



# A COUNTRY DIVIDED: EFFECTS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ON THE MAILS

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## PURPOSE AND APPROACH

- Presents the American Civil War's effects on the divided country's postal system from the perspective of the correspondents – the people who were directly impacted by the military, economic and social consequences of the conflict
- This is not a “routes and rates” exhibit
  - Rather, it illustrates the plight of northern Yankees and southern Rebels as they communicated by mail
  - The story begins with the election of 1860 and concludes with the collapse of the Confederate government in 1865 following Jefferson Davis’ capture
- The narrative follows the chronology, geography and correspondents' reliance on extraordinary measures -- many reflective of earlier times and some never seen before or after -- to maintain channels of communication during the war
- The exhibit is organized into 22 sections

## A. THE POLITICS OF 1860

- Throughout the years leading to the election of 1860, the country grew increasingly divided over the rights of slave owners and the issue of extending slavery to the new western states
- The election splintered the Democratic Party into Northern and Southern factions, led to the formation of a new Constitutional Union Party, and unified the Republican Party that was dominant in the North
- The first section of the exhibit presents campaign envelopes that were used to promote each party's candidates



**Republican Party**  
Abraham Lincoln  
with platform slogans  
in ribbons below  
portrait; US 3¢ 1857,  
24 September 1860

## THE POLITICS OF 1860 (CONT'D)



### Democratic Party

Rare Breckinridge portrait and “Equality of State Rights” campaign label, likely unique tied on cover, 17 October 1860

### Constitutional Union Party

Bell-Everett campaign cover used in New Hampshire, 13 August 1860



## B. UNION AND SECESSION

- On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president with only 40% of the popular vote and virtually no support from the South
  - National focus shifted to whether the South would accept the outcome
- The question was answered a month and a half later, on December 20, when South Carolina passed its Ordinance of Secession and formally left the Union



Cover mailed on **20 December 1860, the date of secession**

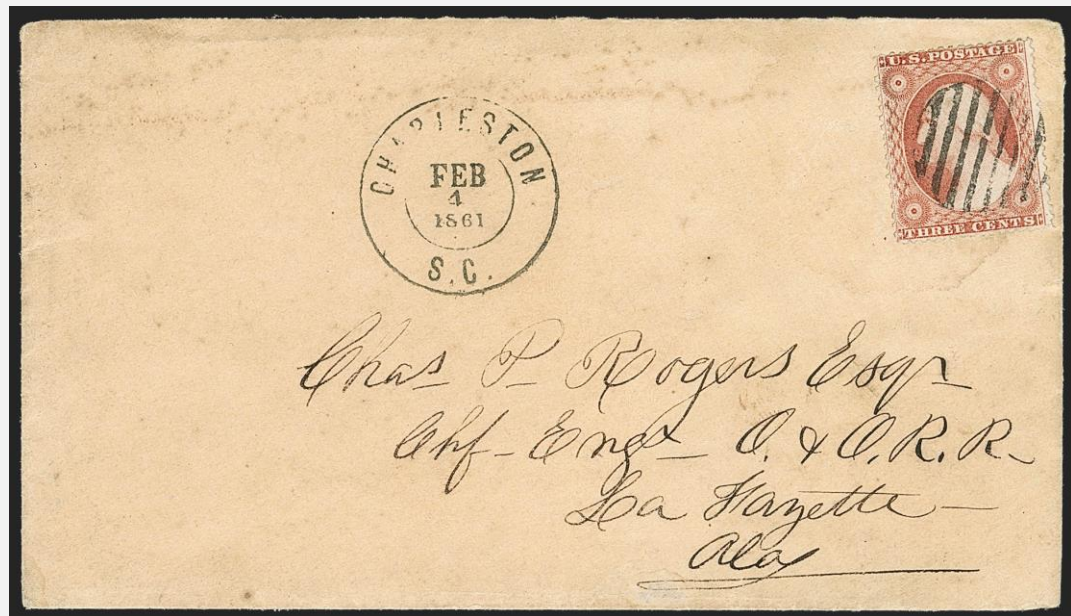
US 3¢ 1857 on 3¢ red star die entire, paying double rate, Charleston SC to Upton MA

## UNION AND SECESSION (CONT'D)

- Six other southern states followed and on February 4, 1861 they formed the Confederate States at the convention held in Montgomery, AL

Cover mailed on **4 February 1861**, the **first day of the Confederacy**

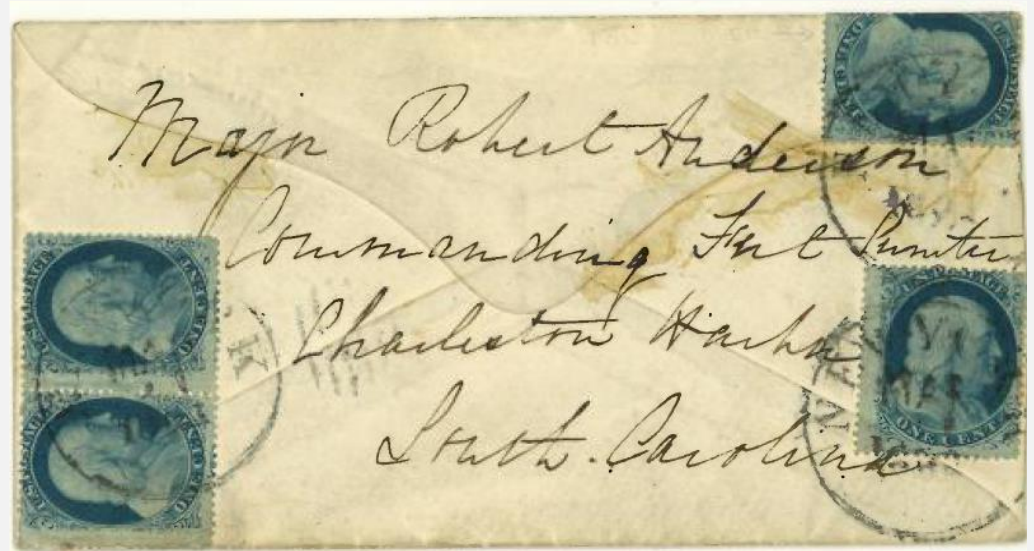
US 3¢ 1857, Charleston SC to Lafayette LA



## UNION AND SECESSION (CONT'D)

- This insurrection led to the Confederate bombardment of Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor on April 12, 1861
  - Confederate shelling continued for 34 hours before the fort was surrendered

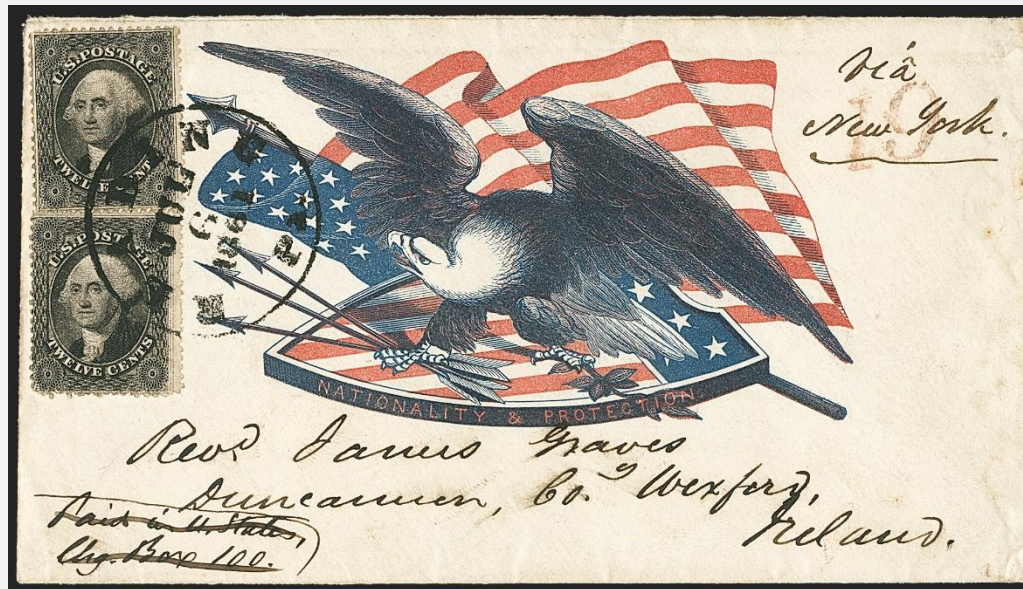
Cover from Lieutenant General Winfield Scott (Commanding General of the US Army) to "Major Robert Anderson, Commanding Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina," 29 March 1861



- US 1¢ 1857 stamps and address were placed over the flaps to prevent opening without detection

## UNION AND SECESSION (CONT'D)

- The commencement of hostilities generated an outpouring of sympathy on both sides
  - By the early months of 1861 and following the surrender of Fort Sumter, the first envelopes printed with patriotic flags and slogans began to appear



Union  
Propaganda  
Cover

- This multicolor design depicting an Eagle, Shield and Flag in support of “Nationality and Protection” originated in Reading, PA, 6 July 1861, and was sent to Ireland



## UNION AND SECESSION (CONT'D)

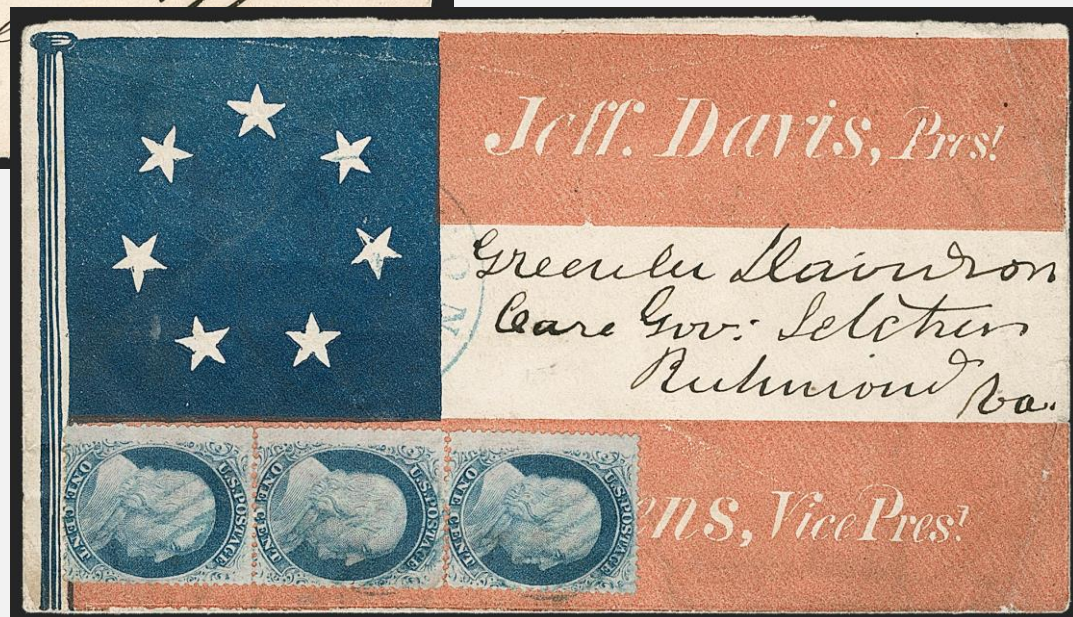
- Confederate Propaganda Covers (CSA use of Union stamps)



7-Star CSA Flag and “Steamer Vicksburg, R. Holmes, Master” steamboat corner card design. Sent from Vicksburg MI to Zanesville OH on 11 April 1861, the day before the attack on Fort Sumter, with US 3¢ 1857, single and pair

This Davis-Stephens flag patriotic cover originated in Lexington VA on 26 May 1861 and was sent to Richmond VA

US 1¢ 1857 type IV, strip of three, within the US postal system that still operated in the South



## C. DISRUPTION OF THE MAILS

- The surrender of Fort Sumter and commencement of hostilities was followed by disruption of the routes used to carry mail between the North and South
  - The US Post Office Department closed the Washington-Richmond route in late May 1861
  - The Louisville-Nashville route was closed in early June 1861
- On May 27, 1861, the US Post Office Department formally suspended postal service in the disloyal Southern states
- As a result, mail between the North and South was carried by private express companies until they were banned in August 1861
  - Flag-of-truce mail exchanges and covert routes were used thereafter
- Union postage stamps were demonetized in both the North and South
- The Confederate postal system commenced formal operations on June 1, 1861

## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILS (CONT'D)

- As early as February 1861, the express companies started carrying more letter mail, apparently at the request of patrons who were concerned about the security of government mails (delays, tampering, intelligence gathering, etc.)



Carried by Adams  
Express

From Atlanta, 16 April  
1861, to New York City

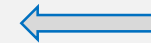
- Express service prior to 15 June is classified as *Precursor Express Mail*, as it precedes the advertised across-the-lines service after closure of the Louisville-Nashville mail route

## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILES (CONT'D)

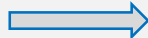
- The CSA postal system officially commenced operation on June 1, 1861
- At this point, all Southern post offices were required to collect CSA postage on mail and remit receipts to the CSA Post Office Department
- Covers show CSA rates of 5¢ for distances up to 500 miles and 10¢ over 500 miles



5¢ rate from Florida  
on the first day of  
CSA postal service



5¢ re-rated to 10¢



## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILES (CONT'D)

- The termination of US mails in the South and the start of the CSA's own postal system left both sides with the need to replace postage stamps used before the war
- The US acted quickly by printing and distributing the new 1861 series and demonetizing all the previous issues
  - Demonetization was intended to ensure that disloyal Southern states could not fund war efforts via sale of stamps to those in the North

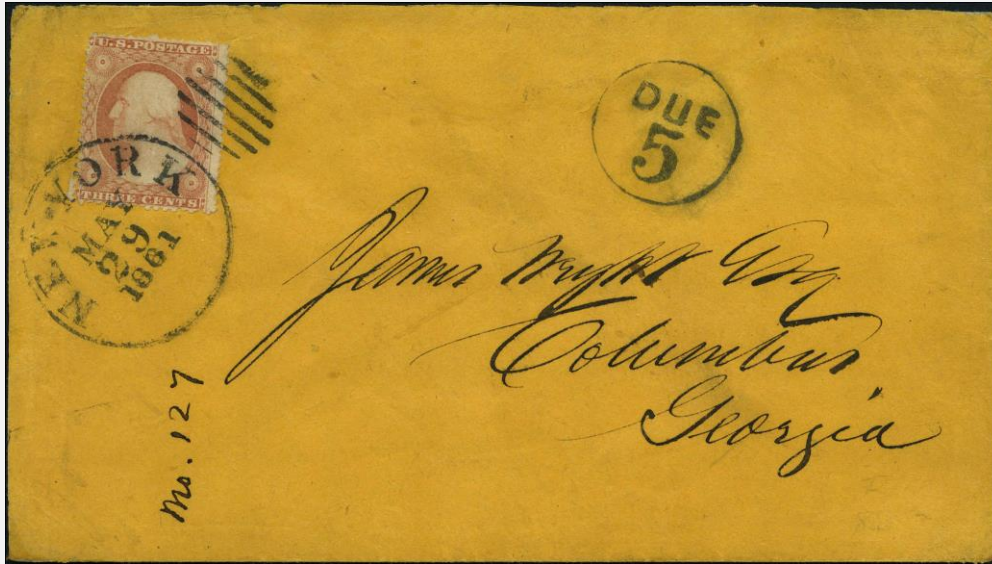


Post offices in several cities used hand-stamped markings to indicate “Old Stamps Not Recognized”

**US Rejection of Old Stamp**  
Harrisburg, PA datestamp with “OLD STAMPS NOT RECOGNIZED” and “DUE 3” handstamps

## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILES (CONT'D)

- In the CSA the attempted use of old US stamps was also disallowed



### CSA Rejection of Old Stamp

The US 3¢ 1857 stamps on these covers were rejected by the CSA post office

**Top cover** -- "DUE 5" in circle for CSA postage under 500 miles (note: postmarked in NY May 29 but arriving on or after June 1)

**Bottom cover** -- "due 10" for CSA postage over 500 miles



## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILS (CONT'D)

- Following the May 27, 1861 suspension of service by the Union Post Office to seceded Southern states, southbound letters were to be sent to the US Dead Letter Office in Washington DC



“Dead Letter Office/P.O. Dpt./Jul 6/1861” double-oval and “DUE 3 cts” straightline handstamps applied at the DLO in Washington

- At the DLO, the diverted mail was opened to ascertain the sender’s address, which was written on the face
- The diverted letters were then postmarked before being returned to the sender and marked for return postage due

## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILES (CONT'D)

- During the period May 24 until the commencement of the CSA post office on June 1, 1861, both intra-CSA and attempted across-the-lines northbound letters were diverted to the CSA Dead Letter Office in Richmond



Confederate use of U.S. postage from Florida, sent to Virginia before the state seceded on April 17

One of 10 known CSA DLO covers and the only one from Florida

- The short period makes CSA DLO covers scarce



## DISRUPTION OF THE MAILES (CONT'D)

- Despite the formal suspension of service, mails from seceded states continued to be carried north via Nashville and Louisville after the commencement of the CSA postal system on June 1, 1861
- Louisville postmaster (Dr. John J. Speed) was instructed to “remove” the stamps and mark the letters unpaid
  - As a practical solution to invalidate postage on the approximate 5,000 accumulated letters, Dr. Speed employed the “SOUTH. LETTER UNPAID” handstamp, usually in combination with the “DUE 3” handstamp and a Louisville datestamp



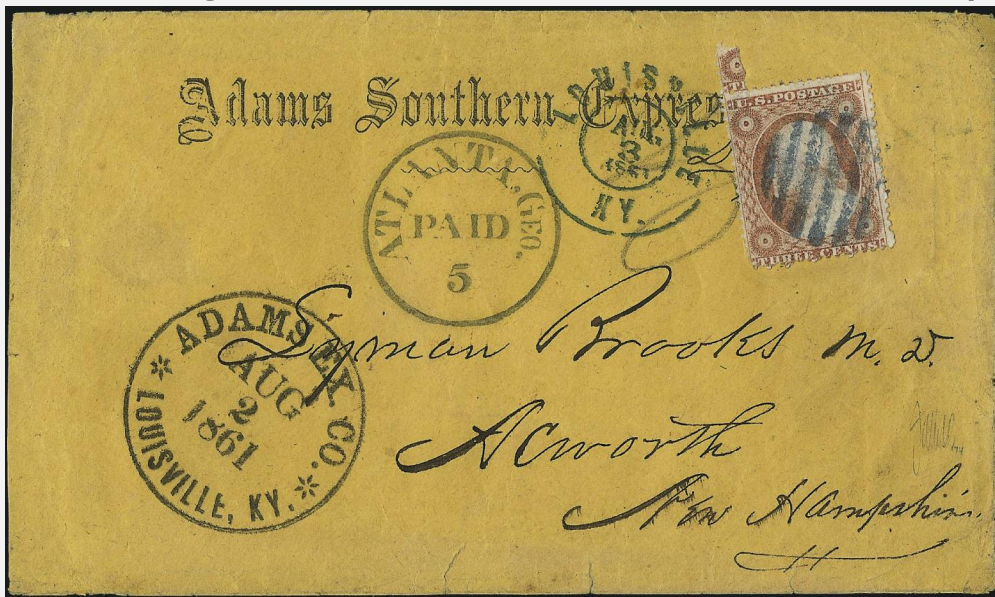
One of two recorded “Southern Letter Unpaid” covers bearing the US 12¢ 1860 issue and one of only five to a foreign destination

## D. ACROSS THE LINES

- After the government mail routes were closed in early June 1861, the transportation of mails across the lines was facilitated exclusively by private express companies
  - Louisville and Nashville served as the primary conduit and the largest operator was the Adams Express Company
- Express company service didn't last long
  - President Lincoln proclaimed on August 16, 1861 that all commercial intercourse between the residents of loyal states and “insurgents” in the South shall be unlawful
  - PG Blair announced on August 26 that the ban applied to mail
- For the duration of the war, across-the-lines mail was facilitated through flag-of-truce exchanges, blockade runners, covert routes and unsanctioned means

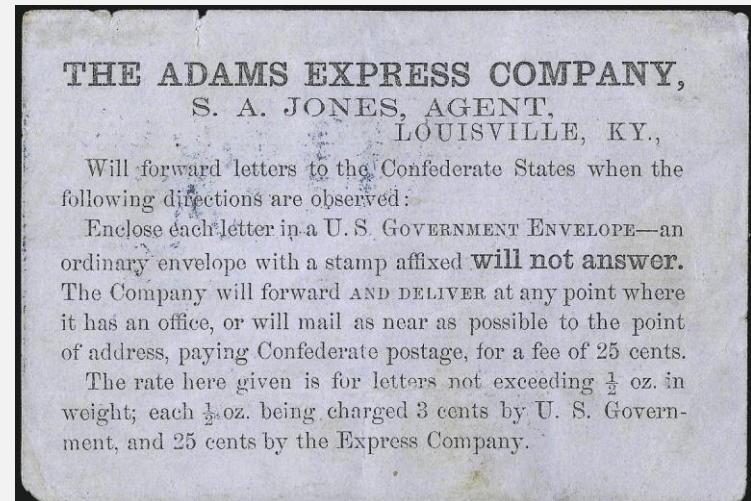
## ACROSS THE LINES (CONT'D)

- “Adams Southern Express” printed envelope with Atlanta postmaster’s provisional handstamp for 5¢ CSA postage to Nashville
  - Carried to Nashville and across the lines to Louisville with Louisville August 2, 1861 datestamp
  - US 3¢ stamp applied by Adams at Louisville and entered US mails on August 3 with blue Louisville datestamp and grid



Label removed from back of cover with instructions for mailing letters across the lines

One of two recorded express covers with the Atlanta postmaster’s provisional



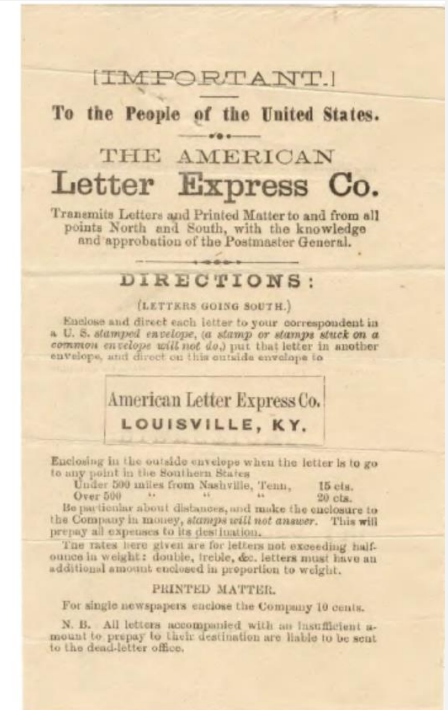
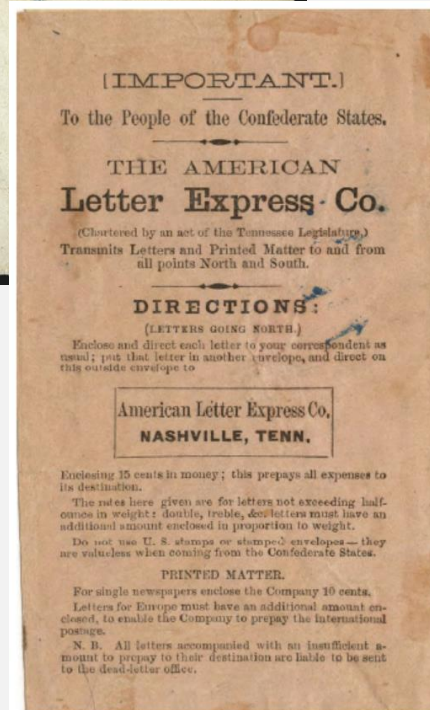
## ACROSS THE LINES (CONT'D)

- US 3¢ Star Die mailed to American Letter Express in Louisville inside another 3¢ envelope



Datestamped 7 July 1861 and carried across the lines to Nashville where it entered the post office

American Letter Express attached instructions to the backs of some express letters. Left, northbound from CSA. Right, southbound from Union



## E. CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE

- The CSA was not prepared to provide postage stamps when it began mail service on June 1, 1861
  - The first CSA General Issue was not ready until October 1861, and throughout the war shortages and disruptions along distribution routes hampered the CSA's ability to keep post offices supplied with stamps
- To meet the need to prepay or collect postage, postmasters used “provisional” means of marking letters, including:
  - Handstamped and written rate markings – reversion to prior methods
  - Other markings applied to envelopes in advance of use
  - Locally-produced adhesive stamps and printed envelopes

## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Reversion to stampless markings: PAID and DUE markings



- Columbia TN, 26 October 1861 with red “PAID 5” and Memphis “DUE 5” for 10¢ over-500 miles rate
  - Pencil “Due 10” suggests 5¢ prepayment ignored

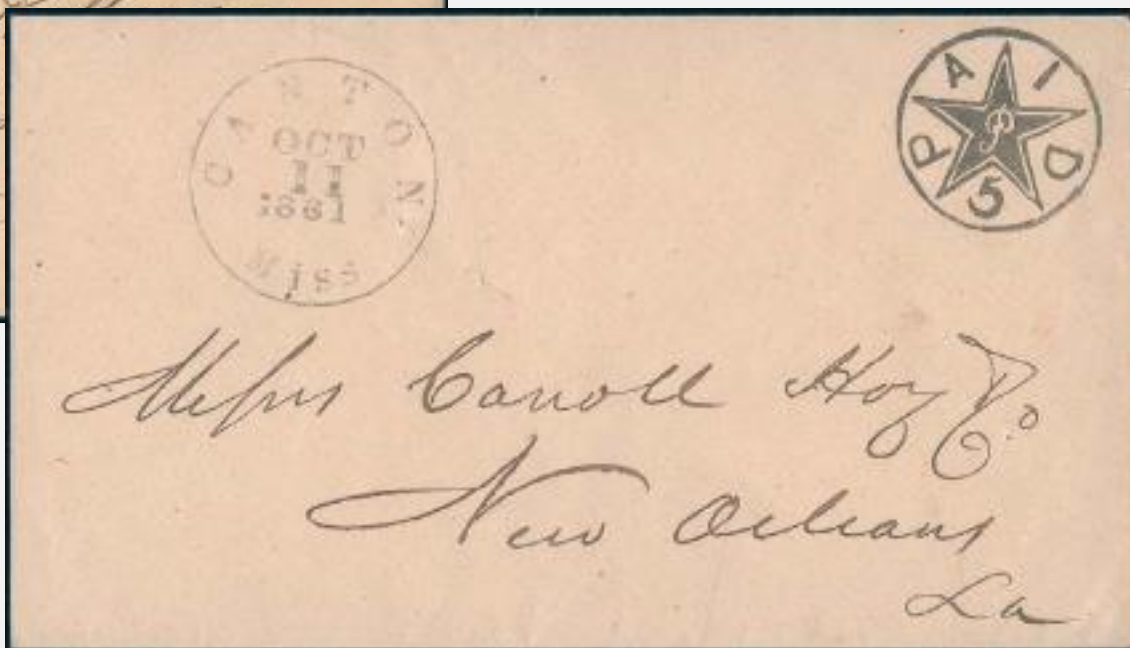
## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Reversion to stampless markings: Provisional markings
  - The post office or postmaster names and initials in these handstamped rate markings are indicative of envelopes prepared in advance of use



“POST OFFICE/SALEM, N.C./  
O.A. KEEHLN, P.M.” in circle  
with “PAID 5” applied  
separately

Canton, MS “PAID 5” in  
Star with “P” for PM  
William Priestly



## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional adhesives:
  - During the antebellum period, Southerners grew accustomed to using high-quality engraved stamps with perforations
  - The Civil War immediately changed that. If adhesive stamps were available, they were crudely printed and lacked perforations
  - Prior to the production of government issues, Postmasters employed a variety of printing methods to create adhesive stamps, including woodcuts, stereotypes (and possibly electrotypes), typeset forms, handstamped markings, and, in a few places, lithography
- My exhibit presents provisional adhesives based on printing method and is not intended to represent a “complete” collection of postmasters provisional stamps
  - Some of the covers in this section of the exhibit are among the most iconic items in American philately



## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional adhesives: Woodcut (Athens, GA)



Athens, GA 5¢ Purple, tête-bêche pair created by work-and-turn printing method, used December 2, 1861 paying 10¢ rate for over 500 miles distance. One of three known

Athens, GA, 5¢ Red Type II recut on March 28, 1862 cover to Macon, GA. One of seven known



## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional adhesives: Stereotype (New Orleans, LA)



New Orleans 2¢ Red,  
Position 37, used on January  
6, 1862 circular rate cover.  
One of ten known

The only recorded cover with both denominations of the New Orleans postmaster's provisional issue and the only recorded provisional adhesive combination with a 2¢ stamp



## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional adhesives: Lithography (Mobile, AL)
- The Mobile, AL 2¢ and 5¢ postmaster's provisionals (Lloyd Bowers, PM) are among the few pictorial stamps issued in the CSA



Agrarian and  
nautical images

- Mobile 5¢ Blue strip of three on August 9, 1861 cover with Walker, Mead & Co.'s belt-shaped corner card paying three times the 5¢ rate for under 500 miles. The only intact strip of three on cover

## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional adhesives: Typeset (Pittsylvania Court House, VA)
  - The close association between postmasters and local newspapers and job printers naturally led to a number of provisional issues that were printed on small printing presses, using loose type arranged in small forms

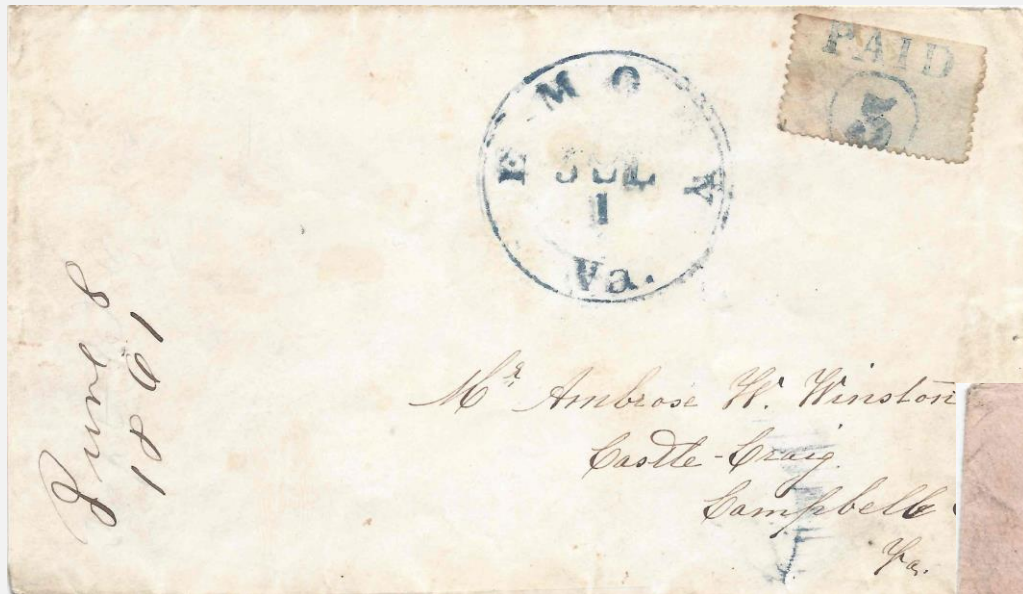


Pittsylvania Court House  
VA 5¢ Dull Red on wove  
paper used 5 November  
1861 on folded letter to  
Williamsburg VA

One of seven known  
covers, of which only three  
are available to collectors  
with a rectangularly cut  
adhesive

## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional adhesives: Other Innovations
  - Confederate postmasters in a very small number of towns prepared adhesive stamps using unique approaches outside of traditional printing methods



The postmaster in Emory VA prepared adhesive stamps by applying handstamp markings to the selvage of the US 1¢ 1857 stamp

The postmaster in Greenwood Depot VA prepared a provisional stamp that was made from laid letter paper to which he applied a manuscript “Ten Cents”



## CSA PROVISIONAL POSTAGE (CONT'D)

- Provisional press-printed envelopes (Lynchburg, VA)
  - Confederate postmasters usually applied a handstamped marking to indicate prepaid postage, but eleven post offices prepared press-printed provisional envelopes



Typeset using  
stock numeral  
and "PAID"

- Lynchburg 5¢ Black on Amber envelope used June 5, 1861 to Richmond
  - Used only four days after commencement of CSA postal system

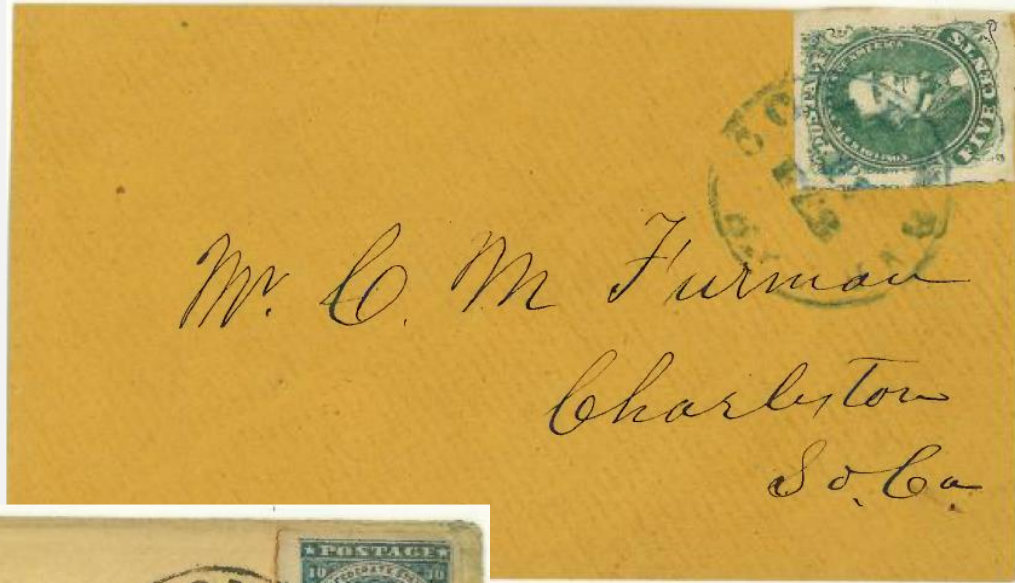
## F. CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES

- The first CSA General Issue was delivered to post offices in October 1861, more than four months after mail service began on June 1
- The first stamps issued were the lithographed 5¢ Green, depicting Jefferson Davis (a living person), and 10¢ Blue, depicting Thomas Jefferson
- These were followed by additional lithographed stamps (including a 2¢ denomination and new colors), the engraved issues (including 2¢, 10¢ and 20¢ denominations), and typographed issues (including 5¢ and an unissued 1¢ denomination)
- Postage rates were:
  - June 1, 1861 to June 30, 1862: 5¢ under 500 miles, 10¢ over
  - Starting July 1, 1862: 10¢ for all distances
  - 2¢ for drop letters, printed matter, and circulars

## CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES (CONT'D)

Before July 1, 1862

5¢ Green, Columbia to  
Charleston, SC, 11  
February 1862, paying  
under 500-mile rate



10¢ Dark Blue, Montgomery  
AL to Col. Tennant Lomax at  
Norfolk, VA, 24 April 1862,  
paying over 500-mile rate



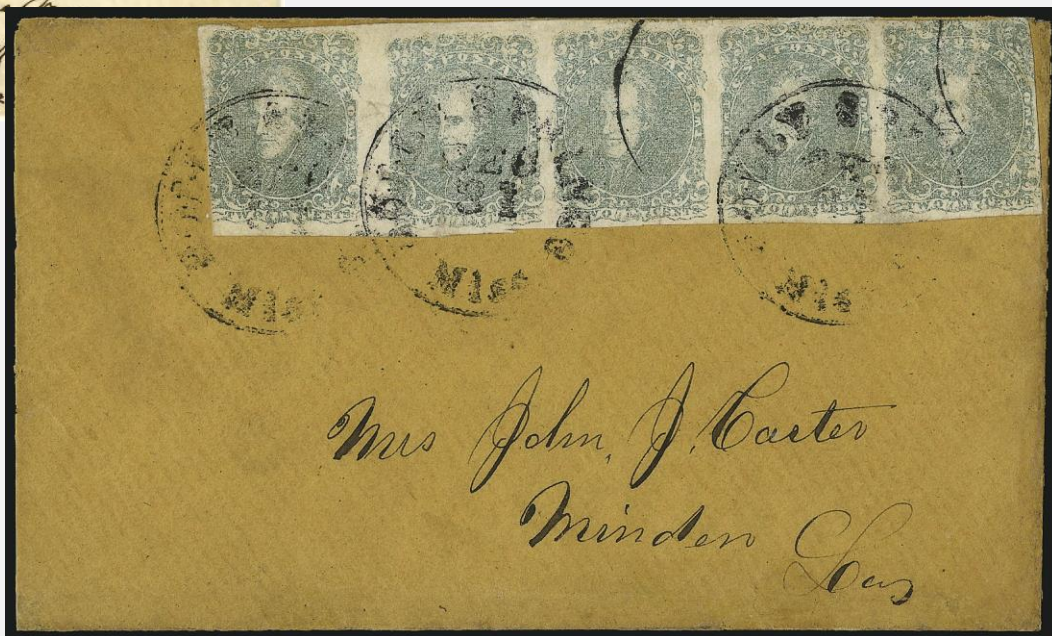
## CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES (CONT'D)

10¢ for all distances starting July 1, 1862



10¢ Rose showing “FEN CENTS” flaw, from Mount Mourne, NC to Proctor’s Creek, VA, 7 August 1862

2¢ Jackson strip of five paying 10¢ rate, 31 December 1862. One of two recorded covers with a strip of five of the 2¢ Lithograph showing the interpane gutter



## CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES (CONT'D)

### Double 10¢ rate



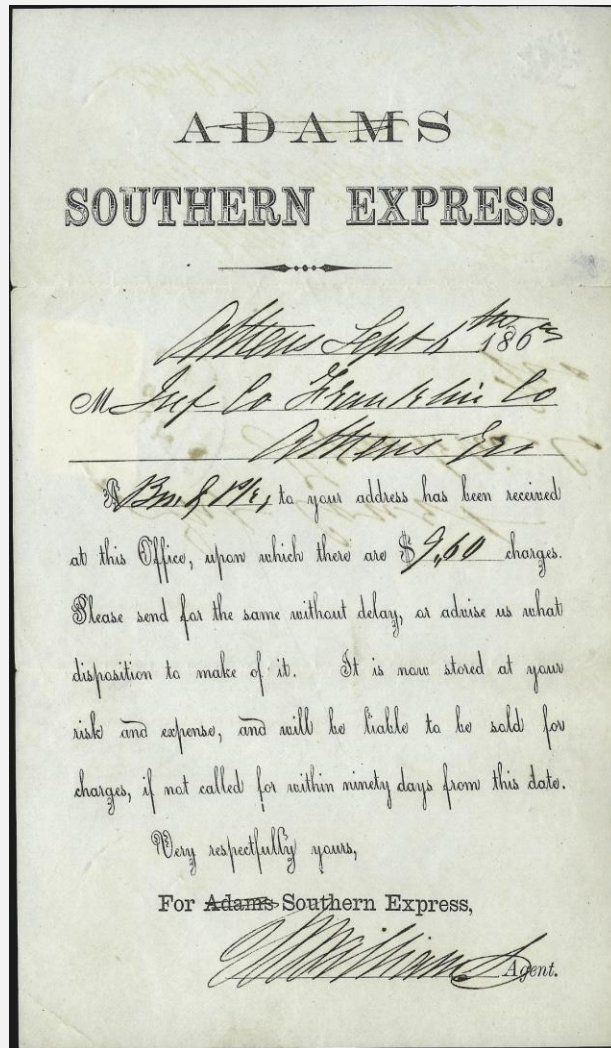
Two 10¢ Frameline  
(Positions 89 and 81) affixed  
on obsolete US 3¢ Star Die  
envelope (adversity use), 31  
August 1863

20¢ Washington paying  
double 10¢ rate from  
Columbia to Charleston,  
SC, 26 September 1863



# CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES (CONT'D)

2¢ rate for circulars, printed matter

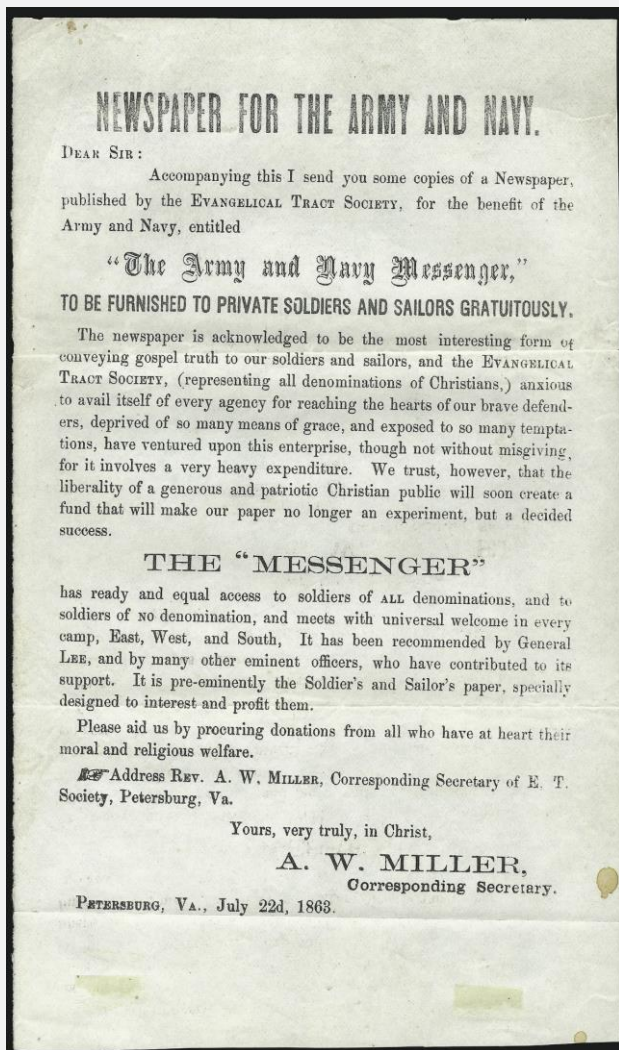


2¢ Jackson, paying circular rate, Athens to Franklin, GA, 7 September 1862



# CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES (CONT'D)

## Very rare double circular rate



2¢ Jackson pair paying double circular rate, dated 22 July 1863 with copy of enclosure



## CSA POST OFFICE ISSUES (CONT'D)

2¢ rate for drop letters



2¢ Jackson posted in  
Richmond as a drop  
letter 30 May (ca. 1864)

Overpaid drop rate: Cover cancelled in and addressed to Savannah, possibly carried privately to destination. 2¢ Jackson (3) and 5¢ Davis overpays drop rate by 9¢ (or letter rate by 1¢)



## G. PATRIOTIC FERVOR

- An estimated 15,000 different pro-Union patriotic envelope designs were published in the North
- In contrast, less than 200 Confederate designs are known, with the majority being simple flag designs
- This section of the Exhibit presents examples of these propaganda covers (after commencement of the CSA postal system) and reflects the contrasting circumstances of the warring parties: the abundance of material in the North and the worsening shortages in the South

Union: beardless Lincoln portrait published during 1860 campaign converted into a Civil War patriotic design by adding a beard and overprinting the envelope with a pro-Union crossed-flags design and slogan; used 29 May 1862



## PATRIOTIC FERVOR (CONT'D)

- Union: hand-painted Patriotics produced by Charles Magnus are among the most beautiful examples of Civil War postal history



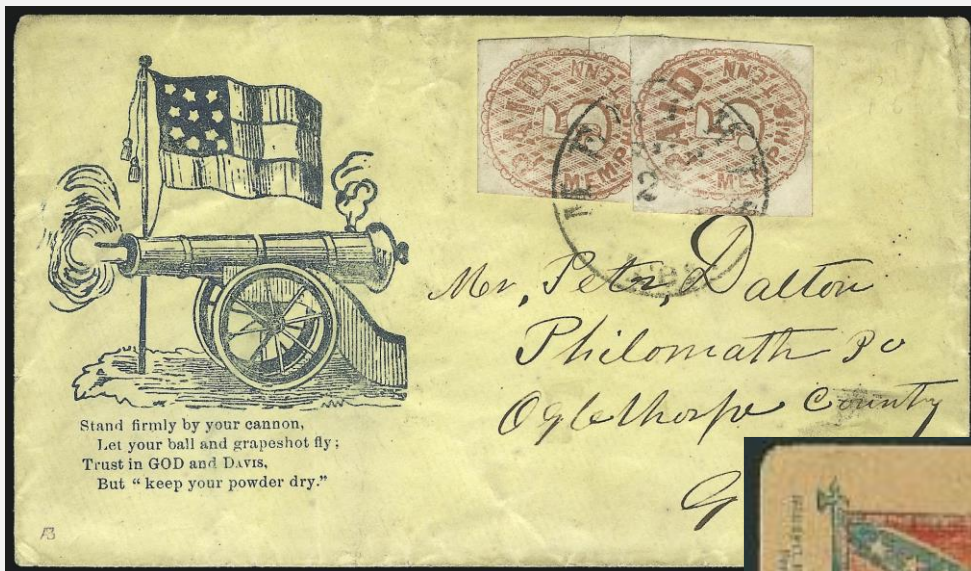
Camp scene depicting soldiers in front of tree before making camp

Camp scene depicting soldiers in front of tree and tent, after making camp



## PATRIOTIC FERVOR (CONT'D)

- CSA: Patriotic envelopes were used in the Confederacy for the duration of the war, but the quality was significantly inferior to the North



10-Star Confederate Flag and Cannon design with two 5¢ Red Memphis provisional stamps paying rate for distance over 500 miles

Scarce example of a 13-Star Confederate Battle Flag Patriotic





## H. WARTIME ADVERSITY

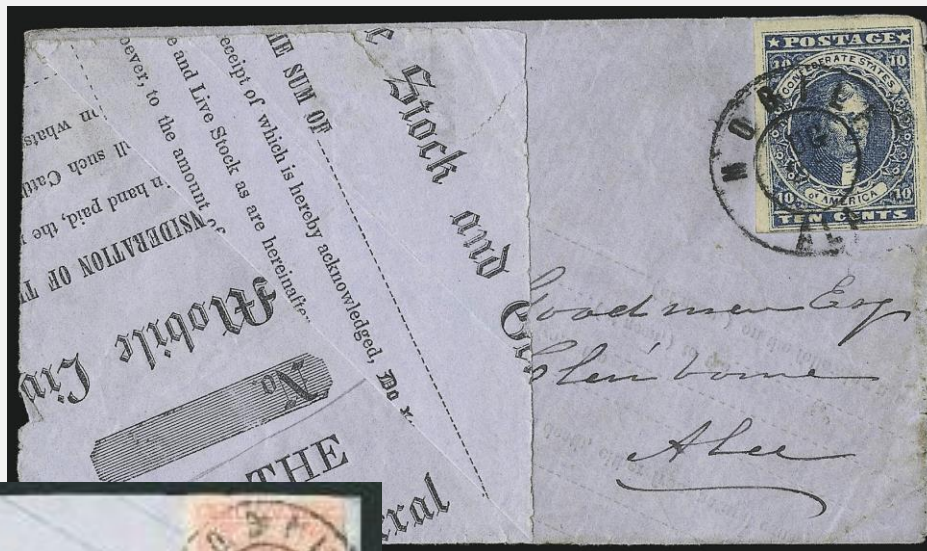
- The War caused shortages of basic supplies, including stationery and envelopes
- The blockade of CSA ports and waterways made the problem especially acute in the South
- This section of the Exhibit presents envelopes made from paper used for other purposes (printed forms, wallpaper, etc.) and re-used envelopes

Union: Letter fashioned from a cardboard shirt collar, written by a Union soldier writing from Old Point Comfort, VA to Philadelphia



## WARTIME ADVERSITY (CONT'D)

CSA: Envelope made from printed insurance form



CSA: Envelope made from notepaper and used twice -- double adversity use

## WARTIME ADVERSITY (CONT'D)

### CSA: Wallpaper Covers

Rare use of the 10¢  
Frameline on  
wallpaper cover.  
One of two known



With 20¢ Washington  
tied by scarce red cds

## I. WARTIME ECONOMY AND COMMERCE

- Two sections of the exhibit present postal history related to economic matters in the North and South
- The Southern economy relied on slave labor, the exportation of cotton and the importation of manufactured goods
  - The North's coastal blockade and eventual control over inland waterways strangled the South's import-export economy
  - The degradation of the South's railroad system from military attacks and disrepair severely impeded commerce and trade
  - These circumstances led to food and material shortages, hoarding and speculation, the government's inability to generate revenue, hyperinflation and the loss of credit in the financial markets
- Conversely, the Union had an adequate food supply, an extensive rail network that enabled the rapid movement of men, weapons and goods, and a vastly superior manufacturing base that enabled it to supply its soldiers with adequate weapons and ammunition
  - Example: the North produced 3,200 firearms to every 100 produced in the South

## WARTIME ECONOMY AND COMMERCE (CONT'D)

- The vast majority of Confederate corner card envelopes are from businesses that provided wholesale and retail grocery products, warehouse facilities and commission-based merchandising

### Confederate use of US stamp



Mailed with US 3¢ 1857 on 15 February 1861, after South Carolina joined the CSA on February 4, 1861 and before the CSA postal system began

Salmons & Simmons (staple and fancy goods) cameo design, with 5¢ Green



## WARTIME ECONOMY AND COMMERCE (CONT'D)

- The North continued its import-export business and had a solid manufacturing base



Estimates of relative GDP are difficult to calculate, but some analysts claim that the North had a 4:1 superiority

Wartime cameo corner cards that advertised the varied and numerous Northern products



## WARTIME ECONOMY AND COMMERCE (CONT'D)

- President Lincoln was careful to maintain strong ties to the State of California and Territory of Nevada (which became a state in October 1864) to ensure their vast mineral wealth remained in the Union
  - To protect the lines of communication, he moved the Pony route North

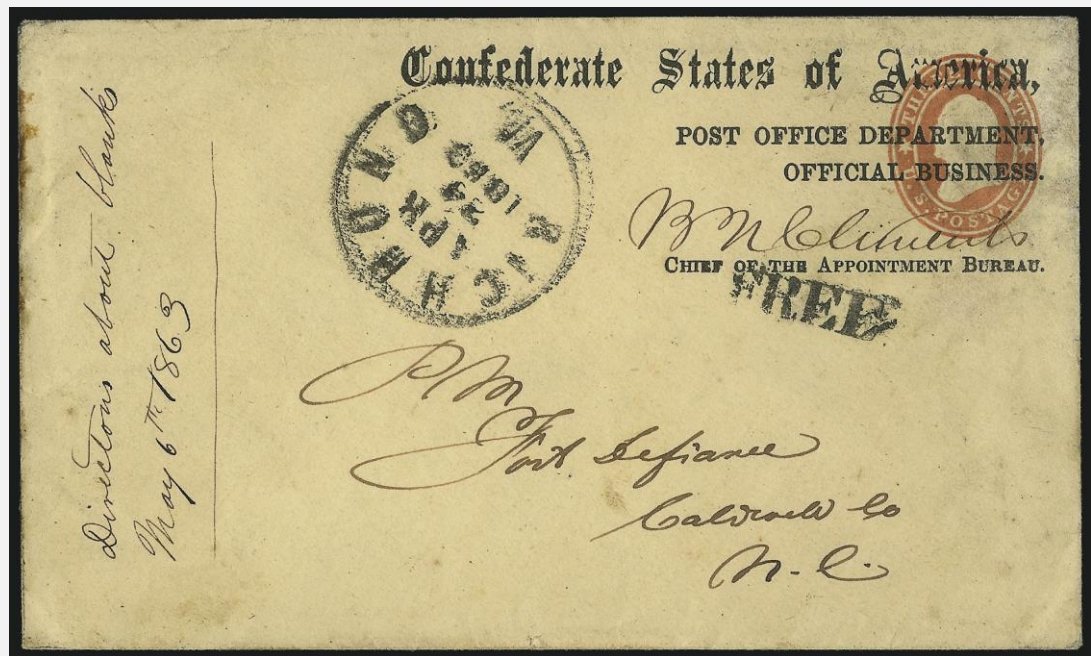


Transcontinental Pony Express cover from San Francisco, 31 August 1861, to New York via St. Joseph, MO

## J. CSA GOVERNMENT

- The CSA abolished the free-franking privilege that existed in the US
- Instead, the privilege to send official mail free of charge was authorized for the Post Office Department and later extended to the Agency for the Trans-Mississippi Department

Special imprinted envelopes (some on old US entires) were prepared for the different CSA post office departments, and a signature was required on each envelope mailed





## CSA GOVERNMENT (CONT'D)

- Official mail sent by other departments and agencies required postage, but many of the CSA and state officials prepared imprint envelopes to carry letters — these are known as “semi-official imprints”



Government Agency: with 2¢ Jackson for drop rate

State Imprint: very few official imprint covers are known with provisional stamps



## K. SOUTHERN WATERWAYS AND RAILROADS

- The South's inland waterways provided an important means of transportation for passengers, freight and mail prior to and during the first year of the war
  - After US forces captured New Orleans in 1862 and Vicksburg in 1863, navigation on the Mississippi River was controlled by US Navy gunboats, but other waterways remained open

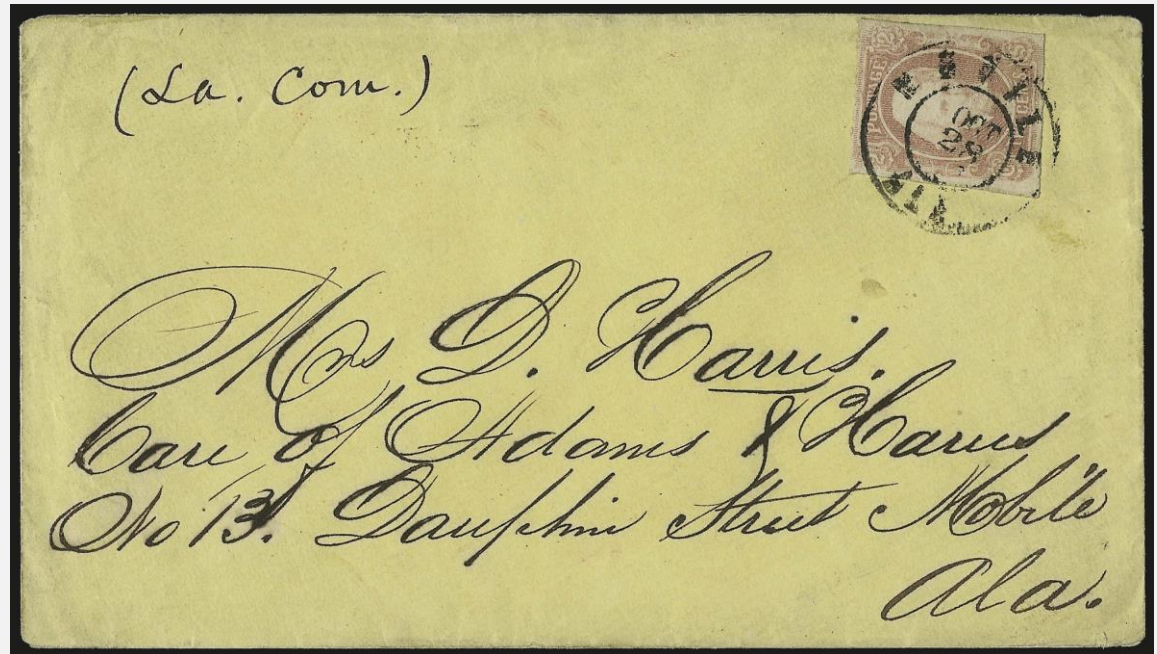
5¢ New Orleans provisional cancelled "PD. 5CTS/N.O.P.O." probably carried north on the Mississippi to Baton Rouge in December 1861 and then by land to Livonia. One of two covers with the adhesive cancelled by river-mail markings



## L. SPECIAL ROUTES

- The term *Special Routes* applies to a variety of means used by correspondents to send mail across the lines
- This section of the Exhibit presents the routes used exclusively by Southern correspondents to bypass the US blockade or occupying forces

Carried from US-occupied New Orleans by Louisiana Relief Committee courier, entered CSA mails for local delivery in Mobile, AL with 2¢ Jackson



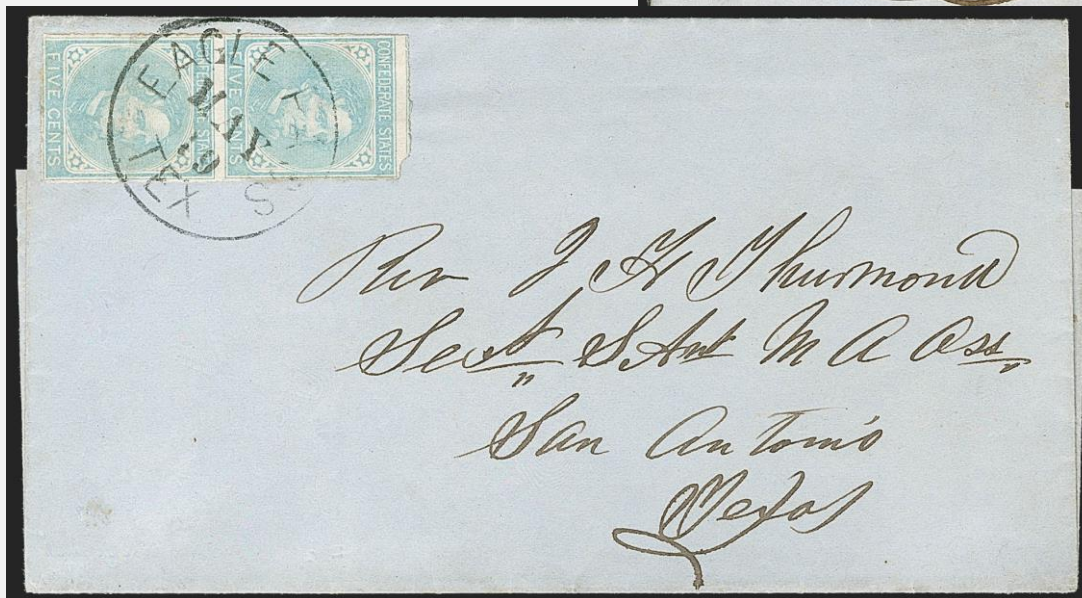
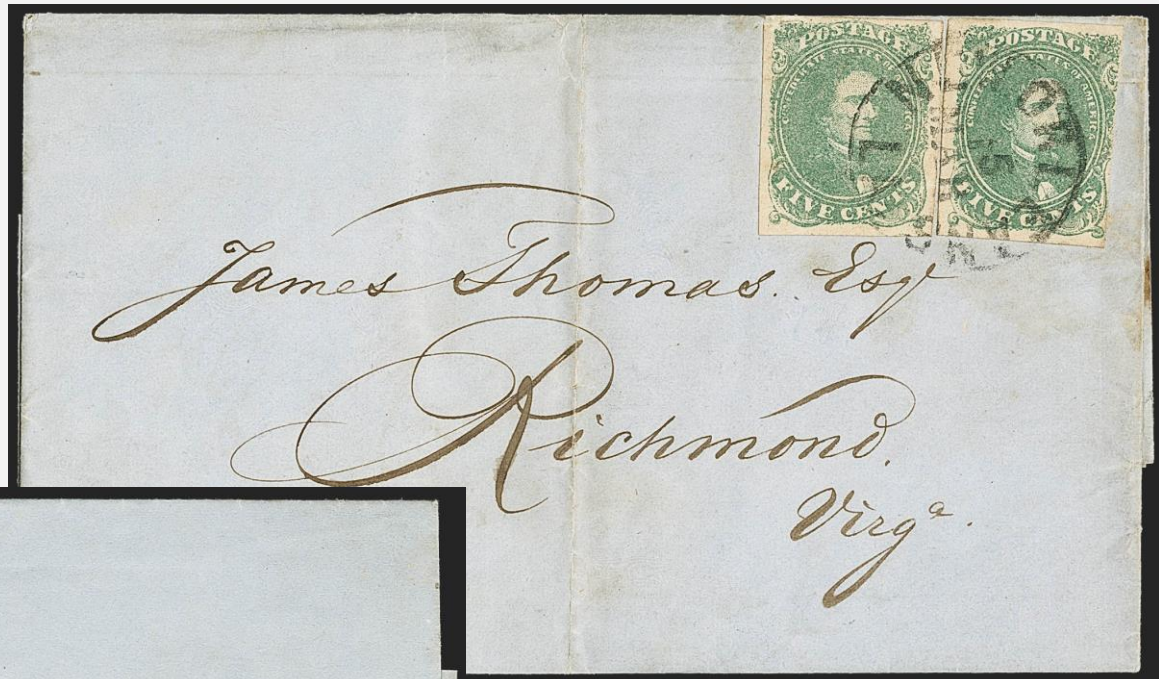
The relief committee was formed to supply food, medical care and shelter to approximately 700 refugee families who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the US and left New Orleans for Mobile, AL in May 1863. Mail was smuggled in small boats along the Mississippi Sound.

## SPECIAL ROUTES (CONT'D)

- A variety of private and semi-official services were developed to smuggle mail across the borders, both in and out of the CSA

### Costa's International Express

– Antonio Costa conducted a service out of New Orleans via Texas and Mexico for outgoing and incoming foreign mail



Trans-Rio Grande/Eagle Pass – carried from Mexico across the Rio Grande to San Antonio in Confederate Texas via the Eagle Pass post office (drop point for CSA mail originating in Mexico)

## SPECIAL ROUTES (CONT'D)

- US naval presence along the Mississippi disrupted CSA Trans-Mississippi postal service
- Commencing in October 1863, CSA PMG Reagan established a Trans-Mississippi “Express Mail” along post routes at the rate of 40¢ per half-ounce and hired a contractor to carry the mails twice weekly



Westbound Trans-Mississippi cover from Petersburg, VA to Shreveport, AL 26 October 1863 with strip of four 10¢ Die A

The earliest recorded Trans-Mississippi Express cover and one of two recorded college covers sent by Trans-Mississippi Express

## SPECIAL ROUTES (CONT'D)

- In April 1861, President Lincoln proclaimed the blockade of the South, and over the course of the war almost all major ports were closed to Southern commerce and mail
- Most surviving blockade-run covers are to or from Europe via the West Indies, sent on vessels through Charleston, SC and Wilmington, NC



Outbound from Wilmington via Nassau to NY. The only blockade cover with lilac 6-pence Bahamas

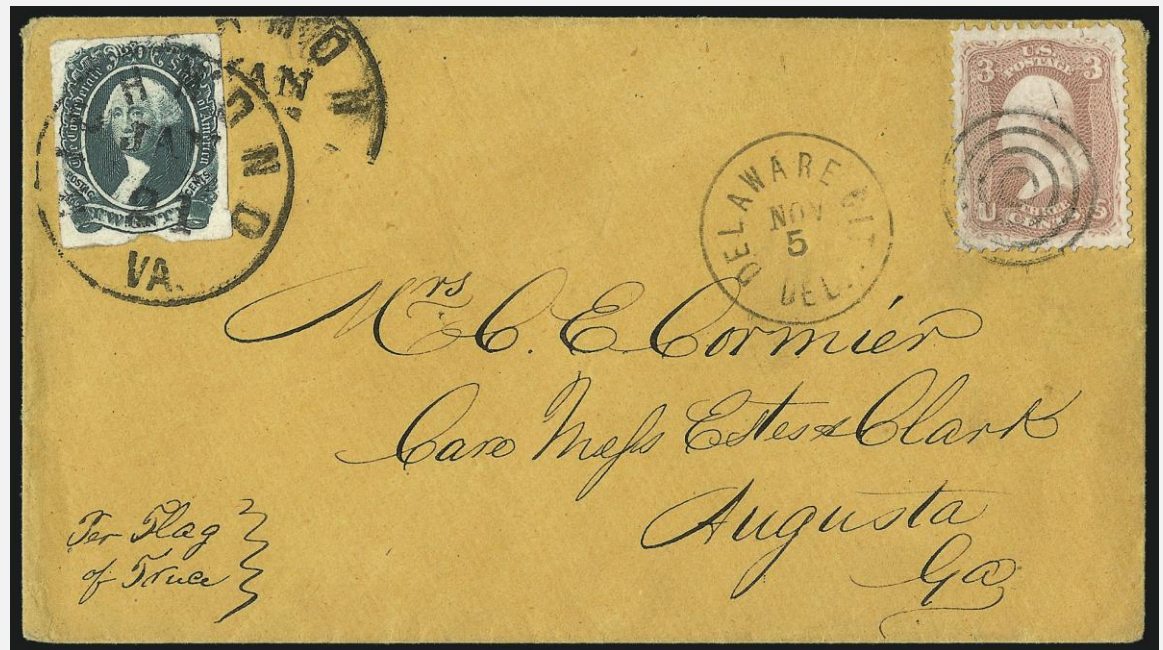
Inbound from unknown origin to Atlanta, GA via Wilmington where 10¢ Die B cancelled 24 October 1863



## M. POW & CIVILIAN FLAG OF TRUCE

- US and CSA flag of truce exchanges facilitated POW correspondence and the return of released POWs
- Old Point Comfort (Fortress Monroe) was the principal exchange point in Virginia on the US side; on the other side in Virginia the CSA first used Norfolk, then Petersburg, and finally Richmond

Southbound: sent from a Confederate POW at **Fort Delaware** via Richmond-Old Point Comfort route; US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Delaware City 5 November 1864; entered CSA mails with **20¢ Washington** paying double CSA rate



One of three recorded POW covers with the 20¢ green

## POW & CIVILIAN FLAG OF TRUCE (CONT'D)

Northbound: Sent from Union POW held at Camp Sumter in Georgia, better known as Andersonville, censored by **Camp Commandant Capt. Henry Wirz**, adversity use of wallpaper envelope with 5¢ CSA postage underpaying the 10¢ rate, entering the US mails at Old Point Comfort with 25 August (1864) datestamp and “Due 6” for US postage



The only wallpaper envelope signed by Andersonville prison commander Henry Wirz, who was tried, convicted and executed for war crimes. Andersonville was the most notorious of all CSA prison camps



## N. THE WAR'S END

- With Union forces surrounding but not yet occupying the City of Richmond, the CSA postal system discontinued operations on March 31, 1865



- Sent by a Confederate prisoner held at Johnson's Island (Union camp), this unique through-the-lines POW cover entered the CSA mails via Fortress Monroe in Richmond on the **last day the post office operated**

## THE WAR'S END (CONT'D)

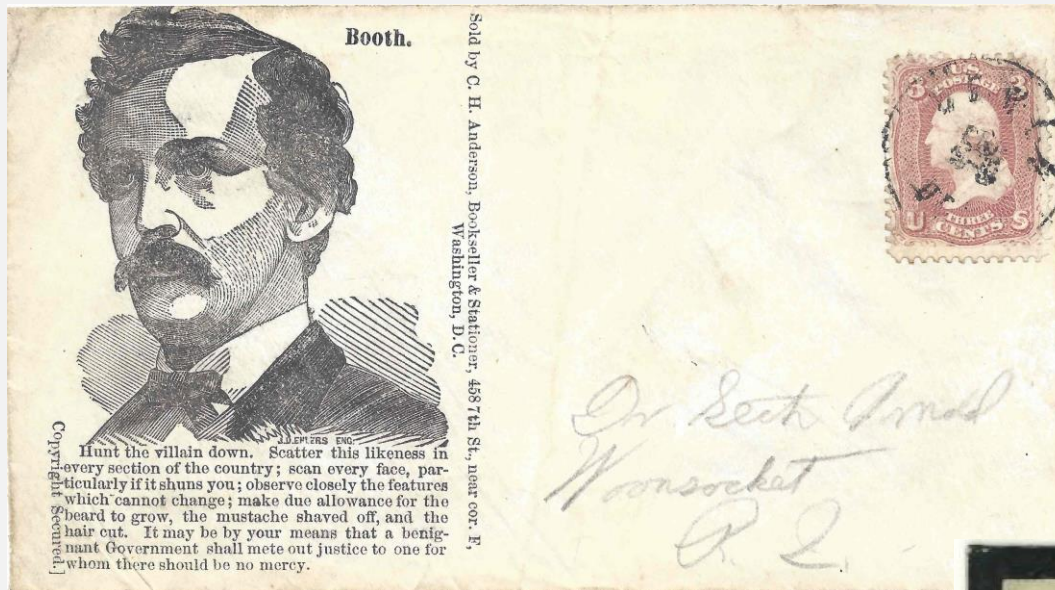
- On April 2, Gen. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia evacuated Petersburg and Richmond, but were met by Gen. Grant and surrendered on April 9



- Letter datelined “Charlotte N.C. Apr. 11, 1865”, two days after the surrender, indicates confusion regarding the status of the Confederacy: “We hear conflicting rumors that the Yankees are moving on Salisbury. We have no news of Gen. Lee or Johnson. The rail and telegraph lines are cut to Greensboro.”

## THE WAR'S END (CONT'D)

- President Lincoln was shot five days after Lee's surrender and died on April 15, the following day



Envelope depicting the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, with caption imploring the public to “Hunt the villain down...for whom there should be no mercy,” one of two known examples

After his death, the Lincoln family left Washington, DC for Chicago. This envelope, postmarked June 29, was sent by Mrs. Lincoln two and a half months after the President's death



## THE WAR'S END (CONT'D)

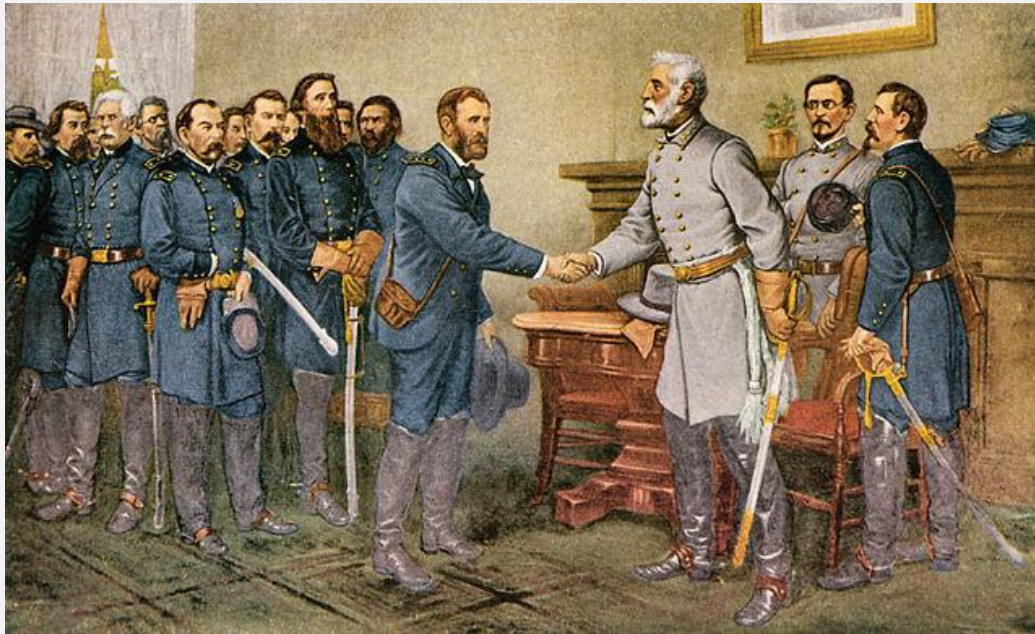
- Following Lee's surrender on April 9, Jefferson Davis and a cadre of trusted advisors left Richmond and fled south with the Union army in close pursuit
- Davis was captured on May 10, thus marking the unofficial end of the War and collapse of the Confederacy



- Sent by Davis to his wife while a POW at Fortress Monroe. One of three known postally used covers sent by the ex-president as a prisoner of war

## CONCLUSION

- The War was over, and along with 625,000 soldiers and countless civilian deaths from disease and other causes, President Lincoln was arguably the last casualty of the conflict
- As the Nation entered a period of Reconstruction and tremendous political conflict, the mail systems that had functioned independently for four years were merged again under Federal authority



***Peace in Union*** painting by Thomas Nast of Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA, 9 April 1865