# Census of Knoxville, Tennessee, Adhesive Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

## Description





KNO-TN-A01 & KNO-TN-A02

KNO-TN-A03

#### The Knoxville Adhesive Provisionals

The Knoxville adhesive provisionals were engraved on wood and reproduced as stereotypes or electrotypes from which a plate of multiple subjects was prepared. The layout and size of printed sheets is unknow. The stamps were printed on a grayish laid paper.

The Knoxville adhesive provisional bear a striking resemblance to the Nashville provisionals. For this reason, Dan Adams who is credited with engraving the Nashville provisionals is also credited with engraving the Knoxville provisionals.

Normally census listings are presented in chronological order by postmark date. Because so few Knoxville provisional covers have postmarks they are arranged as follows: First by date for those with postmarks. All others are in alphabetical order by the full address.

**NOTE**: The inclusion of an item in this census is not a guarantee of authenticity.

## **Count of the Knoxville provisional covers**

Provisional		Scott Cat No	Total
5c brick red on grayish laid paper	KNO-TN-A01	47X1	23
5c brick red on grayish laid paper, pair	KNO-TN-A01a		1
5c carmine on grayish laid paper	KNO-TN-A02	47X2	7
10c green on grayish laid paper	KNO-TN-A04	47X3	1

### **Notes**

## The Knoxville Conundrum

Uses of the Knoxville adhesive provisional on cover pose a conundrum because of the way letters with provisionals were marked at the Knoxville post office. The problem is, in most cases, they were not marked. Postmasters were to properly mark each letter before dispatch. The 1859 *US Postal Laws and Regulations* (which the Confederacy followed) addressed this in Section 38: "Letters received to be sent by mail, should be carefully marked with the name of the post office at which they are received, and the abbreviated name of the State or Territory [and], the day of the month on which they are forwarded in the mail. . . ." Yet in the case of the Knoxville provisionals they were seldom properly postmarked. This census records 32 Knoxville adhesive uses on cover of all 5c and 10c types. Of these nine bear postmarks and four are cancelled by town name paid markings. The others are pen cancelled and most of these do not tie the provisional to the cover.

Ignoring regulatory requirements, either purposely or out of laziness, is seen most often at smaller post offices. Larger towns, such as Knoxville, followed the postal regulations. Why the Knoxville postmaster chose to ignore the regulations is unknown. However, it has left the collecting world with a conundrum on what is and what is not an authentic use of a Knoxville provisional on cover.

The mid-1940s saw the establishment of the first authentication services. Initially these services did not accept pen cancelled uses of the Knoxville provisional on cover as authentic. The reason was they had no postmark (handstamped or manuscript) identifying the town. Over the years some pen cancelled examples were accepted as genuine when they had an address of a known correspondence. Gradually more uses of pen cancelled provisionals on cover were accepted as genuine. Today almost all such uses are accepted as genuine (see Dangerous Postwar Reprints below).

Some of the covers in this census received older certificates stating the stamps were bad or the stamp did not originate on the cover. Subsequently some of the stamps were determined to be good, or the pen cancelled use accepted. These are noted in the description of individual covers in the census.

Of course, there is no sure way determine if a pen cancelled use is authentic or not. The individual collector of Knoxville provisionals on cover must make that decision.

## **Dangerous Post War Reprints**

The CSA Catalog includes a few notes and an illustration of a Knoxville provisional from the "last printing." In the past this moniker was used to indicate stamps printed after the initial printing of Knoxville provisionals and before the general issues came into general use. Because no uses of general issues from Knoxville before April 1862 were found in early studies (see References) it was concluded there was a late or last printing before the general issues were available. This was the state of knowledge when the CSA Catalog was published in 2012. Subsequent research has shown that general issues were used in Knoxville as early as January 1862. The Knoxville provisionals were in use at least until January 1862 with two outliers in

March 1862. Thus, there was no need for a war time "last printing." Further no legitimate use of a "last printing" has been found on cover. The so called "last printing" is nothing more than a post war reprint. For more information on the characteristics of the authentic and reprint see References below.

Illustrated below are examples of the authentic and postwar reprint of the Knoxville provisional.







Postwar Reprint (formerly "Last Printing")

The key differences between the genuine and reprint are:

The ornamentation in the four spandrels is more distinct in the genuine than in the reprint. Further the designs in the upper spandrels of the reprint appear weaker than the bottom spandrels.

The letter "O" in "CHARLTON" is open at the top in the reprint and the letters "HAR" in "CHARLTON" are misshapen many times.

The star above the "E" of "KNOXVILLE" is misshapen at the bottom – there is an extra line through the bottom two points of the star. On some examples this line is very weak.

There is a small gap in the inner frame line below the "I" of "KNOXVILLE." This gap appears on most reprints, but not all.

Under magnification the outside border of the reprint is irregular while it is straight on the genuine. This is true of all sides but only the bottom is illustrated below.



Genuine



# The 10c Green Cover

Controversy surrounds the unique 10c green on cover (CN-030). Initially the Philatelic Foundation opined "our experts and consultants feel it is bogus" (certificate 172356). Not all were convinced. To set the record straight Richard Graham undertook a lengthy study in the late 1980s and early 1990s to prove the authenticity of the cover The study, published in the *Confederate Philatelist*, concluded the 10c cover was authentic. Later a condensed version appeared in the *American Philatelist* (see References).

After Graham's study the cover was resubmitted to the Philatelic Foundation. It received a certificate (241540) dated 17 February 1993 that states, "we are of the opinion that it is the genuine 47X3, used on cover." However, the cover remains controversial.

## The Census Listings

Normally census listings are presented in chronological order by postmark date. Because so few Knoxville provisional covers have postmarks they are arranged as follows: First by date for those with dates. All others are in alphabetical order by the full address.

#### **Fake Uses**

The collector is most likely to encounter fake uses of authentic stamps or the reprints on cover. Several are illustrated below.



A Knoxville provisional tied by grid on a cover docketed "Decr 12 /61." The stamp is a reprint and Knoxville is not known to have used a grid marking. Courtesy H R Harmer Auctions.



Knoxville cover cancelled by grid. The stamp is genuine but as noted above Knoxville is not known to have used a grid marking. Courtesy Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.

#### References

Richard B. Graham, "The Knoxville 10c Postmaster's Provisional: A Research Project," *Philatelist* 34:4 (July-August 1989): 103-105, 107-111,113-117, 119-126.

Richard B. Graham, "The Knoxville 10c Postmaster's Provisional: Part 2 The Adhesive Stamps," *Confederate Philatelist* 34:5 (September-October 1989): 149-172.

Richard B. Graham, "The Knoxville 10c Postmaster's Provisional: Part 3 Paper and Envelopes" *Confederate Philatelist* 35:1 (January-February 1990): 9-13, 15-17, 19-25, 27-30.

Richard B. Graham, "The Knoxville 10c Postmaster's Provisional Part 4. Designs and Printings of the Stamps and Reprints" *Confederate Philatelist* 35:5 (September-October 1990): 171-177, 179-191, 193-201, 203-205.

Richard B. Graham, "The Knoxville 10c Postmaster's Provisional, Part 5 *Confederate Philatelist* 36:[2] (March-April 1991): 39-43, 45-47, 49-64.

Richard B. Graham, "The Knoxville 10c Postmaster's Provisional, Part 6 *Confederate Philatelist* 36:5 (September-October 1991): 159-163, 165-183, 185-194.

Richard B. Graham, "The Confederate 10-cent Knoxville," *American Philatelis*t 108:4 (April 1994): 332-343.

Peter W. W. Powell, "The Five-Cent Knoxville Postmaster Provisionals, Part 1," *Confederate Philatelist*, 49:2 (March-April 2004), 49-59.

Peter W. W. Powell, "The Five-Cent Knoxville Postmaster Provisionals, Part 2," *Confederate Philatelist* 49:3 (May-June 2004), 97-108.

# Mini Census Knoxville, Tennessee, Adhesive Provisionals

Pmk Date	Address	<u>PmkPos</u>	<u>PrvPos</u>	<u>CN</u>
5c brick red on gray	rish laid paper KNO-TN-A01 (47X1)			
1 Jan [1862]	James A. Coffin Esq / Madisonville / E. Tenn.	UR	UR	002
8 Jan [1862]	Mr C. G. Newnes / Russellville / Ten	UR	UR	003
12 Jan [1862]	Miss Otelia Johnson / Louisburg / Franklin County / No. Carolina	UR	UR	007
18 Jan [1862]	James A. Coffin Esq / Madisonville / E. Tenn.	UR	UR	004
4 Mar {1862]	Mr. James Phipps / (For his daughter Charlotte) / Lyons' Store / Hawkins Co. / Tenn.	LL	LL	006
11 Mar [1862]	Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles / C. S. A. / Corinth / Miss.	UL	UL	015
No Postmark	Esqr / Athens / East Tenn		UR	020
No Postmark	David Cleage Esqr Cash / Athens / Tenn		UR	011
No Postmark	G. W. Bradfield Esqr / Richmond / Va.		UR	009
No Postmark	James A. Coffin Esq. / Madisonville / E. Tenn.		UR	027
No Postmark	L. M. Scott Esq / Greensboro, / Guilford County / N. Carolina		UR	017
No Postmark	Miss Catharine D. Keith / Athens / Tennessee		UR	026
No Postmark	Miss Katie P. Bennett / Care Thomas Henderson & Co. / Natchez / Miss.		UR	013
No Postmark	Miss Mary C. Cherry / Como. Miss		UR	014
No Postmark	Mr A. G. Welcker / Chattanooga / Tenn		UR	019
No Postmark	Mr Wm. S. McEwen / Kingston / Tenn		UR	005
No Postmark	Mrs Hanah Gray / George's Store / Tennessee		UR	010
No Postmark	Mrs James E. Rains / Nashville / Tennessee		UL	018
No Postmark	Mrs Martha Sampson / Jonesboro / Tenn		UR	012
No Postmark	Mrs Mary W. Sullins / Athens / Tennessee		UR	031
No Postmark	Unknown		UL	032
No Postmark	W. S. McEwen Esqr / Kingston / Tenn		UR	025

Pmk Date	<u>Address</u>	<u>PmkPos</u>	<u>PrvPos</u>	<u>CN</u>
No Postmark	W. S. McEwen, Esq / Kingston, / Tenn		UR	800
5c brick red on gray	yish laid paper, pair KNO-TN-A01a (47X1)			
11 Dec 1861	Mrs. Etta Ruggles / Care of Brig. Gen. D. Ruggles / New-Orleans / Louisiana.	UR	UL	001
5c carmine on gray	ish laid paper KNO-TN-A02 (47X2)			
No Postmark	Jas A Coffin Esqr / Madisonville / Tenn		UR	022
No Postmark	Mess McEwen & Homely / Kingston / Tennessee		UR	021
No Postmark	Mr Geo[r]ge W Bradfield / Richmond / [Virg]inia		UR	016
No Postmark	Mrs. C. P. Corry / Ringgold / Gea		UR	023
No Postmark	Rev J. T. Bardwell, / (Pastor 1st Presbyterian Ch.) / Nashville, / Tenn.	UR	UR	028
No Postmark	Thomas Weir Esqr / Jacksboro / E Tennessee		UR	024
Illegible	To the Commissary / Col. Dillards Regiment / Camp Cummings.	UR	UR	029
10c green on grayish laid paper KNO-TN-A04 (47X3)				
Illegible	Mrs Jane M. Tiller / Ashland / Hanover County / Va	UL	UL	030

# Full Census of Knoxville, Tennessee, Adhesive Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

## 5c brick red on grayish laid paper -- KNO-TN-A01 (47X1)

1 Jan [1862]

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / TEN" double circle postmark

ties provisional UR.

Address: James A. Coffin Esq / Madisonville / E. Tenn.

Provenance: Kimmel, Haas.

**Source:** PF-55618; FPM- 16058\*; RAS-18May1976(492)-

597; RAS-22Apr1980(561)-269. [002]

Image Credit: Frajola PhilaMercury Website.



8 Jan [1862]

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / TEN" double circle postmark

ties provisional UR.

Address: Mr C. G. Newnes / Russellville / Ten

Provenance: Boshwit.

**Source:** PF-515590\*; RAS-27Sep2007(940)-302\*. [003]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



#### 12 Jan [1862]

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / TEN" double circle postmark

ties provisional UR. Docketed "Missent to Lewisburg Va." at UC. No indication of

forwarding postage.

Address: Miss Otelia Johnson / Louisburg / Franklin

County / No. Carolina

**Provenance:** Caspary, Gallaher, Hill, Jaretzky.

**Source:** HRH-5Mar1956(989)-1630; CRL-25Mar1987-235;

CSX-Hill(Aug1996)-126; CWPSX-Jaretzky(Apr2021)-12\*. [007]

Image Credit: Philatelic Exhibit on Civil War Philatelic Society

Website.



## 18 Jan [1862]

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / TEN" double circle postmark

ties provisional UR.

**Address:** James A. Coffin Esq / Madisonville / E. Tenn.

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-582752\*. [004]
Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



#### 4 Mar {1862]

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / TEN" double circle postmark

ties provisional LL. Docketed "March 3, 1862" at

UL.

Address: Mr. James Phipps / (For his daughter Charlotte) /

Lyons' Store / Hawkins Co. / Tenn.

Provenance: Telep, Hill.

**Source:** CWPAS-04677\*; JWK-1Dec1987(133)-30; RAS-

20Apr1991(737)-762\*; CSX-Hill(Aug1996)-126.

[006]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



FJC

## 11 Mar [1862]

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / Tenn." postmark ties

provisional UL.

Address: Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles / C. S. A. / Corinth /

Miss.

**Provenance:** Gallagher, Green.

**Source:** CRL-25Mar1987-234; RAS-12Apr2000(822)-75\*.

[015]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. Address faded.

Address: --- Esqr / Athens / East Tenn

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-570528. [020]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



#### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. Left sheet margin

copy.

Address: David Cleage Esqr Cash / Athens / Tenn

**Provenance:** None recorded.

**Source:** RAS-24Jun2016(1104)-2136\*. [011]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / Ten. // 5 / PAID" marking

ties provisional UR. Black October 25, 1861, Richmond, Virginia postmark and Richmond

advertised marking at UC..

Address: G. W. Bradfield Esqr / Richmond / Va.

Provenance: Tara.

Source: PF-529610\*. [009] Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



#### **No Postmark**

Description: Provisional pen cancelled UR. CWPAS opined

genuine stamp, no opinion on the stamp

originating on the cover.

Address: James A. Coffin Esq. / Madisonville / E. Tenn.

Provenance: None recorded.

**Source:** CWPAS-03441\*; RAS-27Apr1999(810)-1905\*.

[027]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



## **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. Weak cancel.

Address: L. M. Scott Esq / Greensboro, / Guilford County /

N. Carolina

Provenance: None recorded.

**Source:** CWPAS-05500\*. [017]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. PF opined the

stamp was a reprint that did not originate on the cover. Stamp allegedly moved to determine if pen cancel bleed through to envelope. The stamp does not have characteristics of a reprint.

Address: Miss Catharine D. Keith / Athens / Tennessee

Provenance: Caspary.

**Source:** PF-97906; HRH-5Mar1956(989)-162; RAS-

16May1997(788)-307\*. [026]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



#### **No Postmark**

Description: Provisional pen cancelled UR. Manuscript "Due

5" at UC. Cover front.

Address: Miss Katie P. Bennett / Care Thomas Henderson

& Co. / Natchez / Miss.

**Provenance:** None reported.

**Source:** CWPAS-02031\*; CHR-13Oct1989-1145; RAS-

29Oct1993(753)-1127. [013]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



#### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. Docketed "Via /

Memphis / Tenn." at LL and "Per Express to /

Knoxville" on reverse.

Address: Miss Mary C. Cherry / Como. Miss

Provenance: Innella.

**Source:** CWPAS-00959B; PF-241271\*; JWK-

22Mar1980(62)-37; RAS-20Apr1991(737)-764\*.

[014]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



**Description:** Illegible marking cancels provisional UR.

Docketed " C. N. Part / Novr 28/61" across left

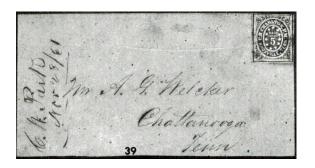
end.

Address: Mr A. G. Welcker / Chattanooga / Tenn

**Provenance:** None recorded.

**Source:** PF-52117; RGK-12Jun1982(22)-39. [019]

Image Credit: Robert G Kaufmann Auctions.



#### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / Ten. // PAID / 5" marking

ties provisional UR. Docketed "Joseph L. King /

29 Novr 1861" across left side..

Address: Mr Wm. S. McEwen / Kingston / Tenn Provenance: Brooks, MacBride, Muzzy, Tara, Hill.

**Source:** PF-332509\*; LS-24Apr1943(123)-81; JAF-

20Oct1953(103)-45; HRH-21Apr1967(1764)-2040; RAS-24Apr1982(596)-25; CRL-19Mar1986-

1015; CSX-Hill(Aug1996)-125. [005]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



## No Postmark

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR.

Address: Mrs Hanah Gray / George's Store / Tennessee

Provenance: Telep.

**Source:** CWPAS-01596; JWK-1Dec1987(133)-31. [010]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



FJC

13

**Description:** Provisional tied by pen cancel UL. PF opined the

stamp was good but no opinion on the stamp

originating on the cover.

Address: Mrs James E. Rains / Nashville / Tennessee

**Provenance:** None recorded.

**Source:** PF-43256; RAS-11Dec1995(772)-3144. [018]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



#### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. Docketed "1861"

at UC. CWPAS opined genuine stamp, no opinion

on the stamp originating on the cover.

Address: Mrs Martha Sampson / Jonesboro / Tenn

Provenance: Carnahan.

**Source:** CWPAS-02711\*; SPB-9Mar1978(4091)-2057;

RAS-13Dec1994(764)-2310. [012]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



## No Postmark

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR.

Address: Mrs Mary W. Sullins / Athens / Tennessee

**Provenance:** None recorded.

**Source:** Private collection. [031]

Image Credit: Private.

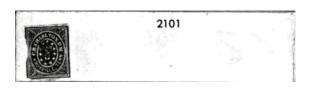


**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UL.

Address: Unknown Provenance: Bogg.

**Source:** JWK-22Aug1986(126)-2101. [032]

Image Credit: John W Kaufmann Auctions.



#### **No Postmark**

Description: Provisional pen cancelled UR. Docketed "L. L.

Thomasson / 14 Novr 1861" across left end.

Address: W. S. McEwen Esqr / Kingston / Tenn

**Provenance:** None recorded.

**Source:** CWPAS-03279\*; RAS-9Jun1998(801)-364. [025]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



## No Postmark

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / Ten. // PAID / 5" marking

ties provisional UR. Docketed "James C. Moses /

9 December 1861" across left..

Address: W. S. McEwen, Esq / Kingston, / Tenn

Provenance: Caspary, Muzzy, Myerson.

**Source:** PF-6793; HRH-5Mar1956(989)-161; HRH-

21Apr1967(1764)-2040; AHA- 27Jun1998(4)-

248\*. [008]

Image Credit: American Historical Auctions.



15

## 5c brick red on grayish laid paper, pair -- KNO-TN-A01a (47X1)

#### 11 Dec 1861

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / TEN" double circle postmark

UR. Pair of Knoxville adhesives pen cancelled UL.

Address: Mrs. Etta Ruggles / Care of Brig. Gen. D. Ruggles

/ New-Orleans / Louisiana.

Provenance: Brooks Erivan.

**Source:** CWPAS-04354\*; PF-534648\*; LS-

24Apr1943(123)-82; RAS-27Mar1964(267)-128\*;

HRH-3Jun2016(3011)-375\*. [001]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



## 5c carmine on grayish laid paper -- KNO-TN-A02 (47X2)

#### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR.

Address: Jas A Coffin Esqr / Madisonville / Tenn

Provenance: Gallagher.

**Source:** CONP-Sep-Oct(1989)-167; CRL-25Mar1987-237.

[022]

Image Credit: Confederate Philatelist.



#### **No Postmark**

**Description:** Provisional tied by pen cancel UR. Docketed

"Joseph L. King / 9 Decr 1861" across left end

Address: Mess McEwen & Homely / Kingston / Tennessee

Provenance: Solomon.

**Source:** PF-11641; JWK-14Nov1981(78)-49. [021]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



FJC

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR.

Address: Mr Geo[r]ge W Bradfield / Richmond / [Virg]inia

Provenance: Everett.

**Source:** RAS-30Oct1993(754)-141. [016]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



#### No Postmark

**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. Town and state of

address rewritten at LC "Ringgold / Ga"

Address: Mrs. C. P. Corry / Ringgold / Gea

Provenance: Simon.

Source: CWPAS-04523; JWK-12Feb1983(92)-117; JWK-

22Jun1984(104)-25. [023]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



## **No Postmark**

**Description:** Black "KNOXVILLE / Ten. // 5 / PAID" marking

ties provisional UR. Docketed "Answered Oct

28/61" UL-UC..

Address: Rev J. T. Bardwell, / (Pastor 1st Presbyterian Ch.)

/ Nashville, / Tenn.

Provenance: Caspary, Gallagher, Hill, DK.

**Source:** PF-332508; HRH-5Mar1956(989)-164; CRL-

25Mar1987-238; CSX-Hill(Aug1996)-125; RAS-

28Mar2012(1022)-1030\*. [028]

Image Credit: Christie's Robson Lowe Auctions.



**Description:** Provisional pen cancelled UR. CWPAS opined

the stamp was a reprint and did not originate on

the cover. The stamp does not have

characteristics of a reprint.

**Address:** Thomas Weir Esqr / Jacksboro / E Tennessee

Provenance: None recorded.

**Source:** CWPAS-02329. [024]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.



## Illegible

**Description:** Illegible black postmark ties provisional UR.

Legal size envelope.

Address: To the Commissary / Col. Dillards Regiment /

Camp Cummings.

Provenance: Caspary, Kirkman.

**Source:** PF-100672; HRH-5Mar1956(989)-167; HRH-

1Mar1962(1423)-926; RAS-29Apr1981(579)-

480\*. [029]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



# 10c green on grayish laid paper -- KNO-TN-A04 (47X3)

Illegible

**Description:** Illegible black postmark ties provisional UL. PF

originally opined the use on cover was bogus.

See Notes.

Address: Mrs Jane M. Tiller / Ashland / Hanover County /

Va

**Provenance:** Ferrary, Caspary, Gallagher, Erivan.

**Source:** PF-172356; GIL-14Jun1922(4)-11; HRH-

5Mar1956(989)-167; CRL-25Mar1987-239; RAS-16May1997(788)-305\*; HRH-24Jun2021(5)-

68\*. [030]

Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.

