

"DESTINATION CONFEDERATE NEW ORLEANS"
 A selection of covers addressed to New Orleans, Louisiana, 1861-1862



View of New Orleans and the Mississippi River - circa 1850

The folded Packet Letter outer below was dispatched on the First Day of Louisiana Independent Statehood, January 26th, 1861. It then arrived in Boston on February 10th, 1861, by which time Louisiana had become a State within the Confederate States of America, formed six days earlier.



T 18 - LIVERPOOL JA 26 61 - per "Canada" - via Queenstown
 Br PACKET 10 FEB 24 [Cents] BOSTON. - 19 CENTS
A. H. Kernion Esq Cashier Newel : Canal & Bkg Co
New Orleans

Helena, Arkansas - U. S. A. "Handstamped Paid" - 1861

United States Handstamped "3" (Cents)

At this particular time the State of Arkansas had not passed the Ordinance of Secession, which took place on May 6th, 1861, leading to the State being adopted as a Confederate State, twelve days later, on May 18th, 1861.

This item of a stampless coverage from the transitional period of Confederate Postal History is rarely seen and provides a link between C.S.A. and U.S.A. postal authorities.



HELENA ARK. MAR 24 1861 - "3" and "PAID" Handstamps

*Messr Jno T Hardie
New Orleans
La*

Vermont, U.S.A. to Natchez, Mississippi
forwarded to New Orleans

United States - Three singles of #24 One Cent Blue

This large piece, is the left-hand side of a legal sized envelope, sent from West Randolph, V.T. to a Doctor at Natchez, Miss. The letter was then forwarded to New Orleans, by the use of the additional One Cent stamps, cancelled by the NATCHEZ Miss. APR 10 1861 c.d.s. This is an unusual use of U.S.A. stamps during the Confederate period before June 1st, 1861.



W. RANDOLPH V. T. 28 MAR [1861] - Postage paid unknown

NATCHEZ Miss. APR 10 1861 - Three U.S. #24 One Cents Blue
(Use of U.S. stamps to forward letter within the Confederacy)

Dr S. S. H.
Natchez
Missip.
New Orleans
La

Shreveport Louisiana to New Orleans - 1861

Scott # U12 - Three Cents "Star Die" Stationery Envelope

This envelope sent to the well-known New Orleans firm of Messrs. J. T. Hardie & Company was from the Louisiana town of Shreveport, in the far North-West of the State, only about 10 miles from the border with Texas, on the Red River, a major means of transportation in that area.

This is an early example of "Cross Mississippi" mail before the Federal forces gained control of the Mississippi River in 1862 - 1863.



Three Cents "Star Die" Envelope - Issued 1860-1861
SHREVEPORT LA 10 APR 1861

To Messrs J. T. Hardie
& Company
New Orleans
La

Adversity Use of Three Cents "Star Die" Envelope

Scott # U12 - Three Cents "Star Die" Stationery Envelope

This postal stationery envelope was presented at the Pleasant Hill, La., post office just six days after the "Star Die" envelopes were no longer valid for postal use in the South.

The handstamp "PAID" was applied at the Pleasant Hill post office to denote that the correct Confederate postal rate of Five Cents had been paid, making this an "Adversity Use" of a U.S. Postal Stationery Envelope.



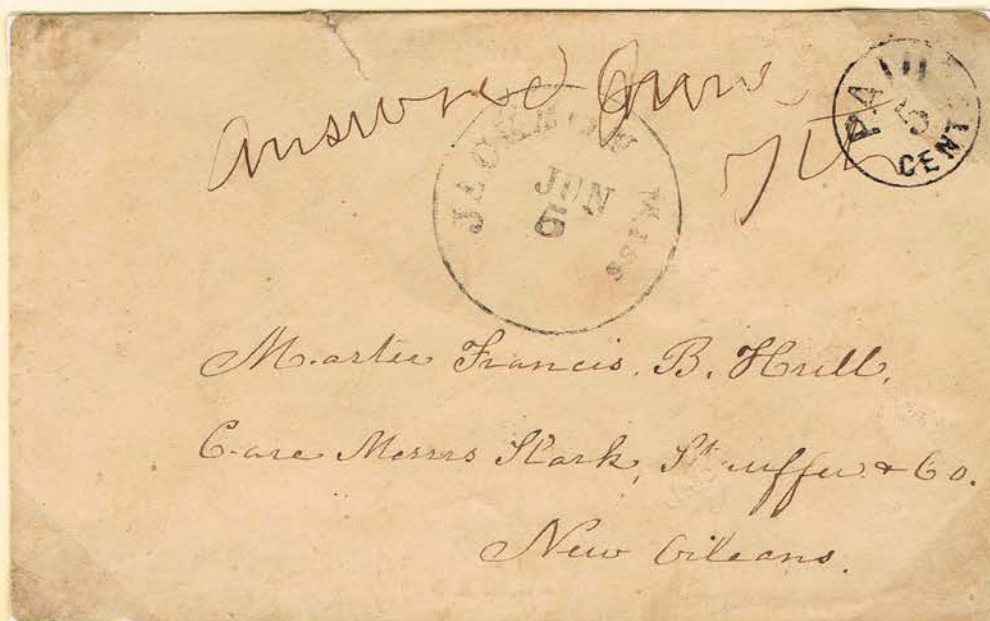
Three Cents "Star Die" Envelope - Issued 1860-61
PLEASANT HILL La JUN 6 (1861) - Handstamped "PAID"

J. T. Hardie & Co
New Orleans
La.

**Jackson, Miss. Confederate Postmaster's Provisional
Handstamped Envelope - 1861
Scott # 58XU1 - Five Cents Black**

In the period between June 1st, 1861, and the delivery of the first official adhesive stamps, in October 1861, a number of Confederate postmasters produced their own stamped envelopes, to be sold in a similar way as the U.S. Post Office embossed stationery envelopes were used.

These envelopes, with a "PAID" marking, normally on the right hand top corner, were sold at the Confederate post offices for general use. When posted at the post office the clerk then handstamped the envelope with the office datestamp bearing the name of the office and the date.



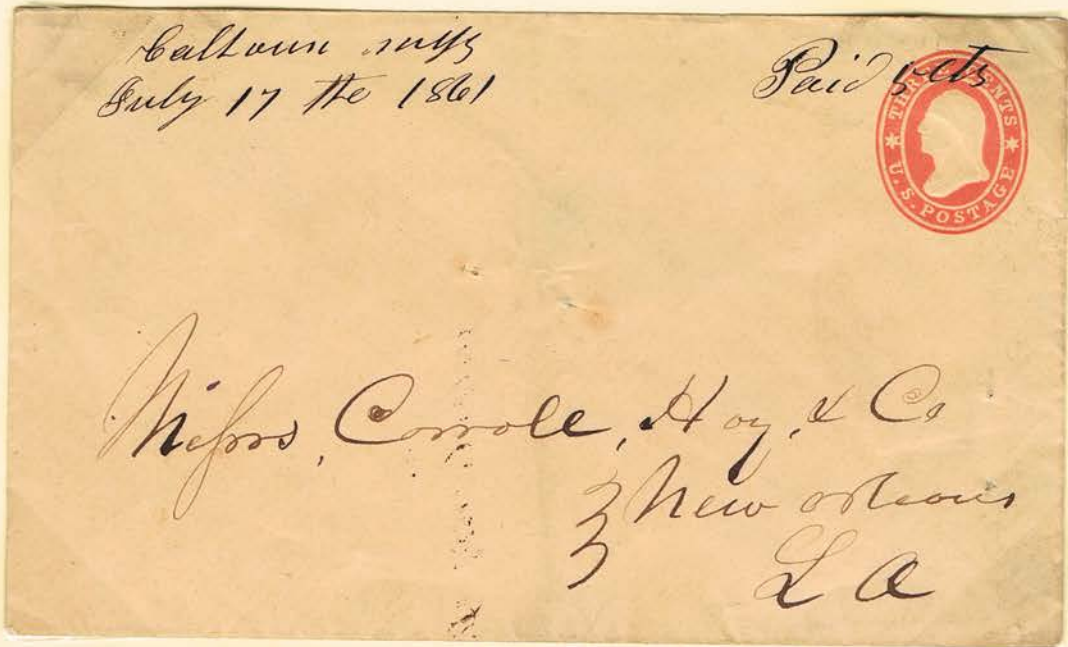
**JACKSON Miss JUN 5 (1861) - Five Cents Black
ms. "Answered June 7th"**

*Master Francis B. Hull
Care Messrs T. Stark, Stauffer & Co
New Orleans*

Confederate Manuscript "Handstamped Paid" - 1861

Calhoun, Mississippi - Manuscript "Paid 5 cts"

Some of the smaller post offices, far away from the larger towns, had no hand stamps and just wrote the details in manuscript, as this example.



Calhoun miss July 17th 1861 "Paid 5 cts"
Adversity use of a USA "Star Die" 3 Cents envelope

Messrs Carroll, Hoy & Co
New Orleans
La

Confederate "Handstamped Paid" - 1861

Charleston, South Carolina - Handstamped "PAID 10"

This folded letter sheet is imprinted with a Patriotic "Seven Star" Confederate Flag, printed in colour denoting the seven states that at that time formed the Confederacy. The letter sheet is separated to the right to display it in its entirety.

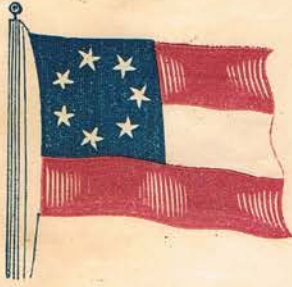
Mrs. Charlotte Adams had earlier written from New Orleans to Mr. Vander Horst, at Charleston, with a plea for money, and he had replied with this letter enclosing a \$50 draft, telling her how difficult things were in Charleston regarding money in the original town and state seceding from the United States in December 1860.



CHARLESTON SC JUL 25 1861

"PAID 10" in a circle

*Mrs. Charlotte Adams
Care of Hon. T. G. Hunt
New Orleans*



Charleston July 24. 1861

Dear Charlotte

I am very sorry to hear by your letter of the 15th Instant that you are in such a distressed situation more especially as the times are so bad that it is difficult to procure money, none of us having any income from our property & the very high ~~prices~~^{taxes} & constant demands from all quarters makes it difficult for us to live as we have been accustomed to do.

You will receive a draft for \$50 which I hope will prove of some service to you & that your health will soon be restored.

Yours very truly

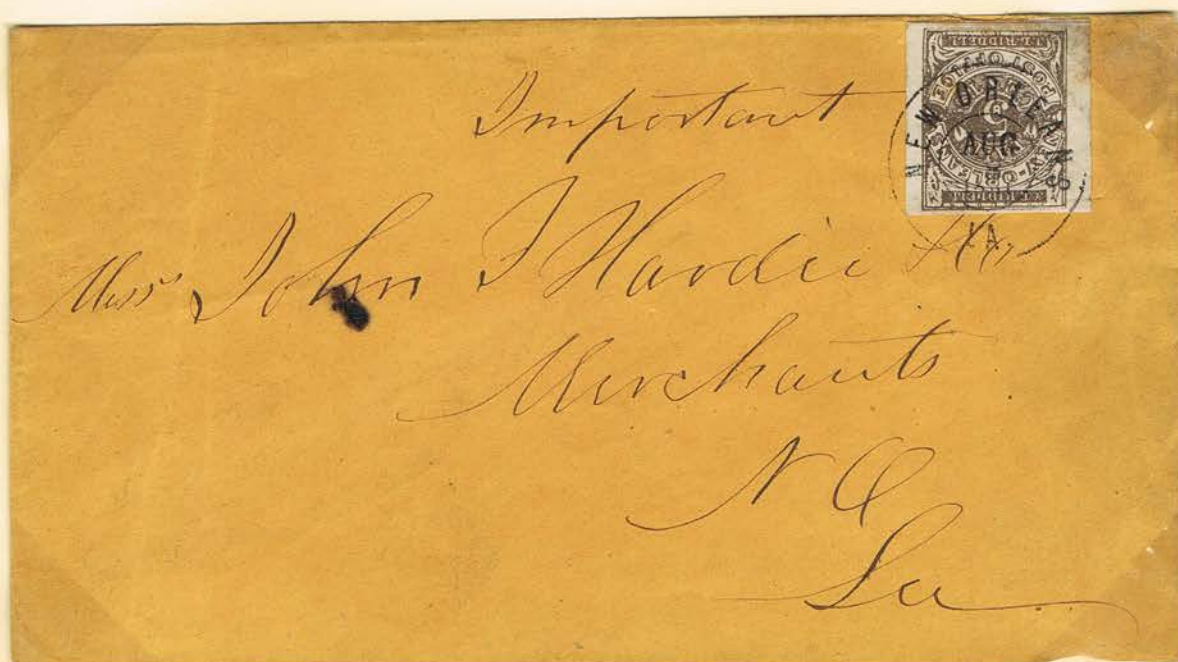
E. Vance Hunt

The difficulty of obtaining a draft on New Orleans ^{is so great} that I had to pay for a dollar to get the enclosed

New Orleans Confederate Postmaster's Provisional - 1861

Scott #62X3 - Five Cents Brown

Following the start of the Confederate Post Office service on June 1st, 1861, New Orleans postmaster John Riddell prepared Two and Five Cents engraved on wood adhesive which were used locally until the receipt of official adhesive stamps in November 1861. This example was placed on the envelope en route upriver and cancelled with the small **New Orleans River** datestamp on arrival at the dockside.



NEW ORLEANS AUG 8 1861 - Five Cents Brown
"Important"

Messrs. John F. Hardie & Co
Merchants
N O (New Orleans)
La

Confederate "Handstamped Paid" - 1861

Norfolk, Virginia - Handstamped "PAID in Circle" & "10" in blue ink

This early Trans-Mississippi cover to New Orleans is most likely from a Louisiana soldier, earlier in 1861 involved in the capture of the U.S. Navy Yards at Norfolk, to a girl friend care of her employers.

The firm of Messrs Walter Cox & Co of New Orleans were Commission Merchants and Cotton Traders during the War period and after.



NORFOLK VA. NOV 30 1861

"PAID in Circle" & "10" Handstamps printed in blue ink

*Miss Miriam L. Criswell
Care Messrs Walter Cox & Co
New Orleans
La*

Mobile, Ala Confederate Postmaster's Provisional - 1862
Scott # 58X2 - Five Cents Blue

In the period between June 1st, 1861, and the delivery of the first official adhesive stamps a number of Confederate postmasters produced their own adhesives, as this example from Mobile, Alabama. This sender used the Five Cent Provisional due to the shortage of the official Five Cents from time to time in late 1861.



MOBILE ALA JAN 1 1862 - Five Cents Blue
Lithographed by W. R. Robertson of Mobile

H. D. McGinnis
36 Camp Street
New Orleans
La

Confederate Number One Adhesive - 1862

Scott #1 - Five Cents Green

The lithographed imperforate first issue of the Confederate States of America, printed in Richmond, Virginia, by Hoyer & Ludwig, covering three values, was on sale from late 1861.



Lithographed advertising envelope - Klein Brothers of Vicksburg
VICKSBURG MISS JAN 26 1862 - Five Cents Green
"ADV in box" - New Orleans marking for advertised undeliverable mail

*Mr Wallach
Assayer
97 1/2 Canal Street
New Orleans - La*

The 1861 Confederate Five Cents Green has a first recorded date-of-use of October 16th, 1861.

Confederate Soldier's "DUE" - 1862

Churchland, Va - Manuscript "Due" & Handstamped "10"

Confederate soldiers were allowed to send letters on a "Due" basis, assuming the envelope was endorsed with the soldier's name, company and regiment. Due to the capture of New Orleans by the U.S. forces in April 1862 examples of soldiers' mail to New Orleans are rarely seen.



CHURCHLAND Va FEB 2 (1862) - ms. "Due" & H.S. "10"

"ADV in box" & "due 10" - New Orleans markings

Endorsed "From P. McAvoy - Slocomb Rifles - Co C - 1st Reg La Vols."

*Toby Hart Esq.
30 Commercial Place
New Orleans - La*

Confederate Number Two Adhesive - 1862

Scott #2 - Ten Cents Light Blue

The lithographed imperforate Ten Cents, for distances over 500 miles, the first Ten Cents issue of the Confederate States of America, printed in Richmond, Virginia, by Hoyer & Ludwig became on sale from late 1861.



MONTGOMERY Ala. FEB 11 1862 - Ten Cents Light Blue

*Mrs. Carroll, Hoy & Coy
New Orleans
La*

Confederate "Handstamped Paid" - 1862

Rusk, Texas - Handstamped "PAID 5"
Very late date of mail to Confederate New Orleans

This cover is dated April 16 (1862 as heading of this folded letter) on the C.D.S. of RUSK TEXAS. On April 17th, 1862, the Federals made a drive on both the North and South of the Mississippi River. The Confederates in the City trusted the chains and hulks in the river to guard the City.

On April 18th the Federals started a bombardment of the City and two days later found a way through the chains at night. By April 24th the Federal Fleet had surrounded New Orleans and the forts guarding New Orleans surrendered and the end of Confederate New Orleans was nigh.



RUSK TEXAS APR 16 (1862)
"PAID 5" Handstamp over gum deposit of lifted stamp

*Messrs. Smith & Brother
New Orleans
La.*