

**Charleston South Carolina
The First Year of Secession**

Richard L. Calhoun

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June 2020

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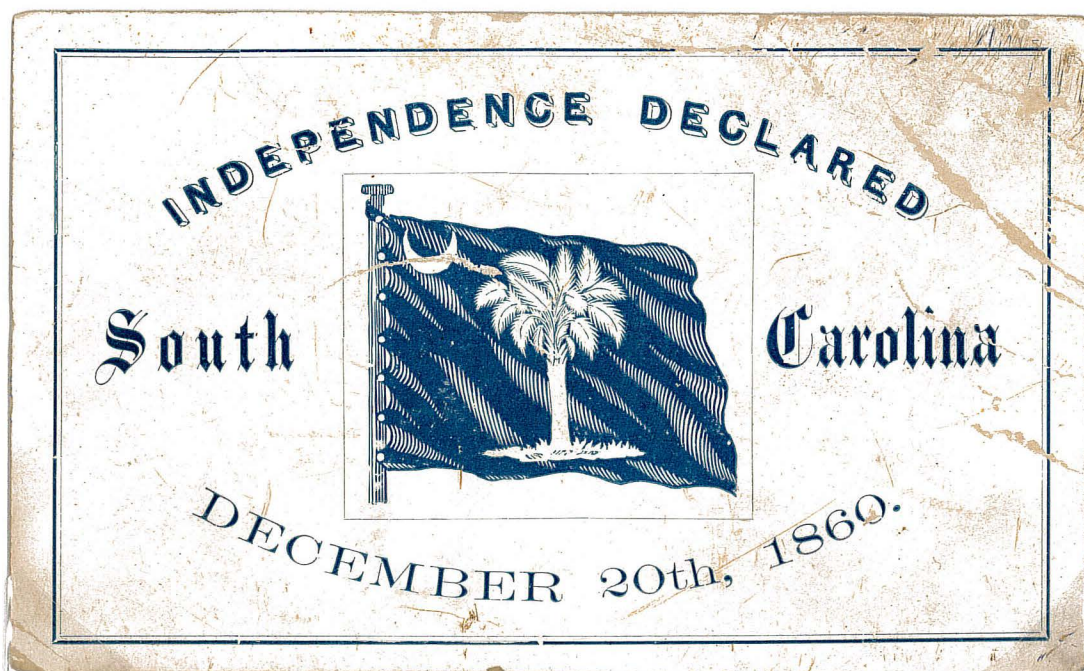
Charleston, South Carolina The First Year of Secession

This exhibit illustrates the various postal rates and uses of stamps and envelopes used in Charleston during the turmoil of the first year of secession, including the following periods;

Independent Statehood:	December 20, 1860 through February 3, 1861
Confederate Use of U.S. Postage:	February 4, 1861 through May 31, 1861
Confederate Handstamped Pairs:	June 1, 1861 through December 6, 1861
Postmaster Provisional Envelope:	beginning August 16, 1861
Postmaster Provisional Stamp:	beginning September 4, 1861
Confederate General-Issue Stamps:	beginning December 7, 1861

Within these periods, this exhibit has examples of: drop letters; printed circulars; **WAY** letters; Adams Express covers; incoming and out-going blockade-run covers; handstamped "**PAID**" markings for the 2, 5, 10, and 15 cent rates; handstamped "due" markings for the 2, 5, and 10 cent rates; Semi-Official covers; Patriotic envelopes; and examples of each of the known cancellation devices. Also included is: the only recorded example of the Confederate "**P.O.D. Dead Letter Office**" notation on a cover that originated in Charleston; the only recorded Confederate Charleston "**ADVERTISED**" handstamp; the only recorded Confederate Charleston "**FREE**" handstamp; a cover endorsed by "**R.E. Lee**" as Commanding General of the *Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida*; and the earliest recorded Charleston uses of the first two Confederate general-issues stamps.

The Postmaster Provisional periods include: essays for a 2 cent and 10 cent stamp; the partially reconstructed sheet of the five-cent Postmaster Provisional stamp based on my original research; the only recorded authentic Charleston Ten-Cent Postmaster Provisional covers; a first-day cover of the Charleston adhesive provisional stamp; and unauthorized uses of the provisional typographed envelope and the provisional adhesive stamp.



Secession



December 17, 1860 - the delegates from the various districts of the State met in convention to determine if South Carolina should secede from the Union and be the first state to form an independent republic.



December 20, 1860 - the delegates voted to secede from the Union.
South Carolina now considered itself an Independent State.

Secession News



December 22, 1860 - the second day of secession, cover with type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid with letter to Vermont;

"... We have been out of the Union now two days ... the state has taken a leap in the dark ... but, I do not think however that there will be any fighting."

Independent Statehood Holidays

The first holidays in the newly formed republic.



Christmas Eve - December 24, 1860 - U.S. stamped envelope (U27)
with type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid to Brownsville, South Carolina.



New Year's Eve - December 31, 1860 - U.S. stamped envelope (U26)
with type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid to Laurens C.H., South Carolina.

State-Controlled Postal Operations



December 28, 1860 - although South Carolina seceded on December 20th, the Charleston Postoffice continued to operate under U.S. control until the evening of December 28th when it was seized by State military forces.



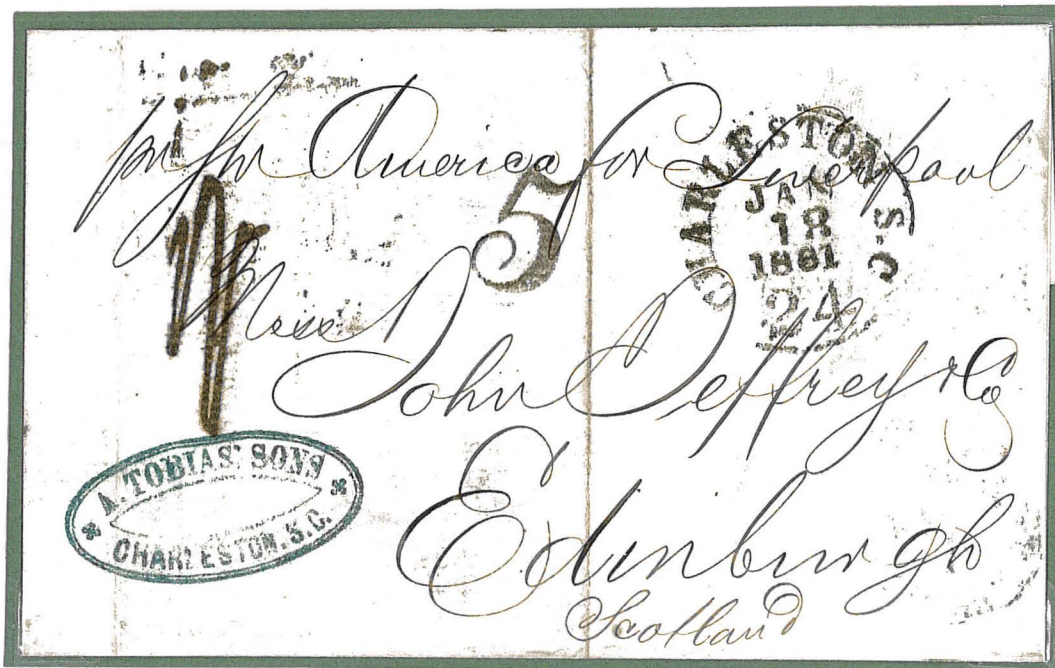
December 29, 1860 - the first day that the Charleston Postoffice operated under the control of the new government, the postoffice having been seized by State officials the evening before. Cover to Mayesville, S. Carolina.

Independent Statehood
Trans-Atlantic Mail



ONE OF 2 RECORDED
#38 FROM CHARLESTON
IN 1861

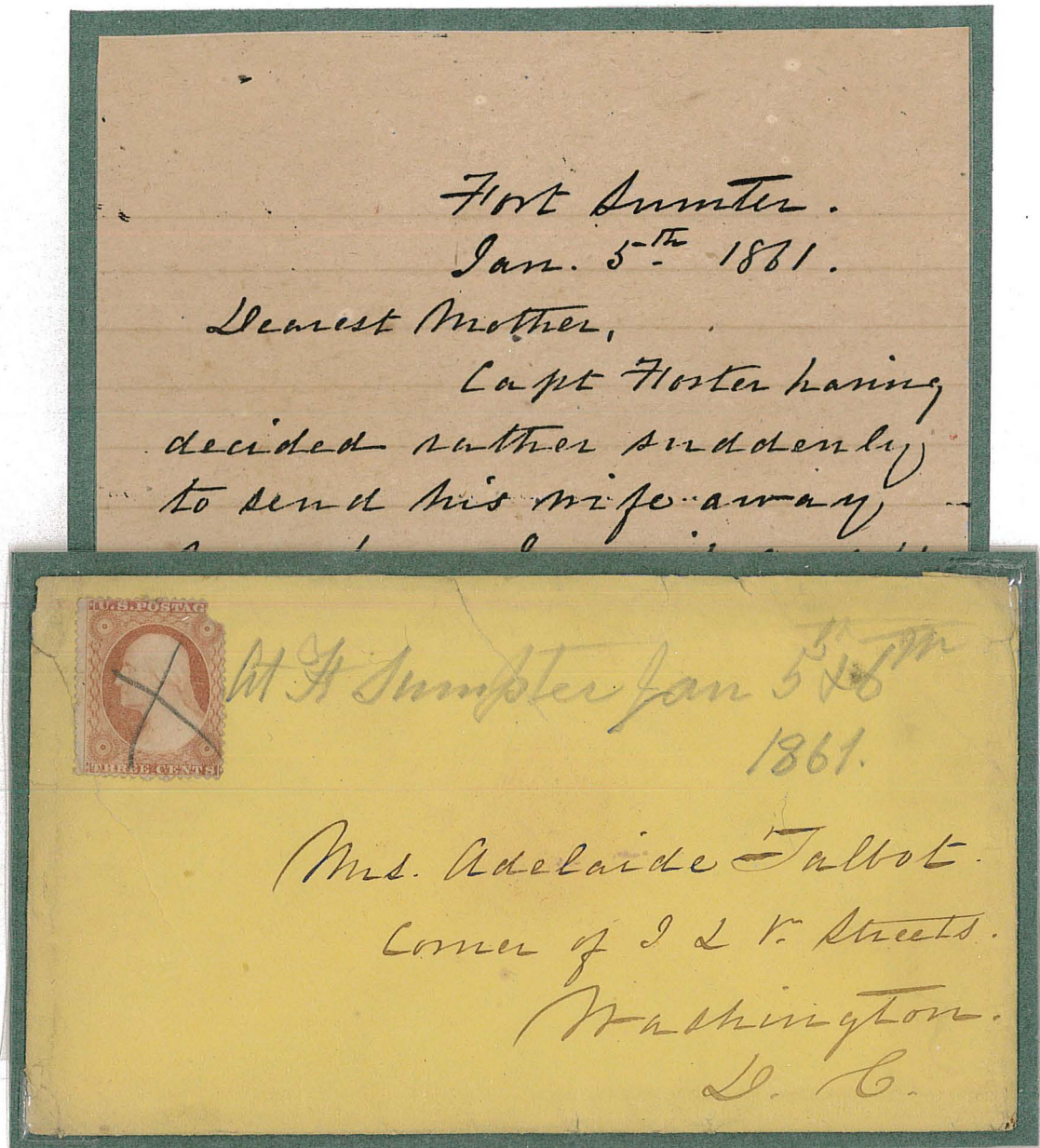
January 1, 1861 - cover with 30-cent rate to Berlin, Prussia, carried by American Packet from New York on January 5, 1861.



January 18, 1861 - folded letter with handstamped advertising and 24-cent rate to Edinburgh, Scotland, carried by the steamer "America" from New York on January 22, 1861.

Hand-Carried Mail from Fort Sumter

In retaliation for the Union garrison moving from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, South Carolina's Governor Francis W. Pickens ordered all mail communications with Fort Sumter suspended on January 1, 1861. Mail was again allowed after January 14, 1861.



ORIGINAL LETTER IN
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

January 5, 1861 - a letter hand-carried by Captain Foster's wife, from 1st Lieutenant Theodore Talbot to his mother in Washington, DC, with the manuscript notation "At Ft Sumpter Jan 5th & 6th 1861".

Independent Statehood - Advertising Covers



January 7, 1861 - all-over advertising cover of the Charleston Hotel, with type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid, to Marion C.H., South Carolina.

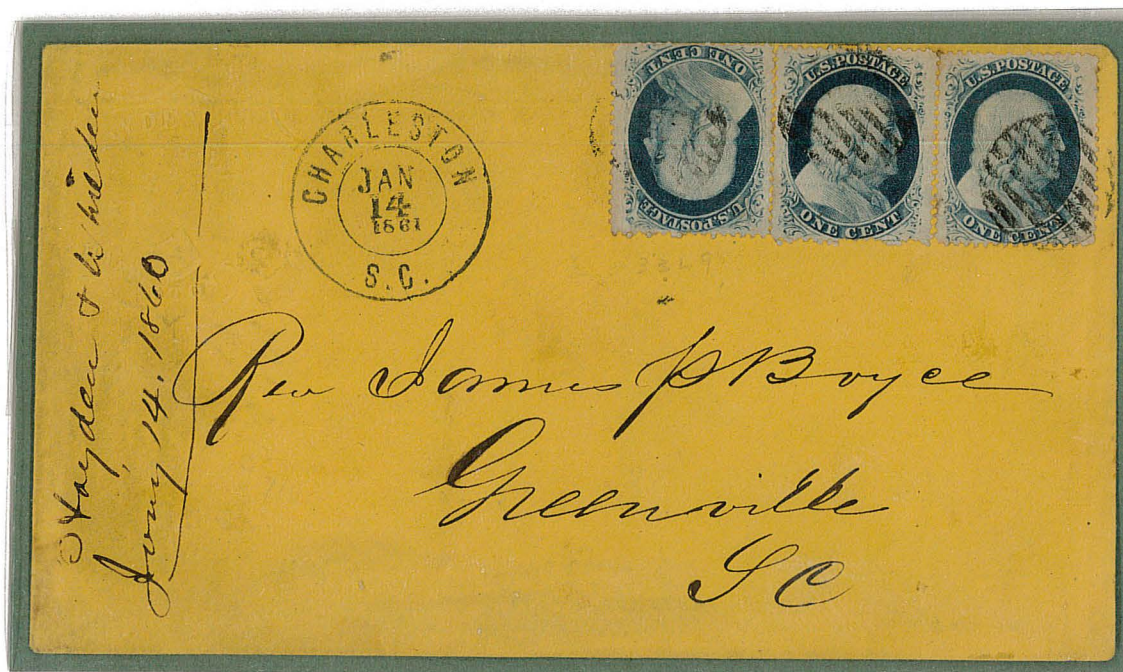


January 11, 1861 - advertising cover of a Charleston Engineering company, with type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid, to New York City.

Independent Statehood

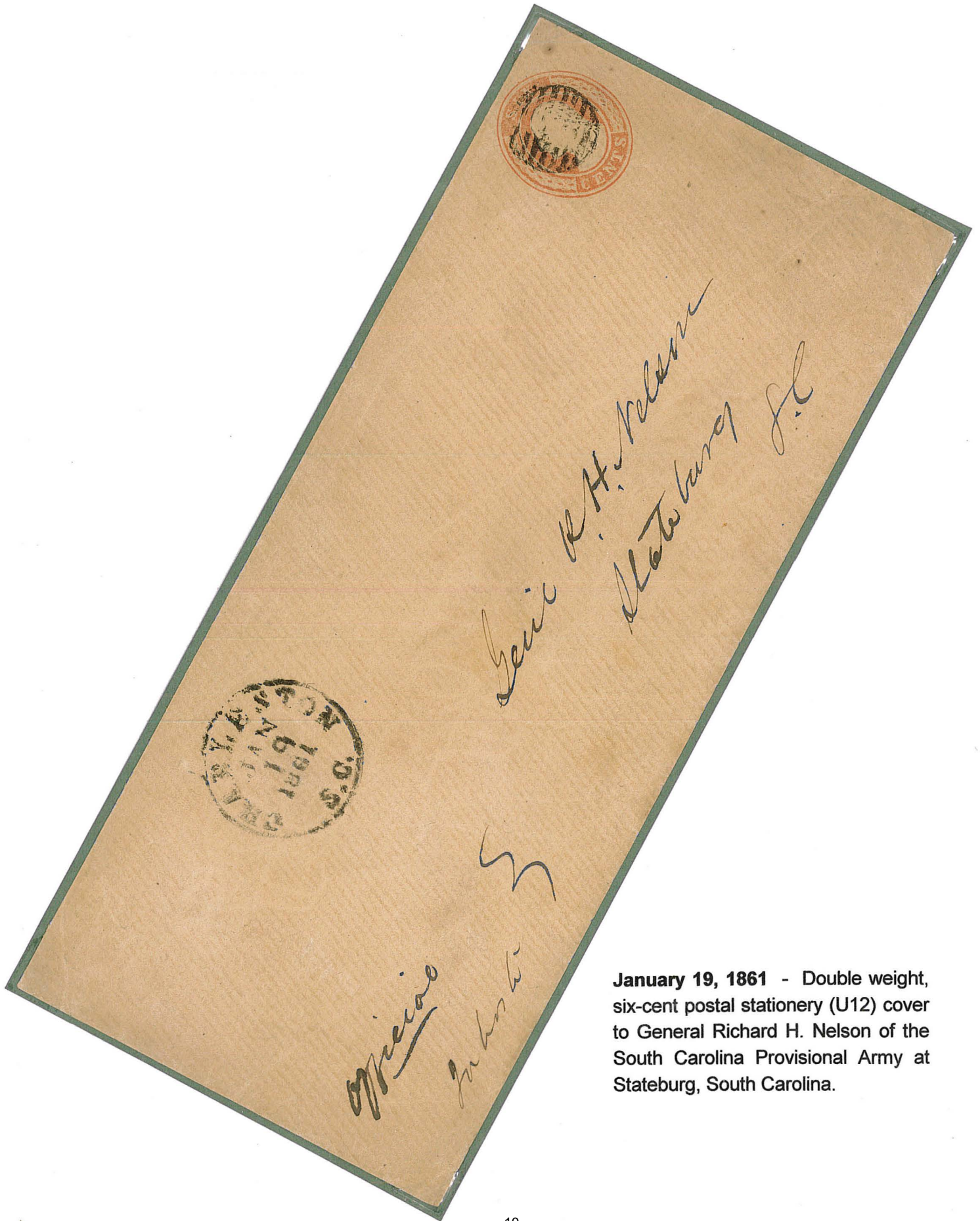


January 10, 1861 - U.S. stamped envelope (U10) to Savannah, Georgia.



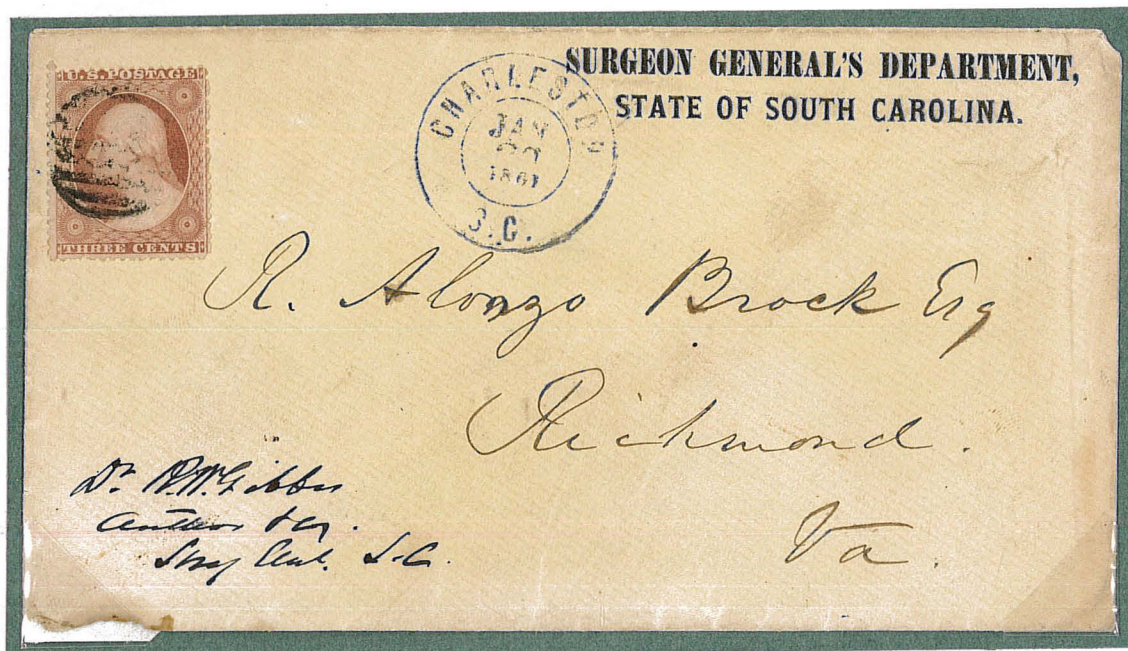
January 14, 1861 - three one-cent U.S. stamps used to pay the three-cent rate on an embossed advertising cover to Greenville, South Carolina.

**Independent Statehood
Six-Cent Postal Stationery**



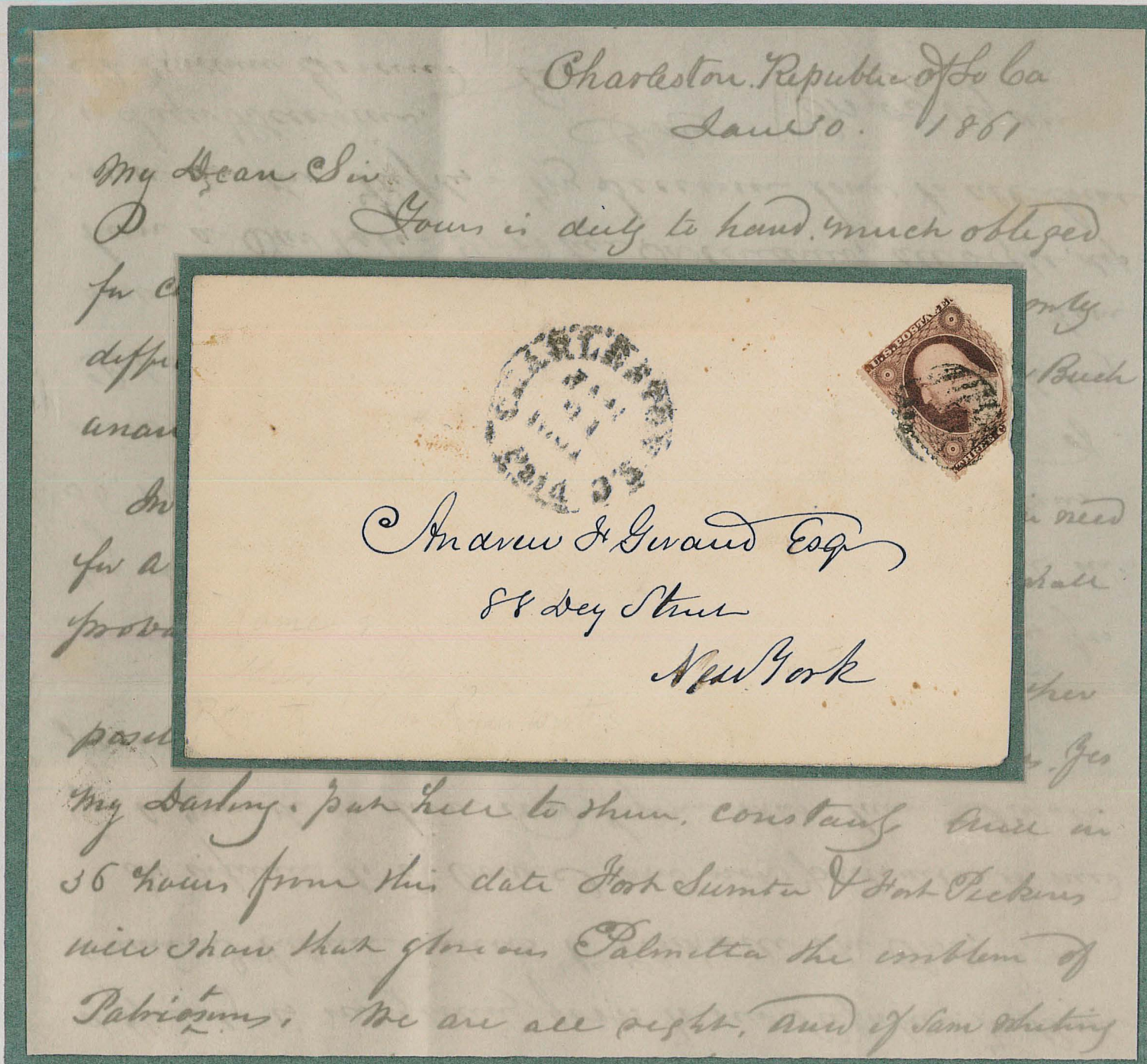
January 19, 1861 - Double weight, six-cent postal stationery (U12) cover to General Richard H. Nelson of the South Carolina Provisional Army at Stateburg, South Carolina.

Independent Statehood - Semi - Official Mail



January 20, 1861 - use of a pre-secession semi-official envelope of the Surgeon General's Department of the State of South Carolina.

Republic of South Carolina



January 30, 1861 - cover with type AN-18 cancel and letter from "Charleston, Republic of So. Ca." discussing the State's right to Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor;

"... put hell to them constantly and in 36 hours from this date Fort Sumter & Fort Pickens will show that glorious Palmetto [flag], the emblem of Patriotism."

Independent Statehood
Double Weight Covers



February 1, 1861 - cover with type A-26 cancel to Camden, SC.



February 2, 1861 - cover with type A-27 cancel to Stoughton, Mass.

Independent Statehood
Hampstamped Advertising



February 2, 1861 - folded outer letter sheet with a red handstamped advertising of Thomas W. Mordecai and Company, a Charleston broker, applied to the reverse side.

First Day of Confederate Use



February 4, 1861 - folded letter with handstamped advertising to Scotland on the day that the Confederate States of America was organized;

" ... the six Cotton States meet this day at Montgomery, Ala to adopt measures relating to the new government. "



New York Exchange Office marking, dated February 9, 1861 applied over the Charleston type AN-15 cancel.

U.S. inland postage	5 cents
Packet (American) postage	<u>16</u> cents
Total due U.S.	21 cents
British inland postage	<u>3</u> cents
Total Unpaid postage	24 cents (1 shilling)

Turned Cover and Mail from Fort Sumter



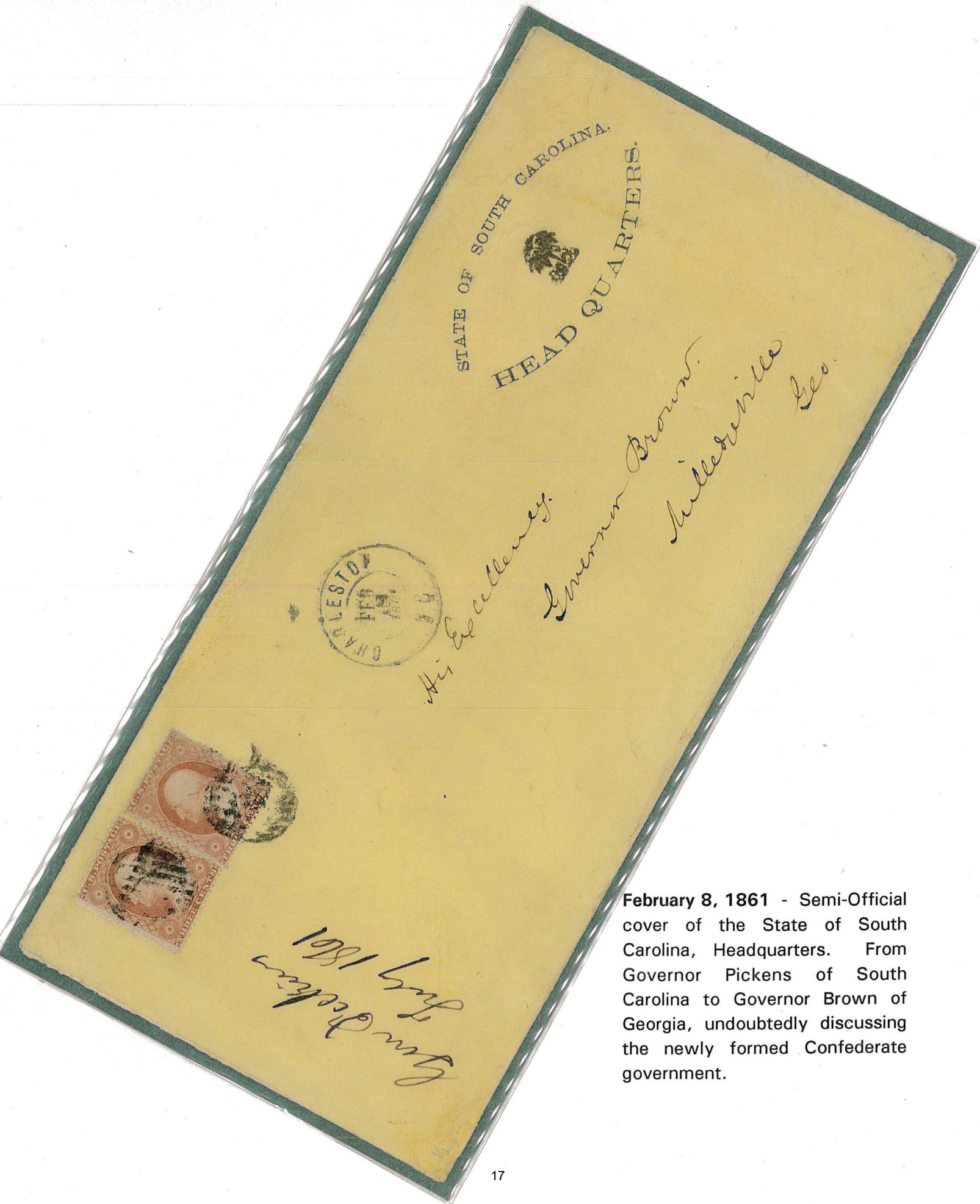
February 6, 1861 - letter and envelope from Major Robert Anderson, the US Commander at Fort Sumter, to New York.

The first use of this "turned" envelope carried a letter from David F. Jamison, President of the Secession Convention to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter, on February 3, 1861.

(Reduced photo of the cover interior is shown at the right)

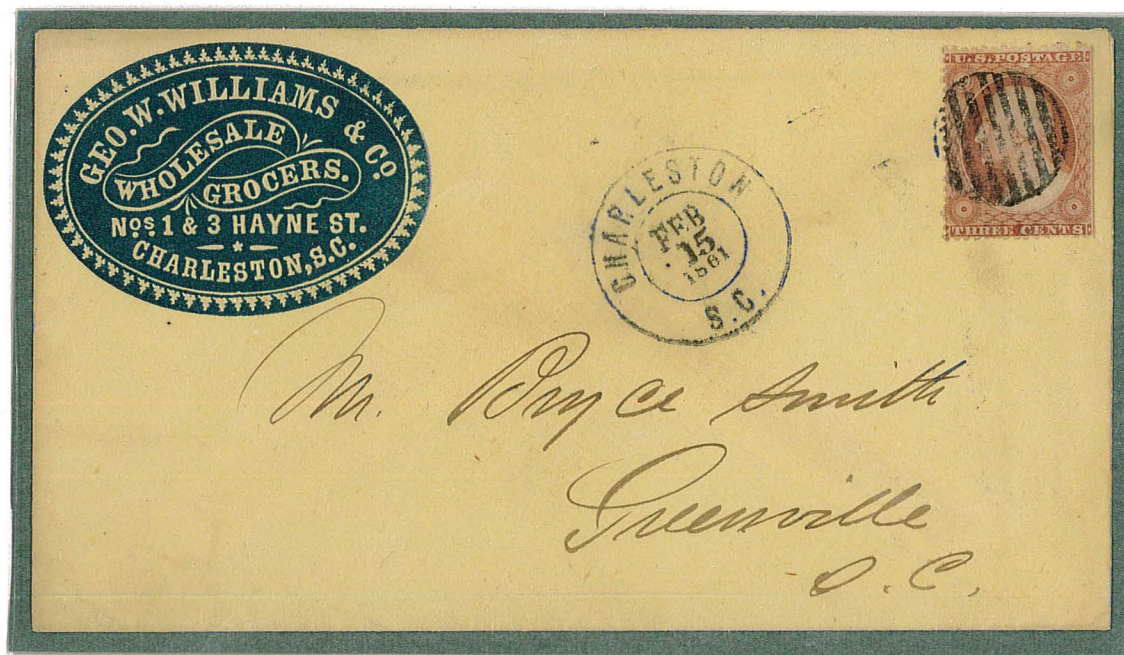


Semi - Official Mail

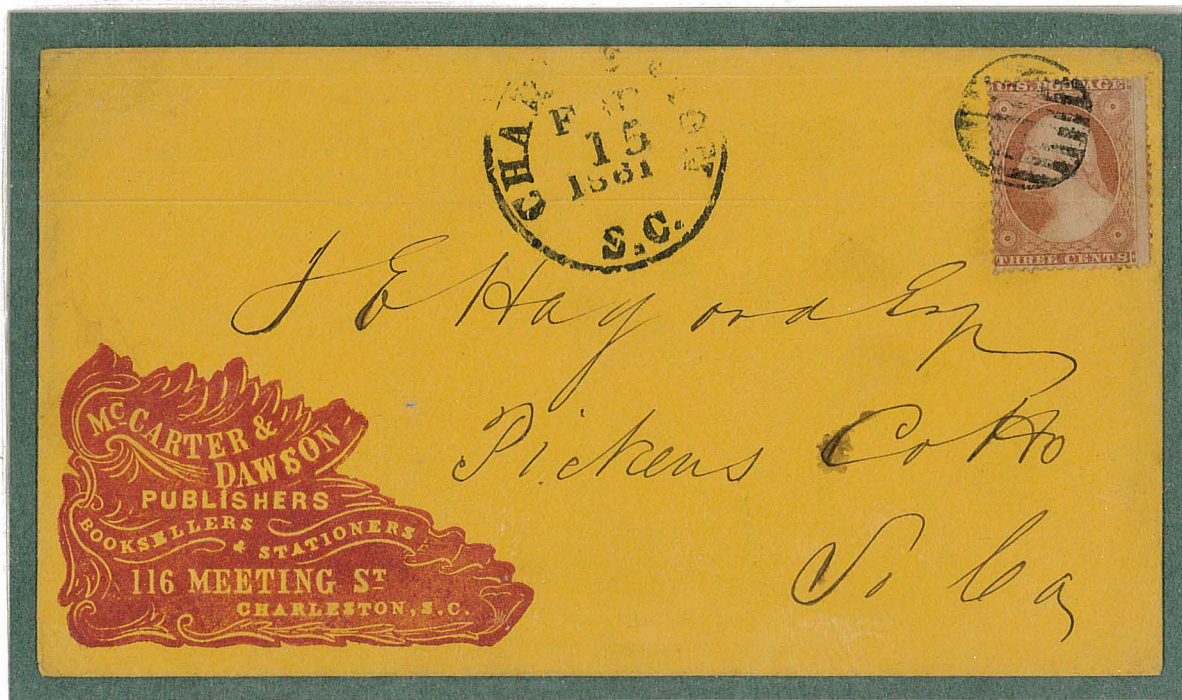


February 8, 1861 - Semi-Official cover of the State of South Carolina, Headquarters. From Governor Pickens of South Carolina to Governor Brown of Georgia, undoubtedly discussing the newly formed Confederate government.

Advertising Covers

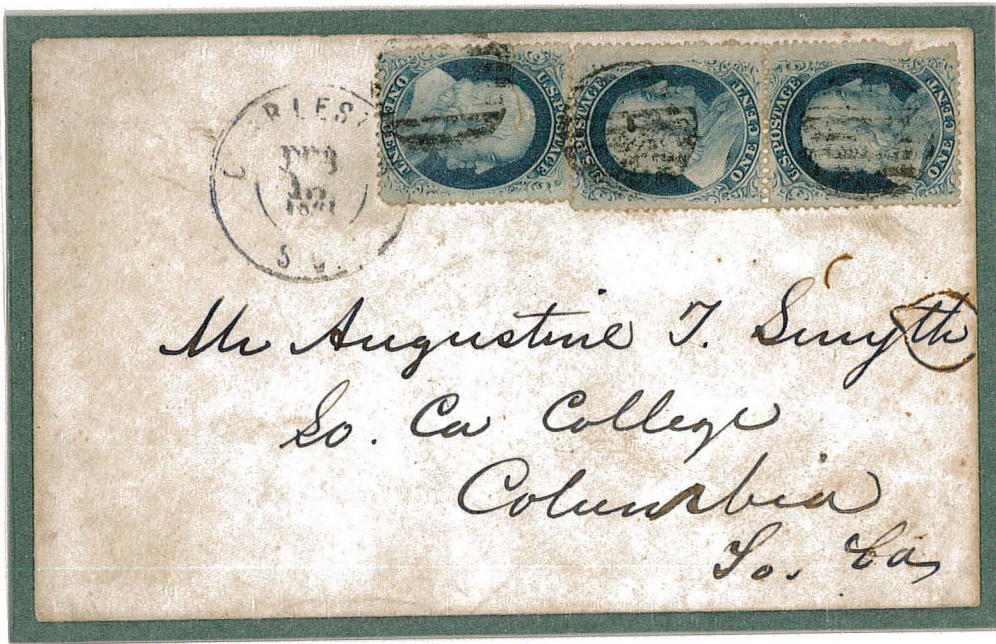


February 15, 1861 - advertising cover to Greenville, South Carolina.



February 15, 1861 - advertising cover to Pickens, South Carolina.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage



February 18, 1861 - three one-cent U.S. stamps used to pay the three-cent rate on a cover with type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid to Columbia, South Carolina.



February 28, 1861 - three one-cent U.S. stamps used to pay the three-cent rate on a cover to Greenville, South Carolina.

Out-Going Ship Mail

In the Spring of 1861, free commerce was still allowed between Charleston and other ports around the World.



March 1, 1861 - cover with a U.S. three-cent stamp, type A-27 cancel and S-17 grid, to Boston with in-coming ship receiving mark applied at Boston on March 5, 1861 to the back of the envelope.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage Embossed Advertising Covers



March 10, 1861 - embossed advertising cover of *Hayden & Whilden*, importers and dealers in watches, clocks and jewelry, to Greenville, SC.



March 11, 1861 - embossed advertising cover of *Horton & Shepherd*, dealers in tinnery stock and tools, to Russellville, Tennessee.

WITH LETTER SEE BACK OF PAGE

Fifteen-Cent Rate Cancellor

These are the only two known Confederate examples of this cancellation device



March 25, 1861 - fifteen-cent rate, type AN-13, used on a cover to Tourcoing, France. The cover was sent "per the 1st steamer" leaving Charleston, arriving in New York on March 30, and received in France on April 15, 1861.



March 14, 1861 - fifteen-cent rate canceller, type AN-13, was apparently struck by mistake on this cover to Sumter, South Carolina. The combination of the cancel and stamp produced a rate of eighteen cents.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage All-Over Advertising Covers



March 16, 1861 - all-over advertising cover of Eberhard Faber, manufacturer of lead pencils, with a single three-cent stamp to Columbia, South Carolina.

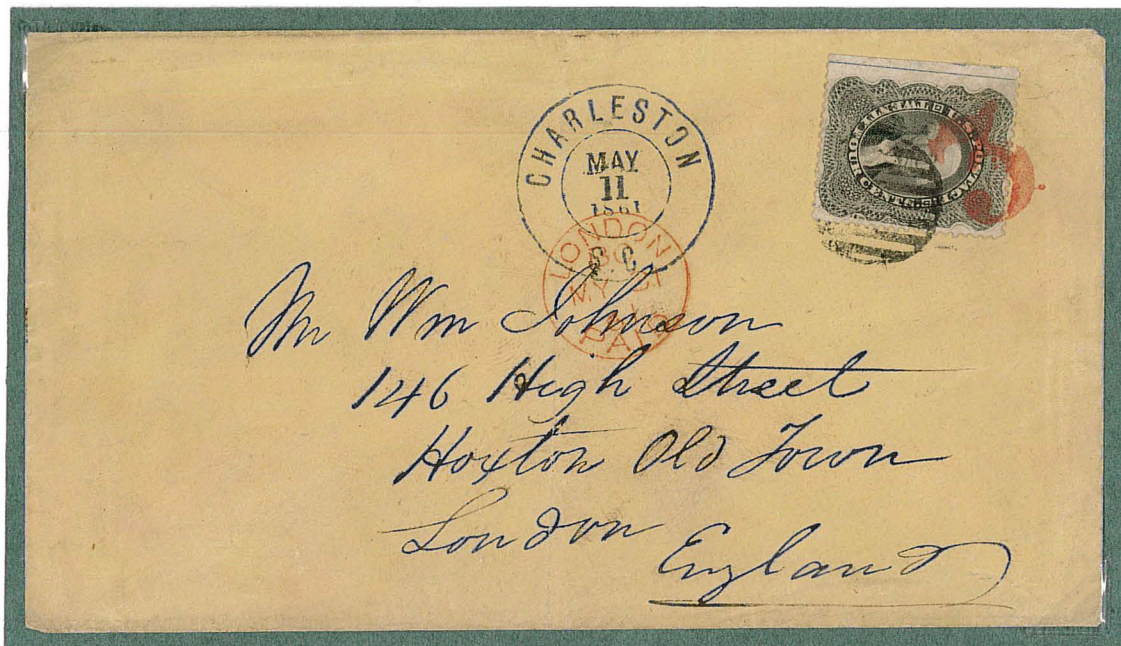


March 19, 1861 - all-over advertising cover of Eberhard Faber, manufacturer of lead pencils, with three one-cent stamps, to Columbia, South Carolina.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage Trans-Atlantic Mail

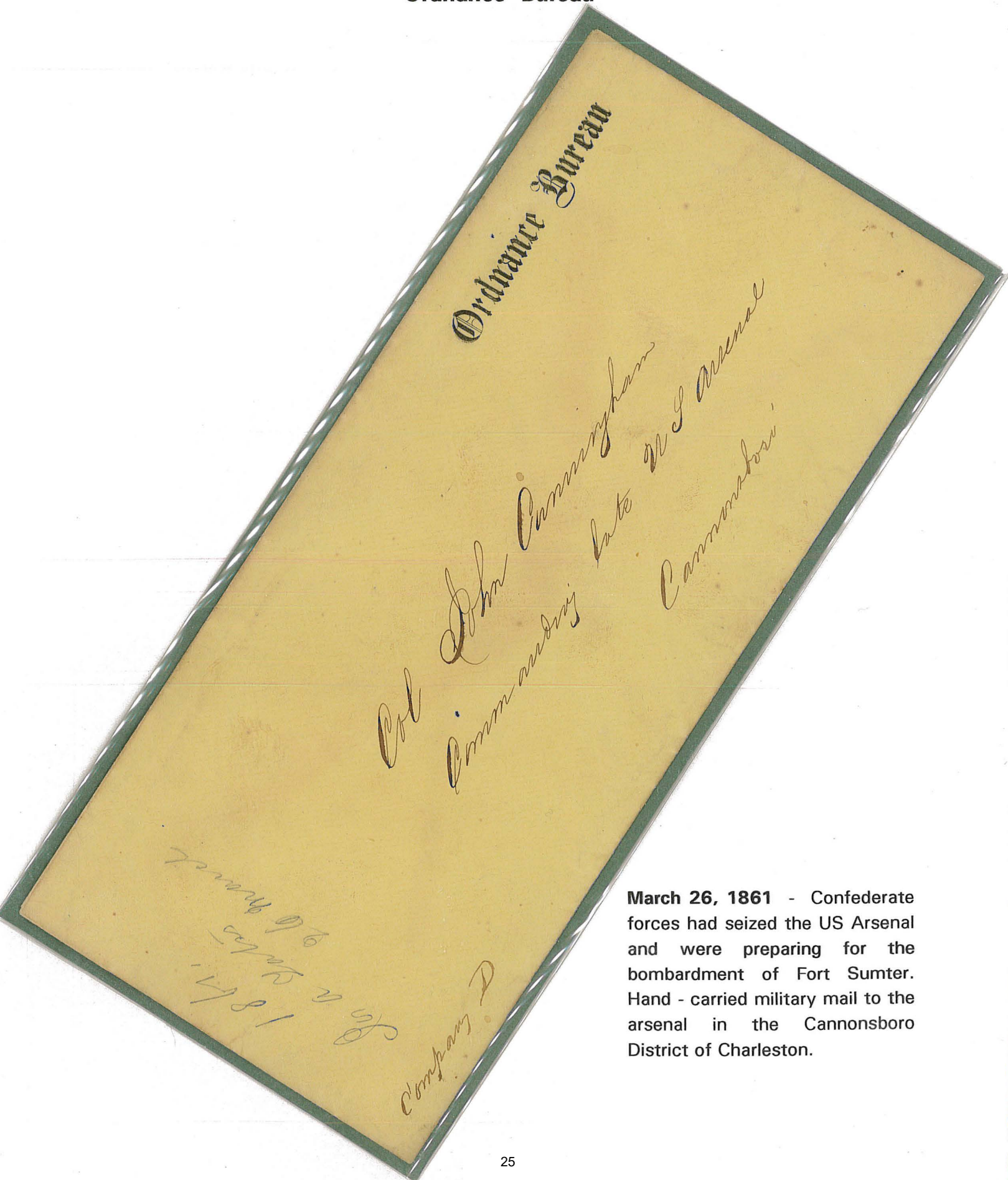


March 16, 1861 - Mourning cover sent from London, arriving in New York on March 14. Cover was delivered by the US postal service to Charleston, where it was forwarded on March 19 to Georgetown, SC.



May 11, 1861 - a naval blockade of Charleston Harbor by the United States was begun on May 10, 1861 to restrict Confederate commerce with other nations. This cover with a twenty-four cent rate slipped through the blockade to Liverpool, England.

Semi - Official Mail
Ordnance Bureau



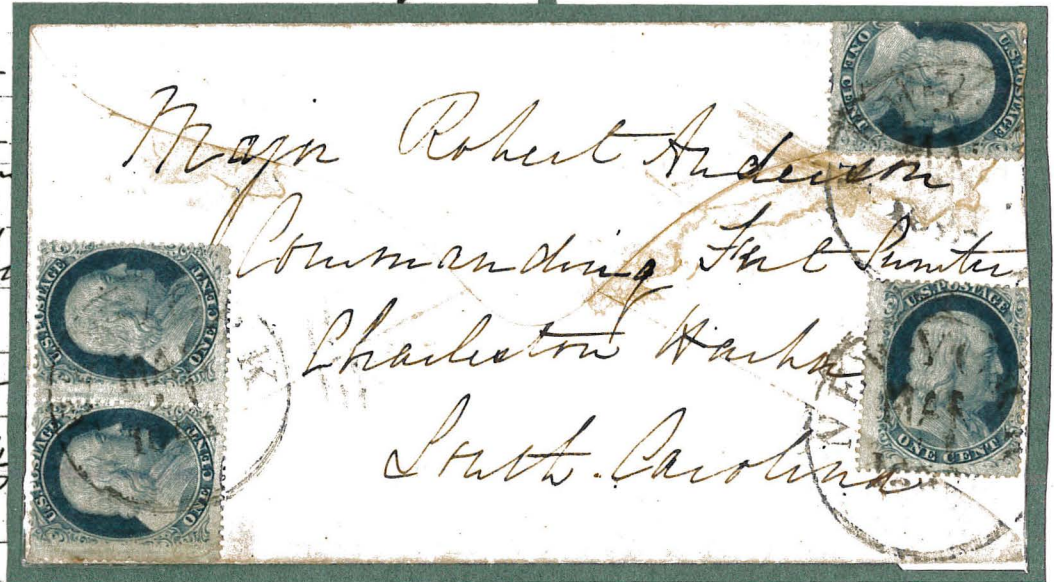
March 26, 1861 - Confederate forces had seized the US Arsenal and were preparing for the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Hand - carried military mail to the arsenal in the Cannonsboro District of Charleston.

Preventing Censorship

My dear Major:

I have heard of

your declaration
now, indicating
purpose. I fear
your commission
your duty both
Christian.



Yr friend,
Winfield Scott
Mar. 29, 1861.

Major Anderson

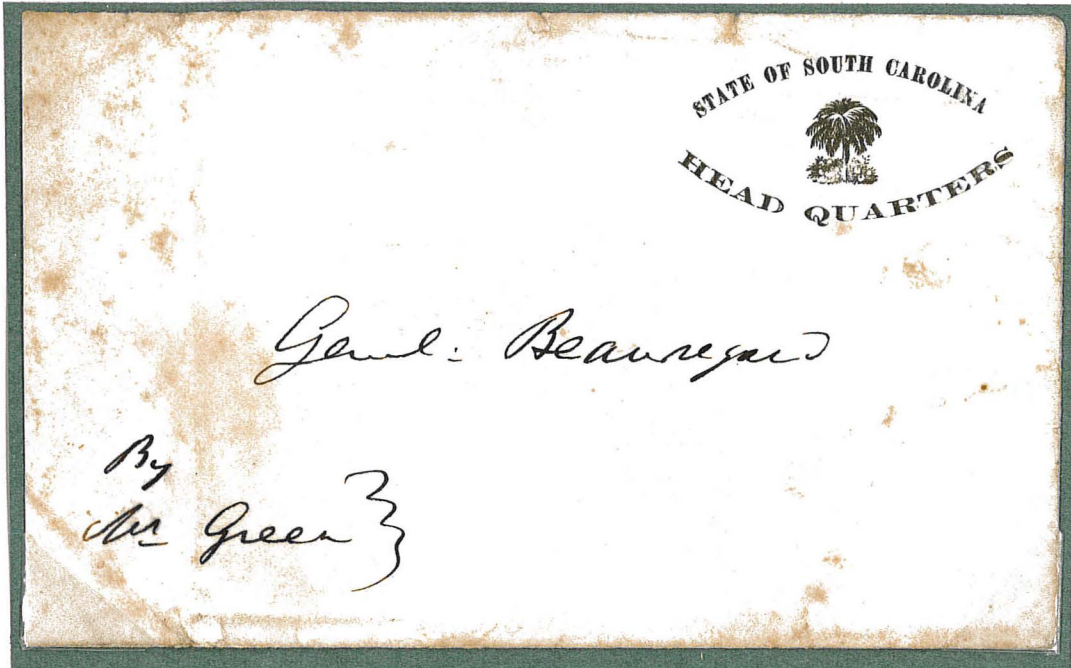
h h h

March 29, 1861

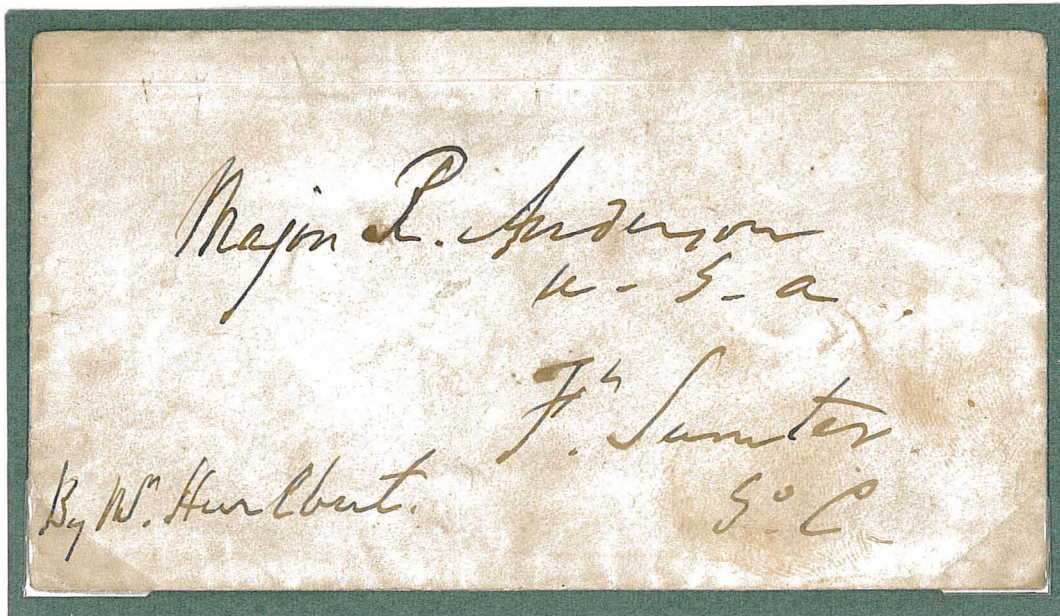
General Winfield Scott, Commanding General of the U.S. Army, wrote to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter, reprimanding him for comments he had made regarding the conditions at Fort Sumter. Three cents for regular postage and a one cent additional carrier fee for pick-up in New York was applied to the back of the envelope to seal the flaps and prevent censorship by the Confederate officials in Charleston. (Original letter is in the Library of Congress).

Courier Mail

Although most mail was dropped-off and picked-up at the post office, matters of military importance were usually hand-carried or delivered by a courier.



A cover addressed by Governor Francis Pickens and delivered to General Beauregard by Allen Green, an aide to the governor.



A cover addressed by General Winfield Scott and delivered to Major Robert Anderson at Fort Sumter by a US government courier.

One - Cent Drop Letter Rate



March 29, 1861 - one-cent U.S. stamp used to pay the drop-letter rate on a cover addressed to Charleston.



April 10, 1861 - one-cent U.S. stamp used to pay the drop-letter rate on a cover addressed to Charleston.

Patriotic Envelopes

(Dietz Type ST-7)



March 22, 1861 - Confederate patriotic sticker used on a U.S. envelope (U27) with type A-27 cancel to Clinton, South Carolina.



April 19, 1861 - Confederate patriotic sticker used on a U.S. envelope (U26) with type AN-18 cancel to Baltimore, Maryland.

2 of the 6 RECORDED USES
OF THIS PATRIOTIC DESIGN

Patriotic Envelope

(Dietz Type F7-21)



March 30, 1861 - seven-star Confederate flag patriotic envelope with U.S. stamp and type S-17 grid cancel used to seal the envelope flap.

All - Over Advertising



April 3, 1861 - all-over advertising cover of a New York lead pencil manufacturer, mailed from Charleston to Columbia, South Carolina.

DODGE'S MACHINERY AGENCY
and
INVENTORS' EXCHANGE.
Patent Office Department.

Charleston, S. C. April, 1861.

The subscriber has completed his arrangements for properly transacting the business of preparing

CAVEATS

for securing PATENTS in the Confederate States of America.

Inventors who desire to secure PATENTS, should have their Caveats prepared without delay, and thus secure their Inventions against being Patented by improper parties.

All Communications will be deemed strictly confidential, and models and drawings will be treated in the same manner.

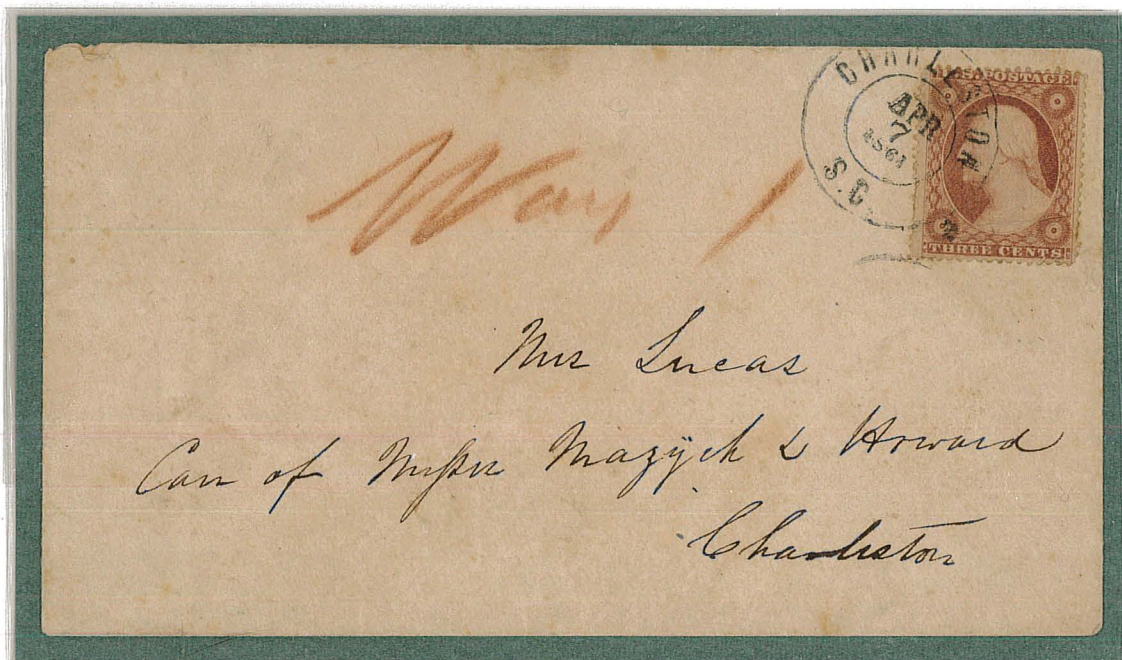
All letters of inquiry should contain postage stamp, to pre-pay the reply.

A large experience in the PATENT BUSINESS warrants me in asserting my ability to conduct it in a satisfactory manner, and to the interests of Inventors.

WM. F. DODGE
Post Office Box No. 47002

Reverse Side of the above cover with advertisement for the Patent Office Department of the Confederate States of America.

"WAY" Marking

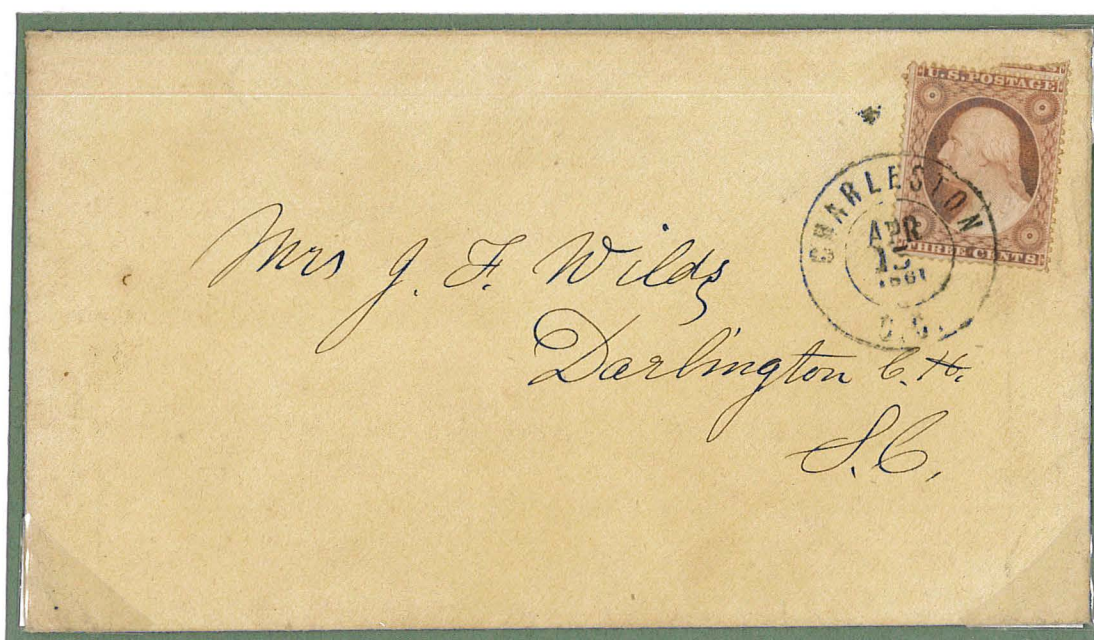


April 7, 1861 - "Way 1" indicates that this cover was received by the mail carrier, on his way from another postoffice to Charleston, where it was placed in the mail for delivery. The mail carrier received one cent for this additional service.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage



April 12, 1861 - three one-cent U.S. stamps used to pay the three-cent rate on a cover to Greenville, South Carolina. This was also the day that the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor began.



April 15, 1861 - U.S. postage and type A-27 cancel to Darlington CH, South Carolina. This was also the day that the Union garrison lead by Major Robert Anderson within Fort Sumter evacuated the fort and departed for New York.

Fort Sumter Surrenders



April 13, 1861 - an embossed lady's envelope with type AN-18 cancel and letter written after the bombardment and surrender of Fort Sumter. THE CIVIL WAR HAD BEGUN !

"... yesterday the 12th of April our city was roused about 1/2 [past] four in the morning by the awful sounds of the cannon as they boomed from the different forts. ... but about 12 or 1 o'clock [p.m. on the 13th] Major Anderson put up his white flag."

THE COURIER.

PP'had to be bald" a image of "Baldy Mtn" P' had to be bald

DAILY COURIER \$10 per annum, payable in advance.
TRI-WEEKLY COURIER \$5 per annum, payable in advance.

ONE SQUARE, of 12 lines or under, 65 cts. each insertion. Any number of lines exceeding a square at a pro rata rate.

A Discount of 20 per cent. will be allowed on all bills of \$50 and over, if prompt payment in cash be made. Approved city acceptances, at short date, will also be received in payment for advertising.

~~All~~ All transient advertisements must invariably be paid in advance.

No Advertisements for the next day's issue will be received after 10 o'clock, p. m. Advertisers will confer great favor and benefit themselves, by furnishing the copy at an early hour in the evening.

Mr. E. L. Snow is an accredited Agent and Collector for the Charleston *Courier*, assisted by Mr. LUTHER CLARK and Mr. E. P. LYMAN.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remainder in the Postoffice at Charleston

S. C., April 25 1861.

Persons wishing advertised Letters, are requested to state the date of the List.

On Letters advertised as remaining on hand the shall be charged, when delivered out, besides the regular postage, the cost of advertising, which will be, on each Letter, one cent.—[Regulations of Postmaster-General SECTION 12. And be it further enacted, * * *

And all the advertisements made under the order of the Postmaster-General, in a newspaper or newspapers, Letters uncalled for in any Postoffice, shall be insert in the paper or papers of the town or place where the office advertising may be situated having the largest circulation.—New Postoffice Law, passed March 3, 184

A	H	P
D.	Harrison, E.	Parker, Wm.
Mrs. Han-	Haines, H. L.	Payne, Wm.
	Hard, Capt. J. S. 3	Prater, Presly
George W.	Harrison, Gen. J.	Patrick, Dr. N.
Pondero	W.	Parker, J. M.
who	Harris, Eugene U.	Parrott, J. P.
W. H.	Harris, Morris	Palmer, J.
Capt. Wm.	Hanahan, Patrick	Palmer, E. I.
Mrs. T.	Ham, T.	

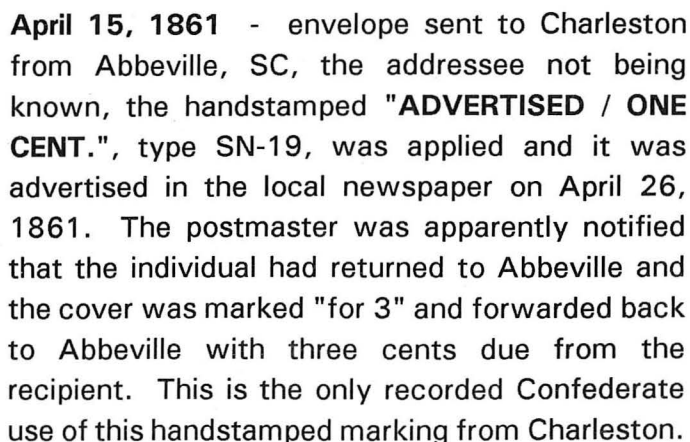
		Mason, J. W.	Taylor, Wm. H.
		McLaren, Mrs.	Taylor, Stephen
		Jag.	T.
		McLaren,	Tailor, Margaret
A. E.	2	Julie	A.
		McCarty, A.	Tardif, Mary E.
		McKenzie, Mrs.	Taylor, Miss Eliza
Hos. J.		Sarah B.	Taylor, Mrs. An
		McKenzie, Ken-	T.
		neth	Tavel, B. B.
		McMillen.	Timmons, J. A.
		E.	Thomson, Thes.
		McKoy, Stephen	Thompson, Jkn.
		McDonald, D. J.	Thompson, Fran
	3	McDonald, Sam'l	cis
Mrs. R.		K.	Tucker, W. H.

	McGowan, John	R. S.
	M	Turbull, T. P.
	Martin, Wm.	Tulley, Thos.
	Malcom, Pat.	V
W. A.	Manwood, Mrs. M.	Vanderhorst, Mis
Eliza	A.	Hellen
D	Mathews, Mrs.	Vanhook, J. T.
	Mary	Villepigue, J. J.
Davis, Arthur B.	Mathews, Miss Ju	
Davant & Layton	haug	
Davis, J.		
Davis, J.	M. A. Foster	Wann, Charley
		Winter, Saml. A.

Foster, Albert H.	Nelson, C.	Winnerspool, John
Foster, Alexander	Nodler, Capt.	Wood, Mrs. Elizabeth
Fogarty, Simon	O	W.
H	Oates & Co.	Woodworth, Miss
H. court, C.	O'Brien, Mrs.	G. A.
Hathmacher,	Owens, E. J.	Wyatt, Capt.
Frauz	O'Coner, Daniel	Wynn, C. G.
Hancock, C. L.	O'Connor, Capt.	

B	H	M
Buckley, Miss	Hannon, Mary	Merrill, Edw'd. F.
Harriet C	Higgins, Patrick	Mette, Heinrich
C	H	M
Clague, Thomas	Hutchinson, L. J.	Murphy, Peter
D	K	Q
Dalg, August	Kennedy, John	Quin, Daniel
Devereaux, John	Kennedy, James	S
E	M	Swakefe, Charles
Enchen, Ellen	McDonnell, Edw'd.	W
Enke, Hermann	McDougall, John	Wentzien, Mr.
	McMunara, John	Whelan, Edw'd.

April 26 [427] ALFRED HUGER, P. M.



Patriotic Envelopes

(Dietz Type F7-18a)

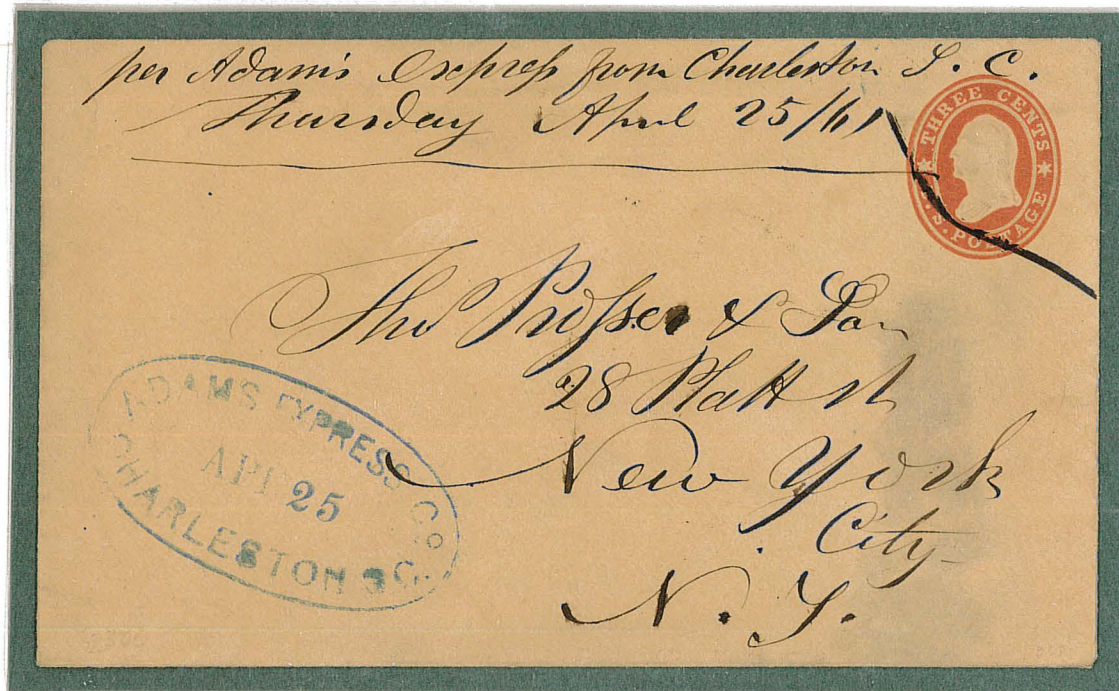


April 23, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope with U.S. stamp and type A-26 cancel to Millway, South Carolina.



April 26, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope with U.S. stamp and type A-27 cancel to Chester, South Carolina.

Express Mail



April 25, 1861 - cover mailed from Charleston to New York by Adam's Express Company, a private mail service, with type SX-9 handstamp.

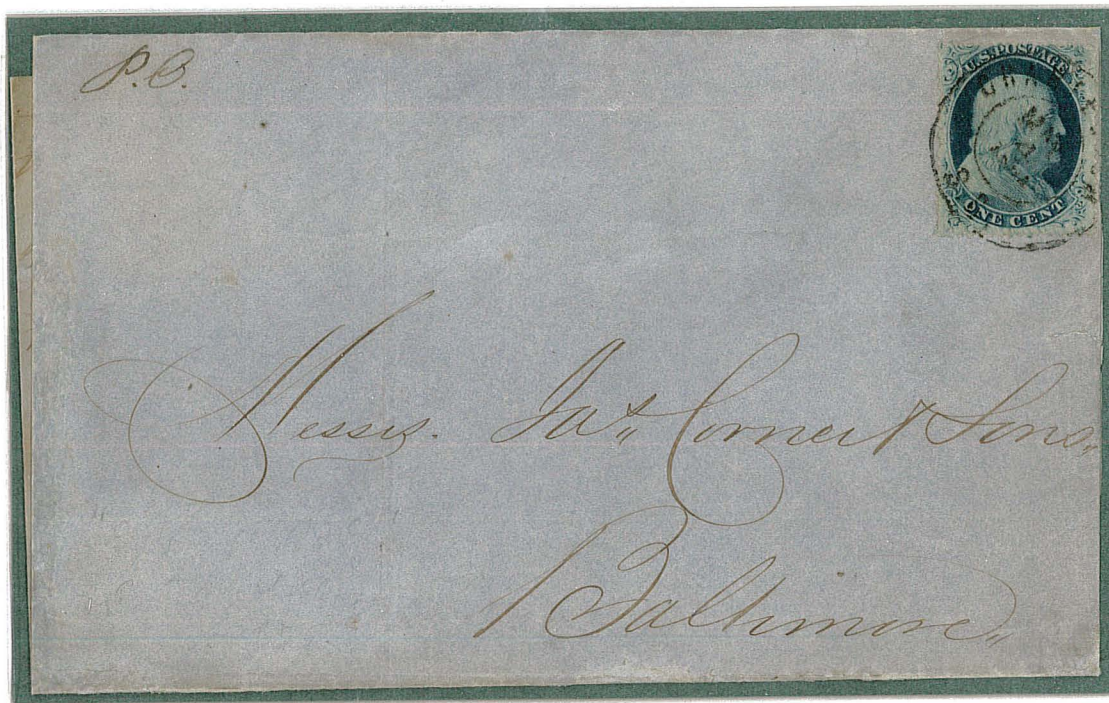


May 17, 1861 - Adam's Express Company mail service from Charleston to New York. Upon arrival in New York, one cent was paid for local delivery.

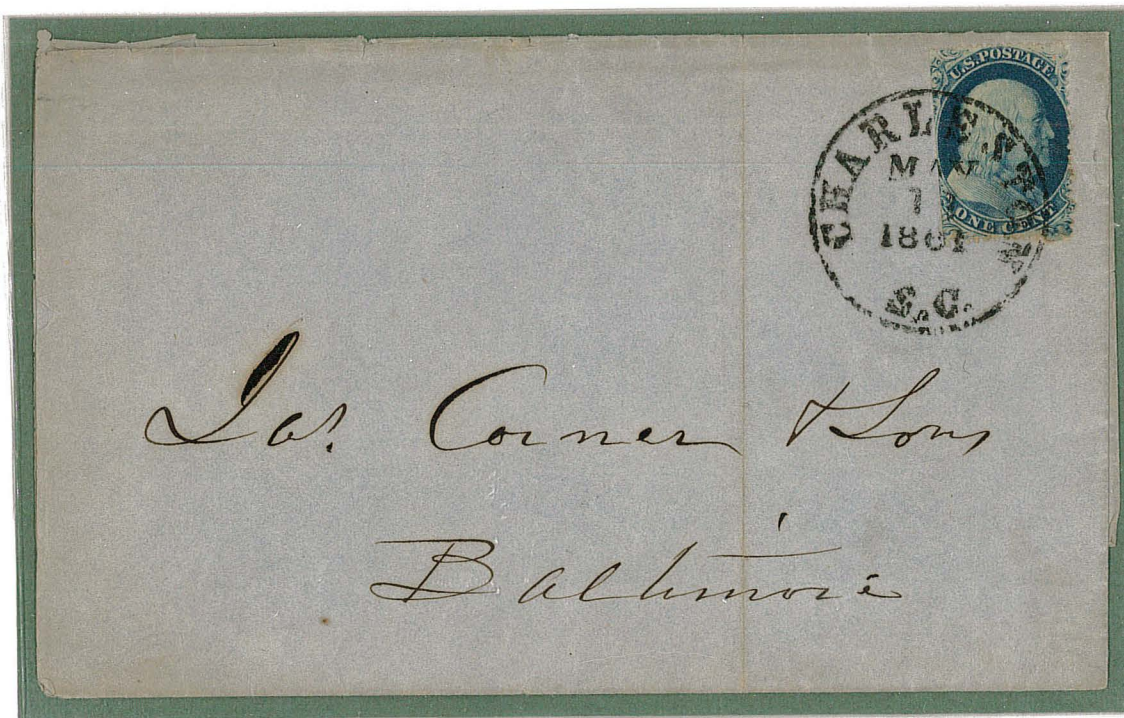
WALSKE BOOK PAGE 28 & 210

WALSKE BOOK PAGE 210

One - Cent Printed Circular Rate



May 4, 1861 - one-cent was the rate for printed circulars ("P.C.") traveling any distance and weighing not more than three ounces.



May 11, 1861 - one-cent U.S. stamp used to pay the printed circular rate on a cover addressed to Baltimore.

Patriotic Envelopes

(Dietz Type F7-18)



May 3, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope with U.S. stamp and type A-27 cancel to Ridgeway, South Carolina.



May 7, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope with U.S. stamp and type A-27 cancel to Glenn Springs P.O., S. Carolina.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage



April 27, 1861 -- U.S. stamped envelope (U10), with advertising for a Charleston carriage manufacturer, addressed to Marion C.H., South Carolina.



May 5, 1861 - U.S. postage used on a cover to Fort Hill, the plantation home of the John C. Calhoun family, near Pendleton, South Carolina.

State Flag Patriotic Envelopes



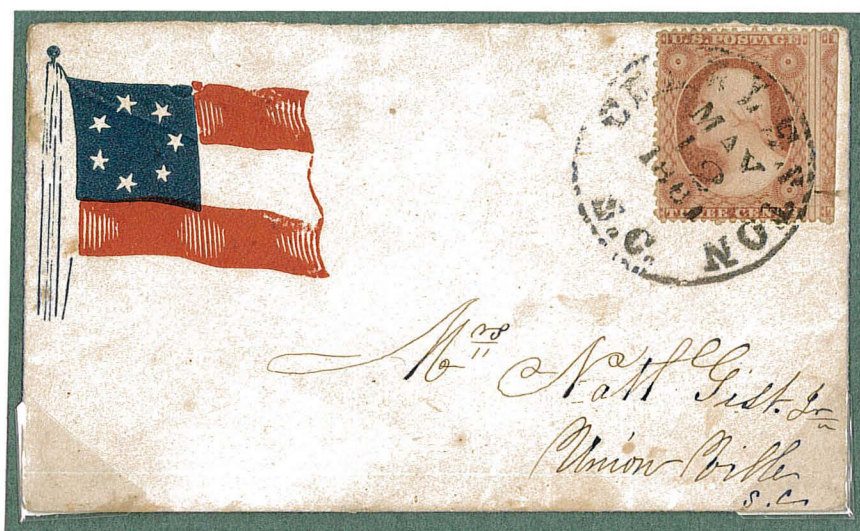
STATIONERY ON BACKSIDE
FOR REFERENCE

April 22, 1861 - South Carolina state flag patriotic envelope, with type A-27 cancel to Smith's Turnout, South Carolina. Seven nails attach the flag to the staff.



May 14, 1861 - a similar South Carolina state flag patriotic envelope, with type AN-18 cancel to Columbia, South Carolina. Three nails attach this flag to the staff.

Confederate Use of U.S. Postage



May 12, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope with U.S. stamp and type A-26 cancel to Unionville, South Carolina.



May 18, 1861 - one of the last covers mailed from Charleston to New York that would travel by normal mail service. The City of Alexandria, Virginia was seized by Federal forces on May 24, 1861, essentially severing mail ties between the North and South. All mail service between the Confederate States and the United States was suspended on May 31, 1861.

Forwarded Mail



May 21, 1861 - cover from Rock Hill, SC initially canceled with a small double-circle device which apparently had no date logo. The cover was subsequently canceled with the larger Rock Hill device with an incorrect date logo. Upon arrival in Charleston the cover was forwarded to York, South Carolina where it was advertised in the local newspaper and the handstamped "DUE 2" (unlisted in Dietz) applied for the advertising fee.

Dead Letter Office

Northbound mail from the Confederate States which did not cross into the Union prior to June 1, 1861 was sent to the Confederate Post Office Department ("P.O.D.") Dead Letter Office in Richmond where it was sorted and the contents returned to the sender.



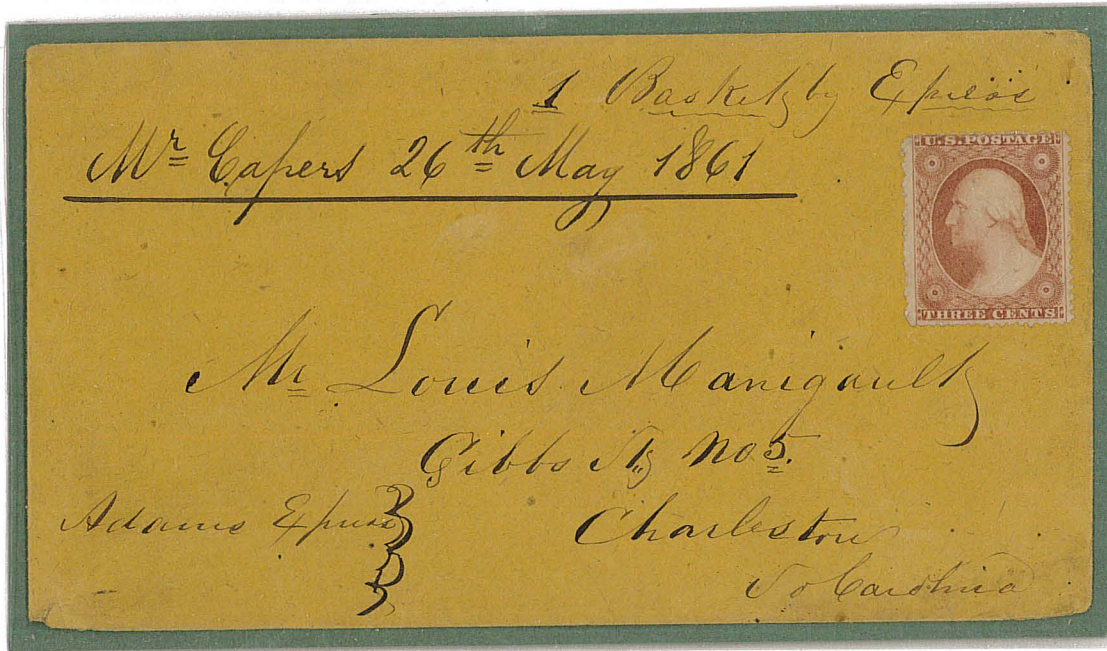
WALSKE BOOK PAGE 12

May 25, 1861 - cover mailed from Charleston to New York which did not cross into the Union prior to June 1, 1861 when postal communication between the North and South were terminated.

Pencil notation "PO Draft" denoted contents of the envelope

This is the only recorded example of a Confederate Dead Letter Office cover that originated in Charleston, South Carolina

Express Mail



May 26, 1861 - cover sent by the Adams Express Company to Charleston, delivered to a street address.



August 12, 1861 - cover sent by the American Express Company in Philadelphia and routed through Nashville to Charleston, delivered to a street address.

Postmaster Handstamped "FREE"

Postal regulations permitted postmasters to send official correspondences "free" of charge. Confederate postmaster "free" covers are very scarce. This is the only recorded Confederate example of the Charleston handstamped "FREE".



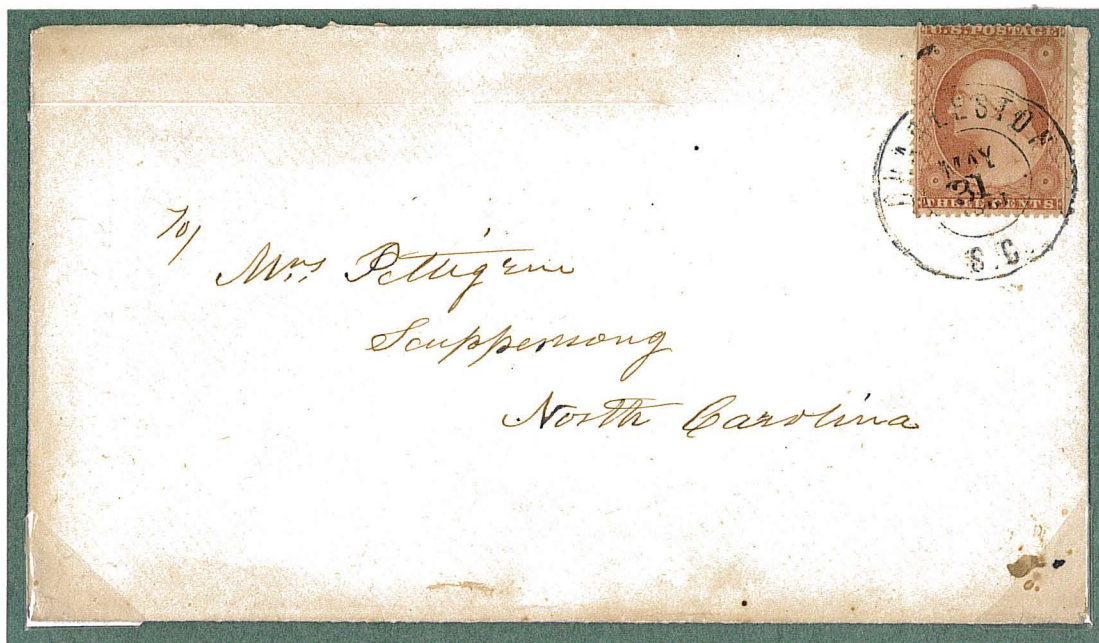
May 31, 1861 - handstamped "FREE", type S-12, on official correspondence from Charleston Postmaster Alfred Huger to Postmaster John Glymph of Glymphville, South Carolina.

Last Day of U.S. Postal Rates

Normal postal communication between the North and South continued through May 31, 1861 when they were discontinued and the new Confederate Postal Service and rates went into effect.



May 31, 1861 - double weight cover to Cheraw, South Carolina.



May 31, 1861 - single weight cover to Scuppernon, North Carolina.

Five-Cent Handstamped Paid

The Confederate Postal system formally began operations on June 1, 1861. The rate was also increased from three cents to five cents for a single letter weighing not more than half an ounce and traveling less than five hundred miles.



June 3, 1861 - pre-war straight-line cancellation devices (Dietz type II + B) were used during the first four days of June. Cover sent to the Confederate Vice President in Richmond, Virginia.

ONE OF 6 RECORDED USES
ALL ON JUNE 3 OR JUNE 4

THIS COLLECTION CONTAINS 4 OF THE 6 RECORDED



June 4, 1861 - pre-war straight-line cancellation devices (Dietz type II + B) used on a South Carolina state flag patriotic envelope (Dietz type FSC-3a) to Mayesville, South Carolina.

Handsatmps - Last and First Day



June 4, 1861 - the last day of use of the handstamp straight-line PAID 5 (Dietz type II+B) on a cover sent from Boston on May 28 and placed in the mail at Charleston on June 4, 1861 where it was forwarded to Greenville, South Carolina.



June 4, 1861 - this was also the first day of use of the new five-cent handstamp PAID 5 in a circle (Dietz type III), used on a folded letter to Aiken, South Carolina.

Demonetized U.S. Postage



June 6, 1861 - attempted use of U.S. stamps after they were no longer valid for use. The five-cent postage was paid by the handstamped PAID 5 (Dietz type III).



June 8, 1861 - U.S. stamped envelopes were also not valid for use. The impression was crossed-out and the handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) was charged to account number 98.

Forwarded Mail

Because of the Civil War, many people often moved to care for family and business matters. Mail sent to them had to be forwarded, and additional postage paid.



June 5, 1861 - a cover from Columbia, South Carolina with blue Paid 5 addressed to Charleston. The cover was forwarded at Charleston on June 6th to Georgetown and the additional postage charged to a postal account.



June 10, 1861 - a cover from Charleston with handstamped PAID 5 (Dietz Type III) addressed to Pendleton, SC. The cover was forwarded at Pendleton on June 13th to Greenville, SC and the additional postage denoted by the blue PAID 5 handstamp.

Handstamped Paid Drop Letters

Beginning June 1st, letters deposited at the post office for pick-up by local citizens, called "drop letters", were charged two cents.

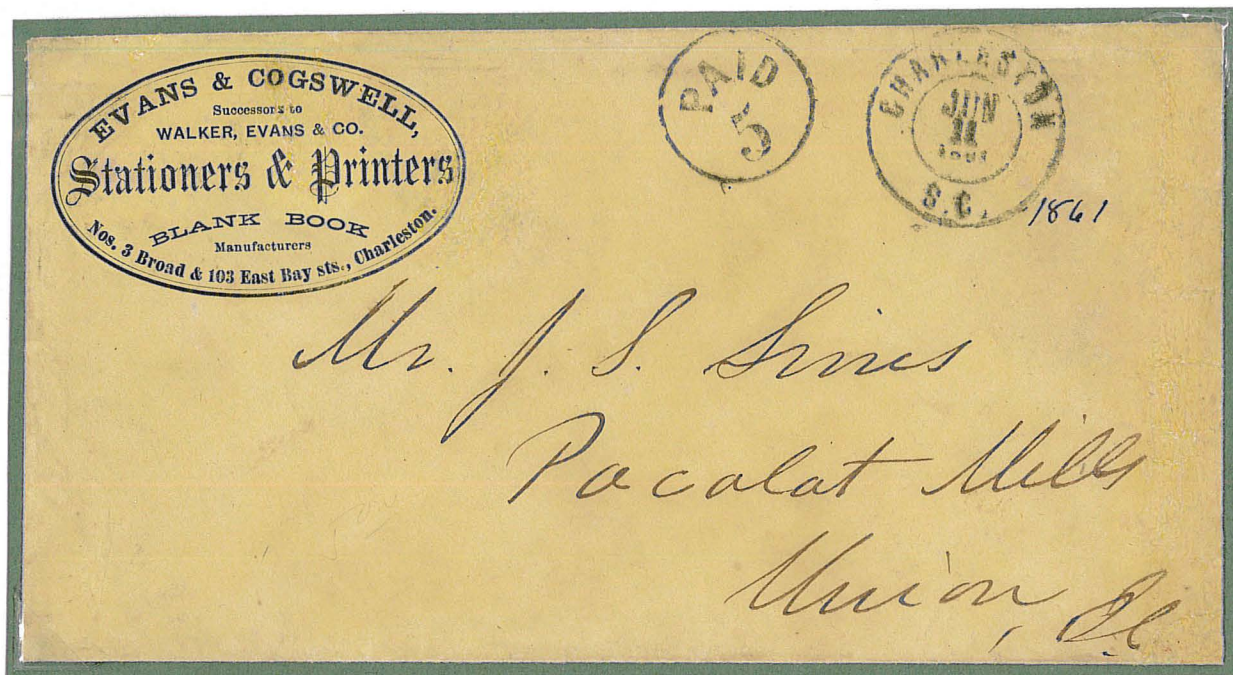


June 7, 1861 - handstamp PAID 2 (Dietz Type I) used on a drop letter addressed to the Pastor of Grace Church on Wentworth Street in Charleston. The notation "**Penny Post Paid**" indicates that an additional one cent was paid for delivery from the post office to the street address.



July 16, 1861 - handstamp PAID 2 (Dietz type I) used to pay the rate for a drop letter addressed to Gibbs Street in Charleston.

Handstamped Paid on Advertising Covers



June 11, 1861 - the handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) on an advertising cover of *Evans & Cogswell*, the Charleston printing company that prepared the local postmasters provisional stamps and envelopes.



June 29, 1861 - a cover from a Charleston wholesale grocer send to Manning, South Carolina and forwarded on July 2nd to Sumter, South Carolina.

Ten-Cent Handstamped Paids

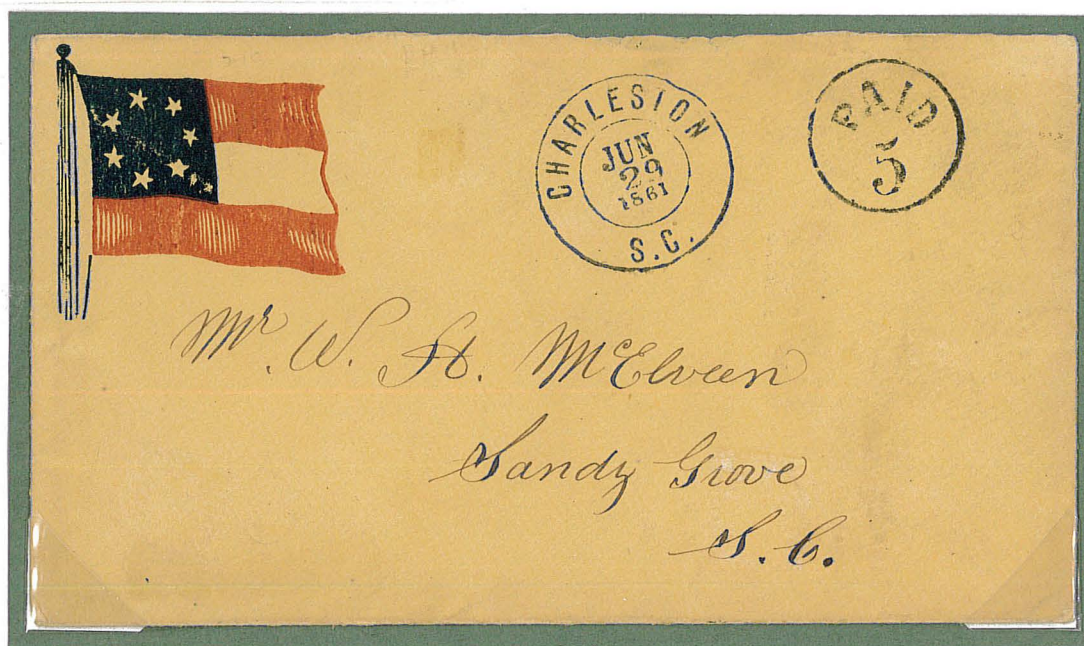


June 6, 1861 - the ten-cent rate (Dietz type IV) used to pay the postage on a double-weight letter traveling less than 500 miles to Pinckneyville, Alabama, a distance of approximately 375 miles. This is the earliest recorded use of the PAID 10, Type IV handstamped rate.



July 24, 1861 - ten cents was also the rate for letters weighing less than half an ounce but traveling more than 500 miles. This folded letter was sent to New Orleans, Louisiana, a distance of approximately 660 miles.

Patriotic Envelopes with Handstamped PAIDS



June 29, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope (Dietz type F7-18a) with handstamp paid type III marking to Sandy Grove, South Carolina.



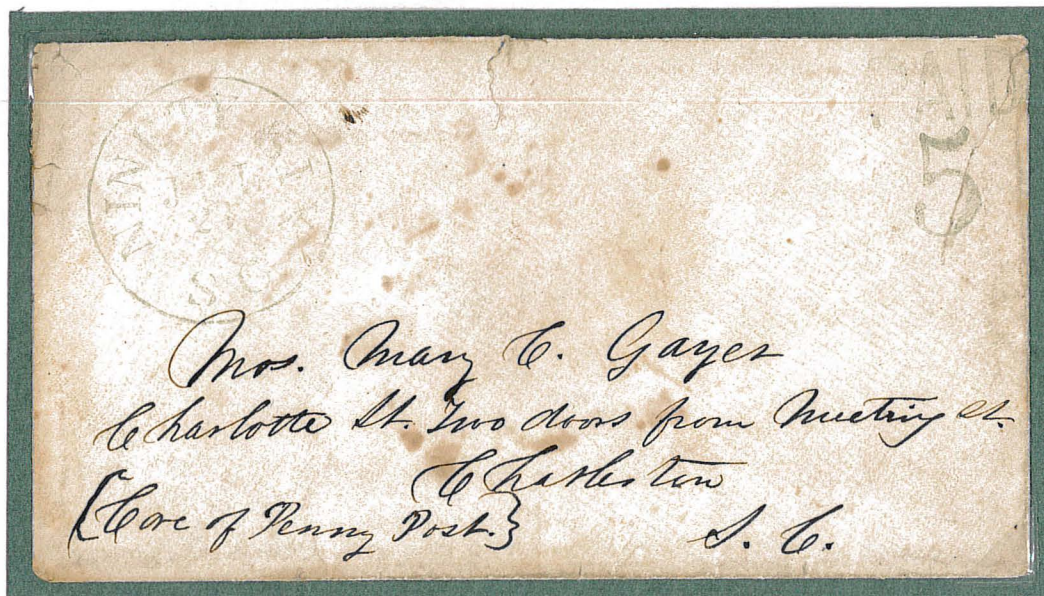
July 29, 1861 - Confederate flag patriotic envelope (Dietz type F7-18) with handstamp paid type III marking to Oaklands Post Office, South Carolina.

Penny Post Delivery

The Penny Post was a continuation of the independent City Post mail carrier services which operated in Charleston prior to the Civil War. For a fee of two cents per letter, the City Post would deliver mail from the postoffice to a home address or from a home to the postoffice. The Penny Post is believed to have charged only one cent for this service.

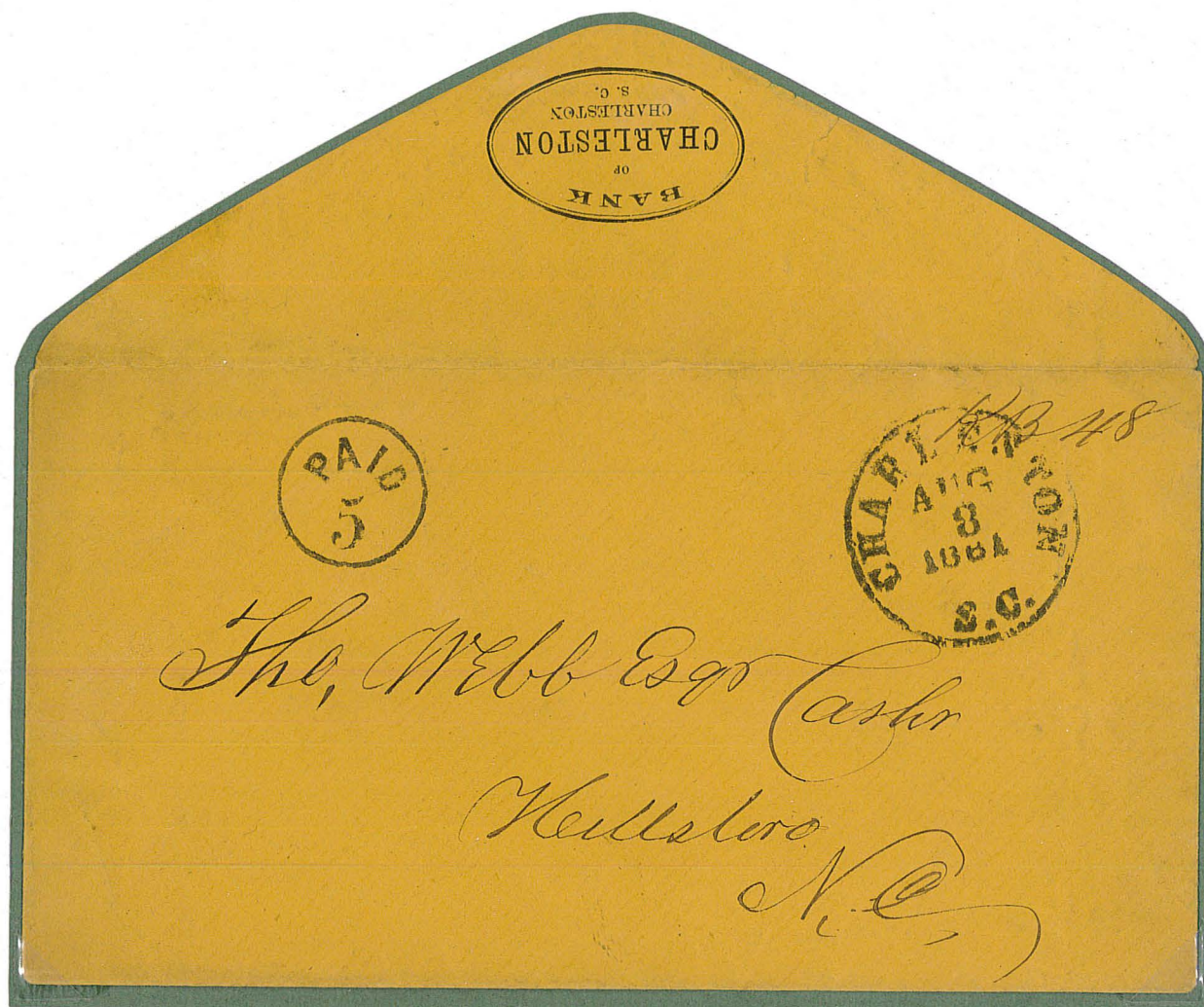


July 8, 1861 - cover from Brunswick, Georgia to Charleston, with the directions "Penny Post Deliver", to the street address indicated.



July 23, 1861 - cover from Ninety-Six, South Carolina with a green PAID 5 cancel to Charleston, where it was delivered to the street address "Care of Penny Post".

Handstamped Paid
on Advertising Cover



August 8, 1861 - a cover from the *Bank of Charleston*, with advertising on the envelope flap, with the 5-cent rate addressed to Hillsboro, NC.

Fifteen-Cent Rate

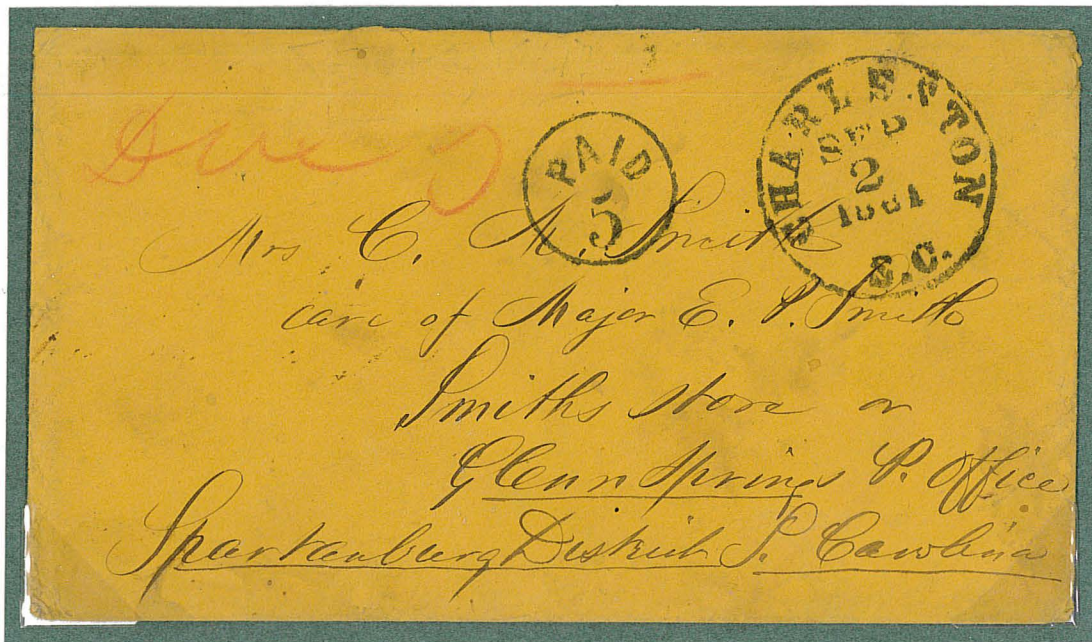


August 14, 1861 - Charleston did not have a cancellation device for rates over ten cents. To indicate payment of postage on this triple rate cover, the handstamped **PAID** (Dietz type II) and a manuscript "15" were used.

Five-Cent Handstamped Paid



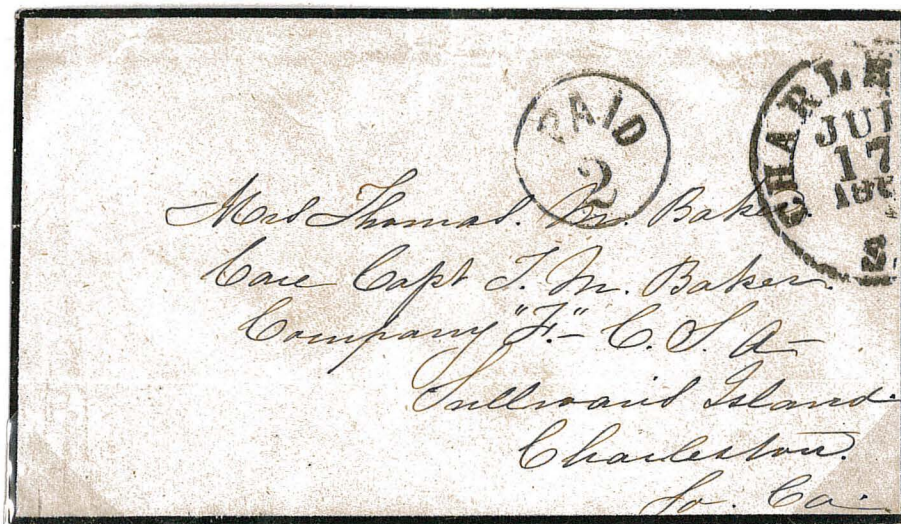
July 16, 1861 - handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) on an embossed advertising cover to Micanopy, Florida.



September 2, 1861 - a cover with handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) and red manuscript "Due 5" added for a double weight cover to Glenn Springs P.O., SC.

Mourning Covers

Black-edged envelopes were often sent to express sympathy to families that had lost loved ones.




July 17, 1861 - handstamped PAID 2 (Dietz type I) on a mourning cover drop letter to Sullivan Island (Charleston Harbor).



September 9, 1861 - handstamped PAID 5 (Dietz type III) on a mourning cover addressed to Graham's Turnout, South Carolina.

Blockade-Run Mail

The Union began blockading the port of Charleston in May 1861 to prevent the South from exporting cotton and importing materials that would aid the South. However, blockade runners were often able to slip through the blockade with mail and other items.

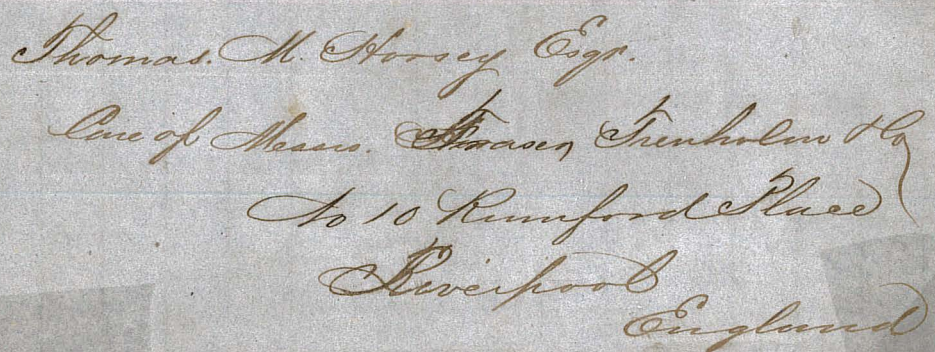


Charleston July 14th 1861

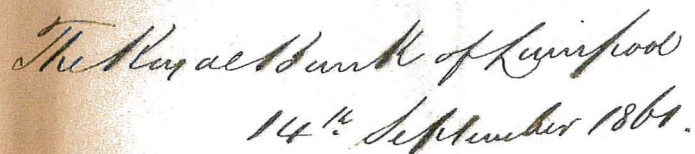
July 14, 1861 -

Hand-carried out-going blockade-run folded letter from Charleston to the European agents of the Confederate Government in Liverpool, England.

Photocopy of the folded letter interior shown above.



Thomas M. Horsey Esq.
Care of Messrs. Messrs. Trenholm & Co
to 10 Rensford Place
Liverpool
England

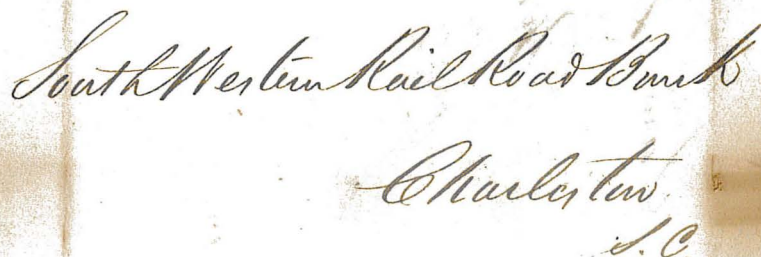


The Royal Bank of Liverpool
14th September 1861.

September 14, 1861 -

Hand-carried in-coming blockade-run folded letter from The Royal Bank of Liverpool (England), that arrived in Charleston on September 24, 1861.

Photocopy of the folded letter interior shown above.



South Western Rail Road Bank
Charleston
S.C.

Patriotic Envelopes with Handstamped Rates

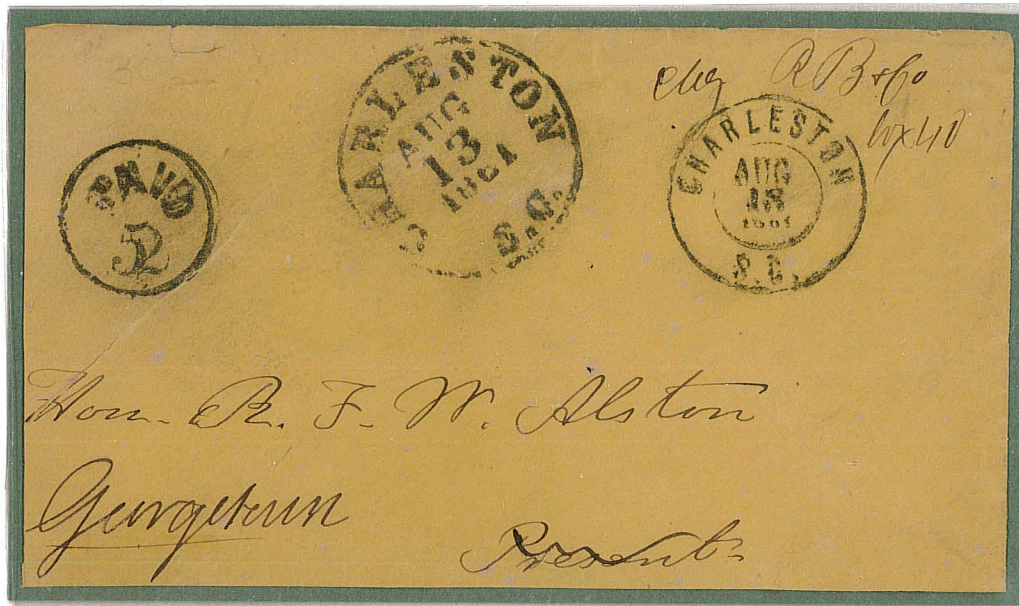


October 1, 1861 - seven-star Confederate flag patriotic envelope (type F7-18a) with handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) to Pendleton P.O., S. Carolina.

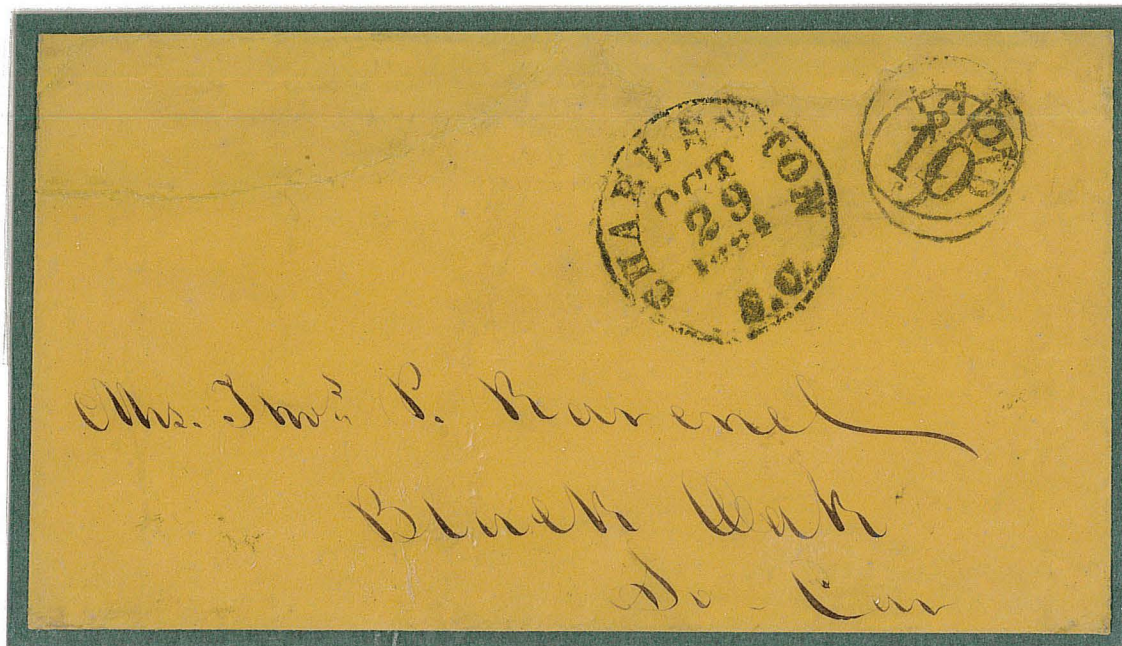


October 5, 1861 - South Carolina flag patriotic envelope (Dietz type FSC-3) with handstamp (due) 5 (Dietz type B) to Alfonsville, North Carolina.

Re-Valued Handstamped Paid

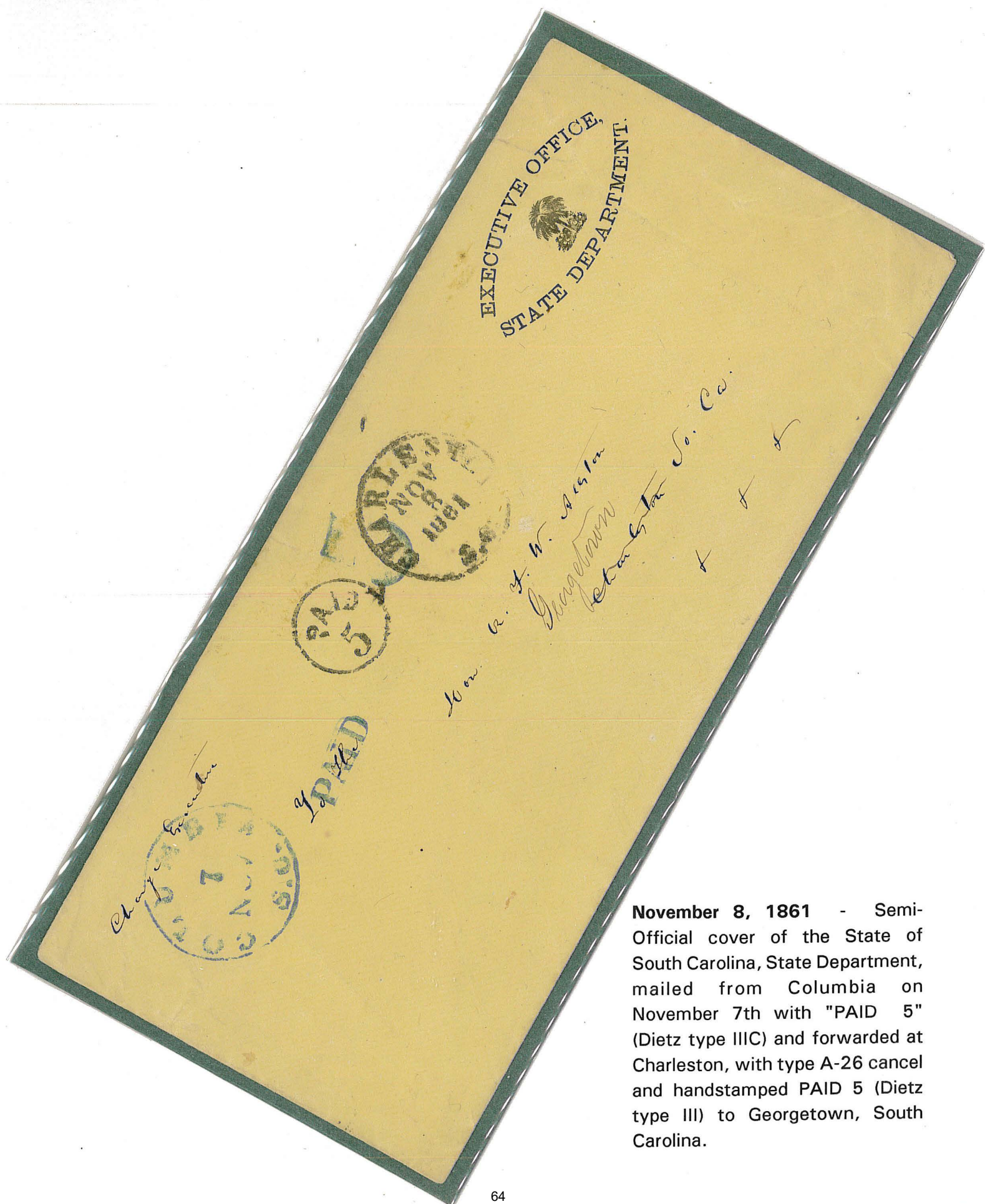


August 13, 1861 - handstamp PAID 2 (Dietz type I) used to pay the rate for a drop letter to Charleston. The handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) was applied on August 18, 1861 to forward the envelope to Georgetown, South Carolina. This is the only recorded combination of these handstamps.



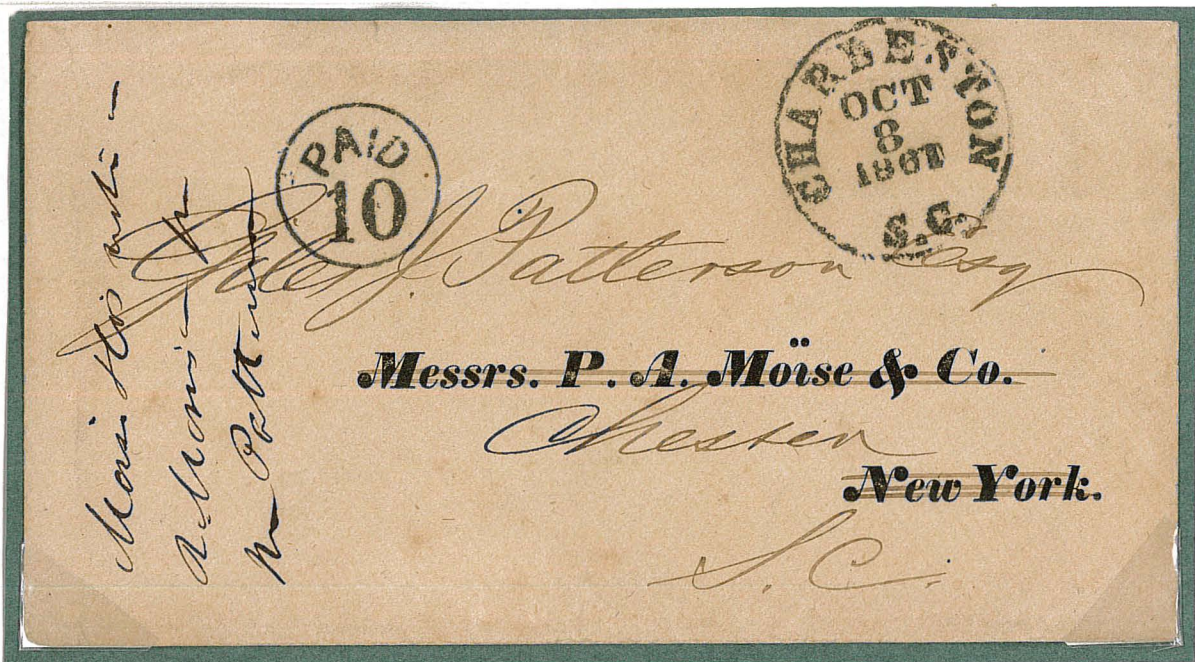
October 29, 1861 - the handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) was mistakenly struck and the handstamp PAID 10 (Dietz type IV) was then applied to pay the rate on a double weight cover to Black Oak, South Carolina. This is the only recorded combination of these handstamps.

Semi - Official Mail



November 8, 1861 - Semi-Official cover of the State of South Carolina, State Department, mailed from Columbia on November 7th with "PAID 5" (Dietz type IIIC) and forwarded at Charleston, with type A-26 cancel and handstamped PAID 5 (Dietz type III) to Georgetown, South Carolina.

Ten-Cent Handstamped Paid



October 8, 1861 - the ten-cent rate (Dietz type IV) used to pay the postage on a double-weight letter traveling less than 500 miles to Chester, SC, a distance of approximately 150 miles.



November 17, 1861 - ten cents was also the rate for letters weighing less than half an ounce but traveling more than 500 miles. This folded letter was sent to Pattersonville, Louisiana, a distance of approximately 730 miles.

General Robert E. Lee Cover

On November 4, 1861, Robert E. Lee was promoted to General in the Confederate States Army and given command of the *Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida* to improve the coastal defenses from Georgetown, SC to Jacksonville, FL. He held this position until March 3, 1862.



Cover endorsed by Robert E. Lee, General Commanding, with Official Business to William Porcher Miles, the Confederate Congressman from Charleston. The cover was forwarded at Charleston to Richmond, Virginia.

Advertising Covers

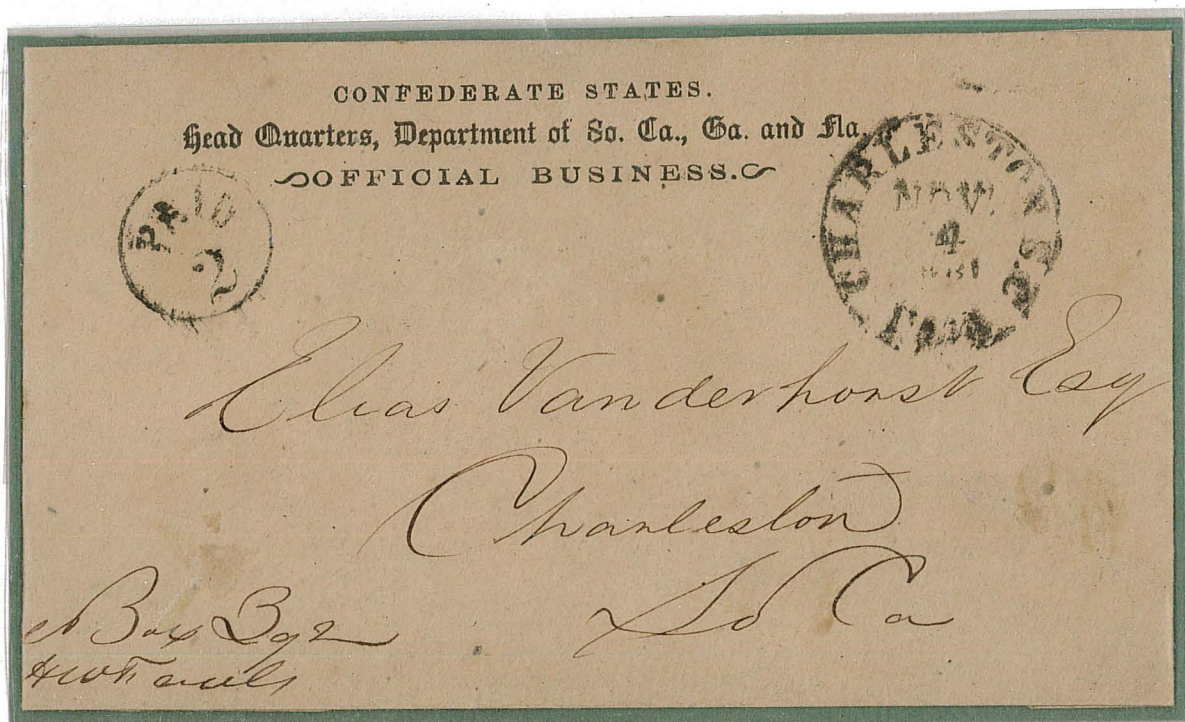


October 29, 1861 - the handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) on an advertising cover of a Charleston wholesale grocers, to Greensboro, North Carolina.



November 30, 1861 - all-over advertising cover of a Charleston general commission merchant with type A-26 cancel, to Fort Mills, South Carolina.

Semi-Official Drop Letters



November 4, 1861 - handstamp PAID 2 (Dietz type I) paying the drop letter rate on a Semi-Official envelope of the **Head Quarters, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.**



December 29, 1861 - handstamp (due) 2 (Dietz type A) on a manuscript Semi-Official envelope of the **Medical Purveyor's Bureau** addressed to the Phoenix Rifles, a military company on James Island.

Soldier's "Due" Covers

Soldiers were allowed to send mail Postage "due" provided they endorsed each envelope with their name and company. The Charleston post office prepared envelopes with the due "5" handstamp (Dietz type B) and sent them to the Confederate troops that were protecting the coastline along the **Charleston & Savannah Railroad**. The soldiers' mail was collected and returned to Charleston where it entered the postal system.



November 28, 1861 - mail from Corporal Edwin DuBose of the Rutledge Mounted Rifles, a cavalry company, addressed to Black Oaks, South Carolina.



November 29, 1861 - mail from Private Jacob E. Rast of Company A, Hagood's Regiment, addressed to Sandy Run, South Carolina.

Soldier's "Due" Covers

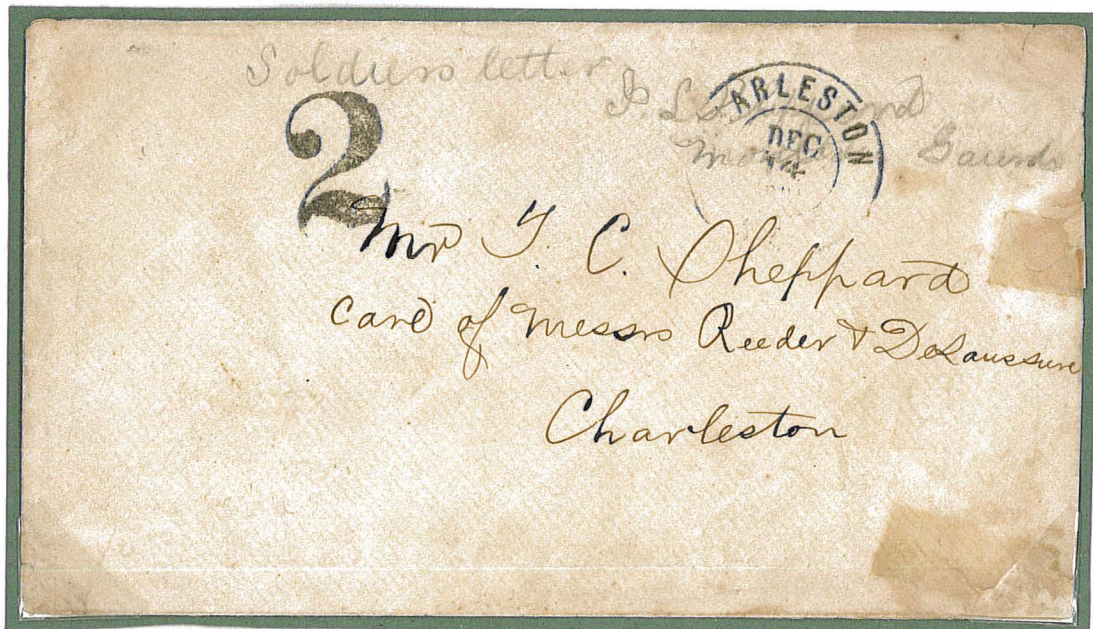


November 29, 1861 - mail from Private James R. Neal of Company A, Orr's Regiment, addressed to Pickens C.H., South Carolina.



December 2, 1861 - mail from Lieutenant Duff Green Calhoun of First (South Carolina) Infantry C.S.P.A., addressed to Pendleton, South Carolina.

Soldier's "Due" Covers

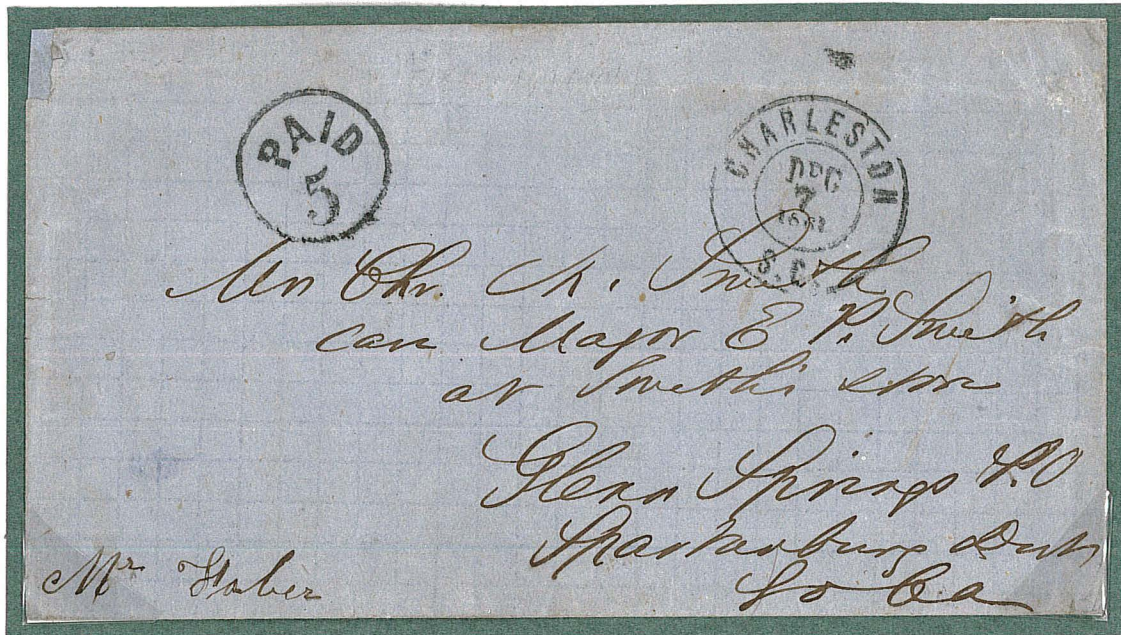


December 14, 1861 - a 2-cent drop letter soldiers "due" cover from J.L. Sheppard of the Mounted Guards, a local cavalry unit, addressed to Charleston, South Carolina.



November 19, 1861 - a 10-cent double-weight soldiers "due" cover, from Thomas P. Ravenel of the Rutledge Mounted Rifles. Addressed to Black Oaks, South Carolina, it was hand-carried from Pocotaligo to Charleston where it was placed in the mail.

Handstamped Pairs on Adversity Covers



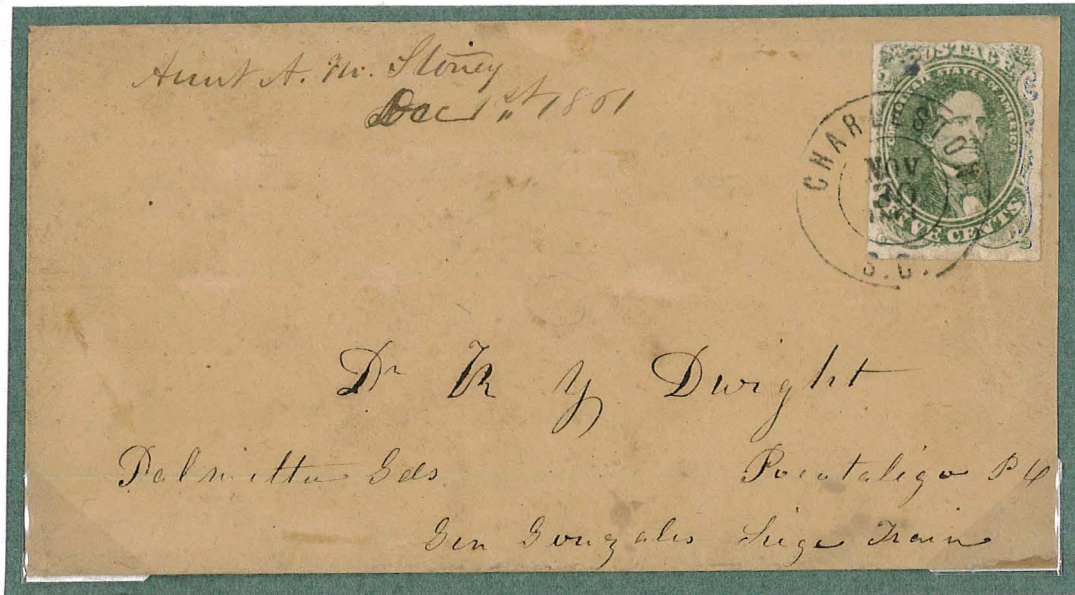
December 7, 1861 - a home-made cover from a piece of blue graph paper, with the handstamp PAID 5 (Dieta type III) to Glenn Springs P.O., South Carolina. Home-made covers would become more common as the war continued and paper became scarcer throughout the South.



December 13, 1861 - all-over advertising cover of the Columbia Female College, used from Charleston with the handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) to Mush Creek, South Carolina.

Confederate General - Issue Stamps

Although the Confederate government-issued stamps were available in Richmond on October 15, 1861, they were not available to the public in Charleston until December 7, 1861.



November 30, 1861 - five-cent lithographed stamp printed by Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond. Brought to Charleston and used prior to the sale of the stamps in Charleston.



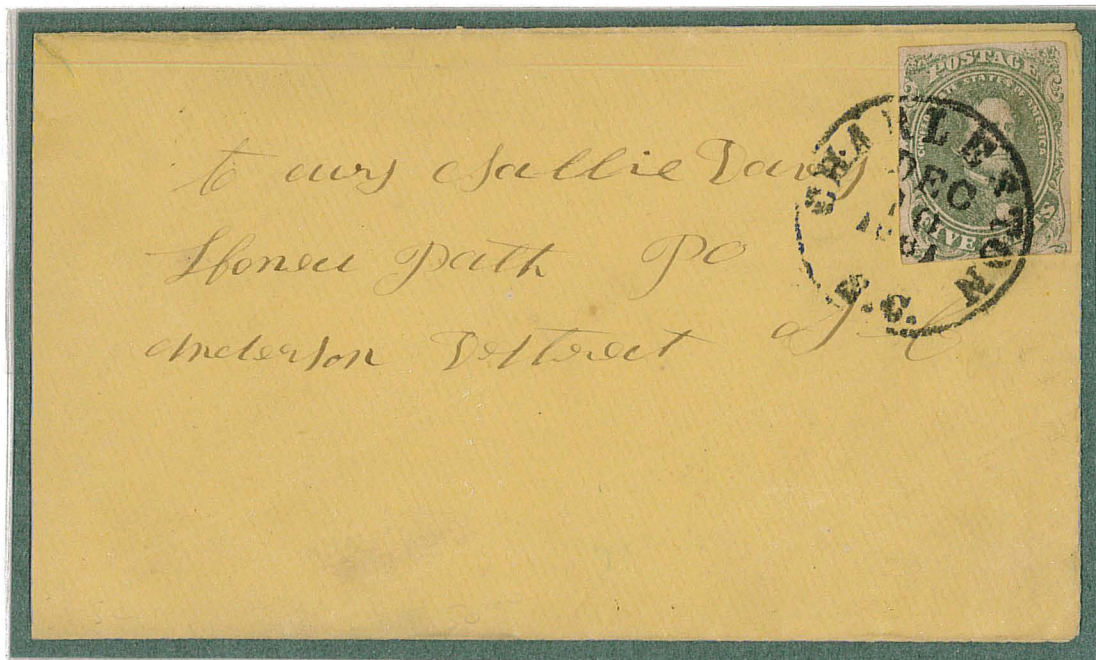
November 22, 1861 - ten-cent lithographed stamp printed by Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond. Brought to Charleston and used prior to the sale of the stamps in Charleston.

Confederate General - Issue Stamps

The Confederate government-issued stamps went on sale in Charleston on December 7, 1861.



December 9, 1861 - five-cent government-issued stamp used to Anderson C.H., South Carolina on the second day after the stamp went on sale in Charleston.



December 10, 1861 - five-cent government-issued postage stamp on cover to Honea Path, South Carolina, used from Charleston on the third day of sale.

Wrapper

Very few wrappers from this period have survived. Unlike covers, wrappers were typically discarded and not kept with the contents.



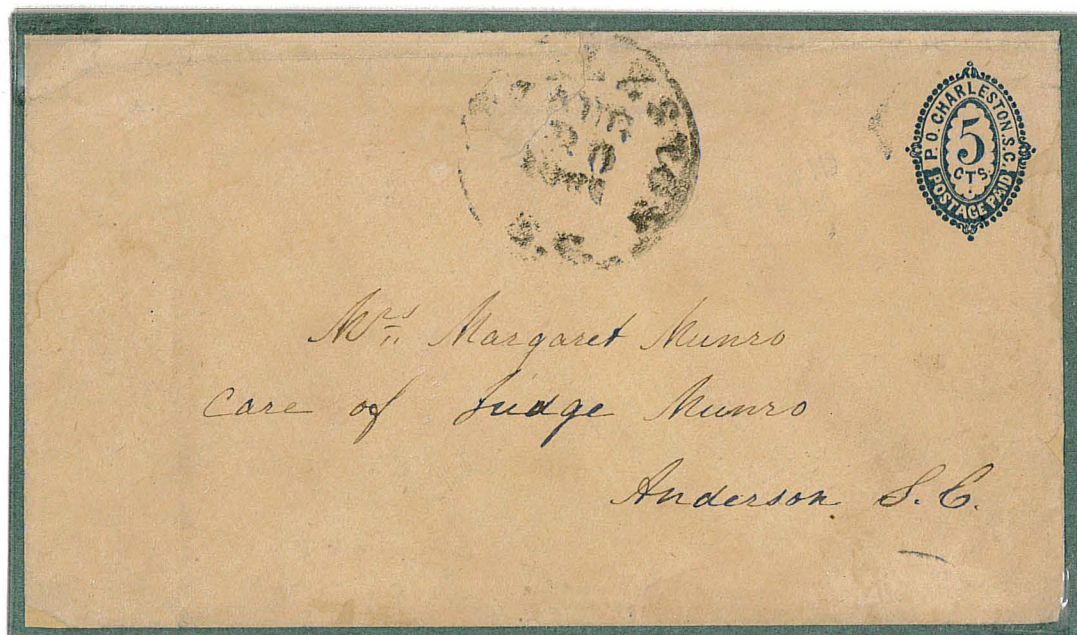
December 16, 1861 - six 10-cent stamps printed by Hoyer & Ludwig, used on a wrapper, likely containing a book or small parcel weighing less than six ounces, mailed to Pendleton, South Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Envelopes

The postmaster provisional envelopes were presumably prepared by the printing firm of **Evans and Cogswell** of Charleston. Typographed from a wood-cut die and printed on various colored envelopes, they went on sale to the public on August 15, 1861 and are known used until mid-November of 1861 when the supply was apparently exhausted.



August 18, 1861 - the third day of use of the typographed provisional envelopes, used to Laurens C.H., South Carolina.



August 30, 1861 - the postmaster provisional envelope used to Anderson, South Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Envelope



August 24, 1861 - the typographed postmaster provisional envelope addressed to Athens, Tennessee. The advertisement on the rear flap was applied after the provisional impression. This is the only recorded typographed postmaster provisional on an advertising cover.

Unauthorized Use of the Postmaster Provisional Envelope

The postmaster provisional stamps and envelopes prepared by several of the Confederate postmasters were intended as a temporary measure to be used from the city which issued them. A few were taken to other cities where unauthorized uses were attempted.



September 5, 1861 - attempted use of provisional envelope from Adams Run, South Carolina. The envelope was accepted by the postmaster and "Paid" was applied.

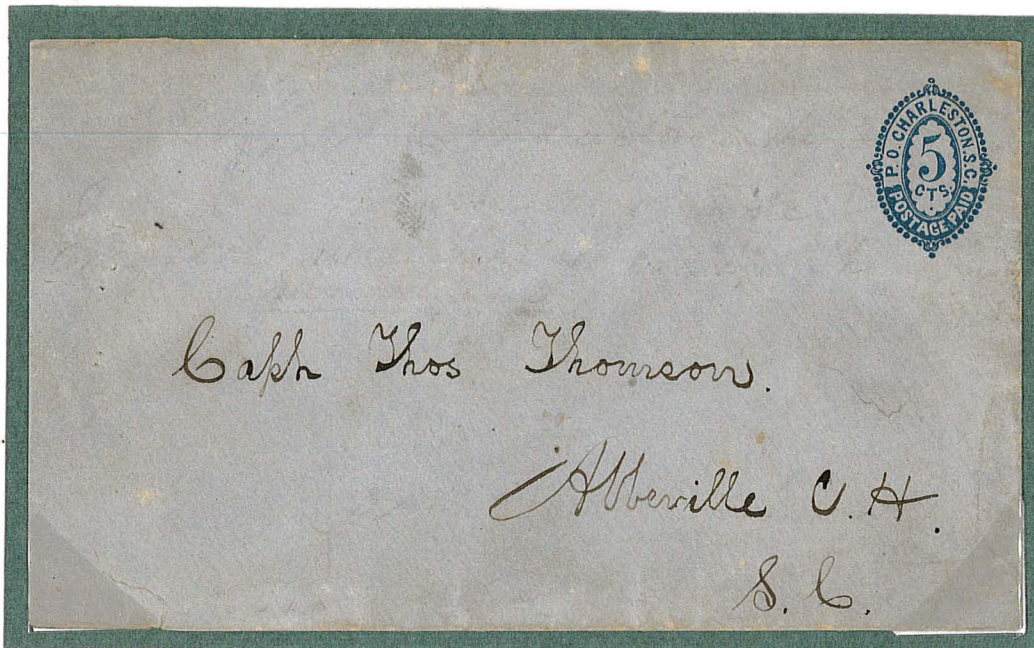


September 19, 1861 - attempted use of provisional envelope from Walterboro, South Carolina. The envelope was **not** accepted by the postmaster and "Paid 5" (Dietz type 1A) was applied.

Postmaster Provisional Envelopes



November 12, 1861 - the latest reported use of the typographed provisional envelopes, the initial supply was exhausted and no more were prepared. The Confederate government-issued stamps were expected soon.



Uncancelled - although the postage had been paid by purchasing the envelope, this typographed provisional on blue paper was apparently hand-carried to Abbeville, South Carolina.

Ten-Cent Postmaster Provisional Envelope

The Charleston postmaster did not prepare pre-printed ten-cent provisional envelopes. However, the postmaster did make available a ten-cent pre-paid envelope using the five-cent handstamped canceler.



August 26, 1861 - the typographed postmaster provisional envelope with the handstamp PAID 5 (Dietz type III) used to form a ten-cent provisional envelope.



The only other known example of the ten-cent provisional envelope.

Postmasters Provisional Stamp



A design similar to that used for the typographed envelope was developed for consideration as use for adhesive stamps.



Essays of a two-cent and a ten-cent adhesive provisional stamp, lithographed on white wove paper, were submitted for consideration but neither denomination was issued.



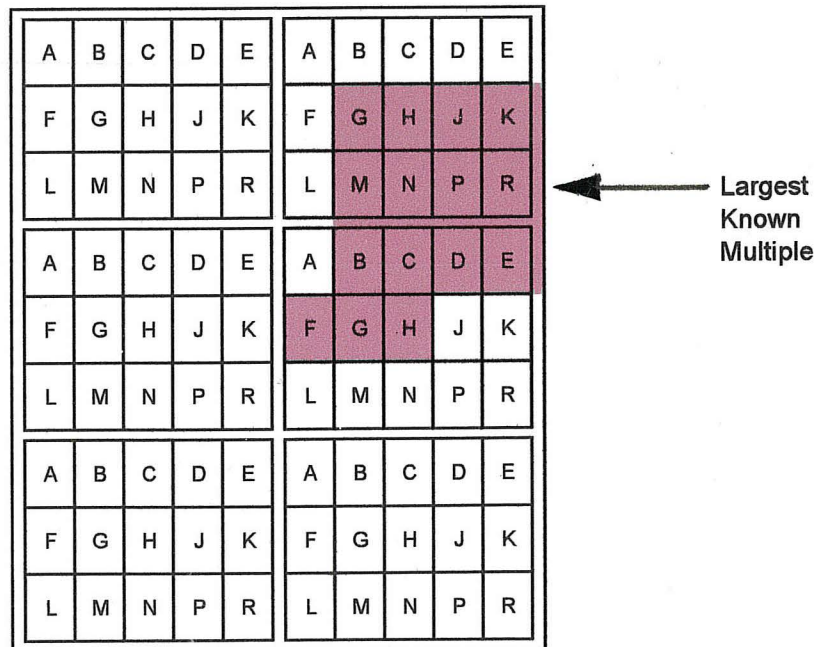
A five-cent design, similar to the essays and lithographed on white wove paper, was chosen to be issued.

The provisional stamps were printed by **Evans & Cogswell** of Charleston and went on sale at the postoffice on September 4, 1861. The cost of the new stamp was \$1.00 for 18 stamps or \$5.00 for a full sheet of 90 stamps.

Postmasters Provisional Stamp

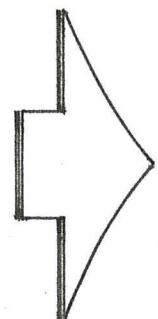


Individual lithographic transfers were used to prepare a major transfer of 15 stamps.



The major lithographic transfer was repeated six times to prepare the printing stone for the sheet of 90 stamps.

The following page contains a reconstructed sheet of the adhesive postmasters provisional stamp, based on the exhibitors original research that was begun in 1980.





40

Postmaster Provisional Stamp

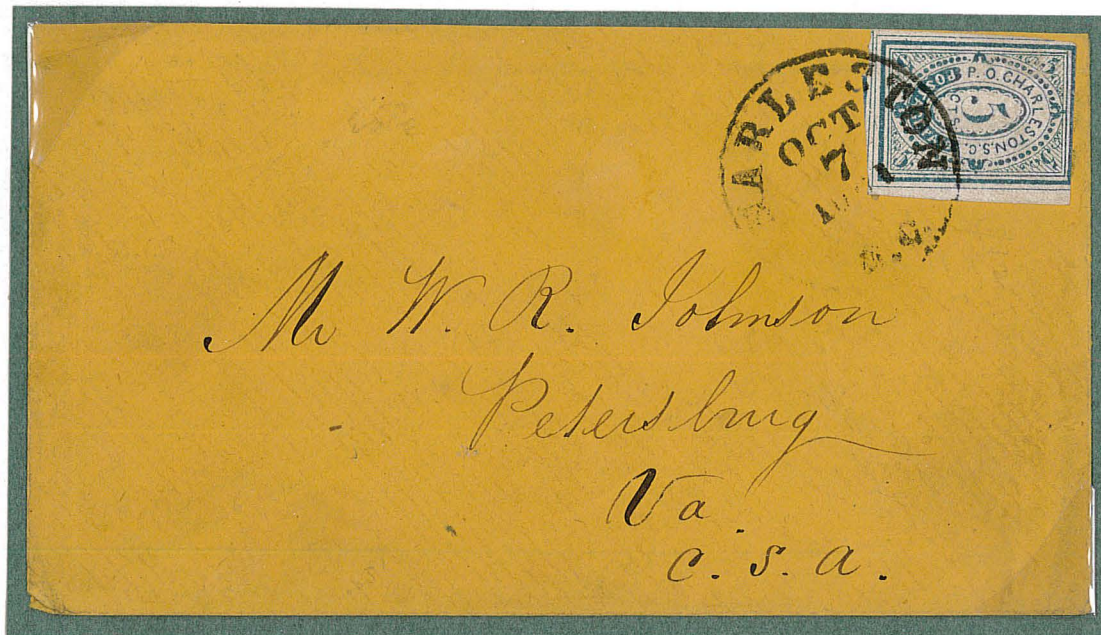


September 4, 1861 - first day of use of the adhesive postmaster provisional stamp on a homemade mourning cover to Columbia, South Carolina.

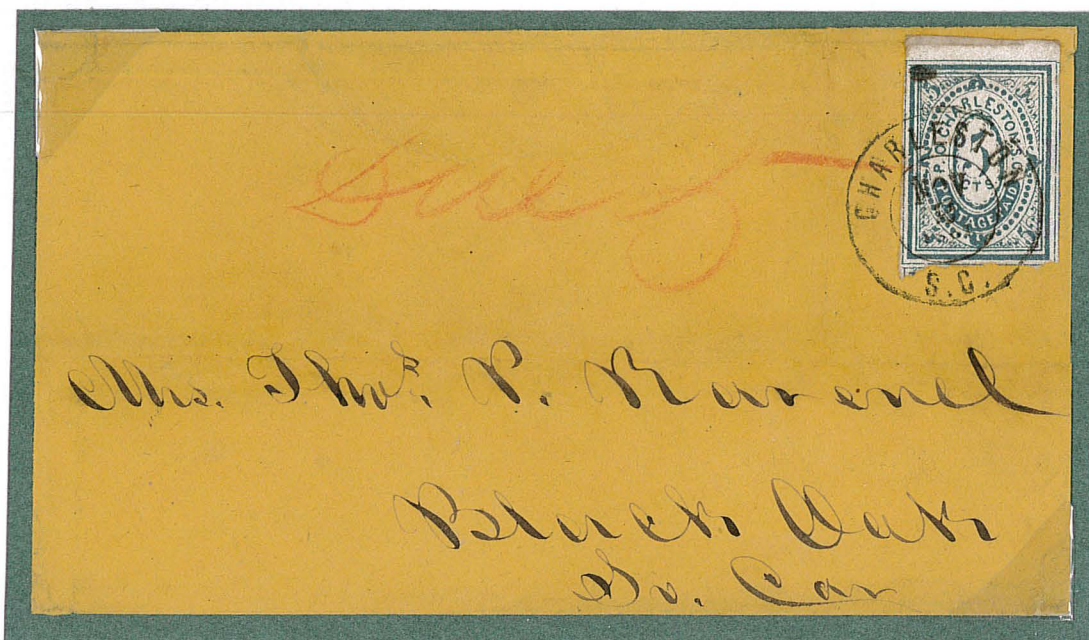


September 24, 1861 - the adhesive postmaster provisional stamp used on an advertising cover to Concord, North Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp

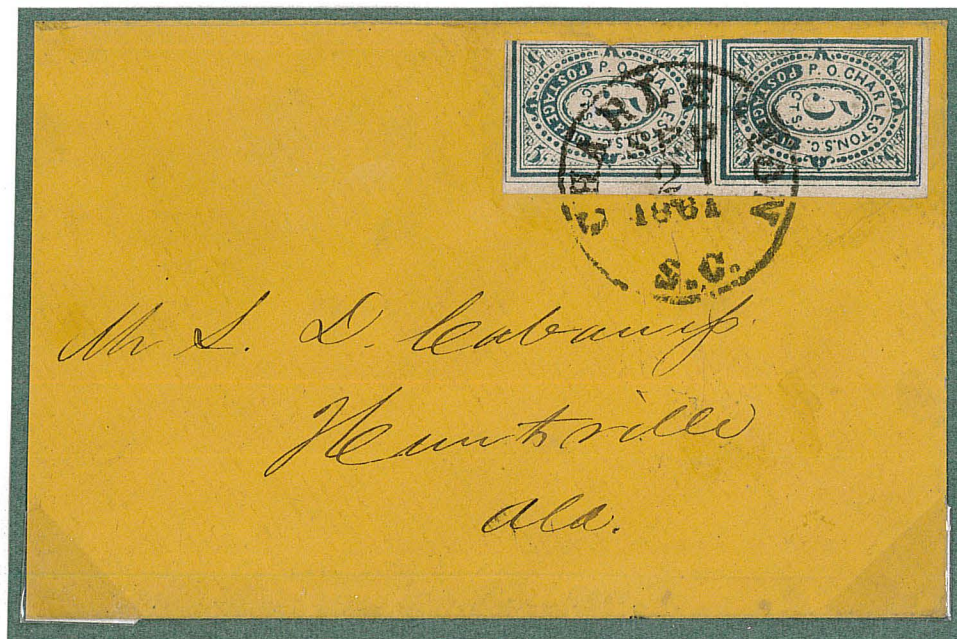


October 7, 1861 - a cover with the postmaster provisional stamp (with right sheet margin – Type K) used to Petersburg, Virginia, C.S.A.

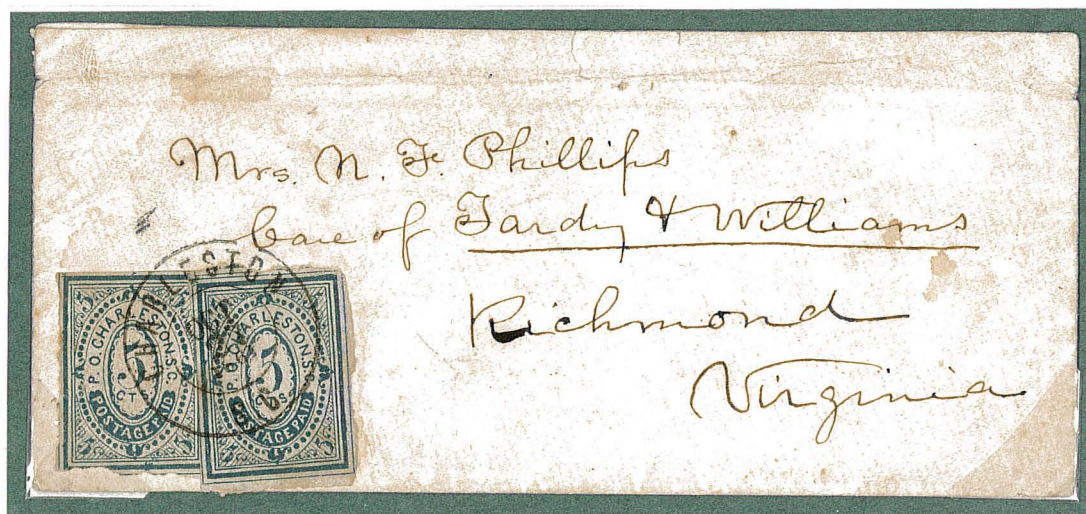


November 2, 1861 - postmaster provisional stamp (with top sheet margin – Type D) on a cover with "Due 5" added for a double weight letter to Black Oak, S. Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp - Multiple Rates

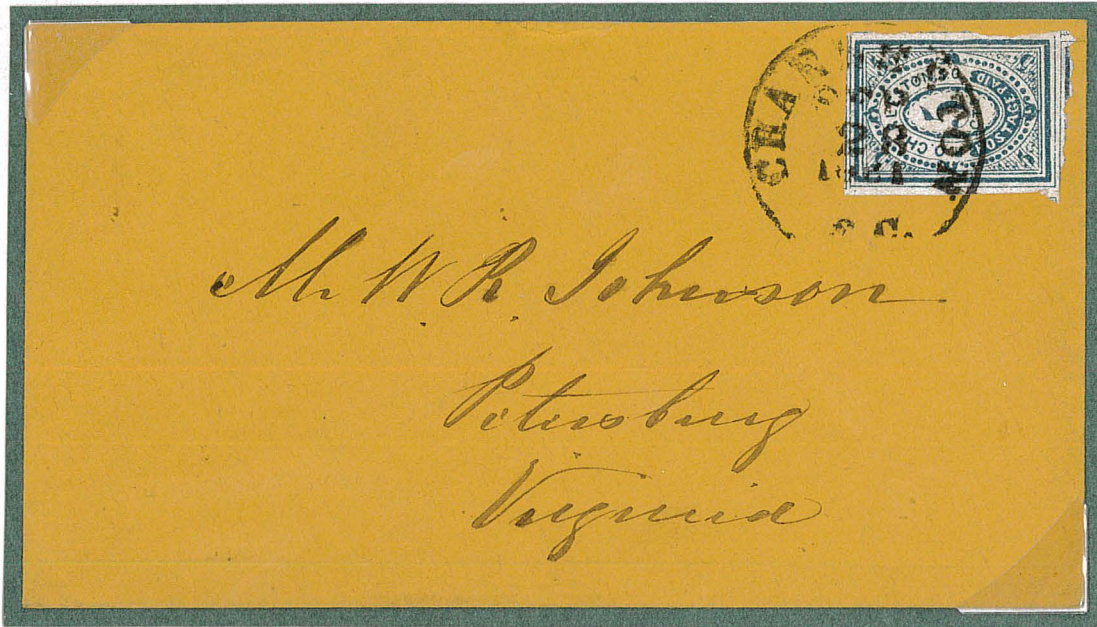


September 21, 1861 - a vertical pair of the adhesive postmaster provisional from the upper right corner of the sheet (Types E and K), paying the rate for a double weight letter to Huntsville, Alabama.

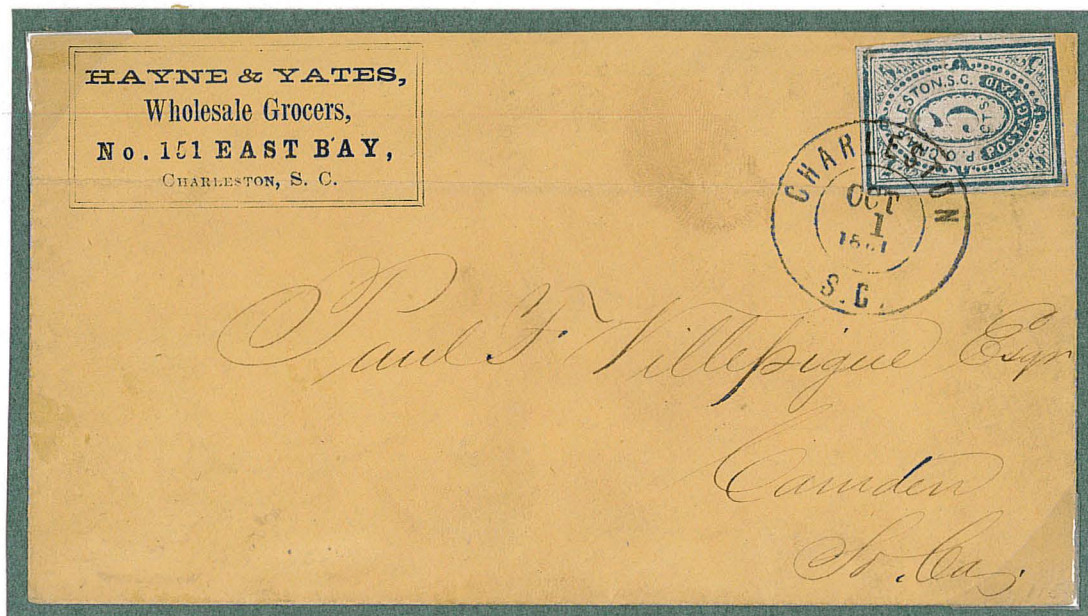


October 27, 1861 - two singles (previously a vertical pair – Types K and R) with type A-27 cancel paying the ten-cent rate to Richmond, Virginia.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp



September 28, 1861 - postmaster provisional stamp on a cover with type A-26 cancel to Petersburg, Virginia.



October 1, 1861 - the adhesive provisional stamp used on an advertising cover of a Charleston wholesale grocers to Camden, South Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp Used on Semi-Official Envelope



October 11, 1861 - adhesive postmaster provisional stamp used to pay the postage on a Semi-Official envelope of the Charleston "Fire Alarm and Police Telegraph" office to Camden, South Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp Used on Printed Form



October 23, 1861 - adhesive postmaster provisional stamp used on a folded printed form, for items received for shipment at the Railroad Depository in Charleston, mailed to Marion C.H., South Carolina.

Provisional Stamps on Double Weight Mail



November 2, 1861 - Horizontal pair (Types J and K) of the provisional stamps used on double weight envelope to the Comptroller General at Columbia, South Carolina from the South Carolina Railroad.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp - Sheet Margin Copies

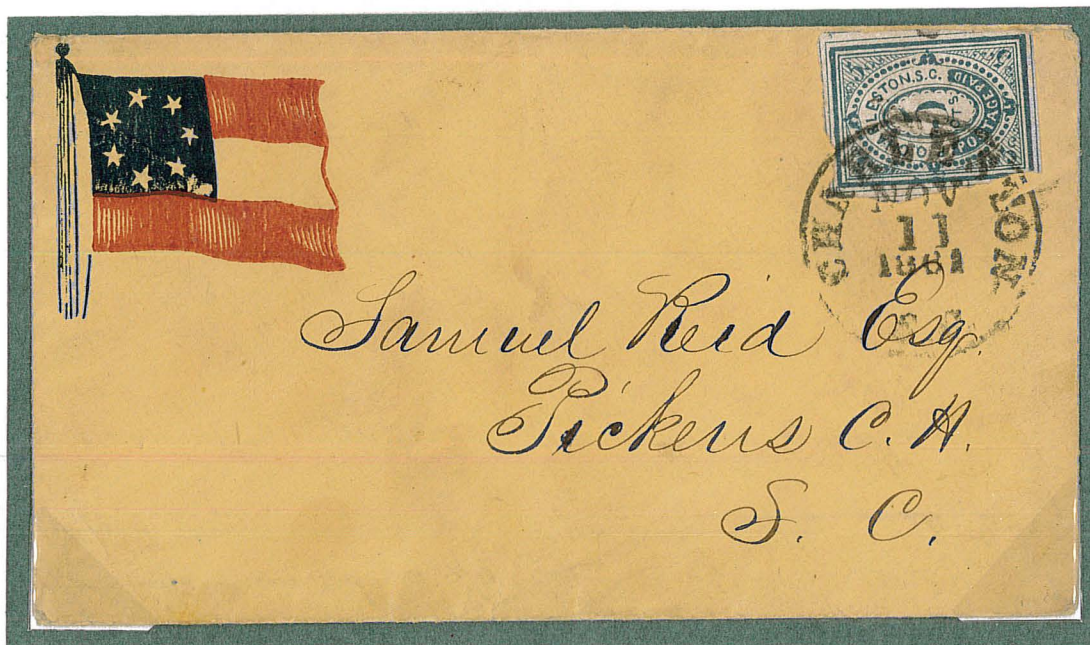


November 8, 1861 - a cover with the postmaster provisional stamp (Type R with a 10 mm right sheet margin) used to Sumterville, South Carolina.



November 12, 1861 - postmaster provisional stamp (Type H with a 4 mm right sheet margin) on a cover to the "Palmetto Guards" at Coosawhatchie, South Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp Used on Patriotic Envelope



November 11, 1861 - adhesive postmaster provisional stamp used on a seven-star Confederate patriotic envelope (Dietz type F7-18a) to Pickens C.H., South Carolina. This is one of only two recorded examples of a Charleston provisional stamp used on a patriotic envelope.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp



November 5, 1861 - the adhesive provisional stamp used on an advertising cover of a Charleston commission merchant.



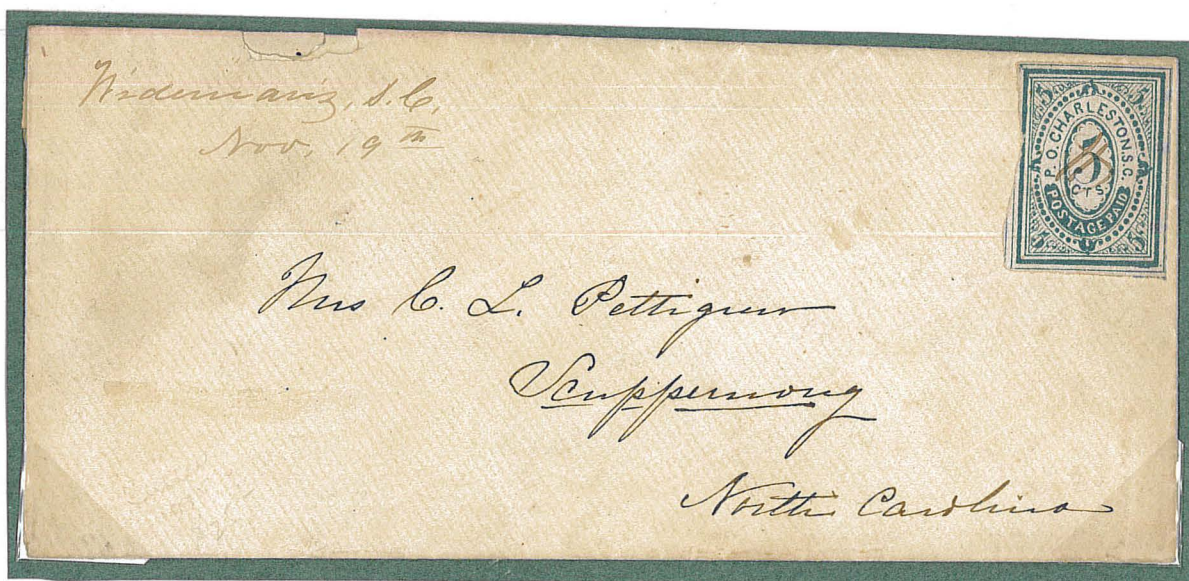
November 14, 1861 - the postmaster provisional stamp and type A-27 cancel on a cover to Flat Rock, North Carolina.

Unauthorized Use of the Postmaster Provisional Stamp

The postmaster provisional stamps and envelopes prepared by several of the Confederate postmasters were intended as a temporary measure to be used from the city which issued them. A few were taken to other cities where unauthorized uses were attempted.

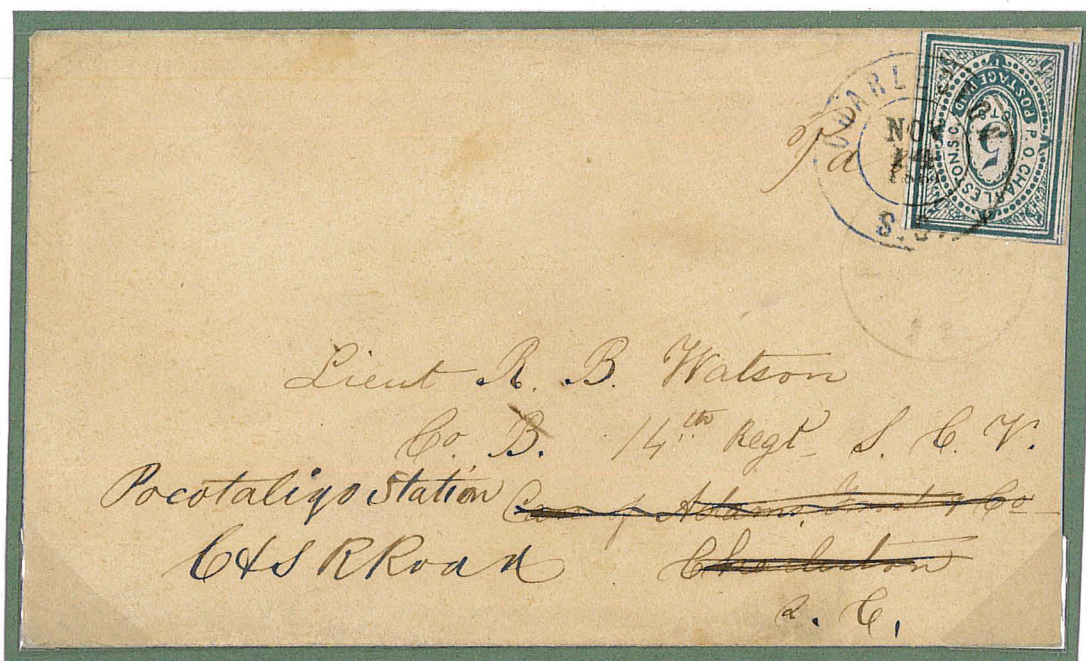


Attempted use of the postmaster provisional stamp from Tudor Hall, Virginia with handstamped "DUE 10"

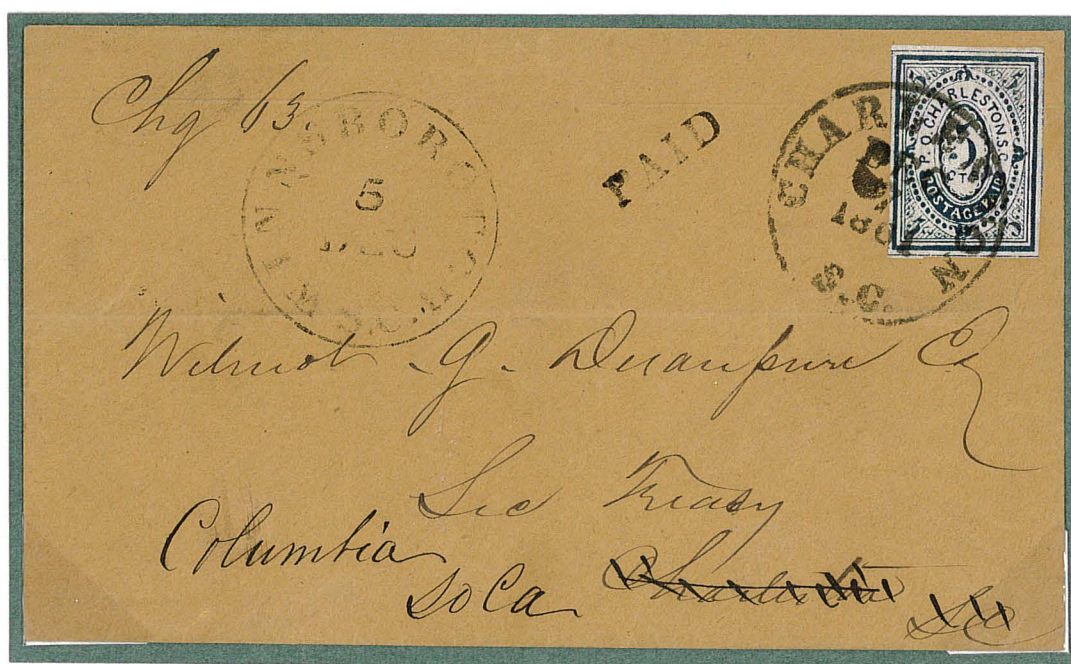


November 19, 1861 - attempted use of the adhesive postmaster provisional stamp from Wideman's, South Carolina. The postmaster at Wideman's apparently recognized the Charleston provisional and accepted it as pre-payment for the postage.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp Used to Pay Forwarding Postage



November 14, 1861 - cover from Florence, South Carolina with manuscript "Paid 5", forwarded at Charleston with a postmasters provisional stamp to pay the forwarding postage to military address along the Charleston and Savannah Railroad.



December 7, 1861 - cover from Winnsborough, South Carolina with "PAID 5" (Dietz type 1A), forwarded at Charleston with a postmasters provisional stamp used to pay the forwarding postage to Columbia, South Carolina.

Postmaster Provisional Stamp on Embossed Covers



December 5, 1861 - an embossed lady's envelope with postmaster provisional stamp used to Spartanburg, South Carolina.



December 19, 1861 - the adhesive postmaster provisional stamp used on an embossed advertising cover of a Charleston commission merchant.

**Postmaster Provisional Stamps on Advertising Cover
Traveling more than 500 Miles**



December 8, 1861 - two singles of the adhesive postmaster provisional stamp on an embossed adverting cover of *Hastie, Calhoun & Company*, a saddle and hardware dealer, used to pay the rate for over 500 miles to Richmond, Virginia.