



Confederate States of America

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Government Postage Stamps

By

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President of the Junior
Philatelic Society.



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Forged.



Genuine.



INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE use of adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage introduced in Great Britain in 1840 spread throughout Europe and America in the next two decades, and from 1850 the study of the world's postage stamps reflects much of national and international history. The European pages of our stamp albums record the troublous times in France from the abdication of Louis Philippe to the Commune and after ; they indicate the fusion of a group of early stamp-issuing states into a United Italy ; they record the comparatively peaceful rise of the German Confederation and Empire. The extension of the postage-stamp system throughout the world has brought nearly every country into this fascinating history book, and not the least remarkable philatelic records of a country's historical phases are to be found amongst the stamps of the great republic of North America.

The Government of the United States adopted postage stamps in 1847, inaugurating in that year a series of miniature intaglio engravings which has no equal in the record of any other country's issues for excellence of design and execution. An issue of two denominations in 1847 was superseded by a more comprehensive series inaugurated in 1851, and these, to which the convenience of perforation was applied a

few years later, were in currency in 1860 in all of the States and Territories of the Union.

In December, the convention of South Carolina, voicing a feeling that had been gaining strength throughout the Southern States, repealed the act of a former convention in adopting the Constitution of the Union, a repeal which was the first act of secession. In the course of a few weeks six other Southern States had followed suit, proclaiming their withdrawal from the Union, and on February 18, 1861, there was inaugurated at Montgomery, Alabama, a provisional government under the presidency of Jefferson Davis, and with all the appendages of military and civil administration, and incidentally to our especial subject, a post-office department independent of that of the Union.

It is unnecessary in the present work to linger over the issues at stake in the Civil War which followed. The Union of the States had long been an accomplished fact, and in the North the permanence of the Union was paramount, and the right of any State to break away therefrom was denied. In the South this right to secede was claimed and attempted largely with the object of securing to the Southerners their extensive slave properties which were threatened with abolition under the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Other issues there were, but these were the main ones, and upon them the Union was divided, and the contending factions of the North and South waged the protracted and bloody war of 1861-65.

In all there were eleven States in the Confederacy, and just double that number remained loyal to the Union ; four of the upper South slave-holding States,

whilst sympathising largely with one of the *motifs* for secession, remained with the Union. But in the eleven States of the Confederacy the break from the Union was complete, and from May, 1861, the United States mails were interrupted in the South. The United States stamps of 1851-60, of which large stocks remained in the hands of postmasters of the South, were demonetised, and the famous *premières gravures* of 1861 were hurriedly issued in August.* By this time the Government of Jefferson Davis in the South had established itself at Richmond, Virginia, whence was directed the Post-Office Department of the Confederate States, with Judge John H. Reagan (of Texas) as Postmaster-General. In February and March the Confederate Congress passed Acts to prescribe postage rates, and the next month tenders were invited for the furnishing of postage stamps, which stamps, however, did not eventuate until October. It is of these stamps, and the several successive issues sent out by the Government of the Confederate States of America up to the complete collapse of the rebellion in 1865, that the present work deals. The stamps lack the beauty of engraving and printing of the general issues of the United States stamps, a deficiency due to the difficult conditions under which they were produced in the country or imported from England. But what they lack in this respect

* In the album of Confederate documents at the office of the Secretary of War at Washington is a U.S. stamped envelope overprinted "Confederate Post-Office Department"; a number of these envelopes in the possession of Southern postmasters at the outbreak of the rebellion are said to have been so overprinted (*vide Daily Stamp Item* I, 76 : 3 ; March 28, 1896).

is more than amply compensated by their historic significance and associations ; in this respect they have no equals among the postal adhesive issues of the world. The home-produced stamps were prepared under the stress of invasion ; the foreign manufactured ones and many of the materials for the local productions had to be brought through the blockade. In the annals of philately there are no more exciting records than those which tell of the capture of a ship bearing three De La Rue plates and 400,000 dollars' worth of Confederate States stamps, which the agent of Davis's Government managed to throw overboard, or of the despatch (preparatory to the evacuation of Richmond) of printing press, dies, plates and stamps to Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, where they arrived only to be destroyed in the holocaust following upon General Sherman's capture of that city.

The interest attaching to these stamps, as we have endeavoured to indicate, is exceptional, but it does not appear that this has made the issues of the Confederate States popular with the philatelist. In the past this may have been due to the paramount popularity of British colonial stamps, but with the spreading of philatelic interest over the less-studied foreign countries, the issues of the Confederacy may well claim the attention of the studious collector. There is yet much to be learned of them, and whilst they are accessible at moderate cost (none of them can be regarded as a great or expensive rarity), they offer an excellent field for specialistic research. In another respect there is interesting work awaiting the historian in extracting the complete story of the Confederate Post-Office Department from the voluminous archives

of the Confederacy now in course of printing in the form of a Government series of publications in the United States.

If the present *résumé* of the postage stamps of the Confederacy serves to arouse collectors to the historic and philatelic interest in these stamps it will have served the purpose of the writer, who has to express his gratitude to Major Edward B. Evans, R.A., and Mr. L. W. Crouch for the liberal use that he has been permitted to make of their published studies of these stamps, and for their assistance with the loan of illustrations and the revision of proofs.



CHAPTER I.

The Organisation of the Confederation's Postal Service.

IN all communities which maintain any pretence at civilisation and up-to-date methods, an efficient postal service is an absolute *sine quâ non*.

Therefore, when the secession of certain Southern States had become a *fait accompli*, their Provisional Congress almost immediately turned its thoughts to the establishment of its Post-Office Department and the continuation of the postal service of the old Government. One of the first Acts approved by Congress was "An Act to continue in force certain laws of the United States of America", and it was adopted on the 9th February, 1861. It read as follows:—

Be it enacted by the Confederate States of America, in Congress assembled, That all the laws of the United States of America, in force and in use in the Confederate States of America on the 1st day of November last, and not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Confederate States, be, and the same are hereby continued in force until altered or repealed by the Congress.

This affected the postal arrangements in that it made the postal rates of the Confederacy the same as in the United States, *viz.*:—For letters, 3 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for distances not exceeding 3000 miles, and 10 cents per

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for distances exceeding 3000 miles ; but as until the 1st June all letters, etc., had to be prepaid with United States stamps, and the Confederate Government did not take over postal affairs until that date, these rates had no effect on the Confederate States stamps.

These rates were repealed by an Act intituled "An Act to prescribe the rates of Postages in the Confederate States of America, and for other purposes", approved March 15th, 1861. It provided as follows :—

LETTER POSTAGE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that from and after such period as the Postmaster-General may by proclamation announce, there shall be charged the following rates of postage, to wit : for every single sealed letter, and for every letter in manuscript or paper of any kind, upon which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places within the Confederate States of America, not exceeding five hundred miles, five cents ; and for any distance exceeding five hundred miles, double that rate ; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage ; *and all packages containing other than printed or written matter, and money packages are included in this class, shall be rated by weight as letters are rated, and shall be charged the rates of postage on letters ; and all drop letters, or letters placed in any post-office not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of two cents each ; and in all the foregoing cases the postage must be prepaid by stamps ; and all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over or uncalled for in any post-office shall be charged with two cents each in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages of this Confederacy.*

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS, PAMPHLETS,
AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER,
INCLUDING BOOKS.

And be it further enacted that all newspapers published within the Confederate States, not exceeding three ounces in weight, and sent from the office of publication to actual and *bonâ-fide* subscribers within the Confederate States, shall be charged with postage as follows, *viz.*, The postage on the regular numbers of a newspaper published weekly shall be ten cents per quarter; papers published semi-weekly, double that amount; papers published thrice a week, treble that amount; papers published six times a week, six times that amount; and papers published daily, seven times that amount. And on newspapers weighing more than three ounces, there shall be charged on each additional ounce in addition to the foregoing rates on those published once a week, five cents per ounce, or fraction of an ounce per quarter; on those published twice a week, ten cents per ounce per quarter; on those published three times a week, fifteen cents per ounce per quarter; on those published six times a week, thirty cents per ounce per quarter; and on those published daily, thirty-five cents per ounce per quarter.

And periodicals published oftener than bi-monthly shall be charged as newspapers.

And other periodicals, sent from the office of publication to actual *bonâ-fide* subscribers, shall be charged with postage as follows, *viz.*, The postage on the regular numbers of a periodical, published within the Confederate States, not exceeding one and a half ounces [*sic*] in weight, and published monthly, shall be two and a half cents per quarter; and for every additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, two and a half cents additional; if published semi-monthly, double that amount. And periodicals published quarterly or bi-monthly, shall be charged two cents an ounce; and regular subscribers to newspapers and periodicals shall be required to pay one quarter's postage thereon in advance, at the office of delivery, unless paid at the office where published.

And there shall be charged upon every other newspaper, and each circular not sealed, or hand-bill, engraving,

pamphlet, periodical and magazine, which shall be unconnected with any manuscript or written matter, not exceeding three ounces in weight, and published within the Confederate States, two cents; and for each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, two cents additional; and in all cases the postage shall be prepaid, by stamps or otherwise, as the Postmaster-General shall direct.

And books, bound or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, shall be deemed mailable matter, and shall be charged with postage, to be prepaid by stamps or otherwise, as the Postmaster-General shall direct, at two cents an ounce for any distance.

And upon all newspapers, periodicals, and books, as aforesaid, published beyond the limits of the Confederate States, there shall be charged postage at double the foregoing specified rates.

The publishers of newspapers and periodicals within the Confederate States may send and receive to and from each other, from their respective offices of publication, one copy of each publication, free of postage.

All newspapers, unsealed circulars, or other unsealed printed transient matter, placed in any post-office, not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged postage at the rate of one cent each.

An Act of Congress, approved March 1, 1861, provided as follows:—

**PAYMENT OF POSTAGE IN MONEY UNTIL
POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED
ENVELOPES ARE PROVIDED.**

Section 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that, until postage stamps and stamped envelopes can be procured and distributed, the Postmaster-General may order the postage of the Confederacy to be prepaid in money under such rules and regulations as he may adopt.

These postal rates came into force on June 1, 1861, when the Confederacy took over postal affairs in the seceded States, and remained in force until July 1,

1862, when they were altered in consequence of the approval on April 19, 1862, of "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to prescribe the rates of Postages in the Confederate States of America, and for other purposes'", which amending Act provided :—

Section 1. That from and after the first day of July next, there shall be charged the following rates of postage, to wit : For every single letter sealed, and for every letter in manuscript or paper of any kind, upon which information shall be asked for, or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs conveyed in the mails for any distance within the Confederate States of America, ten cents ; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional half ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage.

The rates for newspapers and printed matter were also changed, but do not affect the stamps, as in these cases the postage was paid quarterly in advance, and not by means of stamps. The increase of the letter rate to 10 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for *any distance* in the Confederate States accounts for the fact that one finds so many used pairs of the various 5 cents stamps.

As is seen from the Act of March 15, 1861, Congress delegated most of its powers of organisation to the Postmaster-General, who was Judge John H. Reagan. In order to give plenty of time for the reorganisation of his Department, he decided to fix June 1, 1861, as the date for the taking over of postal affairs by the Confederacy, and in pursuance of the powers delegated to him issued the following Proclamation :—

BY THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL OF THE
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, By the provisions of an Act approved March 15, 1861, and amended by the first section of an Act approved May 9, 1861, the Postmaster-General of the Confederate States is authorised, on and after a day to be named by him for that purpose, to take the entire charge and direction of the postal service in the Confederate States, and all conveyance of mails within their limits from and after such day, except by authority of the Postmaster-General thereof, is thereby prohibited.

Now, therefore, I, John H. Reagan, Postmaster-General of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my Proclamation, notifying all postmasters, contractors, and special and route agents, in the service of the Post-Office Department, and engaged in the transmission and delivery of the mails, or otherwise in any manner connected with the service within the limits of the Confederate States of America, that on and after the 1st day of June next, I shall assume the entire control and direction of the postal service therein: And I hereby direct all postmasters, route agents, and special agents within these States, and now acting under the authority and direction of the Postmaster-General of the United States, to continue in the discharge of their respective duties under the authority vested in me by the Congress of the Confederate States, in strict conformity with such existing laws and regulations as are not inconsistent with the laws and Constitution of the Confederate States of America, and such further instructions as may hereafter be issued by my direction: And the said Postmasters, route agents, and special agents are also required to forward to this Department, without delay, their names, with the names of the offices of which they are postmasters (giving the State and county), to be directed to the "Chief of the Appointment Bureau, Post-Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama," in order that new commissions may be issued under the authority of this government: And all postmasters are hereby required to render to the Post-Office Department at Washington, D.C., their final accounts and their vouchers for postal receipts and expenditures, up to the 31st day of this month, taking care to

forward with said accounts all postage stamps and stamped envelopes remaining on hand, belonging to the Post-Office Department of the United States, in order that they may receive the proper credits therefor, in the adjustment of their accounts, and they are further required to retain in their possession, to meet the orders of the Postmaster-General of the United States, for the payment of mail service within the Confederate States, all revenue which shall have accrued from the postal service prior to the said 1st day of June next.

All contractors, mail messengers and special contractors for conveying the mails within the Confederate States, under existing contracts with the Government of the United States, are hereby authorised to continue to perform such service under my direction, from and after the day last above-named, subject to such modifications and changes as may be found necessary, under the powers vested in the Postmaster-General by the terms of said contracts and the provisions of the second section of an Act approved May 9, 1861, conformable thereto, and the said contractors, special contractors, and mail messengers are required to forward, without delay, the number of their route or routes, the nature of the service thereon, the schedules of arrivals and departures, the names of the offices supplied, and the amount of annual compensation for present service, together with their address, directed to the "Chief of the Contract Bureau, Post-Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama."

Until a postal treaty shall be made with the Government of the United States for the exchange of mails between that government and the government of this Confederacy, postmasters will not be authorized to collect United States postage on mail matter sent to or received from those States, and until supplies of postage stamps and stamped envelopes are procured for the prepayment of postage within the Confederate States, all postages must be paid in money, under the provisions of the first section of an Act approved March 1, 1861.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Post-Office Department of the Confederate States of America, at Montgomery, Alabama, the 13th day of May, in the year 1861.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster-General.

It was urgently necessary for the Confederate Post-Office Department to obtain supplies of postage stamps with which correspondence might be prepaid, but, owing to the disturbed state of the country and to the fact that the Southern States largely depended on the North for most manufactured commodities, great difficulties were encountered in this direction. In March, 1861, the Post-Office Department, through the medium of the newspapers, advertised for proposals for furnishing stamps, etc. The Postmaster-General, in his Report, dated November 27, 1861, gives a graphic story of his trials and troubles :—

The difficulties which have been encountered by the Department in its endeavours to procure postage stamps and stamped envelopes, producing great delays in procuring them in such quantities as to meet the demands of the public, have caused much impatience to be manifested on that account, which induces me to state at some length the various efforts made by the Department to procure them, as well for the information of Congress as for the vindication of the Department against charges of neglect of duty in that respect.

The manifest advantage of having stamps and stamped envelopes for the payment of postage has been from the first fully realised by the Department, and immediately after my appointment, and before the Department was organised, correspondence was commenced with such parties as were known to be able to manufacture them, for the purpose of procuring them at the earliest day possible. Propositions were submitted early in March last from parties not residing in the Confederate States to supply them, and the Department was led to believe they ought to be obtained by the time it could be organised, and prepared to take control of the service. But the political changes then going on so rapidly, and the increasing probabilities of hostilities between the new and the old Governments, soon rendered the fulfilment of the first proposition to furnish stamps and stamped envelopes impossible.

On the 16th March, a proposition was submitted by a gentleman having the means and capacity for manufacturing them, to establish a house in the city of Montgomery for that purpose, and for the purpose of doing any other engraving, lithographing and printing which might be required by the Government. Assurances were given him that he should have the contract for furnishing stamps and stamped envelopes, and at his request, and to facilitate the early manufacture of them, he was furnished by the Department with designs for the various denominations of stamps, in order that he might complete the necessary engravings by the time his presses and other materials could be prepared. He left that city, as he said, for the purpose of carrying into effect that enterprise, and nothing was heard from him afterwards.

On the 27th of March, the Department advertised for proposals for furnishing stamps and stamped envelopes in newspapers in the following cities, to wit:—Montgomery, New Orleans, Charleston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Savannah, Columbus, Richmond, Memphis, and Louisville. No proposals in response to this advertisement were received from any establishment in the then Confederate States. The only proposals made in answer to this advertisement were one from Richmond and one from Baltimore proposing to furnish lithographed stamps. The proposition from Baltimore was regarded as most favourable, both on account of the style of the work proposed to be done and the terms on which the supplies were proposed to be furnished. But the collision between the citizens of that city and the Federal troops on the 20th April, and consequent suspension of communication with that city, prevented further negotiations on the subject.

It may be of interest to insert here the advertisement referred to before proceeding with the Report. It ran as follows:—

PROPOSALS FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.
MONTGOMERY, *March 27, 1861.*

Sealed proposals will be received at this department until 3 o'clock, p.m., on the 1st day of May next, for furnishing

for the use of the Post-Office in the Confederate States, postage stamps, of the denominations of 2, 5, 10, and 20 cents.

The postage stamps must be perforated around their edges, and well gummed, put up in packages of one hundred sheets each, and delivered to the department free of charge, and in such quantities as may be required to fill the orders of Postmasters.

Proposals are also invited for furnishing strawboard boxes for packing parcels of postage stamps, from 100 to 500 sheets each, and for tin boxes of equal capacity, to be delivered at the department. The dies for embossing the postage stamps are to be executed in the best style, and they are to be provided, renewed, and kept in order at the expense of the contractor.

Bond and security will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, and payment will be made quarterly.

Each bidder must submit samples of the postage stamps proposed to be furnished, and also furnish evidence of his ability to comply with his bid. The price, quality of samples, and sufficiency of the bidder, will be considered together in awarding the contract, and the Postmaster-General reserves to himself the right to annul it whenever he shall discover that the same, or any part of it, is offered for sale in the market for the purpose of speculation, and he will in no case sanction a transfer of the contract to any party who shall be, in his opinion, less able and qualified than the original bidder or contractor.

The right is also reserved to annul the contract for a failure to perform faithfully any of its stipulations.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st of July next for the delivery of supplies.

The bids should be marked "Proposals for Postage Stamps", and addressed "Chief of Finance Bureau", Post-Office Department, Montgomery, Alabama.

JOHN H. REAGAN. *Postmaster-General.*

April. 2-6.

The Postmaster-General's Report goes on to relate further efforts of the Department to obtain postage stamps, after the failure of the above advertisement :—

A skilful engraver, not a citizen of the Confederate States, visited Montgomery early in May for the purpose of entering into a contract to furnish stamps and stamped envelopes, to be executed in the highest style of art. When there, it became manifest that the condition of affairs between the United States and our Government would interrupt the delivery of these articles from the place at which he proposed to manufacture them. He then entered into an agreement to make the stamps in the Confederate States, subject to the contingency of his being prevented from introducing the necessary machinery by hostilities between the two Governments. In June the Department received notice from him that it would be out of his power to introduce the machinery and fulfil his agreement.

In July, a confidential agent was employed by the Department to procure the making of the required steel dies and plates for postage stamps, and to furnish them to the Department as soon as they could be prepared ; and also, if found practicable, to have the stamps made and furnished ready for use.

After receiving some encouragement, and after the work of making steel dies had commenced, circumstances rendered the discontinuance of the work by the manufacturer necessary. And our agent then made an effort, at another point, to procure lithographed stamps of a superior style, and after some delay it became necessary to abandon that effort to supply the Department. This brought us to September. And in the meantime an extensive correspondence was kept up by the Department, and has been steadily persevered in up to this time, with persons in various cities in the Confederate States, and indeed with every person who was represented to the Department as an engraver, who might execute the work desired. Urged by the wants of the public, the Department was induced, as a temporary expedient, to make arrangements with a lithographic establishment in this city for the manufacture of lithographed

stamps. Unexpected delay, however, occurred in the preparation of them ; and after the completion of the plates, the supplies furnished to the Department were so insufficient to meet the demand for them, and the prices charged so exorbitant, as compared with the cost of the superior steel-plate impressions in use in the United States and other Governments, that a special agent was dispatched on the 27th of October, to Charleston, S.C., and Savannah, Ga., for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of having stamps printed there on more favourable terms, and in quantities equal to the public demand. This agent returned to the Department November 4th, and reported that the engravers of those cities would submit estimates to the Department as soon as they could ascertain the cost of machinery and paper. I have just received a letter from Charleston submitting a proposal for furnishing stamps, but stating that it would require at least ninety days for the preparation of the necessary machinery and plates.

This engraver proposes to furnish the stamps gummed, but not perforated, at a cost of one dollar per thousand, the paper to be furnished by the Department, whereas the United States Government paid but eighteen cents per thousand stamps, gummed, perforated, and put up in tin and paper boxes and envelopes, without extra charge for paper and boxes and envelopes.

The engraver in Savannah, under date of 21st of November, states that it will require sixty days to prepare the plates for printing each denomination, and the delivery of 400,000 stamps, and that with his present force he can only furnish 80,000 stamps daily. The estimated number required for daily use is about 260,000. In the meantime, on the first day of October, a confidential agent was provided with ample means, and dispatched to Europe to procure the manufacture of steel dies and plates for printing stamps of the several denominations provided by law, and for procuring for use, as soon as practicable, fifteen millions of stamps, and to forward the dies, plates and stamps to this city. The small supplies now being received from the contractors in this city only serve to increase the public discontent, as they are insufficient to meet the demands of even the principal cities.

It is a fact well established by the experience of other Governments and of bankers generally, that impressions taken from skilfully-prepared steel dies and plates are the only safeguard against counterfeiting, and the Department has been very reluctant to adopt any other character of postage stamps.

The Department has received several propositions from persons professing a knowledge of the art of engraving and preparing stamps, but correspondence and investigation have shown that they had neither the required skill and the knowledge for this purpose, nor the means of furnishing the stamps, and were ignorant of the requirements for the preparation of them. When prepared and supplied as they should be, to all offices, they will represent the entire revenues of the Department.

There is a popular delusion resting on the minds of many that almost any kind of engraving will answer for postage stamps, and in support of this opinion, reference is frequently made to the fact that postmasters of different cities and towns have procured stamps for their offices. These are made upon wood, or stone, or lead, or are electrotyped. Stamps prepared by either of these modes can be counterfeited with great facility by a mere tyro in the art of engraving, and the Department could not risk its revenues on such slender security without disregarding the public interest.



CHAPTER II. Issue of 1861.



THE Postmaster-General, in his Report quoted in the preceding Chapter, stated that "as a temporary expedient" he had made "arrangements with a lithographic establishment in this city", *viz.* Richmond, "for the manufacture of lithographed stamps". This establishment belonged to the firm of Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, who supplied the Confederate Government with postage stamps for over a year, but in such unsatisfactory quantities that recourse had to be had to England for supplies of stamps and plates.

Naturally, the values most in demand were 5 cents and 10 cents, which were the amounts for prepayment of postage on letters. The stamps issued by Postmasters were nearly all of one or other of these two denominations, 2 cents stamps only being required for drop letters and certain classes of printed matter.

The printers had great difficulty in obtaining ink and paper for printing the stamps, and Mr. Corwin tells us that "foreseeing a speedy closing of their sources of supply, the Confederate Government contracted for, and ultimately received, an enormous supply of paper and envelopes of all sorts sufficient for the use of several years". His account of the smuggling in of these materials follows :—

This stationery was sold by a certain well-known citizen of New York to Mr. Joel White, a stationer of Montgomery, Ala. It was delivered at a certain point in Kentucky, whence Mr. White transported it within the Confederate lines. Ultimately this supply was taken to Richmond, when the seat of Government was removed thither upon May 20, 1861, and there was enough of it to fill a large wareroom 100 feet by 60. It was this paper that was employed in the manufacture of the lithographed stamps, and some of the engraved stamps as well. The ink employed came at first from the North, and was run through the blockade *viâ* Baltimore and Washington. When the United States authorities about these cities became more vigilant, it came in by sea, mostly by way of Charleston, S.C.

There has been some doubt about the exact date of this first issue of Confederate stamps. It has always been agreed that the 5 cents was the first to appear. Major E. B. Evans, in the course of his able article on these stamps,* quotes an extract from the *Richmond Examiner* of October 19, 1861, which seemed to

* *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, Vols. II. and III.

point to October 18, 1861, as the date of issue of the 5 cents. Mr. James Lewis Howe has, however, quite recently† published extracts from Richmond newspapers which clearly show that the actual date of issue of the 5 cents was October 16, 1861, and which we quote below.

The Postmaster-General's Report, dated November 27, 1861, contains the following paragraph :—

The first delivery of postage stamps by the contractors was made on the 15th of October last, and since that date only 1,430,700 stamps have been received, all of which have been issued by this Bureau to Post Offices near which large bodies of troops have been situated, with a view to their special accommodation.

The extracts from Richmond newspapers quoted by Mr. Howe are as follows :—

Richmond Dispatch, Tuesday, October 15th, 1861.

The New Postage Stamp.—The lithographic printers are busily striking off impressions of the new five-cent postage stamp for the Government, and a quantity will be ready for distribution in a very short time.

Richmond Examiner, Wednesday, October 16th, 1861.

Postage Stamps.—Sale of the new Confederate postage stamps will commence to-day at the Richmond post-office. They are quite handsomely gotten up, are of a green colour, and are ornamented with a likeness of President Davis. They will prove of great convenience to the public.

Richmond Dispatch, Thursday, October 17th, 1861.

The New Postage Stamp.—A very large number of the new Confederate postage stamps were disposed of yesterday (October 16) at the Richmond post-office. Their introduction supplies a want which has heretofore seriously taxed the public endurance. The stamps are of the size of those in use by the old U.S. Government, are colored green, and ornamented with a very excellent bust of President Davis. Messrs. Hoyer and Ludwig, of this city, have the credit of supplying the Government with these needed articles.

†*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, Vol. XXIV., p. 442.

The exact date of issue of the 10 cents is not known, but may probably be correctly stated as November, 1861.

The 5 cents bears a portrait of President Jefferson Davis within an oval, inside the upper part of which and following the curve are the words "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA" in very small uncoloured capitals; on a curved ornamental tablet conforming to the top of the oval is "POSTAGE" in uncoloured capitals; the value "FIVE CENTS" appears below the oval on solid ground; and the design is filled out at the corners by ornamentation. The colour is green and presents a great range of shades.

The 10 cents also shews a portrait within a circular band; the portrait is probably of Thomas Jefferson, and was copied from the United States 5 cents of 1856, but Colonel H. St. George Offutt, who was First Assistant Postmaster-General and Chief of the Contract Bureau, in an interesting letter published in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* (Vol. V. p. 113) states that it "was designed for James Madison, but the artist made a caricature of it". The circular band contains a small uncoloured label at top inscribed "CONFEDERATE STATES" and a similar one at bottom inscribed "OF AMERICA", and is filled in with ornamentation comprising a series of spike-shaped ornaments. A straight coloured tablet at the top of the design bears "POSTAGE" with a five-pointed star before and after, and a similar tablet at the bottom is inscribed "TEN CENTS"; the figures "10" appear in each of the spandrels. The colour is blue, which in this issue is always fairly deep, though varying considerably in shade.

The size of the sheets is not known definitely, but they contained in all probability 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10. There was a marginal inscription in the bottom margin of the sheet, reading "LITH. OF HOYER & LUDWIG, RICHMOND, VA.": on the sheets of the 5 cents this inscription was in upright *sans-serif* capitals, on the sheets of the 10 cents in small italic *sans-serif* capitals. The stamp immediately above the beginning of the marginal inscription on the 10 cents sheets exhibits a curious flaw-variety, one of the spike-shaped ornaments on the right side of the circular band being uncoloured instead of solid.

These stamps were issued imperforate, but both values are known unofficially rouletted.

The Report of the Postmaster-General, dated February 28, 1862, gives the following information with regard to the quantities printed:—

The first postage stamps were delivered to the Department, under the contract by which it is now supplied, on the 15th of October, 1861.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Since then 9,289,400 five-cent stamps have been received, | |
| equal to | \$464,470.00 |
| And 902,100 ten-cent stamps, | 90,210.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Making in all, 10,191,500, | \$554,680.00 |
|----------------------------|--------------|

These stamps have been distributed to such Post Offices as were in the vicinity of military encampments, to the large cities, and to such of the principal and smaller towns as the number furnished by the printer has enabled the Department to supply.

As the 5 cents and 10 cents in new colours have always been considered as having been issued about February, 1862, the above figures may be taken to be approximately the quantities of the 5 cents, green, and

10 cents, blue, supplied by the contractors, always excepting, of course, the quantity of the 10 cents re-issued in blue some months later, with which we deal in Chapter IV.

There is a rather dangerous forgery of the 5 cents to be met with. It is quite a close copy of the genuine, and might well deceive an inexperienced collector. The impression is too well done, and much clearer than the genuine. In each of the lower corners of the design there is a scroll ornament which terminates in a ball. In the genuine the ball in the right lower corner is flattened at the base, whilst in the forgery this ball is practically circular. Besides having been printed in the colour of the genuine, green, this forgery may be met with in red, in which colour the stamp had no genuine existence.



CHAPTER III.

Issue of 1862 (February).

The London-Printed 1 Cent and 5 Cents.



As we have already seen from the official documents quoted above, the Confederate Post-Office Department was much troubled by the inadequacy of the supplies of postage stamps delivered by the contractors, Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond. The Report of the Postmaster-General, dated November 27, 1861, relates how a confidential agent was despatched on the 1st October to Europe with instructions to procure the manufacture of steel dies and plates, and a large supply

of fifteen million printed stamps, and to forward the dies, plates, and stamps to Richmond. The agent in question was one Benjamin Ficklin, who was engaged in the hazardous, but lucrative, occupation of blockade-running. Ficklin procured the stamps from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. of London.

These stamps, which included only two values, 1 cent and 5 cents, bear evidence on their face of hurried designing and production. They were surface-printed. The frame-design, which is the same for both values, comprises the words "CONFEDERATE STATES" at the top in uncoloured lettering on solid ground, and the value in words below. The spandrels contain slight conventional ornamentation on uncoloured ground. The whole is surrounded by a thin outer line. The portrait on the 1 cent is of John C. Calhoun, and that on the 5 cents of President Jefferson Davis. The colour of the 1 cent is orange, that of the 5 cents blue.

The sheets of both values contained 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10. The paper is thin and highly surfaced; the gum is colourless. These stamps were not perforated.



The Report of the Postmaster-General dated February 28, 1862, states that "the Department, however, has just received from Europe, under the order referred to in my last Report, two million one hundred and fifty thousand (2,150,000) five cent stamps, equal to one hundred and seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$107,500)". Evidently no 1 cent stamps, nor plates, had been received with this consignment. We may, therefore, place the date of issue of the De La Rue 5 cents as February, 1862. At the time the order for stamps had been given to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., there was a 1 cent rate, namely, for newspapers, circulars, and printed matter posted for delivery only by the same office. This rate must have been increased, like the letter-rate, about July, 1862, as by the time the 1 cent stamp was delivered in the Confederate States, there was no 1 cent rate, and the stamps were never brought into use. Communications with Europe were, of course, very difficult and liable to interruption by Federal warships, and evidence clearly proves that several consignments of stamps from De La Rue & Co. were captured or destroyed on the high seas. But for the exigencies of the war, and the loss of some of the early consignments of stamps, some 1 cent stamps would have arrived in time to be used for prepaying the original rate. Colonel Offutt, who was essentially in a position to know the true facts of the case, denies that they were ever issued, in a letter published in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* (Vol. V., p. 114), from which we take the following extract :—

The 1c. stamps, that were never issued or used by the Confederate States Government, were carried, with the other effects and archives of the department, as far as Chester, South Carolina, during the evacuation of Richmond, and, together with a small amount of other denominations, were placed by me in the custody of the United States Government at the time of my parole, subsequently to the surrender of all the Confederate States forces. The 1c. stamp was printed by De La Rue & Co., London, and they retained in their keeping the original dies from which the "electrotype plates" were prepared. I think that at least three plates, and about the nominal value of 400,000 dols. of printed stamps, ready for use (among which were some of the 1c.) were shipped by De La Rue & Co. on a vessel that was captured by the United States off the port of Wilmington, North Carolina, and the agent of the department threw the plates overboard; the stamps were captured, but what disposition was made of them I never knew. These plates were never recovered, but subsequently one plate, denomination 5c., and one plate, denomination 1c., were successfully shipped to Richmond, and were, with some other matters (the printing press from the same London house being among them) sent southward, prior to the evacuation of Richmond, in charge of a special agent, with a view to their safety in the event of that city being captured; but what became of them I do not know.

In an earlier letter, published in the same number, Colonel Offutt states that the 1 cent stamp "was so imperfectly printed, that they were never issued or used, and in a short time after their reception from England the rate of postage was changed, so that that denomination became obsolete". It is therefore possible that supplies had been received before the alteration of the postal rates.

In the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* (Vol. XII., p. 45) for March, 1874, Mr. C. H. Coster describes what he considers to be impressions from plates made from three states of the original die of the 1 cent.

Subsequent writers are quite agreed that this view is erroneous, and that the differences noted merely arise from the varying quality of the printing.

Proofs in black of both values are included in the Tapling Collection.

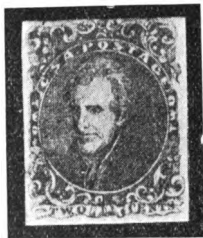
The 1 cent is known with forged perforation 13.

A forgery of the 1 cent is described in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* (Vol. IV., p. 190), the letters of "CONFEDERATE" being stated to be crowded, so that the letter "D" of that word is compressed.



CHAPTER IV.

Issue of 1862 (February and March).
Changes of Colour and a New Value, 2 Cents.



ALTHOUGH consignments of 1 cent and 5 cents stamps were received from Europe, Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig continued to supply lithographed stamps to the Government during the year 1862.

For some reason, several colour-changes in the stamps were made by that firm. The 5 cents and 10 cents were issued about the same date, in February, 1862, in blue and rose respectively, instead of in green and blue. Later, about June or July, the 10 cents was reissued in blue. The best, and pro-

bably the correct, theory as to the reason for these changes is that of Major Evans in his article already referred to (*Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, Vol. II., p. 392)* :—

A 5 cents, *blue*, having been received from England, it would be natural enough to use *green* for the 2 cents, and when the first English supply was exhausted, and the lithographic stone of the 5 cents was again brought into use, it would be equally natural to print stamps from it in *blue*—both because that was the colour of what was to be the permanent issue of that value, and because there was another value being printed in green.

I think we may safely assume that the colour of the 10 cents was changed at the same time, so as to avoid having two stamps of about the same size printed in the same colour. Later still, when a further supply of the small 5 cents was received, together perhaps with a plate for printing them from, it would be safe to return to *blue* for the 10 cents, because the difference in size, and in the general appearance of the two stamps, was sufficient to prevent confusion.

Undoubtedly Hoyer & Ludwig were continuously printing the lithographed 5 cents, and did not wait for the exhaustion of the stock of the London-printed stamps.

The same stones were, of course, used as for the stamps in their original colours, and the remarks as to the size of sheets, marginal inscriptions, and the flaw on the 10 cents stone, equally apply to this issue. The blue colour of the 5 cents exhibits very numerous shades. The 5 cents is also known rouletted unofficially.

* We think that the official documents seem to prove that the first consignment of De La Rue 5 cents stamps was not received until quite late in February, 1862; the change of colour in the lithographed 5 cents would seem to have taken place before that date. No doubt the authorities knew what colour Messrs. De La Rue were using for their stamps.

Ever since the Confederate Post-Office Department had commenced its operations, there had been a need for 2 cents stamps, namely, for prepaying the rate on drop letters, and also the rate for newspapers and printed matter not weighing more than 3 oz. The Postmaster-General, in his Report, dated February 28, 1862, tells us that "two cent stamps have been very much needed, and it is believed that the Department will be able to supply them soon". This value was probably issued some time in March, 1862, but the exact date is not known. It cannot have been issued in 1861, as stated by some writers.

The design depicts a portrait of Andrew Jackson within a circle: a solid tablet, conforming to the upper curve of the circle, is inscribed "CSA POSTAGE": at each side of the circle the word "TWO" appears with the top of the letters next to the circle: and an uncoloured ribbon at the bottom of the design bears the value, "TWO CENTS", in words. The design is filled in with elaborate ornamentation. The colour of this value is green, and varies little.

The size of the sheets is not known, but they probably contained 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10. There is no evidence of any marginal inscription. They were issued imperforate.

These 2 cents stamps were in use until June, 1863, but there was no large demand for them apparently. The quantities supplied to postmasters from July 1, 1862, to June 30, 1863, amounted to only 557,200 (value \$11,144.00). These were probably nearly all lithographed stamps, but the quantities issued from March, 1862, to July 1, 1862, are not known.

As we have already stated, the 10 cents was re-

issued in blue about June, 1862. This accounts for the scarcity of the 10 cents rose, which was only in use for some four months, and was superseded by the re-issued blue 10 cents before July 1, 1862, when the 10 cents letter-rate came into force.

The reissue may be recognised by the paler and brighter shade of blue in which it was printed, and also by the evidence of wear of the stone.

In 1912 the *Philatelic Gazette* (New York, Vol. II., p. 345) reported the discovery of a sheet or portion of a sheet of this 10 cents lithographed stamp bearing the imprint of a firm not hitherto known to have been associated with the production of stamps for the Confederacy, "J. T. Paterson & Co., Augusta, Ga." We have not seen this sheet, but Major Evans has had the opportunity (through the courtesy of the Nassau Stamp Co. of New York) of examining a full-sized photograph of it, and his description of it and comments thereon, published in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Vol. XX., p. 273), may be quoted :—

It is manifestly either a complete sheet or pane, or the lower portion of one, containing fifty stamps, in five horizontal rows of ten, with a margin at each side and at bottom, but cut close at top. In the lower margin, under the fifth and sixth stamps in the row, is the imprint "J. T. Paterson & Co., Augusta, Ga.," in ordinary type. The spacing of the stamps is not quite regular, and is much the same as that of pairs and blocks in our own possession, but the sheet is not printed from the stone that produced the stamps with the imprint of Hoyer and Ludwig, and we cannot trace in it any of the flaws that exist in most of our own specimens. The probability is that if any of the stamps of this Augusta edition were issued at all they were in use but a short time before the war was over. We gather that Messrs. J. T. Paterson and Co. are known to have done printing work for the Confederate Government, so it is possible that they were employed to print stamps also, and if we knew more about the details of the final movements of the authorities, we

might be able to say at what date this was likely to have taken place. We know that when it was impossible any longer to print the stamps at Richmond, the plates first used there by Archer and Daly were transferred to Columbia. We must suppose that the original dies of the lithographed stamps were preserved by the authorities, and that this 10c. die was handed over to the printers at Augusta, perhaps when it became unsafe to continue printing at Columbia—or in preparation for that contingency. It is not unlikely that Messrs. Paterson and Co. were unable to print the stamps by the copper-plate process, and that therefore lithography was again resorted to. Whether there is any possibility of distinguishing single copies of the Augusta edition from those of the Richmond printings is another question. We know that, besides the first printing in *blue* and the one in *red* (both from the Hoyer and Ludwig stone), there was a second printing in *blue*; but the varieties recognized by Mr. Corwin twenty years ago were probably all printed at Richmond, as he found a specimen of his second impression in *blue* used as early as August, 1862, and the differences he described seemed to indicate impressions from a new and from a worn stone, rather than from two different stones as he suggested. The Augusta sheet is, as we have stated, not printed from the Richmond stone, and it does not show any of the signs of deterioration described by Mr. Corwin. We should much like to hear the result of a comparison of this sheet with some of the collections of Confederate stamps in the United States, as there appear to be flaws in some of the stamps by which they could be identified, and the discovery of genuinely used copies of impressions from this stone would settle the question of the actual issue of an edition of this stamp printed by Messrs. Paterson and Co. at Augusta.

The forgery of the 5 cents described at the end of the chapter dealing with the 1861 issue may also be found in deep blue. This forgery is so deceptive that a copy has been included even among the genuine 5 cents blue stamps in the Tapping Collection. Forgeries of the 2 cents (sometimes printed in red) and of the 10 cents rose are not infrequently seen, but are too crude to be dangerous.



CHAPTER V.

Issue of 1862 (June?).

The Locally-Printed 5 Cents.

MESSRS. De La Rue & Co. succeeded in shipping at least one plate of the 5 cents stamps to Richmond. The Confederate Post-Office Department had at last found some printers capable of engraving stamp-designs in *taille-douce*, and of producing recess-printed stamps. Messrs. Archer & Daly, of Richmond, contracted to supply the long-sought-for engraved stamps. They were not in a position to supply the new stamps until January, 1863, but while the preparation of the dies and plates was in progress, the 5 cents electrotyped plate was handed over to them. This firm accordingly supplied the Government with typographed 5 cents stamps, Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig still continuing to print lithographed 2 cents and 10 cents; and, for all we know, the latter may have delivered lithographed 5 cents of the 1861 type contemporaneously with the issue of the typographed stamps of that value, but this does not seem probable.

The date of issue of this locally-printed 5 cents stamp has never been definitely known, but has been generally agreed upon as *circa* June-July, 1862.

The size of the sheets, 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10, was, of course, the same as that of the London-printed stamp. The difference between Messrs. De La Rue's and Messrs. Archer & Daly's productions lies chiefly in the impression and in the paper. The local prints are not so clear, but are rougher and usually in a deeper blue: De La Rue's colour was generally a pale greenish blue. The paper of the London prints was always thin and highly surfaced; that used by Archer & Daly varied in substance, but never showed the smoothness and glazed surface of the London paper. These stamps were issued imperforate, except some few sheets of perforated stamps, which will be discussed later.

The Postmaster-General's Reports inform us that the following quantities of 5 cent stamps were supplied to postmasters:—

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| From July 1st, 1862, to June 30th, | | |
| 1863, - - - - - | 37,953,977 | value \$1,897,698.85 |
| From July 1st, 1863, to June 30th, | | |
| 1864, - - - - - | 3,626,600 | value 181,330.00 |
| Total, - - - - - | 41,580,577 | value \$2,079,028.85 |

As June or July, 1862, is usually taken as the date of issue of this stamp it would not be assuming too much to take the above figures as comprising only the locally-printed 5 cents. There may have been further quantities supplied to postmasters after June 30th, 1864, concerning which we have no information, but they were probably not large, as the Confederacy at that time was fast breaking up and the end of the war was near.



CHAPTER VI.
Issue of 1863 (January).
The "Ten Cents".



WE stated in the preceding Chapter that Messrs. Archer & Daly, of Richmond, had agreed to supply postage stamps printed from engraved plates. The value chiefly in demand was the 10 cents, and that was the first value to be prepared. A Mr. Halpin had been engaged by the contractors as a die-engraver, but pending his arrival, Mr. Archer engraved a die for a 10 cents stamp. Mr. Corwin gives us the following account of its production :—

Mr. Archer's speciality was in letter and scroll engraving, while Mr. Halpin excelled as an engraver of vignettes.

Mr. Archer was in the employ of the American Bank Note Company of New York, and was called one of their most expert engravers. He was brought to Richmond for the express purpose of attending to the engraving on steel of the new stamps for the Confederacy, and, inasmuch as Mr. Halpin had not yet arrived, immediately following his appearance there, was provided with the proper utensils and dispatched to a quiet village, where, in a few weeks, he produced the die of the TEN cents blue. The bust of Davis was engraved from a photograph, for which the President gave a special sitting, and was a fine copy of that photograph. Immediately a proof of this stamp was shewn Colonel Offutt, he pronounced it beautiful, which it was, and hastened to submit it to President Davis, who in turn expressed himself as being perfectly satisfied with the work. It chanced, however, that there was present at the interview a department hanger-on by the name of Brown, who condemned the stamp in unmeasured terms.

Notwithstanding the vehement objections of Mr. Brown, it was determined to prepare the stamps for use, the more especially as the soldiers were clamouring for stamps to use as small change, and Hoyer & Ludwig were unable to fully supply the demand.

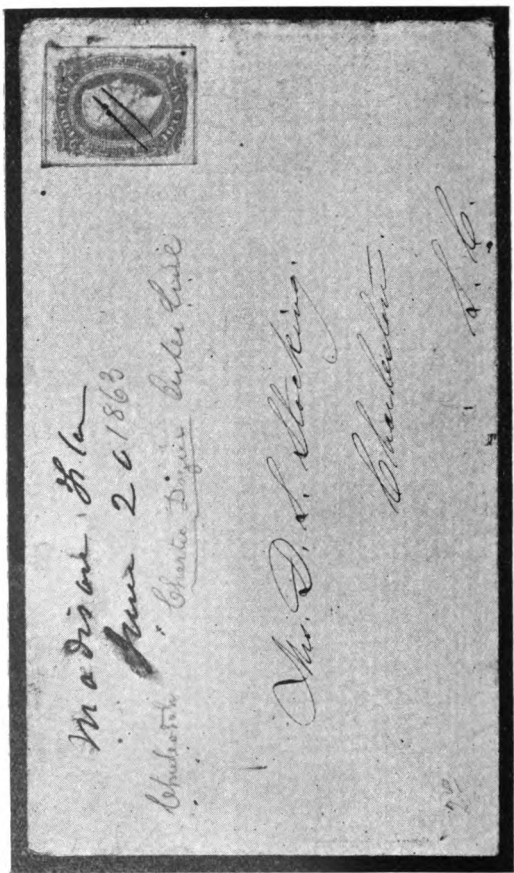
The design shews the head of President Jefferson Davis to right within an oval ; a curved tablet at top is inscribed "POSTAGE" in uncoloured capitals, and a similar tablet at bottom "TEN CENTS"; reading upwards at left is "The Confederate" and downwards at right "States of America" in coloured Gothic letters. The design is completed by ornamental scroll-work. The colour is blue, and varies somewhat in shade.

It is not known how many impressions the plate comprised, nor whether there was any marginal inscription. The plate was probably a small one, and was undoubtedly only temporarily used, as the portrait did not give satisfaction. Colonel Offutt states* that

* *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, Vol. V., p. 114.

“the portrait was not satisfactory, and the plates [*sic*] were only used until the others could be prepared”. Mr. Corwin gave as a reason for its scarcity that the die was split, but any accident to the die would not prevent the plate being utilised. No doubt Colonel Offutt's explanation is the correct one, as his official position enabled him to make an authoritative statement on this point.

The exact date of issue is not known but it was no doubt in use in January, 1863, and may possibly have been issued in December, 1862.



Madison, N. C.

June 26/1863

Charlotte
Charlotte, N. C.

Mr. D. S. Stocking.

Charlotte.

N. C.

The engraved 10 cents, showing the "rectangular frame" or "outer line."



CHAPTER VII.

Issue of 1863 (April).

The Engraved 10 Cents with Rectangular
Frame.



W^E have now to discuss another rarity among the issues of the Confederate States Government, and one concerning which little is known. Mr. Archer's "TEN" cents stamp having been condemned owing to the unsatisfactory portrait, Mr. Halpin was ordered to engrave a new die. This he did, but such was the urgency of the need for stamps of this value that three

plates were constructed from the die before it was quite finished. One of these plates produced the stamp dealt with in the present chapter.

The general outline of the design was similar to that engraved by Mr. Archer, but the portrait was much improved, though it still left much to be desired; the value was inscribed in figures and word "10 CENTS". The partly finished die (from which, as already stated, three plates were made) shewed certain peculiarities: the ornamentation in the corners was unfinished, and on the roller impression taken from the unfinished die there was an uncoloured flaw causing a break in the two horizontal lines of shading in the light band surrounding the portrait oval immediately under the bust and just over the E of "CENTS".

The first plate, as it undoubtedly was, had horizontal and vertical dividing lines between the stamps, no doubt in order to facilitate their separation. These lines appear to have been cut in by hand, after the impressions had been laid down by means of the transfer-roller. The size of the plate is not known, nor is the real reason for its abandonment definitely ascertained.

The flaw, above referred to as one of the characteristics of the unfinished die, was corrected by hand on some stamps on this plate.

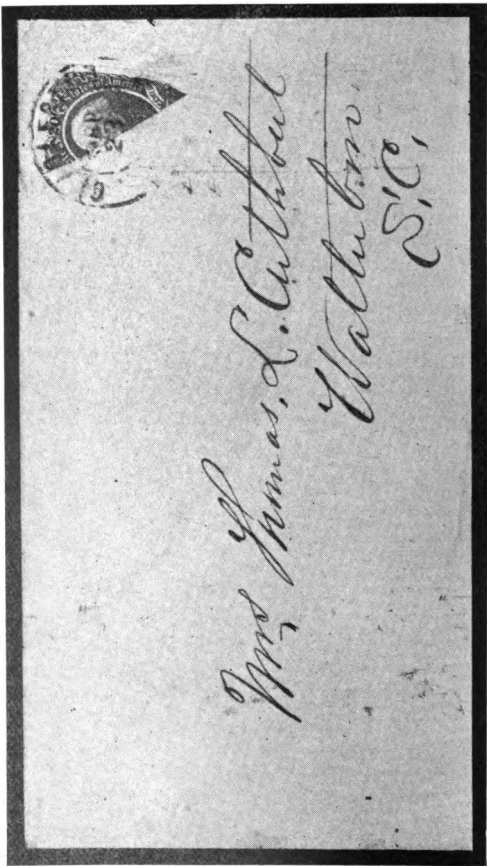
Again the exact date of issue is unknown, but a copy has been found postmarked in April, 1863, which seems a reasonable date to fix as the month of issue.



Die B.



Die A.



20 cents bisected for use as 10 cents.



CHAPTER VIII.

Issue of 1863 (April to June).

The Engraved 2 Cents, 10 Cents, and 20 Cents.



WE now have to deal with an issue of three values, 2 cents, 10 cents and 20 cents, which conveniently fall under one heading, although all three were not issued at one and the same time. The 10 cents was the first to appear, so we will deal with it before the others.

The plate of the 10 cents with rectangular frame, as has been seen, was abandoned early, for what reason does not appear. Four other 10 cent plates were constructed, two from the unfinished die, which we will

call Die A, and two from the finished die, which we will call Die B. Impressions from Die B may be readily recognised by the absence of the flaw under the bust, the completeness of the corners, the re-engraving of the head, and the thin outer line which appears all round the design in clearly printed copies. There are several other points of difference, but these should suffice.

Each of the four plates contained 200 stamps in two panes (placed side by side) of 100, in 10 rows of 10. Each was numbered, plates 1 and 2 being from Die A, and plates 3 and 4 from Die B. At the bottom of each pane was the manufacturers' imprint, preceded or followed by the plate-number. This imprint was originally "*Archer & Daly, Bank-Note Engravers, Richmond, Va.*" in italics with capital initials. Only plate 2 is known with the full inscription, which, on the left pane, begins under the left corner of the pane and is followed by "No. 2", but on the right pane is preceded by "No. 2" and ends in the right corner.

The next stage was with the inscription without the words "*& Daly*", reading "*Archer Bank-Note Engravers, Richmond, Va.*"; plates 1 and 3 are known with this inscription. On plate 1 the arrangement of the plate-numbers and inscriptions is as on plate 2 above described, but on the third plate the "No. 3" appears under the fifth stamp of the bottom row of each pane and is followed by the inscription. The third state of the marginal inscription reads "*Bank-Note Engraver, Richmond, Va.*" only, the name of the firm and the "s" of "*Engravers*" having been erased; plate 4 only is known in this state. On this plate the inscription under each pane commences

under the first stamp of the bottom row and is followed by "No. 4".

In another state the plates are without any marginal inscription, and only shew the plate-numbers. Plates 1, 2, and 4 are known without the marginal inscription, and Major Evans records fragments of plate 3 shewing a space after the plate-number, but not sufficient to prove whether there was a marginal inscription or not. It has not been definitely established whether these were quite early impressions, before the inscriptions were put in at all, or quite late impressions. Major Evans points out that the impressions are not bad, but the gum is brown, and he inclines to the view that they are late, rather than early, printings.*

There has been a good deal of controversy as to which of these four plates, and the two states of the die, was the first manufactured and in use, and to those who wish to study the arguments *pro* and *con*, we recommend a perusal of Major Evans's able article on "The 10 cents, 1863, of the Confederate States".† There can, however, be no doubt as to the correctness of his conclusions that Die A represents the unfinished state of the die, and that, therefore, the plate with the dividing lines and the numbered plates 1 and 2 were produced before plates 3 and 4. Which was actually brought into use first does not seem a very important point, and one difficult of elucidation at the present

*Major Evans' suggestions open up some interesting points regarding these printings. He says, "perhaps Keatinge and Ball removed the inscriptions before the plates were carried further [see Chapter IX.] and printed a final supply from them in this state; or they may have been printed at Augusta".

† *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Vol. VIII., p. 231).

time, but it is fairly clear that impressions from all four numbered plates were being issued together soon after April, 1863, and it is not improbable that they were all issued at the same time.

The other two values, 2 cents and 20 cents, which were issued about June, 1863, do not give rise to so many points of discussion, nor points of such a controversial nature, as the 10 cents.

The 2 cents shews a full-face portrait of Andrew Jackson within an oval: above which in uncoloured capitals appears "POSTAGE": a figure "2" is in each top corner: the value "TWO CENTS" is inscribed below the portrait oval, and the Gothic letters "C" and "S" appear on solid shields in the left and right bottom corners respectively: the design is completed by ornamentation, and is placed upon a background of vertical lines. The colour is rose-red, varying from bright to dull.

The sheets contained 200 stamps in two panes (placed side by side) of 100, in 10 rows of 10, and apparently there was no marginal inscription.

The 20 cents depicts a portrait of Washington within an oval: round the outer curve of which is "The Confederate States of America" in uncoloured Gothic lettering, broken after the word "Confederate" by a shield bearing the coloured numerals "20": a ribbon below the portrait oval is inscribed "POSTAGE TWENTY CENTS": and the design is filled out with ornamentation. The colour is green, varying considerably from dull green to bright yellow-green.

According to a correspondent of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* (Vol. V., p. 158), this stamp was prepared at the time of the raid on Baltimore, and

when it was believed that Washington city had been captured by the Confederates, for which reason Washington's portrait was placed thereon!

The sheets of 20 cents stamps contained 200 stamps in two panes (placed side-by-side) of 100, in 10 rows of 10. Under each pane there was a marginal inscription in Gothic characters reading "Archer & Daly, Richmond, Va."

The dies of both the 2 cents and 20 cents were engraved by Mr. Halpin, and the stamps were printed by Messrs. Archer & Daly. All were issued imperforate, except for a few perforated sheets, to which reference will be made later. The paper varied considerably from thick to thin and semi-transparent. The gum on all the Archer & Daly prints is almost colourless.

Several authentic copies of the 20 cents are known cut in halves diagonally, and each half used as 10 cents. This bisection was evidently quite unauthorised, as witness the following extract from the *Richmond Examiner* for April 20, 1864:—

POSTAGE STAMPS.—From ignorance or other causes a number of letters have been put in the Post-Office boxes with halves of the twenty cent stamps attached to them for postage. These letters go to the dead-letter office. The stamps, of course, cannot be divided to represent different denominations, and the public are requested to take notice of this to save their mail matter from the dead-letter office.

Collectors are warned against *soi-disant* bisects of the 10 cents, although used on entire envelopes and with most convincing postmarks. At the time the engraved 10 cents stamps were in use, there was no 5 cents letter-rate, for, as has been shewn, the letter-rate was raised to 10 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. as from July 1,

1862. Mr. L. W. Crouch has shewn us an envelope addressed to Pleasant Shade, Va., and "franked" with a bisected 10 cents Die B postmarked "Columbus—Apl. 6—1863."

In *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Vol. IV., p. 4) a double impression of the 20 cents is recorded and thus described:—

Our publishers send us a block of 20 cents stamps, the upper row of which shews a partly double impression, which is not very easy to account for. On the forehead of Washington the figures "20" are plainly to be seen, and the face is partly obscured by other portions of the upper part of the design of the stamp; the lower half of the complete stamp is quite clear of any second impression; so that it would seem that only the impression of the top of a row of stamps was accidentally printed upon a clean sheet of paper, or upon a sheet of stamps.

In this issue we find the 10 cents Die A on laid paper. Major Evans recorded the 2 cents, the TEN cents, and the 10 cents Die B on laid paper, but these are now omitted from the catalogues, presumably because it was found that this variety was not a true laid.

At this point we might opportunely discuss the perforated stamps of the Confederate States, as excepting the typographed 5 cents only the three values of this issue were so treated. The engraved 10 cents, both Dies A and B, is not uncommonly found perforated. Mr. C. H. Coster* throws a light on their *raison d'être*. He tells us that "in the early part of the late war, Mr. Offutt (the Assistant Postmaster-General) ordered from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. a perforating machine, and on its arrival in Richmond, he applied it

* *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, Vol. XII., p. 45.



10 cents. Die A. Perforated.

to a few sheets of each value, for the purpose of seeing 'how the thing worked'. Although the department never formally adopted this improvement, a few specimens of the stamps so manipulated appear to have passed through the post-office, and thence to the albums of collectors".



10 cents. Die B. Perforated.

It is said that the first sheets experimented upon were framed and hung upon the walls of the Treasury Offices.

This perforation gauges $12\frac{1}{2}$ holes to the two centimetres, and was applied to the typographed 5 cents (Richmond print) and to the engraved 2 cents, 10 cents and 20 cents. As we have said, the

perforated 10 cents is not uncommon, but the 5 cents is now unknown in this condition, and Major Evans notes the existence of only a single specimen of the 2 cents and the remains of a 20 cents.

Collectors should beware of forged perforations, of which there are many on the market : the only genuine one gauges $12\frac{1}{2}$, the forged perforations gauge $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12, or 13. Mr. Crouch has shewn us an entire bearing two engraved 10 cents Die B, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and on *laid* paper. The stamps are genuine, but the perforations *and* postmarks are fraudulent.

Enterprising individuals and firms used methods of separation, as we have already recorded, when dealing with the lithographed stamps. Both Dies A and B of the engraved 10 cents of the later Columbia printings are known with a rough perforation, apparently done by a sewing-machine. Major Evans has copies of each, used at Forsyth, Ga. They are probably private, or, at any rate, local perforations possibly done by or for the postmaster of Forsyth.

The statistics of this issue are not satisfactory, as no differentiation was made in the Postmaster-General's Reports between the different varieties of the same value.

The number of 2 cents stamps supplied to postmasters from July 1, 1863, to June 30, 1864, is given as 869,200, value \$17,384.00. These were no doubt all engraved stamps.

Of the 10 cents there were supplied the following quantities :—

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| From July 1, 1862, to June 30, | | |
| 1863, | - - - | 10,417,700 value \$1,041,770.00 |
| From July 1, 1863, to June 30, | | |
| 1864, | - - - | 33,450,400 ,, \$3,345,040.00 |

The first year's supply must have included the lithographed 10 cents blue (reissue), the TEN cents, the engraved 10 cents with rectangular frame, and the engraved 10 cents Dies A and B (Richmond print). The quantity supplied during the year 1863-64 must have comprised both Richmond and Columbia prints of the engraved 10 cents. So we can see how useless these figures are to the philatelist.

The figures in the case of the 20 cents are of more assistance. They are given in the Postmaster-General's Report as follows :—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| From July 1, 1862, to June 30, | | | |
| 1863, | - | - | 95,100 value \$19,020.00 |
| From July 1, 1863, to June 30, | | | |
| 1864, | - | - | 1,833,300 .. 366,660 00 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 1,928,400 .. \$385,680.00 |

These statistics shew that the date "1864", so often given as the date of issue of the 20 cents, is incorrect, and that this value must have been issued at least as early as June, 1863. Here again, the quantities supplied during the year 1863-4 probably included some printings by Messrs. Keatinge & Ball.

For anyone desirous of ascertaining the relative scarcity of the stamps of this issue, the above statistics are useless, as we do not know what supplies were distributed after June 30th, 1864, although they were probably not large. But a further point is that there were very extensive remainders of the engraved stamps at the end of the war, which were never distributed to postmasters, and never left the stores of the Post-Office Department.



CHAPTER IX.
Issue of 1864.

The Columbia Printings.

THE year 1864 saw the obvious failure of the Confederate cause. Numbers and wealth were beginning to tell, and in spite of the brilliant leadership of General Lee the Federals were gaining ground even in the Eastern theatre of war. In the West, they were having it all their own way. Lee was tied to the defence of Richmond by the political wire-pullers round Jefferson Davis, and thus cramped he was never able to resist effectively the Federal tide.

From time to time there were moments when everyone expected the fall of Richmond, but the gallant fighting of the Confederate veterans again and again put off the evil day. However, it was considered advisable to remove the Government archives, etc. farther south, and the stamp-printing contract was given to Messrs. Keatinge & Ball, of Columbia, S.C. The plates of all the three engraved stamps were handed over to that firm, but it is not certain that they made printings from the 2 cents plate.

The marginal inscriptions (not the plate-numbers) on

the plates of the 10 cents were partly erased and amended, all four plates bearing the imprint "KEATINGE & BALL, Bank Note Engravers, COLUMBIA, S.C." Messrs. Keatinge & Ball contented themselves with simply erasing from the 20 cents plate the marginal imprint of Messrs. Archer & Daly, and did not substitute a legend of their own.

The characteristics of the stamps printed at Columbia are the roughness of the impression and the thick brown gum. As we have already stated, the gum used by Messrs. Archer & Daly is thin and almost colourless. The colour of the Columbia prints of the 10 cents is usually a dark shade of blue, the majority of the Richmond impressions varying from pale blue to greenish blue. The Columbian 20 cents is in a deep dull green.

Major Evans chronicles the 10 cents Die B on a grey-brown paper, which variety shews the straits to which the printers were reduced in obtaining paper for printing the stamps.

All the plates were destroyed in the fire which devastated Columbia on February 17, 1865, when General Sherman and his Federals occupied the town. This disaster has often been laid to the charge of General Sherman, who held that war cannot be made with kid gloves, and believed in the stern policy that in order to end a war it is necessary to make the civilian population taste its horrors; but the fire was attributed with more justice to the Confederate cavalry under General Wade Hampton setting fire to bales of cotton in the middle of the street in their retreat.



CHAPTER X.

Some Bogus Stamps.

BEFORE closing our history of the postal issues of the Confederate States, it may be interesting to describe some entirely imaginary varieties which made their appearance shortly after the close of the war.

The first is an adaptation of the typographed 5 cents, but with the value altered to "TEN CENTS". This label was lithographed in sheets of 70 in 7 rows of 10. In Major Evans's collection there is an entire sheet with the following inscription on the back:—

This sheet of stamps is presented by The Old Book Store. Is printed from the genuine plate captured at the fall of Atlanta—on Confederate made paper. Stamps of this kind that have passed through the mails are very rare, bringing from \$10 to \$30 each.

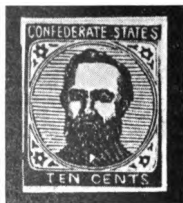
This fraud is known in various shades of blue and ultramarine, and in carmine.

There is another bogus stamp with the frame design of the De La Rue stamps, but with portrait of General Thomas J. Jackson (better known as "Stonewall" Jackson).

The denomination was also 10 cents. In 1868 the philatelic journals were much occupied with this stamp,



and reference to files of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* and other contemporary publications will shew the numerous different stories which were told, in order to explain its existence and to bolster up its genuine character. A certain number of copies were said to have been issued, but accounts vary as to the number, and its supporters are by no means unanimous as to the place of issue, Charleston, Cherau and Athens all being given. The strongest point against this label is that Colonel Offutt definitely denied its existence as a genuine Confederate issue; and no one could speak with better authority. The writers for this label made matters worse by making obviously inaccurate statements as to places, names, and dates. It is known in carmine and in gold.



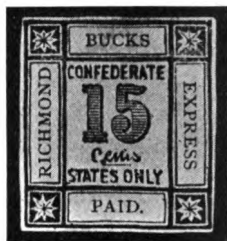
A very plausible story is told by a Richmond correspondent in the April, 1874, number of the *Philatelist* as to a supposed essay of 1861. The design shews a flag in the centre within an oval: the flag consists of three transverse and one upright band, the latter including a circlet of stars: a curved label above bears "C.S.OF A.POSTAGE" in coloured capitals: the value "TEN CENTS" appears below on solid ground, and the figures "10" are inscribed in each top corner. The story went that when the plate for printing this stamp was ready, the Confederate flag was changed to stars and bars, and, as a matter of course, this design



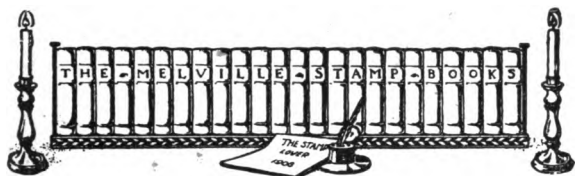
was not issued. A few of these essays were said to have been found among some old papers in a box rescued from the fire which destroyed the postage stamp plates as related in the last chapter. This bogus label was not believed in from the first, and was consigned to the *mythologie timbrologique*.

Some other frauds of the Civil War period were the so-called "blockade" stamps. These labels were typeset. The border was suggestive of a chess-board, and

each corner bore the value "\$1": the inscriptions inside this border read "Blockade—Postage to—Europe.— One Dollar" in four lines, with "CONFEDERATE" above and "STATES, N.A." below. These shams were cancelled with imitation postmarks, purporting to come from Charleston or Wilmington, in order to give them an appearance of reality. They were soon condemned, and are now rarely seen. In a similar category are to be numbered *soi-disant* local stamps for the Charleston Post-Office and Bucks Express, Richmond.



Bogus Stamps.



CHAPTER XI.

Bibliography.

THE Catalogue of the Philatelic Library of the late Earl of Crawford, now deposited at the British Museum, contains the following items of interest to students of stamps of the Confederate States:—

Proclamation by the Postmaster-General of the Confederate States of America, with the new postage acts. *Montgomery, Alabama, May, 1861.*

COLLIN AND CALMAN. Catalogue of the stamps, envelopes and wrappers of the United States of America and of the Confederate States of America. By Henry Collin and Henry L. Calman, with the collaboration of Messrs. John N. Luff and Geo. L. Toppan. *New York, 1900.*

STEVES (A). List of thirty Confederate States [postmasters'] postage stamps. [With photographs.] *San Antonio, Texas [? 1900].*

INDEX TO THE CHIEF PRINTED ARTICLES AND PAPERS IN PHILATELIC PERIODICALS.

ABBREVIATIONS.

- 1.A.J.P.—American Journal of Philately, 1st series.
- 2.A.J.P.—American Journal of Philately, 2nd series.
- Amer. P.—American Philatelist.
- B.E.M.—Bazaar, Exchange and Mart.
- B.S.B.—Boston Stamp Book.

Collector, The—The Collector [R. D. Vroman, Pittsburg, Va., 1905].

M.W.S.N.—Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.

P.G.—Philatelic Gazette [New York].

P.J.A.—Philatelic Journal of America.

S.C.M.—Stamp Collector's Magazine.

S.G.M.J.—Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal.

S.L.—Stamp Lover.

T.P.—Le Timbre Poste.

NOTE.—Roman figures thus—V—denote the volume, and Arabic figures—135—indicate the page. In a few cases the date takes the place of the volume number.

BOGUS STAMPS. 10c, "Stonewall" Jackson [Evans] Amer. P. III., 120; S.C.M. VI., 87, 107. Bucks Richmond Express, S.C.M. III., 61.

EARLY DATES. See POSTMARKS.

ESSAYS. M.W.S.N., Aug. 1, 1895.

FORGERIES. S.C.M. VII., 140.

Vide also Earée's "Album Weeds", 3rd Edition, 1905, I., 279 *et seq.*

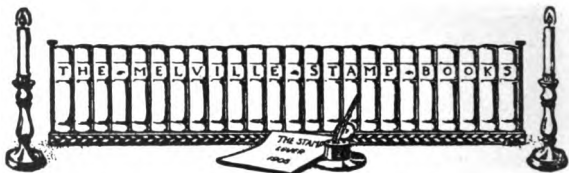
GENERAL. Proposed work by H. E. Deats and J. N. Luff, 2.A.J.P. XII., 261; [Evans] Amer. P. III., 2, 32, 59; S.G.M.J. II., 80, 100, 246, 334, 391, III., 26, 51, 107, 132, X., 80; [Corwin] Amer. P. III., 122; [Crouch] S.L. I., 150; [Scott] 1.A.J.P. IV., 72 *et seq.*

ISSUE OF 1861. 10 cents blue. P.G. II., 345, III., 5; B.E.M., Oct. 2, 1912, 697.

ISSUE OF 1863. 10 cents [J. L. Kilbon] B.S.B. I., 280; [Evans] S.G.M.J. VIII., 231, IX. 39; [Moëns] T.P., June 1898, 87; [Taylor] S.C.M. IV., 31.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. S.G.M.J. VI., 29, IX. 205; S.C.M. V., 113; 1.A.J.P. IV., 25; and see REAGAN, JUDGE JOHN H.

- OFFUTT, H. ST. GEORGE. Correspondence S.C.M. V., 113, VI., 107.
- OVERPRINT "C.S OF A" on U.S. 3 cents pink. P.J.A. XII., 111.
- PERFORATED STAMPS. [Coster] S.C.M. XII., 45.
- POSTAGE RATES. M.W.S.N., Feb. 11, 1905, 42.
- POSTMARKS. Early dates, *The Collector*, March 20, 1905, reprinted, M.W.S.N., April 15, 1905, 128.
- REAGAN, JUDGE JOHN H., Postmaster-General of the Confederate States. Correspondence 2.A.J.P. XI., 524 : S.C.M. V., 113. See also OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.
- ROULETTED STAMPS. M.W.S.N., May 6, 1905, 157 ; 2.A.J.P. X., 43, XII., 243 : Amer. P. III., 63 ; [Coster] S.C.M. XII., 45.
- UNISSUED STAMP. 1 cent, orange [Coster] S.C.M. XII., 45.
- VARIETIES. 20c. double impression S.G.M.J. IV., 4.



CHAPTER XII.

Check List.

1861.—White wove paper. Imperforate. Lithographed by Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va.

October 16, 1861.—5 cents green (Jefferson Davis).
Shades.

Rouletted (unofficially).

November, 1861.—10 cents blue (Thos. Jefferson).
Shades.

Rouletted (unofficially).

1862 (February).—Thin glazed white wove paper. Imperforate. Typographed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London.

February, 1862.—5 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).
Shades.

Prepared for use but never issued.—1 cent orange
(Calhoun).

Shades.

1862 (February and March).—White wove paper. Imperforate. Lithographed by Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va.

March, 1862.—2 cents green (Andrew Jackson).
Shades.

February, 1862.—5 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).
Shades.

Rouletted (unofficially).

10 cents rose (Thomas Jefferson).
Shades.

CHECK LIST.

1862 (June).—White wove paper. Imperforate. Lithographed by Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va. Reissue of 10 cents in blue.

June, 1862.—10 cents pale blue (Thos. Jefferson).
Shades.

White wove paper. Imperforate. Typographed by Messrs. Archer & Daly, Richmond, Va., from plates manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Rough impression and unglazed paper.

June, 1862.—5 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).
Shades.
Perforated 12½.

1862-3.—Lithographed by J. T. Paterson & Co., Augusta, Ga.

10 cents blue (Thomas Jefferson).

1863 (January).—White wove paper. Imperforate. Recess-printed by Messrs. Archer & Daly, Richmond, Va. Engraved by Archer. Value in words, "TEN CENTS".

January, 1863.—10 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).
Shades.

1863 (April).—White wove paper. Imperforate. Recess-printed by Messrs. Archer & Daly, Richmond, Va. Engraved by Halpin. Value in figures and word, "10 CENTS". Die A. Rectangular frame.

April, 1863.—10 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).
Shades.
Flaw corrected.

1863 (April to June).—White wove paper. Imperforate. Recess-printed by Messrs. Archer & Daly, Richmond, Va. Engraved by Halpin. Clear impressions. White or yellowish gum.

June, 1863.—2 cents rose-red (Andrew Jackson).

Shades.

Perforated 12½.

April, 1863.—10 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).

Die A.

Shades.

Laid paper (?)

Perforated 12½.

10 cents blue (Jefferson Davis).

Die B.

Shades.

Perforated 12½.

June, 1863.—20 cents green (Washington).

Shades.

Half used as 10 cents.

Double-printed.

Perforated 12½.

1864.—White wove paper. Imperforate. Recess-printed by Messrs. Keatinge & Ball, Columbia, S.C., from plates manufactured by Messrs. Archer & Daly. Rough impressions. Brown gum.

10 cents blue (Jefferson Davis). Die A.

Shades.

Sewing-machine perforation.

10 cents blue (Jefferson Davis). Die B.

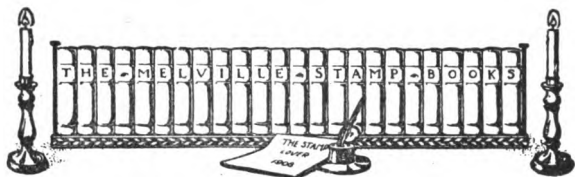
Shades.

On grey-brown paper.

Sewing-machine perforation.

20 cents deep green (Washington).

Shades.



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