

Census of Memphis, Tennessee, Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Description



**The 2-cent blue Memphis Provisional
MEM-TN-A01**

The 2-cent Memphis provisional was engraved on wood and reproduced as stereotypes from which the stamps were printed on white pelure paper. Some are believed to have printed on white wove paper. All were printed in blue ink. Several shades of blue are known but no distinction is noted in this census.

The stamps were printed by M. C. Gallaway, owner of the Memphis *Avalanche* and postmaster.

The 2c Memphis provisional was plated by Thomas H. Pratt about 1929. See References in Notes.

Used examples of the 2c provisional off cover are almost as scarce as the stamp on cover. For this reason, they are included in this census.

Many of the dates on the 2c provisionals are difficult to read. For this reason, the census relies heavily on the dates given in the sources.

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

Count of the 2-cent blue Memphis provisional covers

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Used	Covers	Total
2c blue	MEM-TN-A01	56X1	22	15	37

Notes

Street Covers

The census of the Memphis 2c blue on cover prepared by Billy Matz (see References below) listed two covers addressed to James Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He gave dates of 2 August and 7 October for the covers. These covers are believed to be in the possession of an individual in New York City and no images of the covers are known to exist. In the Robert A. Siegel Sale held on 31 May 2016 (sale 1129) the description of lot 500 includes the following regarding the Memphis 2c blue on cover. "One of the Street covers has an illegible datestamp, and the stamp on the other is tied by the target cancel." Thus, the dates of 2 August and 7 October were the dates of the enclosures, not postmarks. Scott Trepel was able to view the two covers and kindly provided the drawings of the Street covers included in the census (CN-014 and 015).

Memphis Target Cancel

The four-ring target cancel tying the 2c blue provisional on the cover below is a matter of controversy among students of the postal history of Memphis. Some doubt its authenticity and others believe it is authentic. What we do know is that there are only three recorded examples among the 2c and 5c Memphis provisionals. One of the 2c covers is illustrated below, the second is on a Street cover mentioned above. The third is a block of six of the 5c provisional canceled by multiple strikes of the target cancel. The cover below is included in the census (CN-001)



The Lost Date

The images below are of the same stamp (CN-017). The image at left shows the stamp tied on a piece. The date “JAN 9” is clearly visible. Not long afterward the stamp was removed from the piece. In its current state it is difficult to even make out the month.



PF Certificate 306872



Robert A. Siegel Auction, Sale 1035

Cracked Plate and Partial Print

The plate used for printing the 2c provisional was damaged at some point. The plate was cracked, and a portion broke off. This resulted in several unusual varieties. They are only found on unused and used off cover stamps.

The cracked plate variety is seen in the image below left. A jagged white line can be seen about one quarter of the way up from the bottom. The other variety is the partial print as seen in the image below right. Stamps from several positions show both varieties.



CN-016

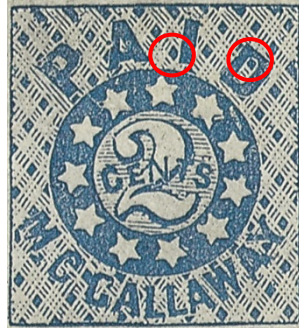


CN-022

Fakes of the 2c Memphis Provisional

There are several deceptive fakes of the 2-cent Memphis provisional. Most can be detected by the missing diamond at bottom left of the “I” and inside the top of the “D” in the word “PAID” (see illustrations below).

z



Authentic - diamond at bottom left of “I” and inside top of “D”



Fake - no diamond at bottom left of “I” and inside top of “D”

The cover below was determined to be fake.



Philatelic Foundation determined the authentic stamp did not originate on this cover and the cancellation is fake (Certificate 34468).

References

Billy Matz, “Memphis 2c Provisional,” *Confederate Philatelist* 12:3 (March 1967): 25-26.

Thomas H. Pratt, *The Postmaster's Provisionals Of Memphis, Tennessee* (Richmond, VA; Dietz Press, 1929).

Mini Census of Memphis, TN, 2c Provisional Covers

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>PmkPos</u>	<u>PrvPos</u>	<u>CN</u>
2c blue, covers -- MEM-TN-A01 (56x1)				
4 Oct 1861	M L Sorg / Memphis	UR	UR	010
12 Nov 1861	James T. Pettit Esqr / Memphis, Tenn	LL	LL	004*
19 Nov 1861	Captn. John Swayne / Memphis / Tenn	UR	UR	009*
2- Nov 1862	Master John Farrington / Memphis / Tenn.	UR	UR	012*
1 Dec 1861	Saml Mosby / Memphis / Tenn	UR	UR	006*
8 Dec 1861	S H Tobey Esq / City	UR	UR	005*
8 Jan 1862	Dr J Fowlkes / Memphis / Ten	UR	UR	013*
9 Jan 1862	S. H. Toby Esqr / Memphis / Tenn	UR	UR	011
-- Mar 1862	A J Lumworth Esq / Care of the Worsham House / Memphis / Tenn	UR	UR	007*
6 May 1862	Sam Mosby / Memphis	UR	UR	002*
11 May 1862	Messes Fenton & Co / Memphis	UR	UR	008*
Illegible Date	James A Street Esqr / Memphis / Tenn	UR	UR	015
Illegible Date	Miss Letitia Austin. / Shelby street. / Memphis / Tennessee	UR	UR	003*
Target Cance	G. C. Graham / Memphis / Box 313 / Tenn	UR	UR	001*
Target Cance	Jas A Street Esq / Memphis	UC-UR	UC-UR	014

* Indicates a color image.

Last Name Index of Memphis, TN, 2c Provisional Covers

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>PrvTyp</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>CN</u>
Illegible Date	A01c	Austin	Miss Letitia Austin. / Shelby street. / Memphis / Tennessee	003*
2- Nov 1862	A01c	Farrington	Master John Farrington / Memphis / Tenn.	012*
11 May 1862	A01c	Fenton & Co	Messes Fenton & Co / Memphis	008*
8 Jan 1862	A01c	Fowlkes	Dr J Fowlkes / Memphis / Ten	013*
Target Cancel	A01c	Graham	G. C. Graham / Memphis / Box 313 / Tenn	001*
-- Mar 1862	A01c	Lumworth	A J Lumworth Esq / Care of the Worsham House / Memphis / Tenn	007*
1 Dec 1861	A01c	Mosby	Saml Mosby / Memphis / Tenn	006*
6 May 1862	A01c	Mosby	Sam Mosby / Memphis	002*
12 Nov 1861	A01c	Pettit	James T. Pettit Esqr / Memphis, Tenn	004*
4 Oct 1861	A01c	Sorg	M L Sorg / Memphis	010
Illegible Date	A01c	Street	James A Street Esqr / Memphis / Tenn	015
Target Cancel	A01c	Street	Jas A Street Esq / Memphis	014
19 Nov 1861	A01c	Swayne	Captn. John Swayne / Memphis / Tenn	009*
8 Dec 1861	A01c	Tobey	S H Tobey Esq / City	005*
9 Jan 1862	A01c	Toby	S. H. Toby Esqr / Memphis / Tenn	011

* Indicates a color image

Full Census of Memphis, Tennessee, 2c Adhesive Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

2c blue, used -- MEM-TN-A01 (56x1)

20 Aug 1861

Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional on piece. Date from auction description.

Address: NA

Provenance: Caspary.

Source: HRH-5Mar1956(989)-224. [019]

Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.



7 Nov 1861

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: Birkinbine, Sharrer.

Source: PF-324383*; RAS-28Oct1997(795)-375; RAS-10Dec2012(1035)-43*. [025]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



21 --- [1861]

Description: Unknown black postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: SR-14Dec2017(77)-1150*. [030]

Image Credit: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions.



22 --- 1861

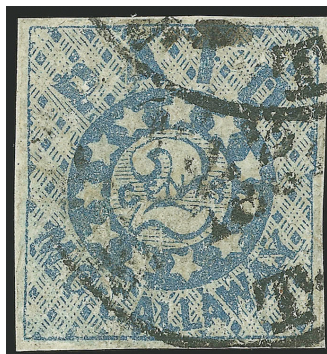
Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: RAS-16Dec2003(870)-1247*. [028]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



9 Jan [1862-]

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional. Dated by piece on which the provisional was previously attached. See "Notes."

Address: NA

Provenance: Sharrer; Gorham.

Source: PF-311729*; RAS-10Dec2012(1035)-44*; RAS-17May2022(1255)-1180. [017]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



-- Jan [1862]

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional. Cracked plate variety.

Address: NA

Provenance: Pegram.

Source: APEX-168035*, CWPAS-04823*; RAS-18Apr2013(1043)-2019*. [016]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



-- Apr [1862]

Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: Hessel.

Source: HRH-21Oct1975(2291)-213. [018]

Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.



-2 --- 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-294395*; RAS-24Jun2015(1104)-2164*. [024]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



-- --- 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional on piece.

Address: NA

Provenance: Zimmerman, Brandon.

Source: RAS-14May2003(860)-529*; RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-289*; RAS-22Jun2016(1132)-3147*. [031]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



-- --- 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: Hall.

Source: RAS-17Dec2001(840)-71*. [027]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



Unknown

Description: Unknown black postmark ties provisional on piece.

Address: NA

Provenance: Walcott.

Source: PF-150652; RLA-23May1935-85; Private*. [020]

Image Credit: Private Collection.



Unknown

Description: Unknown black postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-60164; JWK-26Sep1980(67)-934; Private*. [023]

Image Credit: Private Collection.



Unknown

Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-137138. [034]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unknown

Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional. Partial plate print.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-807. [022]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unknown

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: Walcott, "Atlanta".

Source: PF-113688; RLA-23May1935-84; JWK-12Jun1981(72)-61; RAS-22Jun2016(1132)-3146*. [021]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



Unknown

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: Private*. [032]

Image Credit: Private Collection.



Unknown

Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-19061. [033]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unknown

Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: JWK-22Jun1984(104)-32. [026]

Image Credit: John W Kaufmann Auctions.



Unknown

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: SR-23Sep2016(71)-2047*. [029]

Image Credit: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions.



Unknown

Description:

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: RAS-7Jan1965(280)-901. [037]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



Unknown

Description: Used provisional . Lightly canceled.

Address: NA

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: PF-214699*. [036]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unknown

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark cancels provisional.

Address: NA

Provenance: Gorham.

Source: RAS-12May2022(1255)-1181*. [035]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



2c blue, covers -- MEM-TN-A01 (56x1)

4 Oct 1861

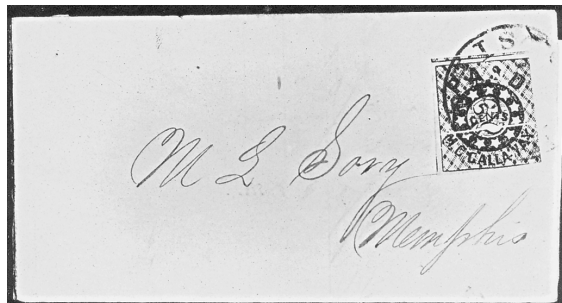
Description: "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter.

Address: M L Sorg / Memphis

Provenance: Hind.

Source: PKA-20Nov1933(1)-1524. [010]

Image Credit: Phillips and Kennett Auctions.



12 Nov 1861

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional LL. Drop letter docketed "130X / 664" at LL.

Address: James T. Pettit Esqr / Memphis, Tenn

Provenance: Kilbourne.

Source: RAS-14May2003(860)-530*; RAS-28Sep1999(815)-68*. [004]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



19 Nov 1861

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter.

Address: Captn. John Swayne / Memphis / Tenn

Provenance: Gallagher, Hill.

Source: CSX-Hill PMP (Aug1996)-128; CRL-25Mar1987-249*. [009]

Image Credit: Philatelic Exhibit on US Philatelic Classics Society Website.



2- Nov 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter docketed "Care / E McGehee Esq" LL-LC.

Address: Master John Farrington / Memphis / Tenn.

Provenance: None reported.

Source: Private*. [012]

Image Credit: Private Collection.



1 Dec 1861

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter docketed "Jan 10 / 62: at UL-UC."

Address: Saml Mosby / Memphis / Tenn

Provenance: Brooks, DK.

Source: PF-505104*; SS-Black(1945)-38; RAS-28Mar2012(1022)-1044*; RAS-25Jun2013(1048)-417*. [006]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



8 Dec 1861

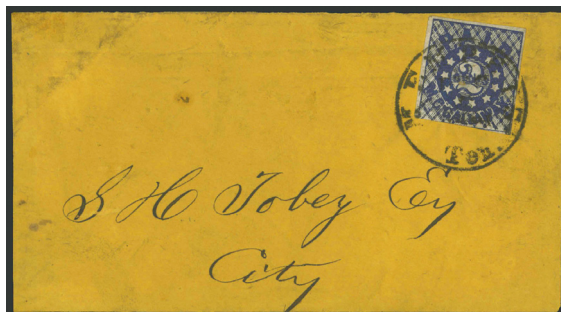
Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter.

Address: S H Tobey Esq / City

Provenance: Solomon, Boshwit.

Source: JWK-14Nov1981(78)-55; RAS-27Sep2007(940)-313*; RAS-24Jun2015(1104)-2166*. [005]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



8 Jan 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Folded drop letter.

Address: Dr J Fowlkes / Memphis / Ten

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: Private*. [013]

Image Credit: Private Collection.



9 Jan 1862

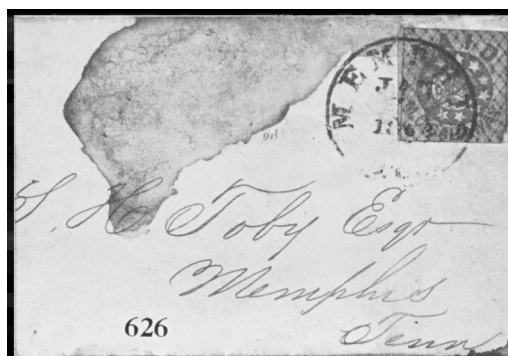
Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Folded drop letter.

Address: S. H. Toby Esqr / Memphis / Tenn

Provenance: Matz.

Source: RAS-28May1975(472)-1372; RCF-22Jan1993(51)-626. [011]

Image Credit: Richard C Frajola Auctions.



-- Mar 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Corner card of "Memphis & Charleston Railroad Office" at UL. Docketed "W. J. Ross / Supt &c" at LL. Contents dated 15 March '862.

Address: A J Lumworth Esq / Care of the Worsham House / Memphis / Tenn

Provenance: Caspary, Matz, Erivan.

Source: PPM-25; HRH-5Mar1956(989)-226; RAS-28May1975(472)-1370; HRH-26Jan2022(3055-6)-106*. [007]

Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.



6 May 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter.

Address: Sam Mosby / Memphis

Provenance: MacBride, Boshwit, DK.

Source: PF-458346*; JAF-20Oct1953(103)-52; RAS-27Sep2007(940)-312*; RAS-28Mar2012(1022)-1045*; SR-14Dec2017(77)-1151*. [002]

Image Credit: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions.



11 May 1862

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop Letter.

Address: Messes Fenton & Co / Memphis

Provenance: Weatherly, Hill.

Source: CONP-Mar1967(12:3)-25; CSX-Hill(Aug1996)-128; FPM-16057*; RAS-20Oct1972(420)-643. [008]

Image Credit: Frajola PhilaMercury Website.



Illegible Date

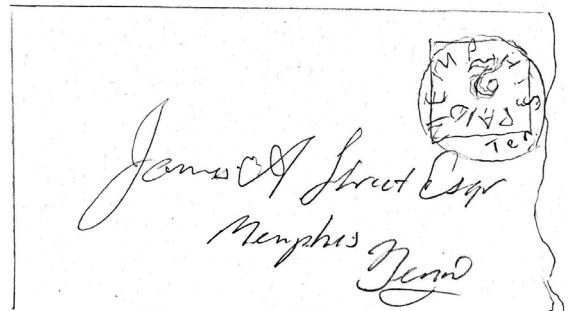
Description: Memphis, Ten. postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter.

Address: James A Street Esqr / Memphis / Tenn

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: Private. [015]

Image Credit: Private Collection.



Illegible Date

Description: Black "MEMPHIS / Ten." year dated postmark ties provisional UR. Drop letter

Address: Miss Letitia Austin. / Shelby street. / Memphis / Tennessee

Provenance: Matz, Stonewall, Rudy, Brandon.

Source: RAS-28May1975(472)-1371; EMC-15Apr198-(153)-163*; RAS-27Apr2004(874)-109*; RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-290*; SR-8Jun2020(92)-2371*. [003]

Image Credit: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions.



Target Cancel

Description: Black target ties provisional UR. Drop letter. See Notes.

Address: G. C. Graham / Memphis / Box 313 / Tenn

Provenance: Caspary, Muzzy, Tara, Everett, DK.

Source: CWPAS- 01419*; PF-503979*; HRH-5Mar1956(989)-225; HRH-21Apr1967(1764)-2049; CRL-19Mr1986-1921*; RAS-30Oct1993(754)-153*; RAS-28Mar2012(1022)-1046*. [001]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Target Cancel

Description: Target cancel ties provisional UC-UR. Drop Letter. See Notes.

Address: Jas A Street Esq / Memphis

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: Private. [014]

Image Credit: Private Collection.

