

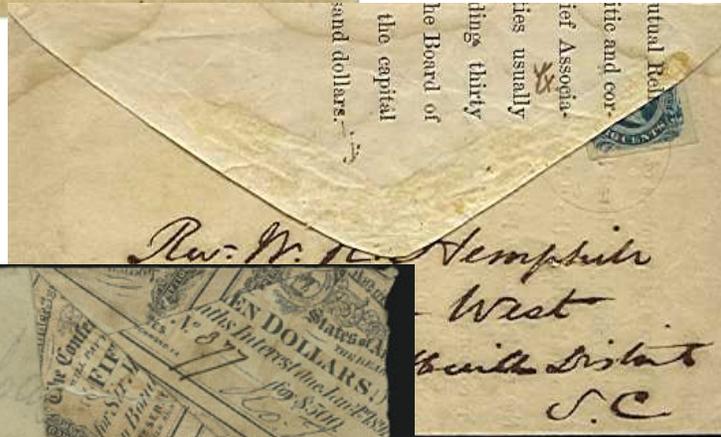
The Confederacy ❖ Its Postal History

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A "Due 10" cover from a soldier in the field. In many cases, soldiers could not readily obtain postage stamps, so their mail was allowed to travel either free or with postage payable by the recipient. From B. Hall Jr. Lt. Col., 2nd Bat. Hilliard's Legion, to Miss M. L. Hall, care MAJ Bolling Hall, Montgomery, Alabama. The envelope was turned and reused, having been originally addressed inside to LTCOL Hall and endorsed "Official".

An excellent example of an adversity cover. A 10-cent CSA stamp is used on this cover made from a printed form.



An Anderson C.H. South Carolina Apr. 8" datestamp is used to postmark this unusual adversity cover made from a Confederate bond.



A Richmond Va. Apr. 21st circular datestamp on a blue cover to Minorca Va. with Confederate States Navy Department Official Business imprint. Very rare.

❖ And an unusual Union piece of mail:

A scarce carrier rate cover with 1c and 3c 1861 U.S. stamps, tied by NEW YORK 1863 APR 6 double circle handstamp, addressed to Lieut. Richard H. Jackson, Company A, 9th Reg., N.Y. V. (Hawkins Zouaves), Camp Hamilton, Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Mail to/from Zouave units is uncommon and highly collectible.



Why was the Confederate Postal Service so successful that it—unlike its northern counterpart—actually operated in the black? They were fearless about charging the right amount for postage. In 1862, when it was proven that five cents for a domestic letter was not enough to charge, the rate was doubled to 10 cents! So even though adversity kept the quantity of pieces of mail low, the postage rates garnered more than enough funds to keep the Postal Service afloat.

The adversity, as mentioned above, forced both soldiers and their families back home (and businesses, too) to become imaginative in creating the envelopes used to enclose letters. As the war progressed and the shortage of paper became acute, every conceivable kind of scrap of paper was employed: from wallpaper to the back of wedding licenses!

The chief factor that has intrigued people who collect CSA postal history over the decades is that there is a story behind almost every cover one encounters—whether it's a cover from a soldier in the field with Pickett's Brigade from Virginia, a patriotic cover bearing a color rendering of a seven-star CSA flag, or tiny ladies cover sent from a mother to her son in a regiment of volunteers from Alabama.

Confederate postal history has always been rather rare (adversity helped that along), but today it's value is seriously increasing. We are avid buyers of all kinds of Civil War postal history and correspondences. What have you?