

Fred Schmitt's Postal History

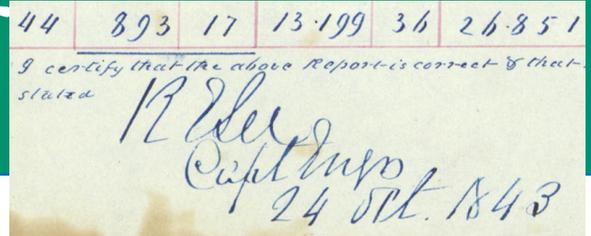
Treasures

Fall 2004

Resourceful information for the collector and seller of the world's 19th and 20th century mail communications, autographs, manuscripts and historic documents

This Issue's
Special Treasure...

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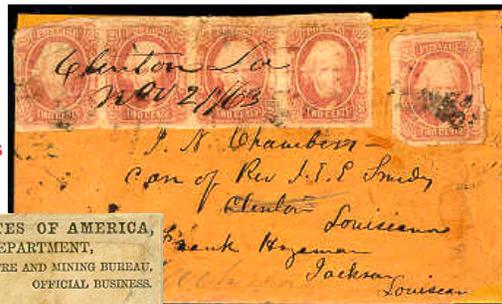
An amazing early autograph of Robert E. Lee on a U.S. Army document. "I certify that the above Report is correct & that the cash account there in included is correctly stated." A two-page ledger that documents the work for strengthening the walls and armaments of Fort Hamilton, N.Y., for work up to September 30, 1843. Lee commanded all Confederate forces in the Civil War.

Has The South Risen Again? The Rebels & Their Postal History



A beautiful example of serious adversity in the Confederate States during the Civil War. A small cover handmade from wallpaper. An 1864 usage in North Carolina.

A strip of 4 and a single of the Confederate 2-cent "Red Jack" from Clinton, La. to Jackson, La. on "Nov 2, 1863". Such covers with multiples like this are highly sought after.



Two five-cent Jefferson Davis stamps frank this official cover from the CSA War Department. Stamps were originally affixed over the imprint indicating private usage.



Most Americans here in the 21st century don't realize that there were once two separate and distinct postal services operating on the North American continent and that, today, the mail from one of them is not only quite rare and expensive, but full of enchanting history of the greatest of all lost causes.

Of course, we're talking about the Postal Service of the Confederate States of America, those states that seceded to form their own union and enter into the War Between the States in 1861. Immediately upon setting up their new country, they developed their own quite efficient postal service to handle the mail. During the war, paper goods in the South—such as envelopes and stationery—became very scarce because such items had been manufactured at one time in the northern states. This kind of adversity resulted in all sorts of unusual postal covers being created—some of which are shown here. (Continued on p. 4)

Civil War era postal history is still being discovered even today.



Fred Schmitt's
PERSPECTIVE



An especially rare Confederate States of America patriotic cover with an eight-star CSA flag from Milledgeville, Georgia in 1864.

Several decades ago, I was of the opinion that discoveries of Civil War postal history and soldier and family correspondences would soon no longer take place. After all, most attics had finally been explored.

For this reason it continues to amaze me that discoveries of rare and even important postal history from this period are still being made. Perhaps you will be next! [Continued on page 2.]

An occasional bulletin from...



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