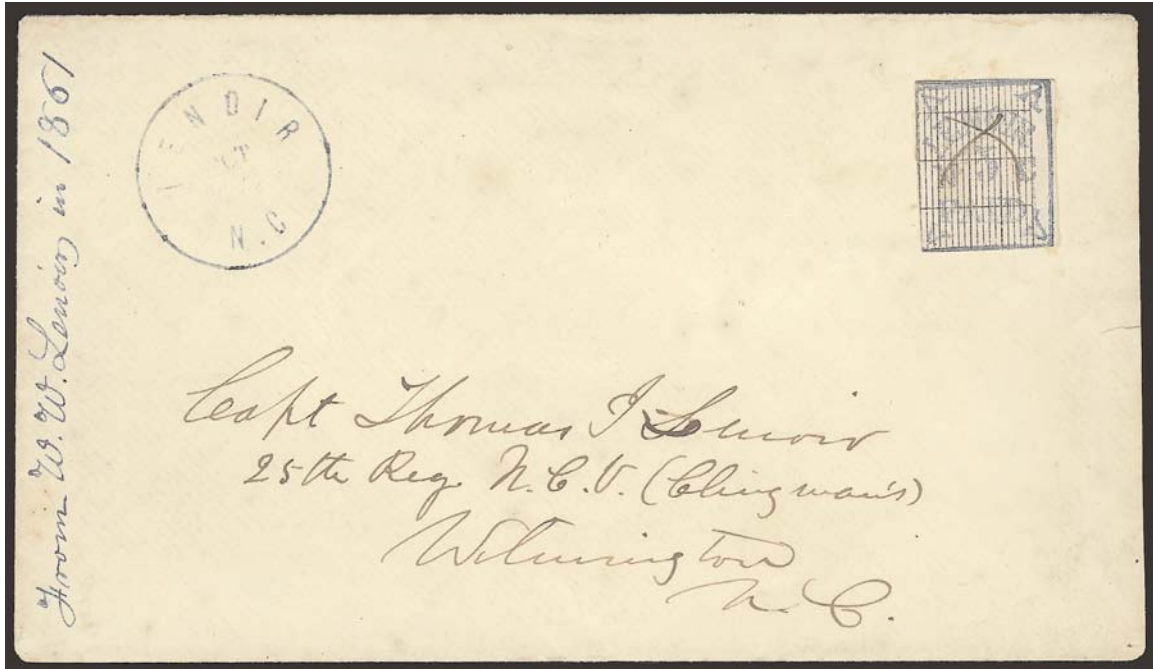
5c Brick Red on Grayish Laid Paper



5c Brick Red on Grayish Laid Paper

These are two of the three recorded covers with the Knoxville adhesive tied by the Paid 5 handstamp.

LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA
James Harper, Postmaster



5c Blue Woodcut on Red-Lined Paper

According to contemporary affidavits, the Lenoir provisional was carved from holly wood by the postmaster's son and assistant, G. W. F. Harper. It was handstamped in blue on red-lined paper, creating one of the four bicolored provisional stamps issued in the Confederacy (Baton Rouge and Greenville Ala. being the others).

This cover, addressed to a member of Lenoir's founding family, is postmarked October 20 (1861).

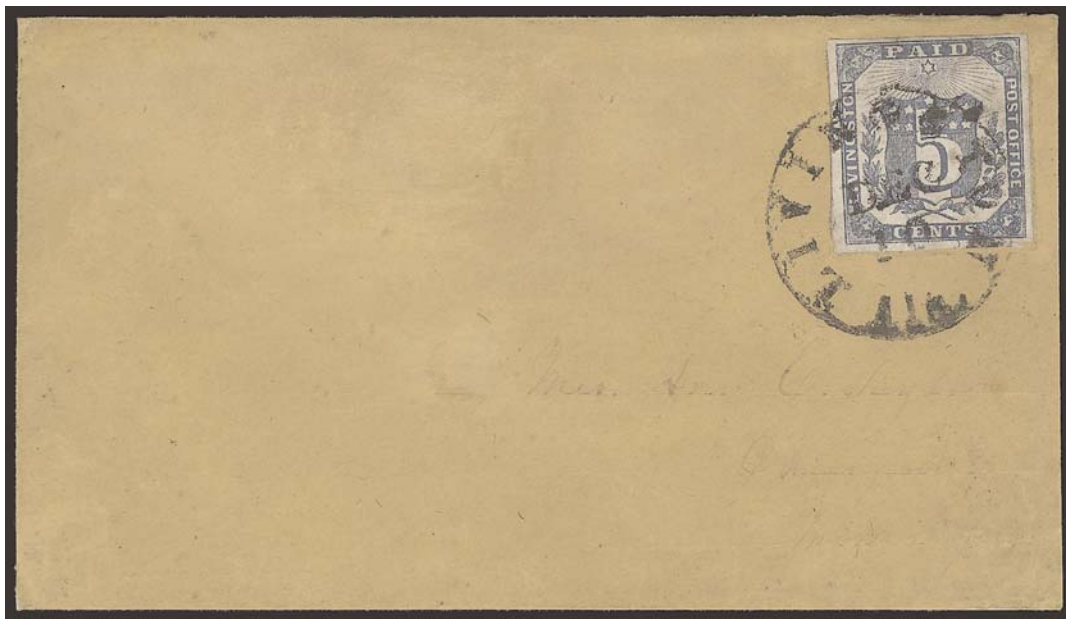
Approximately 29 covers are known, according to the Crown census.

LIVINGSTON, ALABAMA
Stephen W. Murly and Robert F. Houston, Postmasters



5c Blue

This stamp and another single were found in 1869 by a Southern railroad employee. Used together on one cover, they were the first Livingston provisionals discovered by philatelists and reported in *The American Journal of Philately*.



5c Blue

Livingston is the county seat of Sumter County, Alabama, lying on the Selma and Meriden Railroad line about 130 miles north of Mobile, near the state's western border. Official records name Stephen W. Murley as the Livingston postmaster in 1861, while other sources attribute the provisional stamp to another postmaster, Robert F. Houston. The Livingston provisional is known used in November-December 1861 and again in March 1862.

Only two Confederate post offices, Livingston and Mobile, issued stamps with a pictorial design. It is almost certain that the same printer was responsible for both, whose imprint "W. R. Robertson Mobile" appears on the Mobile lithographic stones. The composition of the Livingston plate is not known, but a pane of 20 is a logical size.

A total of eleven examples of the Livingston provisional are recorded.

- Two are in a pair used on cover
- Six singles are known on separate covers
- Three singles are known off cover

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
R. H. Glass, Postmaster



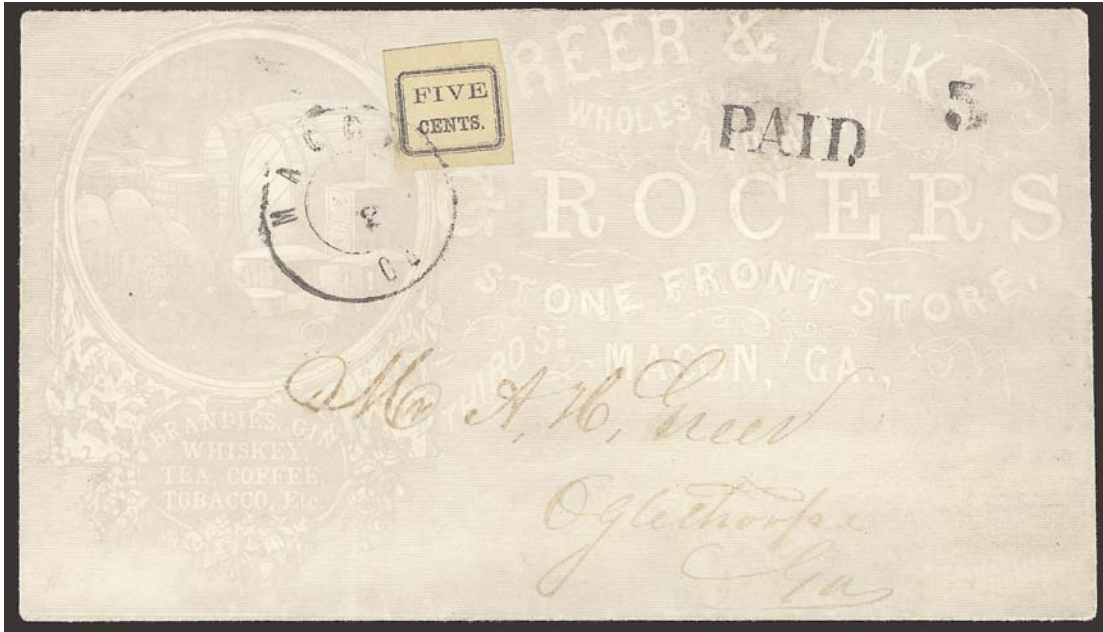
5c Blue



5c Black on Manila Entire

Used June 6, 1861. The Lynchburg entire is one of the first provisionals issued in the Confederate States.

MACON, GEORGIA



5c Black on Yellow Wove Paper — “Five Cents” Simple-Ruled Border

The simple-ruled border stamps were the first provisionals issued at Macon, and, based on the earliest dated examples, they were issued on June 1, 1861, the first day of the Confederate postal system. Although difficult to read, the date of this cover is June 2, 1861.

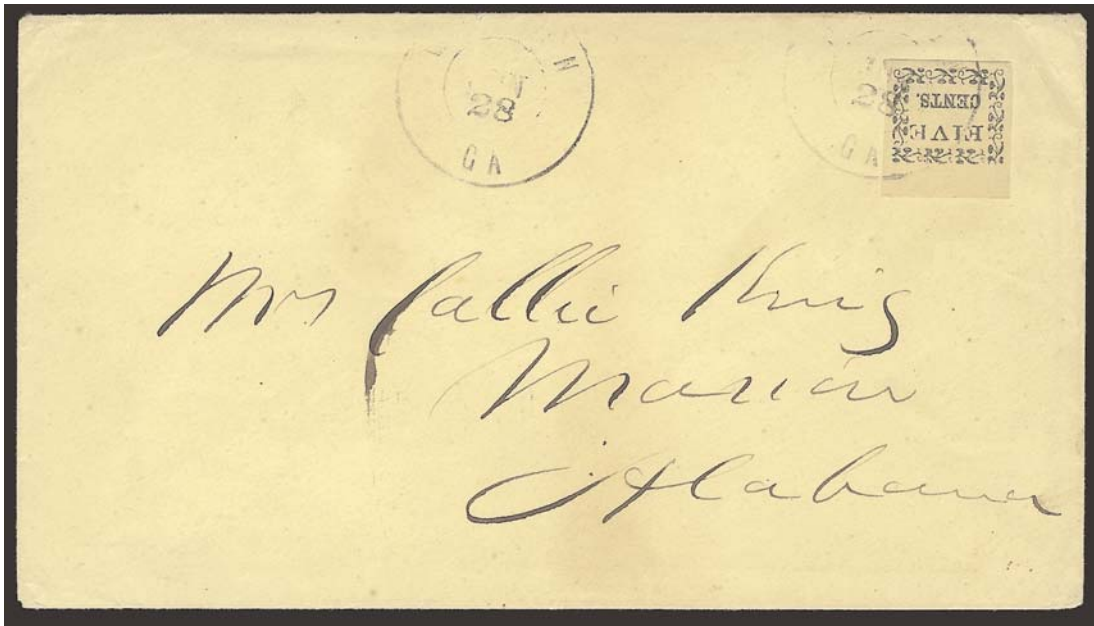
This is one of four recorded advertising covers with the early Macon provisional.



5c Black on Yellow Wove Paper — “Five Cents” Floral Border

One of two recorded advertising covers with the Macon Floral-Border provisional.

MACON, GEORGIA



5c Black on Yellow Wove Paper — “Five Cents” Floral Border



5c Black on Light Blue Green Wove Paper — Square Design With Post Office Name
One of three recorded advertising covers with the Macon square provisional.

MADISON COURT HOUSE, FLORIDA
Samuel J. Perry, Postmaster



3c Gold on Bluish

The postmaster at Madison Court House issued a U.S.-rated 3c provisional adhesive stamp before June 1, 1861, when the Confederate postal system started and the new 5c rate took effect.

This is one of six recorded examples of the Madison Court House 3c provisional.

Of the six recorded, one is on cover and another has the “CNETS” error.

There is also one recorded example of a press-printed 5c entire.

MARION, VIRGINIA
J. H. Francis, Postmaster



10c Black

The Marion Va. 5c and 10c provisional stamps, with their distinctive “Check” label at top, were issued by Postmaster J. H. Francis in 1861. The stamps were printed in two steps: first, a typeset form containing the border and words “P. Office, Marion, Va., Check. Paid” was impressed; then the value “5” or “10” was handstamped on the black center.

This cover is postmarked March 2. Although the year date is not stated, it is 1863, at which time the rate was 10c. This is a very late use of any Confederate provisional east of the Mississippi River.

This is one of seven recorded covers (or fronts) with the Marion 10c provisional.

Of the seven recorded, one is a front only and another is in the British Library.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
M. C. Gallaway, Postmaster



2c Blue and Light Blue

The Memphis provisionals were issued and printed by Col. M. C. Gallaway, publisher of the *Avalanche* newspaper. After the war, remainders of the 2c and 5c stamps were turned over to the War Department and eventually reached the collector market.

Each of these 2c stamps pays the drop rate to the same local addressee. They are dated December 1, 1861, and May 6, 1862 (Light Blue).

Fifteen Memphis 2c provisional covers are recorded in Matz/Crown census.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
M. C. Gallaway, Postmaster



2c Blue

This 2c stamp pays the drop rate to a local addressee.

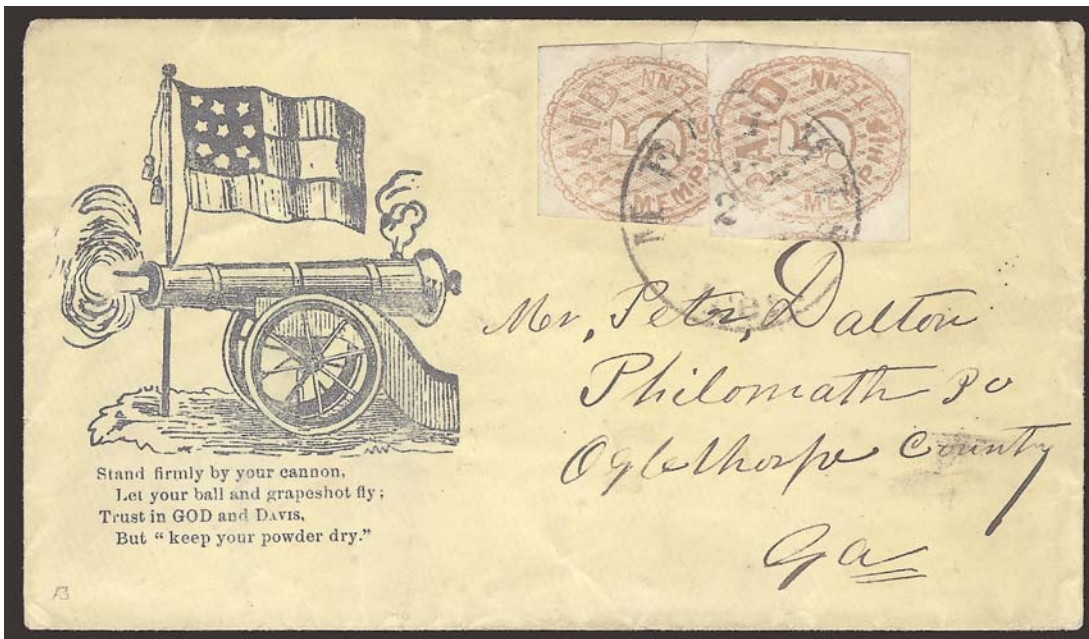
This is the only recorded Memphis provisional cover with the target cancellation.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
M. C. Gallaway, Postmaster



5c Red

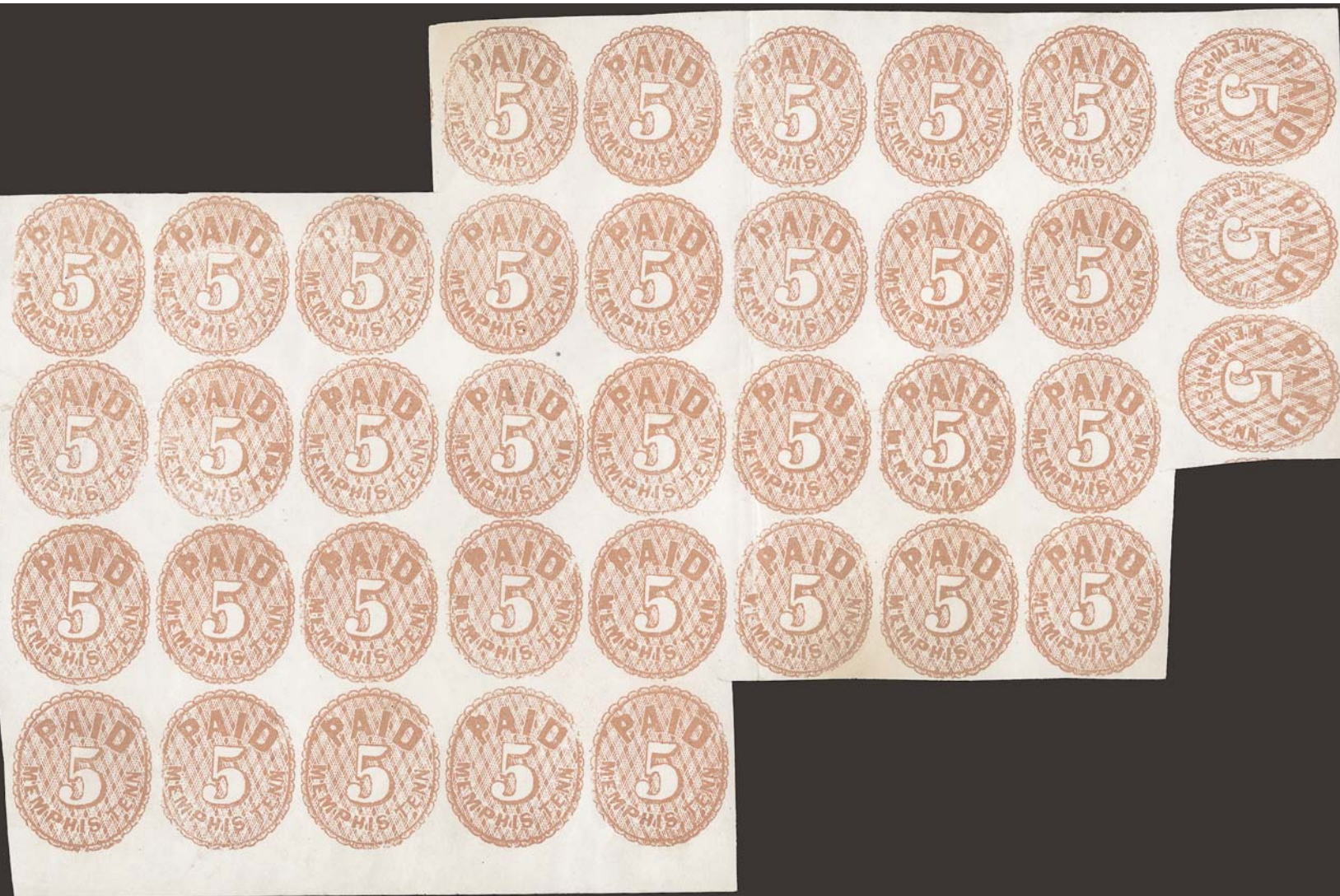
Cameo corner card printed by Wm. Eaves of New York, dated November 12, 1861.



5c Red

Two singles used on 10-Star Flag, Cannon and Verse patriotic cover, September 21, 1861.
One of five patriotic covers with the Memphis 5c provisional recorded in the Crown census.

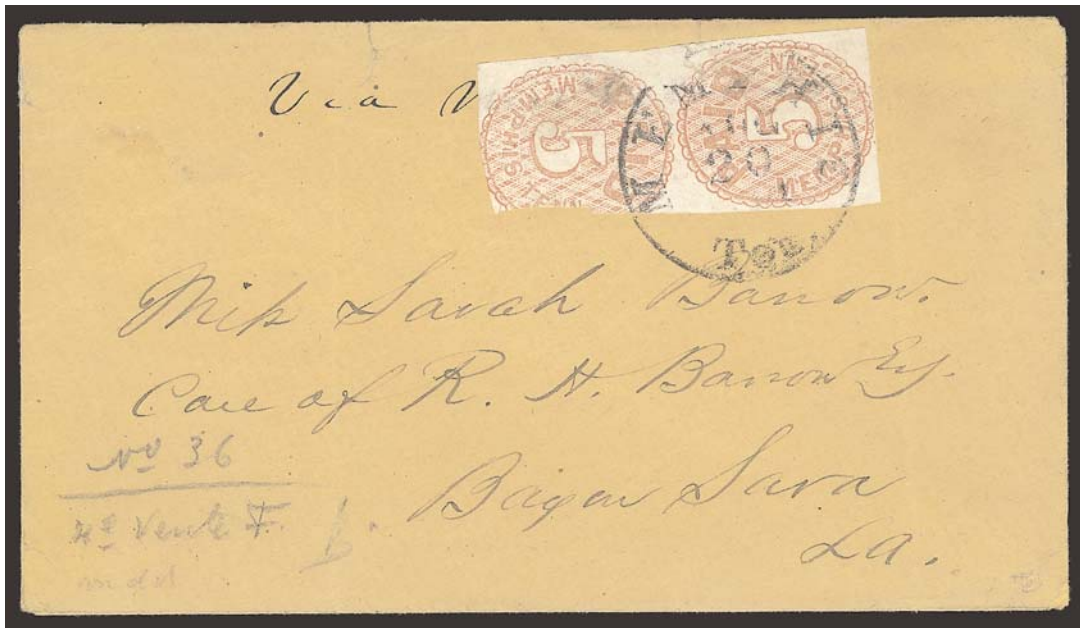
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
M. C. Gallaway, Postmaster



5c Red
Sideways Arrangement on Plate

Block of 37 comprising Positions 4-9/11-19/21-29/31-38/41-45 with three sideways tête-bêche positions at right (Positions 9/19/29). The stereotype plate used to print the Memphis 5c provisional in sheets of 50 was created with ten subjects (two rows of five) at right turned 90 degrees clockwise relative to the other 40 subjects. This arrangement is confirmed by the existence of corner-margin multiples that have precisely the same alignment, which would be impossible if the sideways positions resulted from work-and-turn printing. Only a few multiples exist that show this unusual tete-beche format. Multiples are also known that show the work-and-turn printing method, including three tête-bêche pairs (vertical head-to-foot, vertical foot-to-foot, and horizontal head-to-foot).

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
M. C. Gallaway, Postmaster



Positions 7/5



Positions 45/47

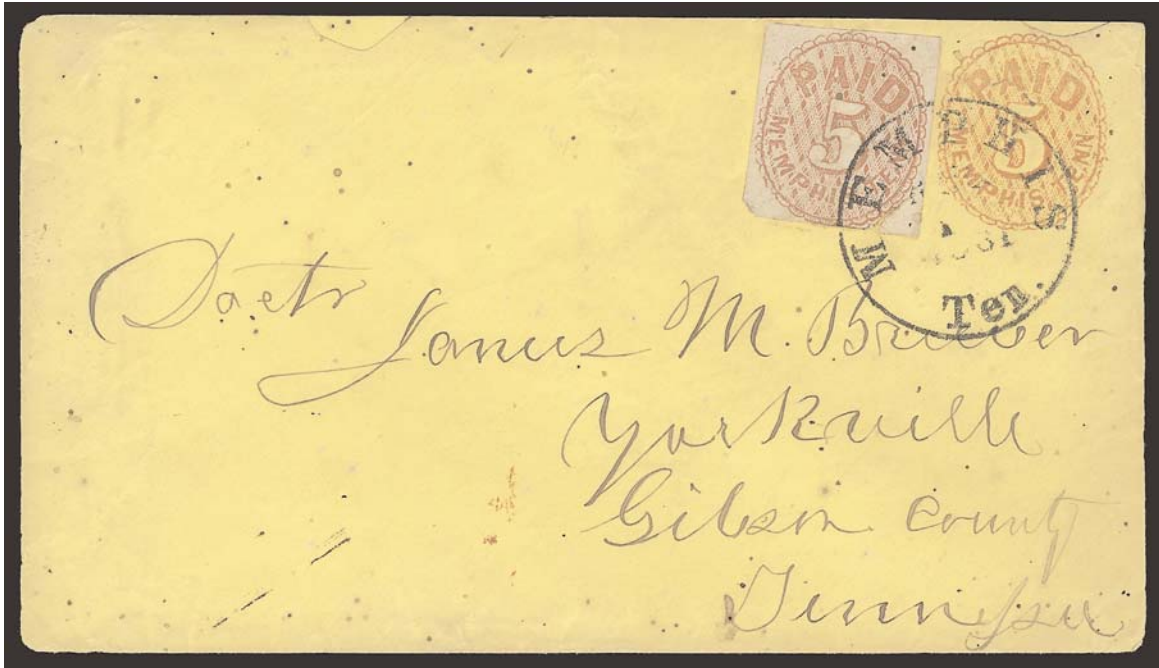
5c Red—Tête-Bêche Pair—Head-to-Head and Foot-to-Foot

Only four post offices are known to have produced tête-bêche provisional varieties: Athens, Macon, Memphis and Nashville. In each case the tête-bêche multiple was created by the work-and-turn printing method, whereby multiple impressions from the plate are made on a single sheet of paper.

The top cover is postmarked August 20, 1861. Beneath the pair is a routing notation "Via New Orleans". The bottom cover is postmarked August 2, 1861

These are two of the three recorded Memphis tête-bêche pairs on cover.

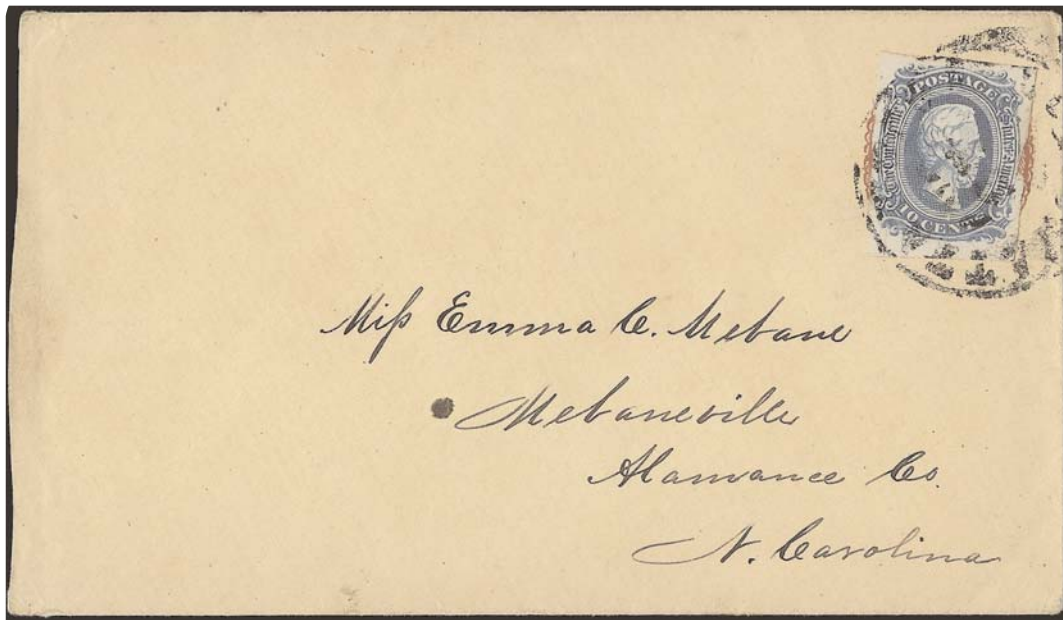
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
M. C. Gallaway, Postmaster



5c Red Adhesive Used on 5c Red on Buff Entire

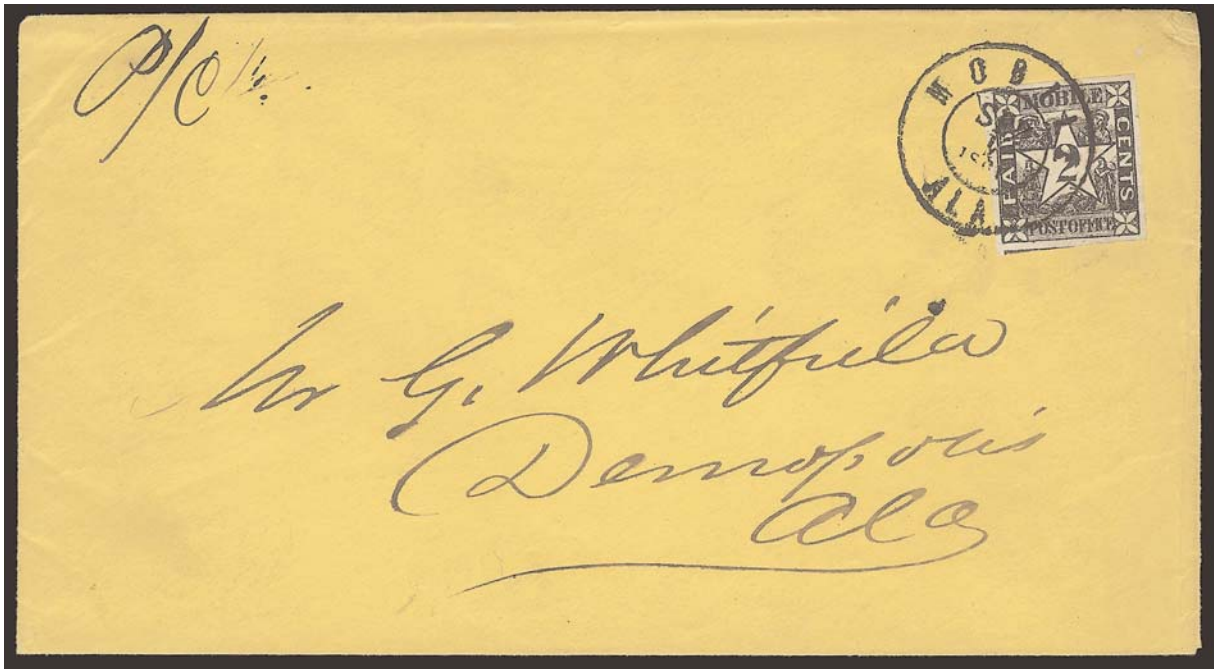
Three Confederate post offices issued provisional adhesive stamps and printed entires concurrently: Charleston S.C., Lynchburg Va. and Memphis. Of the three, only Memphis is represented by a combination of the adhesive and printed entire. The 10c postage paid the double 5c rate for a letter over one-half ounce.

Only three or four Memphis provisional entires are known with the 5c adhesive stamp.



10c General Issue Used over 5c Red on Cream Entire—Unlisted Envelope Color

MOBILE, ALABAMA
Lloyd Bowers, Postmaster



2c Black

Only two Confederate post offices, Livingston and Mobile, issued stamps with a pictorial design. It is almost certain that the same printer was responsible for both, whose imprint "W. R. Robertson Mobile" appears on the Mobile lithographic stones. This cover is dated September 1, 1861. The 2c provisional pays the circular rate.



2c Black

This cover is dated March 23, 1862. The 2c provisional pays the drop rate to a local addressee.

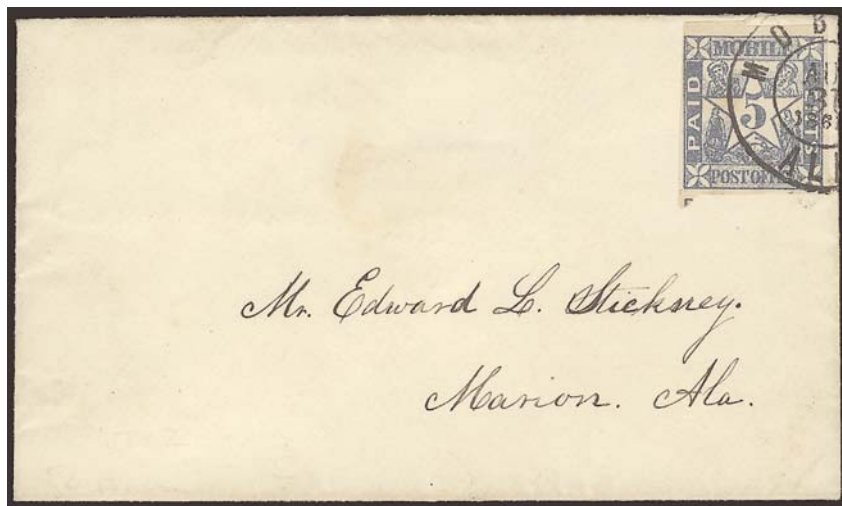
MOBILE, ALABAMA
Lloyd Bowers, Postmaster



Position 1

5c Blue

Although the plate reconstruction is still in progress, the top left corner sheet margins indicate Position 1.



5c Blue

MOBILE, ALABAMA
Lloyd Bowers, Postmaster



5c Blue

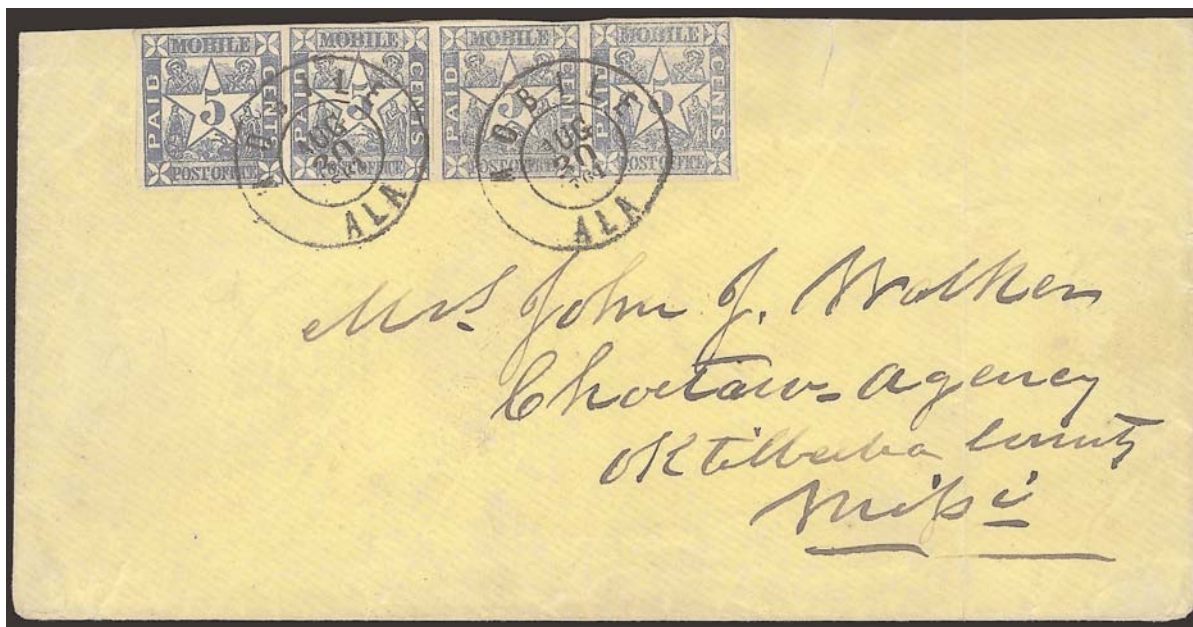
Vertical pair with large left sheet margin.



5c Blue

This strip of three is the second largest recorded multiple of the Mobile 5c provisional on cover.

MOBILE, ALABAMA
Lloyd Bowers, Postmaster



5c Blue

There are razor "perforations" between each stamp to facilitate separation.

This strip of four is the largest recorded multiple of the Mobile 5c provisional on cover.

MOBILE, ALABAMA
Lloyd Bowers, Postmaster



5c Blue

This is the only recorded example of the Mobile provisional
postmarked at Montgomery Ala. (November 25, 1861)

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
W. D. McNish, Postmaster



5c Brick Red — Fiery Orange Red Shade

Used August 6, 1861, to Murfreesboro Ten. and forwarded from there to Estell Springs.



5c Brick Red

Pair postmarked July 31, 1861.

Only two or three Brick Red pairs are known on cover.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
W. D. McNish, Postmaster



5c Brick Red

Two singles on Hanging Lincoln patriotic cartoon cover postmarked August 21, 1861.

The Hanging Lincoln design is widely recognized as the most distinctive of all Confederate patriotics. In this extraordinary cartoon, President Lincoln is hanging upside down from a tree limb, with his symbolic axe and fence rail tied around his neck. The caption reads “Abe Lincoln the destroyer. He once split Rails. Now he has split the Union.” To the left and right is the caption “The penalty of disregarding the constitution. Impeached, deposed, Tried and convicted” (there is a spelling correction from “diposed” to “deposed”). Standing beside Lincoln is a mustachioed Winfield Scott, labeled “Old Fuss n Feathers”, dropping his sword and exclaiming “My glory is gone for ever.” On the ground is the Union flag, captioned “The stars and stripes lie in the dust, Never to rise.” A star at left has the caption “The southern star is rising” and the Confederate 11-star flag towers above with the caption “The stars and bars shall for ever wave triumphant.” Along the bottom is the imprint “Copyright claimed. HM & WC Box 417 Nashville Tenn.” According to a census by the late John R. Hill Jr. (updated with two new discoveries), there are twelve genuine Hanging Lincoln patriotics

**This is one of twelve recorded Hanging Lincoln patriotic cartoon covers,
and the only one with a Confederate postmaster’s provisional.**

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
W. D. McNish, Postmaster



5c Carmine

Pair postmarked August 5, 1861.

Only five or six Carmine pairs (normal arrangement) are known on cover.



5c Violet Brown (Light Intermediate Shade)

Pair postmarked September 1861.

Only six Violet Brown pairs are known on cover.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
W. D. McNish, Postmaster



5c Carmine
Tête-Bêche Pair—Foot to Foot

Only four post offices are known to have produced tête-bêche provisional varieties: Athens, Macon, Memphis and Nashville. In each case the tête-bêche multiple was created by the work-and-turn printing method, whereby multiple impressions from the plate are made on a single sheet of paper.

This cover is postmarked September 15, 1861.

This is one of two recorded Nashville tête-bêche pairs still extant on covers.

The Ferrary collection contained a third cover with a Nashville tête-bêche pair, but the pair has since been removed from the cover.

In addition, there are two blocks of twelve Violet Brown with tête-bêche arrangement.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
W. D. McNish, Postmaster



5c Violet Brown (Deep Shade)

Morgan and Company illustrated corner card cover.



5c Violet Brown (Deep Shade)

Two singles postmarked September 21, 1861, on State of Tennessee Executive Department cover. This is one of two recorded Executive Department covers with a Nashville provisional stamp.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
W. D. McNish, Postmaster



10c Green

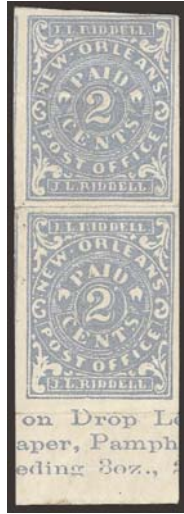
10c Nashville Postmaster's Provisional pays Confederate postage to Petersburg, Virginia, on U.S. 3¢ stamped envelope originating in the North and carried across the lines between Louisville and Nashville by Adams Express Company.

This Adams Louisville circular datestamp is dated July 30, 1861. The Adams Nashville oval datestamp is dated August 1, 1861. The blue "10" was applied in Petersburg to indicate postage due, presumably for weight.

This is one of six recorded covers with the Nashville 10c Green, three of which were carried by Adams Express Company (two with mixed frankings).

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster

Positions 27/35



*Positions
7-8
15-16*



2c Blue (Second Printing)

One of two recorded examples with part of the imprint.

The finer of two recorded blocks of four — this is the largest known multiple.

On June 6, Postmaster Riddell placed an order for stamps with John V. Childs, an engraver and printer located at 10 Camp Street. The 5c stamps were delivered on June 12, and one cover is recorded with a June 12 datestamp. 2c stamps were printed in red from a plate without the imprint; but these were evidently withheld from sale until January 1862. The 2c stamps in blue were printed from plates with the imprint, and these were issued in late June or early July. Although 10c stamps were initially ordered, they were not printed.

The stereotype plate of 40 subjects was arranged in five rows of eight. Imprints at the top and bottom of the 5c sheet read “Usable exclusively in the New Orleans Post Office”. On the 2c Blue sheet, a similar imprint appears at top and a three-line imprint at bottom explains the rates paid by a 2c stamp. The “exclusively” imprint is thought to have been added to the plates after Postmaster Riddell received complaints from other postmasters about attempts to use the stamps outside New Orleans.

	Recorded Dates of Use	
	Earliest	Latest
62X2, 2c Red (First Printing)	Jan. 1, 1862	Apr. 4, 1862
62X1, 2c Blue (Second Printing)	Jul. 14, 1861	Feb. 22, 1862
62X3, 5c Brown on White (First Printing)	Jun. 12, 1861	Aug. 17, 1861
62X3b, 5c Ocher on White (First Printing)	Jun. 18, 1861	Sep. 2, 1861
62X4, 5c Red Brown on Bluish (Second Printing)	Aug. 20, 1861	Feb. 12, 1862
62X5, 5c Yellow Brown on Off-White (Third Printing)	Dec. 4, 1861	Jan. 1, 1862
62X6, 5c Red Error on White	Sep. 17, 1861	—
62X7, 5c Red Error on Bluish	June 1861	—

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



2c Blue (Second Printing)

Postmarked August 2, 1861. 2c provisional paying circular rate. Unusual endorsement "*Circular of Corn Mercht*".

Approximately 30 covers with the 2c Blue are known, including 27 in Crown census.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



2c Blue (Second Printing)
Printed on Both Sides

Stamp at right removed to show back with clear second impression. The other stamp is printed on one side only. The two were used September 1, 1861, to pay the double circular rate.

This is the only example of the 2c provisional printed on both sides, on or off cover.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



2c Blue (Second Printing)
5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)

Postmarked October 1, 1861. The three 2c and one 5c provisional stamps overpay the 10c rate by 1c.

Only two covers are recorded with a combination of two different denominations of Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals.

This is the only combination with a 2c provisional.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



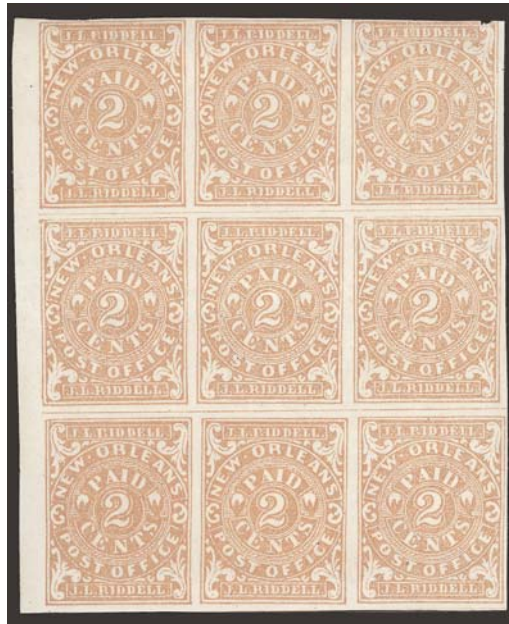
2c Red (First Printing) — Reconstruction of 40-Subject Plate

All forty positions reconstructed from a total of 46 stamps, including (in descending order of size with positions in brackets): block of eight [7-8/15-16/23-24/31-32], block of six [19-20/27-28/35-36] and strip of five [13/21/29/37-38] rejoined to form the original block, strip of five [9-13], block of four* [1-2/9-10], strip of three [7/14-15], pairs [17-18, 29-30*, 39-40] and singles [3, 4, 5, 6*, 22, 25, 26, 33, 34], all have original gum except those items marked with an asterisk (*).

This is the only complete reconstruction of the 2c Red provisional.

The block of eight and rejoined block of eleven are among the largest known multiples.

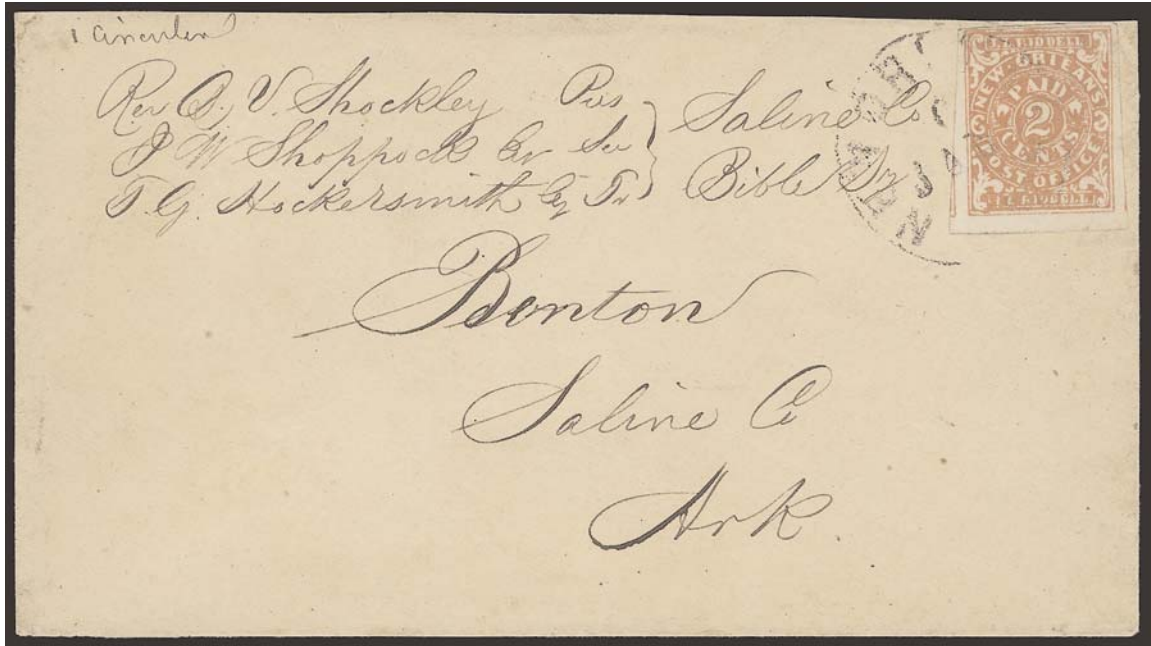
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



2c Red (First Printing)

This unused block of nine was a key piece in reconstructing the plate of forty.
This block of nine is the largest recorded multiple of the 2c Red provisional.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



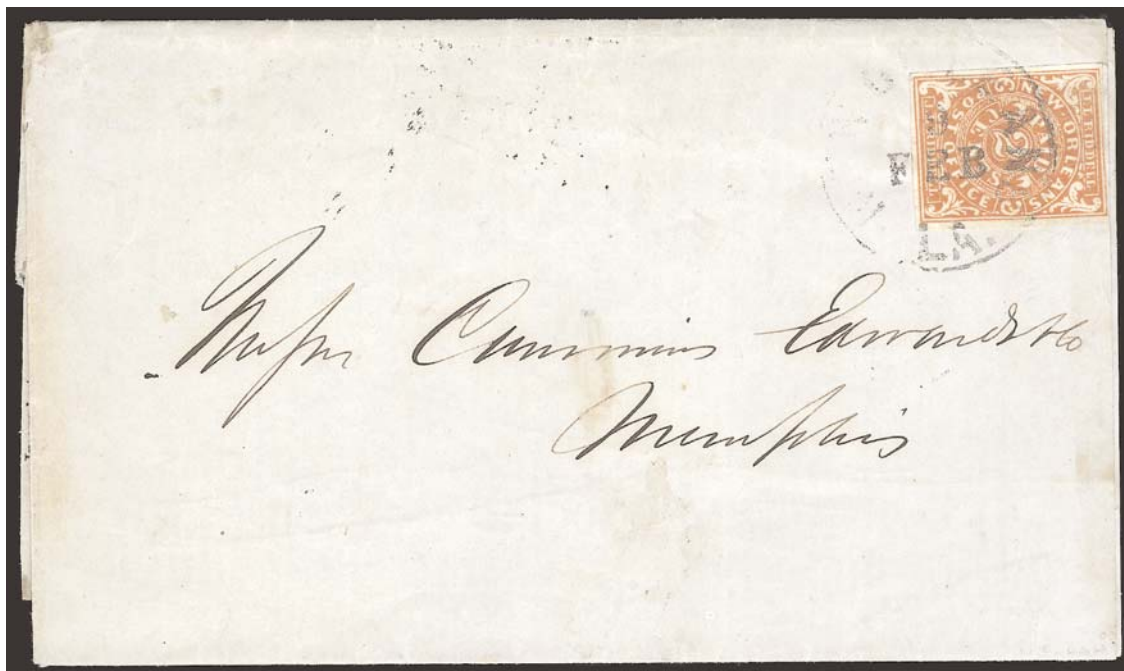
2c Bright Red (First Printing)

The 2c Red stamps were printed without the marginal inscription “Usable exclusively in the New Orleans Post Office”. The 5c and subsequent 2c Blue printings all have the imprint. It is the accepted theory that the 2c Red stamps were printed first, before Riddell added the imprint, and were withheld from use until January 1862 when the supply of 2c Blue stamps was exhausted.

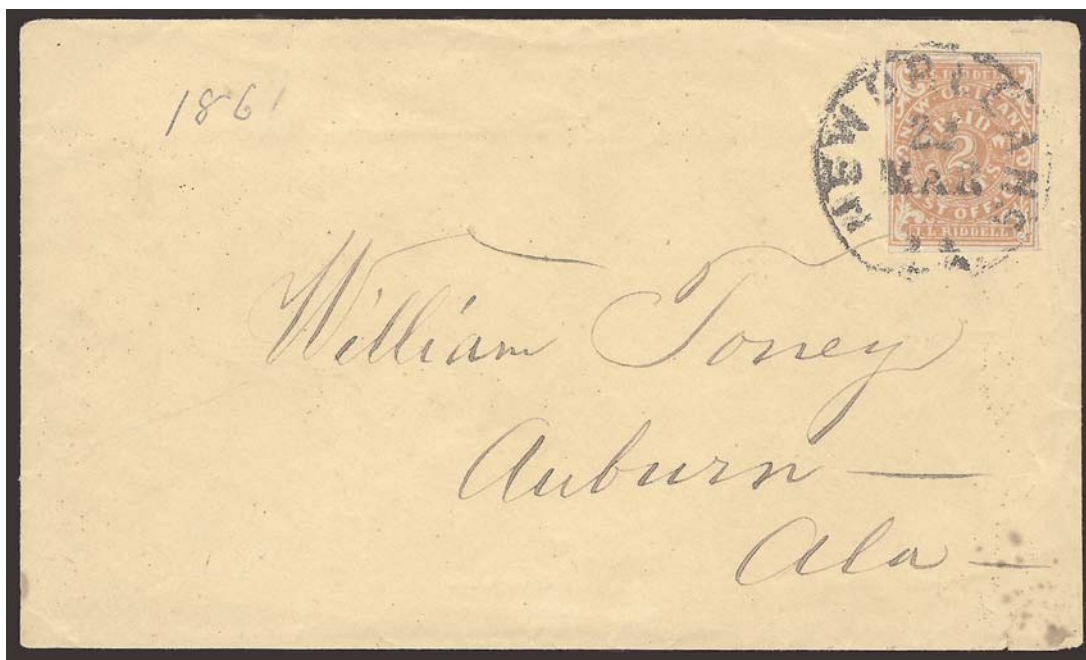
Postmarked January 6, 1862, paying circular rate.

This is the second earliest use of the ten recorded 2c Red provisional covers.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



2c Deep Red (First Printing)
Postmarked February 9, 1862, paying circular rate.



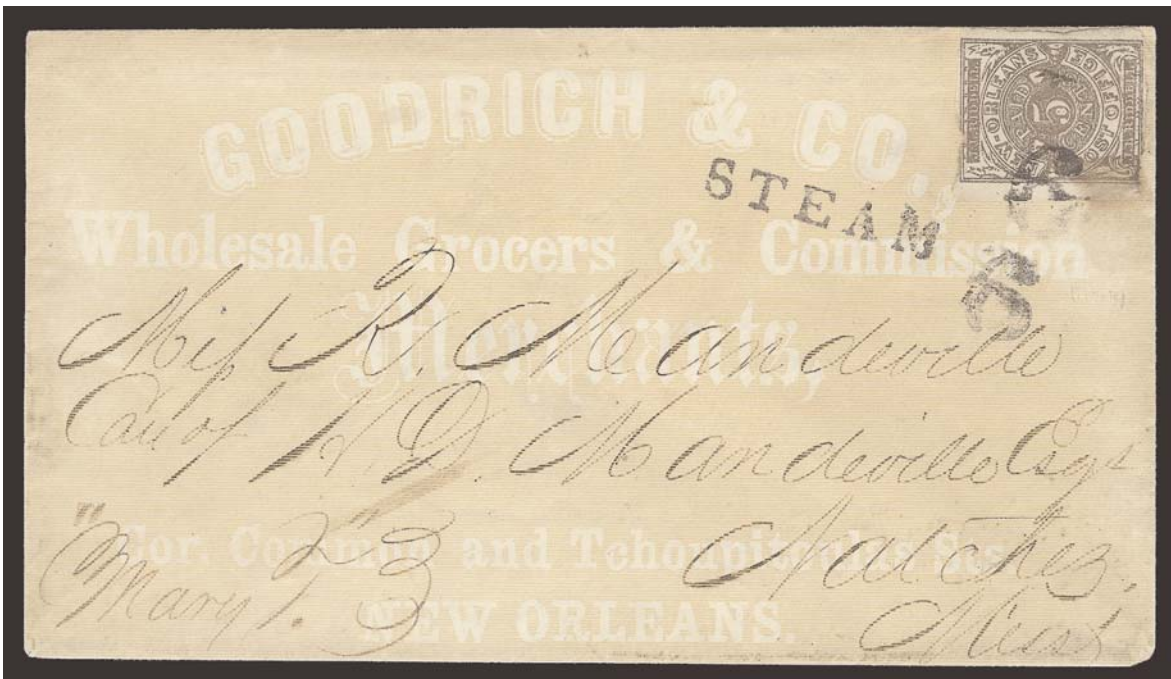
2c Dark Red on Grayish Paper (First Printing)
Postmarked March 22, 1862, paying circular rate.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Brown on White (First Printing)

Postmarked August 9, 1861, used on clothing merchant's advertising cover.



5c Brown on White (First Printing)

Carried up the Mississippi River by steamboat and cancelled "STEAM" and "6" at Natchez.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Ocher on White (First Printing)

Postmarked August 11, 1861. The Ocher shade is scarce.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper
(Second Printing)
“New Orleans” Imprint.

Cancelled by “PD 5 CTS/N.O.P.O.” two-line
handstamp applied at wharf office.



5c Brown on White (First Printing)
British Papermaker’s Embossed Coat of Arms
The only recorded example.



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)
Printed on Both Sides



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)
Printed on Both Sides

Cancelled by “PD 5 CTS/N.O.P.O.” two-line handstamp applied at wharf office.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)

Strips of six and four — Positions 11-16 and 19-22 — used on a courthouse cover originally containing depositions sent by a notary in New Orleans to Clarksville, Texas. The back of the cover is signed by Postmaster J. L. Riddell and backstamped August 27, 1861, with his personal double-circle datestamp.

This is the largest recorded on-cover multiple of the New Orleans 5c provisional (any printing).

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



**5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)
Used with United States 1857 3c Dull Red, Type II**

This October 4, 1861 folded letter — a part-printed legal notice — originally franked with four 5c provisional stamps (one cut out from upper right and replaced with another stamp), used in combination with pair of the United States 3c 1857 Issue. All of the original stamps are tied together by three strikes of “Paid” cancel. The “New Orleans La. 6 Oct.” (1861) circular datestamp also ties two 5c stamps. Manuscript “Due 6 cts.” indicates U.S. postage due — the demonetized 3c 1857 pair was not recognized — and a significant note is written on the inside panel, which reads: “Notices of Protest similar to the within to [list of names] by me received this 12 April 1862 and placed in the Post Office at Georgetown Ky. Postage paid & in time for next mail. Noah Spears NPLC[?].”

**Carried from New Orleans to Georgetown, Kentucky, in Federal-occupied territory,
well after termination of mail exchange between the North and South.**

Postmaster General Blair’s May 27 order to stop all mail from the North to disloyal Southern states was less explicit in dealing with mail from the South to loyal states. With the suspension of government mail exchange between Louisville and Nashville on June 12, the express companies assumed the primary role in carrying letters across the lines. Such service was outlawed with the Federal ban on all commerce and exchange on August 26. This letter and other similar notices — as described in the contemporary endorsement — were sent from New Orleans to Georgetown, Kentucky, on October 4, 1861. The sender evidently expected that the double Confederate postage and double United States postage would assure its delivery. However, not only were the U.S. stamps invalid, the express companies were no longer carrying mail across the lines. It is unclear how the letter reached Noah Spears, nor do we know his function.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)
Plantation broker's advertising cover.



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)
Clothing and furnishing dealer's advertising cover.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)

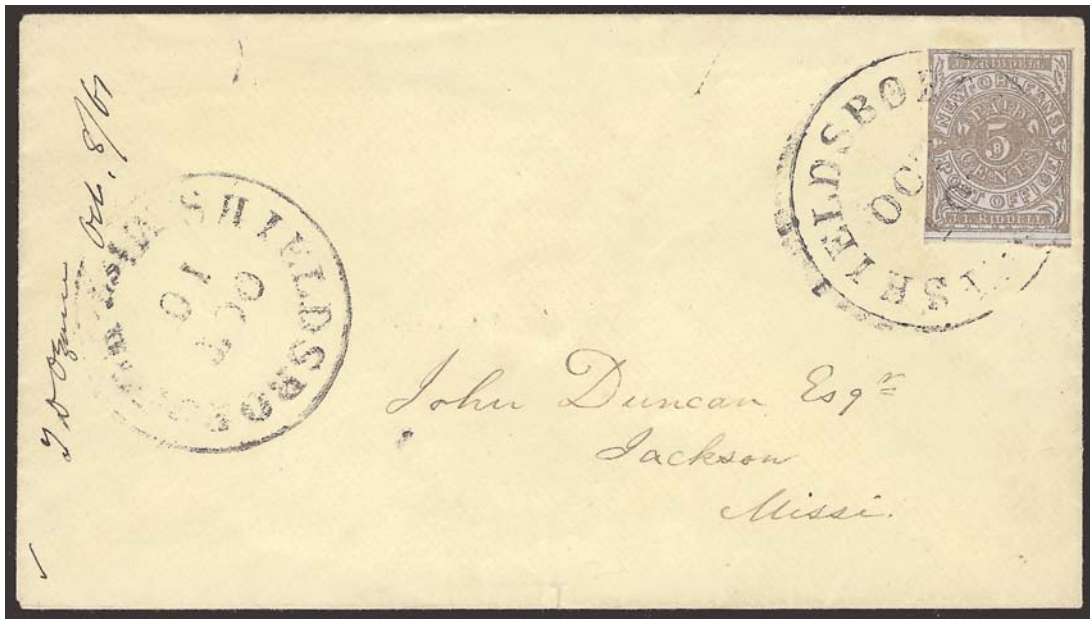
10-Star Confederate Flag Patriotic with distinctive pattern of stars in field.



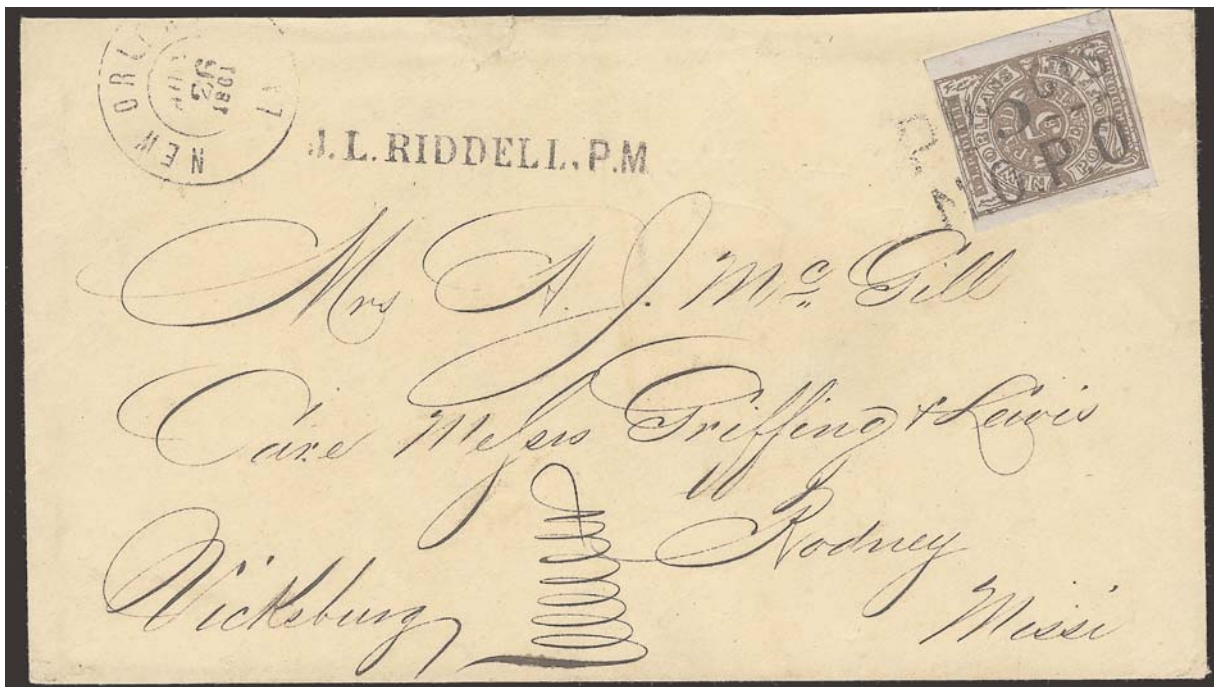
5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing)

11-Star Confederate Flag, Cannon and Verse Patriotic with
"Sold by G. Ellis, Post Office News Depot N.O." imprint

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing) — Postmarked at Shieldsborough, Mississippi
Shieldsborough was later re-named Bay St. Louis and lies in the harbor east of New Orleans. This cover was probably carried by a vessel out of New Orleans and mailed at Shieldsborough. No other such example recorded.



5c Red Brown on Bluish Paper (Second Printing) — Postmarked at Wharf Office
The handstamps given Postmaster's Provisional status were also used to cancel mail received at the New Orleans wharfside office. Approximately 12-15 such examples are known.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



**5c Red Error of Color
White Paper (First Printing)**

The stamp at left is pure Bright Red, while the stamp at right is a mixture of Brown and Red, which proves that the error resulted from an impure ink mixture.

Because the 5c Red error is found on two separate papers in such small numbers — with at least three of the copies showing a few traces of the normal brown color — Dr. Skinner, the New Orleans expert, theorizes that either “too much red ink was introduced onto the platen in blending the brown ink or the components of the ink separated while the press was idle for a time.” This, he speculates, “produced a mottled impression on a very few sheets” and “would have been corrected as soon as the rollers passed across the platen a few times re-mixing or blending the ink.”

The “DUE” on the left stamp is part of a United States “DUE 3 cts” handstamp, which was applied to mail received from the South between June 1 and August 26, which had demonetized U.S. postage

These are two of the four recorded examples of the 5c Red error on White Paper.



**5c Red Error of Color
Bluish Paper (Second Printing)**

The stamp at left is pure Intense Red, while the stamps at right shows traces of Brown ink in the design. Two postmarks are dated in September 1861; the other December 4, 1861.

These are all three recorded examples of the 5c Red error on Bluish Paper.

A total of seven 5c Red errors are recorded on either paper.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster



5c Yellow Brown on Off-White Paper (Third Printing)

Rejoined blocks of nine, originally part of the same sheet, with imprint at top:
“Usable exclusively in the New Orleans Post Office”

The Third Printing was issued in early December 1861, and most of the unused multiples come from supplies of this printing on hand when New Orleans was captured by Federal forces in April 1862.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
J. L. Riddell, Postmaster

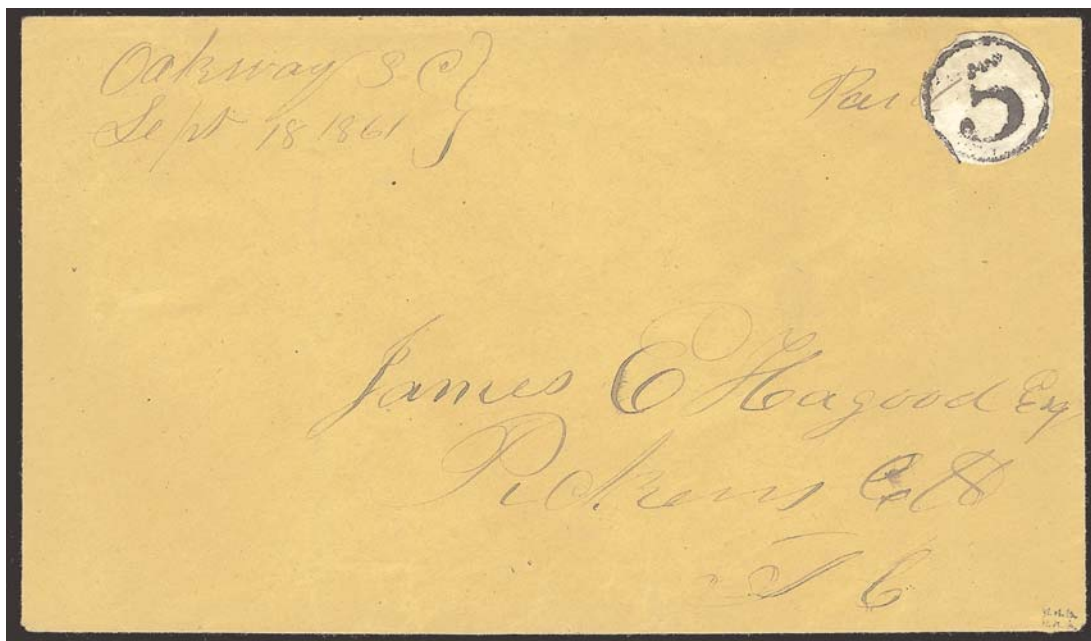


**5c Yellow Brown on Off-White Paper (Third Printing)
Postmarked at Wharf Office**

The handstamps given Postmaster's Provisional status were also used to cancel mail received at the New Orleans wharfside office.

Approximately 12-15 examples of the 5c provisional are known postmarked with the wharf-office markings, but only two have the 5c Third Printing.

OAKWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
Jobbery Sanders, Postmaster



5c Black

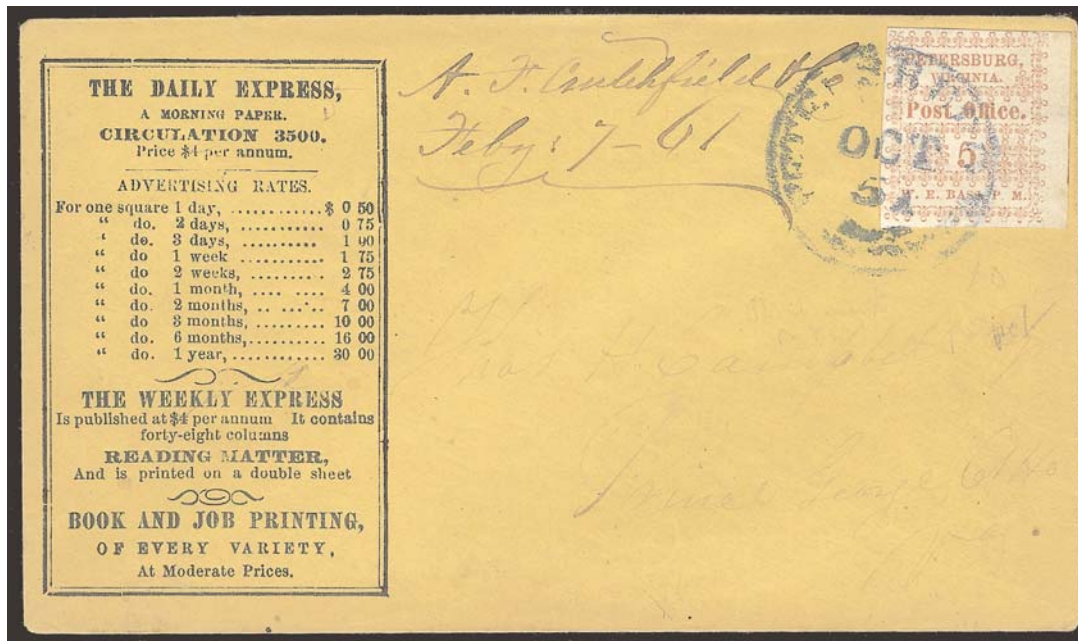
The circular-cut adhesive stamp is tied by a manuscript “Paid” with matching “Oakway S.C.} Sept. 18, 1861” postmark. The cover is addressed to James E. Hagood at Pickens Court House S.C. Receipt docketing on back indicates that J. B. Sanders (the Oakway postmaster) was the sender.

Jobbery Sanders was appointed postmaster of Oakway, South Carolina, in 1858 and continued in 1861 when the Confederate government assumed control over the postal system. Oakway’s population in 1861 was only 200, and the volume of mail was too small to justify a wood or metal cancelling device, so Postmaster Sanders simply postmarked mail by hand. His provisional stamps were probably short-lived and used on a very limited basis prior to the arrival of General Issue postage in November 1861.

This is one of two recorded examples of the Oakway provisional stamp, each on cover.

This is the earlier cover and the only one with the stamp tied.

PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA
W. E. Bass, Postmaster



Position 10

5c Red

Corner card of *The Daily Express* newspaper, where the Petersburg provisional stamps were printed.



Position 1

5c Red — “C” for “G” in “Petersburg” and “e” of “Post Office” Missing

Only Position 1 of the setting of ten had the “G” for “C” variety. In later impressions, the “e” dropped out.

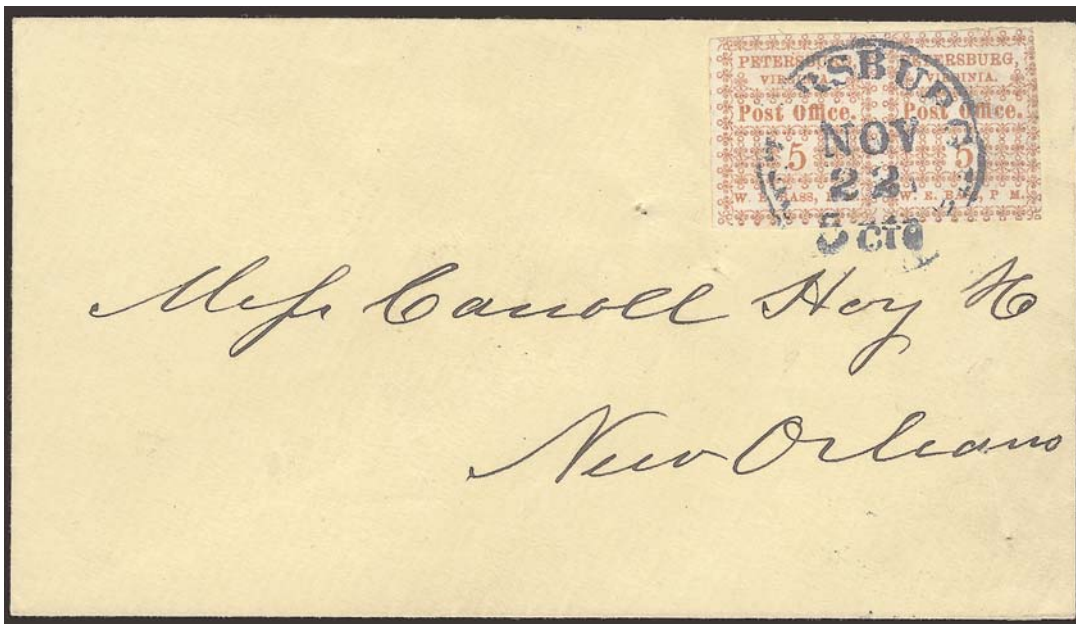
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA
W. E. Bass, Postmaster



Positions 2-1

5c Red

Two singles postmarked September 27, 1861.



Positions 9-10

5c Red — Pair with Right Stamp Missing Period After “P” of “PM”

Only five pairs of the Petersburg provisional are recorded on cover. No larger multiple is known.

PITTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA
J. P. Johnson, Postmaster



5c Red on Wove Paper

One of three covers in private hands bearing a rectangular-cut example of the 5c Red on Wove.
Only ten copies of this stamp are recorded, including seven on covers.



5c Red on Laid Paper

One of three recorded examples of the 5c Red provisional on Laid Paper.
Only three examples are recorded, including two with octagonal margins and one rectangular-cut.

PLEASANT SHADE, VIRGINIA
R. E. Davis, Postmaster



5c Blue

The Pleasant Shade provisional was produced for Postmaster R. E. Davis by A. F. Crutchfield & Co. of Petersburg Va., publisher of the *Daily Express* and printer of the Petersburg provisional. The same typeset form was used for the Pleasant Shade stamp. With an 1860 population of 57, the small Pleasant Shade post office (1860-66) evidently had very little demand for the stamps. It is far rarer in used condition than unused.

One of four recorded covers with the Pleasant Shade provisional (one in the British Library).

Three covers have singles, and one cover is recorded with a pair. At least eleven unused singles are known (including one in the British Library collection), in addition to an unused pair and block of six.

RHEATOWN., TENNESSEE
D. Pence, Postmaster



Position 2

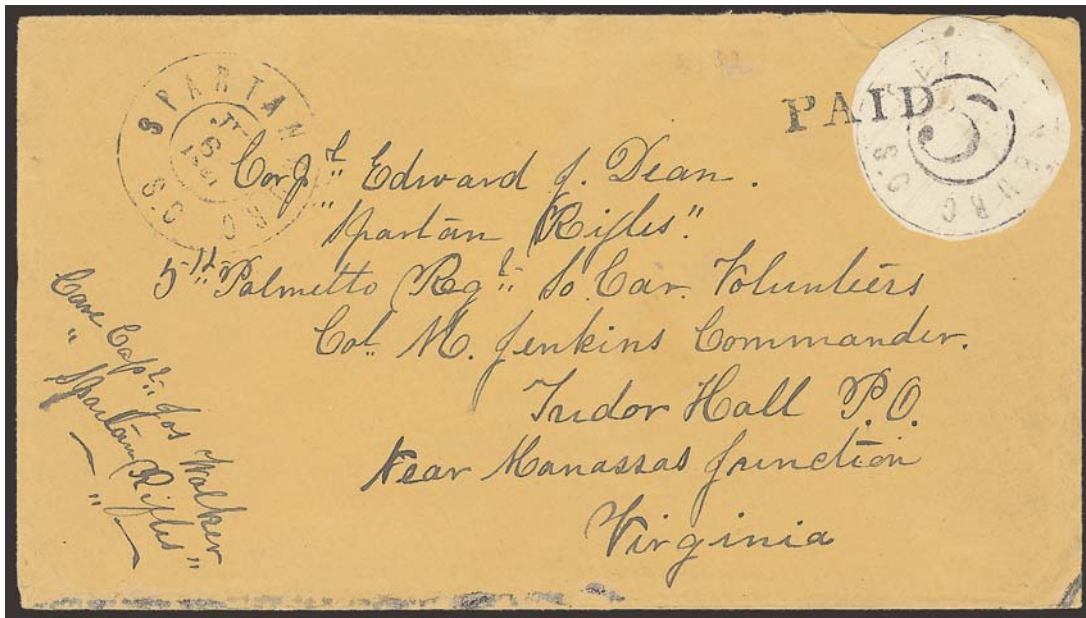
5c Red

The 5c provisional stamps issued by Postmaster D. Pence were printed by the same printer who produced the Tellico Plains Tenn. provisional. The June dates recorded for the Rheatown suggest that it came first, and the postmaster's own recollections place the issue in "midsummer 1861" (see Crown book, p. 307). Although dated examples show usage into April 1862, a relatively long period of time, the issue is extremely rare.

The same basic type form containing three subjects was used for the Rheatown and Tellico Plains Tenn. provisionals. For the Rheatown, all three were 5c denominations. The inside border at the top of each stamp is made up of seven ornaments, the unique arrangement of these ornaments in each subject enables philatelists to identify the position of any stamp. The stamp on this cover is Position 2, Type II, with the distinctive inverted ornament at top right.

One of five recorded covers with the Rheatown provisional.

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



5c Black

The Spartanburg provisional stamps were created from two separate handstamps. The dateless double-circle "Spartanburg S.C." marking was struck on paper, and the numeral "5" in circle was applied to the blank center. Almost all examples, including the one recorded pair, were cut to shape. This cover is addressed to Corp. Edward J. Dean of the "Spartan Rifles", 5th Palmetto Regiment, S.C. Volunteers. It was directed to Tudor Hall near Manassas Junction in Virginia.

Approximately twenty covers bearing the Spartanburg provisional are known.

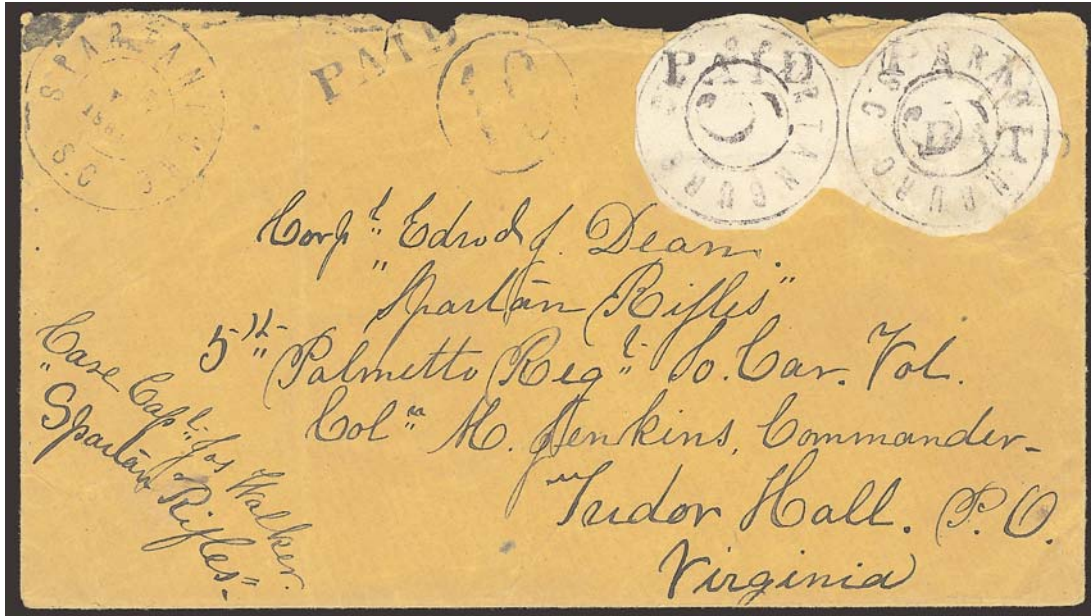


5c Black

Used on Confederate 7-Star Flag Patriotic, postmarked September 16, 1861.

The only recorded Spartanburg provisional used on a patriotic.

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

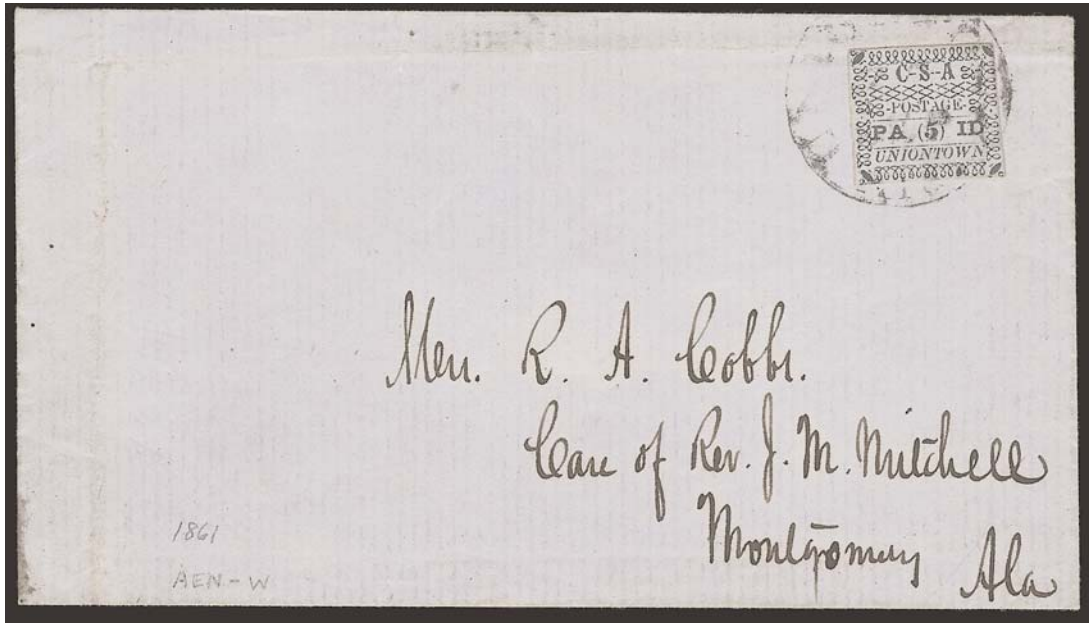


5c Black

This cover is addressed to Corp. Edward J. Dean of the "Spartan Rifles", 5th Palmetto Regiment, S.C. Volunteers. It was directed to Tudor Hall near Manassas Junction in Virginia.

This cover bears the only recorded pair of the Spartanburg provisional.

UNIONTOWN, ALABAMA
P. N. Booker, Postmaster



Position 1

5c Green on Gray Blue Paper

Postmaster P. N. Booker was responsible for issuing the 2c, 5c and 10c provisional stamps at Uniontown, Alabama. One typeset form of four subjects was used for the three denominations. The numeral in parentheses between the “PA” and “ID” of “PAID” was changed for each value, and different color ink was used — Dark Blue (2c), Green (5c) and Red (10c). All three values were printed on gray blue paper — probably used for the first printing — and the 2c and 5c are also known on white paper, which was probably used for subsequent printings. The 10c has not been found on white paper.

One of nine covers with the 5c on Gray Blue Paper recorded in the Crown census.

UNIONTOWN, ALABAMA
P. N. Booker, Postmaster



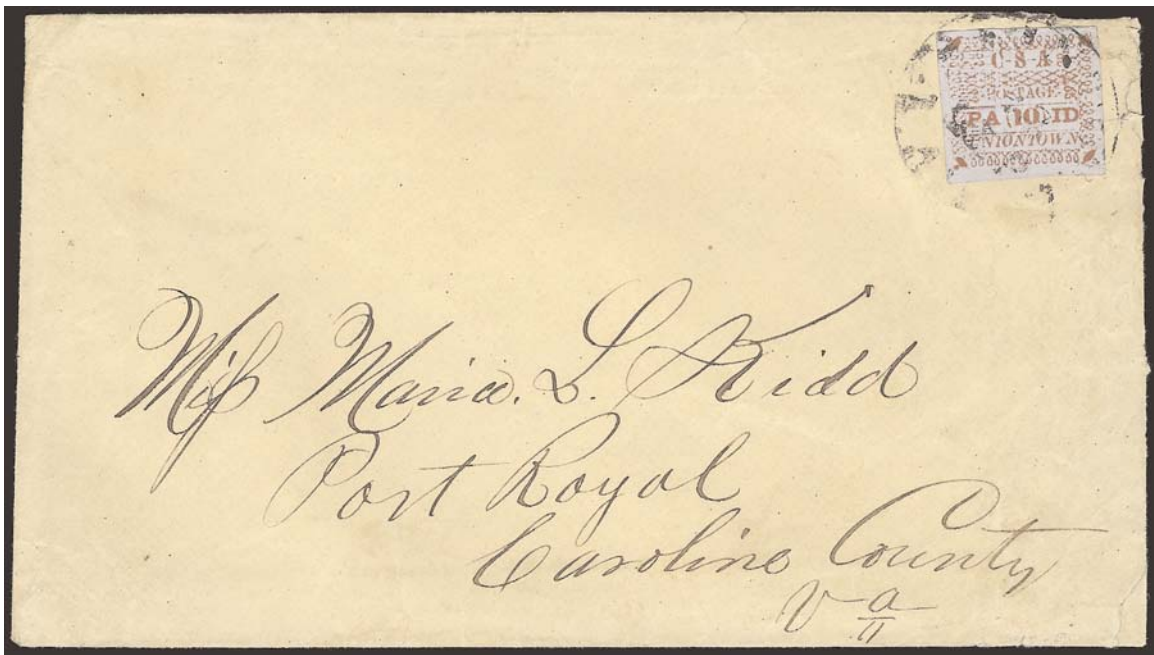
Position 2

10c Red on Gray Blue Paper — Position 2 with Lobes in Corners

One of eight recorded examples of the 10c Red (seven on covers).

This is the only sound example of Position 2,
the only one in the setting of four with the distinctive Lobe ornaments in all four corners.

UNIONTOWN, ALABAMA
P. N. Booker, Postmaster



Position 1

**10c Red on Gray Blue Paper
Stationer's Embossed Crest in Paper**

One of eight recorded examples of the 10c Red (seven on covers).

This is the only 10c Red, on or off cover, with the stationer's embossed crest.

Only one other Uniontown (5c Green on White) is known with the embossed crest.

VICTORIA, TEXAS
J. A. Moody, Postmaster



5c Red Brown on Green

This stamp, with top right corner sheet margins,
apparently comes from the top right position of the setting.

This is the only sound example of the four recorded Victoria 5c provisional stamps.

The 5c provisional is not known on cover.



10c Red Brown on Green

Used on March 30, 1863, folded letter to J. San Roman in Brownsville, Texas, who was
active in running supplies between Mexico and the Confederate State of Texas..

This is one of four recorded Victoria 10c provisional stamps, two of which are known on covers.