

**POSTAL HISTORY OF
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**



INTRODUCTION

The cabinet of the Confederate States of America was modeled after that of the US executive branch including the Department of State (DOS) but lacked Department of Interior (1). Despite active efforts by CSA secretaries of states to seek sovereign recognition from Greer Britain, France, Spain, Vatican, and Mexico, no foreign countries recognized the sovereignty of CSA as will be shown in this Exhibit. Thus. CSA DOS focused more on relationships and coordination between CSA government in Richmond and CSA member states and respective militias than on foreign affairs. Hence most of CSA DOS mail was with member states and their militias. This is consistent with the fact that all the DOS covers presented here are used domestically except one from CSA Commissioner in London.

Four men served as Acting and or Secretary of State from 21 February 1861 to 3 May 1865 coinciding with the end of CSA on 10 May 1865 (2). DOS had its own imprinted envelopes which were used to transmit official business as recorded in the *Confederate States of America, Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (3). The DOS, like all Confederate Executive Branches (except the Post Office Department) did not have free franking privilege and were required to prepay postage or postage was due if not prepaid. However, some DOS imprinted covers were apparently carried privately or by courier outside of CSA postal service and thereby lack postage and any postal markings.

Important covers have red borders and expertized covers bear "E" next to the cover.

Exhibit is organized in four sections:

- DOS covers signed by all the Acting and or permanent Secretaries of States of CSA;
- Representative mail from US diplomats who later became Confederate Commissioners to Europe and Mexico including the very rare cover from CSA Commissioner in London with copy of his letter which was believed to be sent via St. Thomas and Havana to overcome US Navy Blockade.
- DOS mail from pre-stamp and with CSA stamps sent via CSA postal service and via private couriers;
- All recorded semi-official DOS imprinted envelopes and varieties of different envelope sizes and various paper stock colors previously not identified in CSA Handbook.

This is the most comprehensive presentation of the postal history of DOS of CSA known to the exhibitor.

Primary references :

1. http://csa.systemproof.com/?page_id=68
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States_Secretary_of_State
3. Kauffman Patricia, Crown Francis J, Jr., Palazolo Jerry S., "Confederate States of America, Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History, Confederate Stamp Alliance, Inc., 2012

CSA: SECRETARIES OF STATE



Acting Secretary: 18 Feb-March 1861; Assistant Secretary: April 1861 to March



Wm. M. Browne, from Ireland who formerly fought in Crimean War in British Army moved to New York City in 1855. He wrote for NY journals and was active in Democratic party in Washington. In 1861 Browne, known as Constitution Browne by then, had become a well-connected proponent of secession and moved to Athens, Georgia. He was favorite of both President Davis and first Secretary of State Toombs. He was appointed Assistant Secretary of State till March 1862 when he resigned to become the aide de camp to President Davis with the rank of Colonel of Cavalry.



Official DOS Imprint cover (Type DOS-1) signed by Wm. M. Browne, Asst. Secretary of State addressed to wife of one of his close friends and a house guest Howell Cobb, Atlanta, Ga. Cover bears RICHMOND VA JULY 8 1861 and PAID 10 (Type H) cancels. Her husband, Mr. Cobb was former Secretary of Treasury of the USA before CSA secession and President of Provisional Confederate Congress in Richmond, Va. Since he was Assistant Secretary for only one year, his signature on DOS cover is very scarce.

CSA: SECRETARIES OF STATE



First Secretary of State: 25 February 1861 to 25 July 1861



Robert Toombs was an American politician who was a founding father of the Confederacy and its first Secretary of State. A lawyer by training, he was an impressive speaker in the U.S. House of Representatives, and later in the Senate. Believing strongly in states' rights and the extension of slavery, he found common ground with fellow-Georgian Alexander H. Stephens and advocated secession. In the newly formed Confederate Government, Toombs was appointed Secretary of State, but criticized the attack on Fort Sumter, which put him at odds with President Jefferson Davis, and he quit to join the Confederate States Army.



July 17, 1861: Official imprint (Type:DOS-1) Cover used by R. Toombs and PAID 20c.

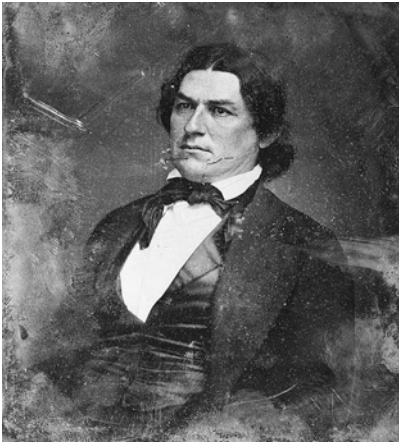
The cover is addressed to Hon. Linton Stephens, a Supreme Court judge in Georgia and the half-brother of Alexander Stephens, the then Vice President of CSA. Cover was prepaid 20c representing double weight rate to Atlanta, Ga as per PAID straight line and "20" manuscript marking before the Confederate stamps were issued in October, 1861. His short tenure of five months means his signature on CSA Department of State covers are rare.

CSA: SECRETARIES OF STATE

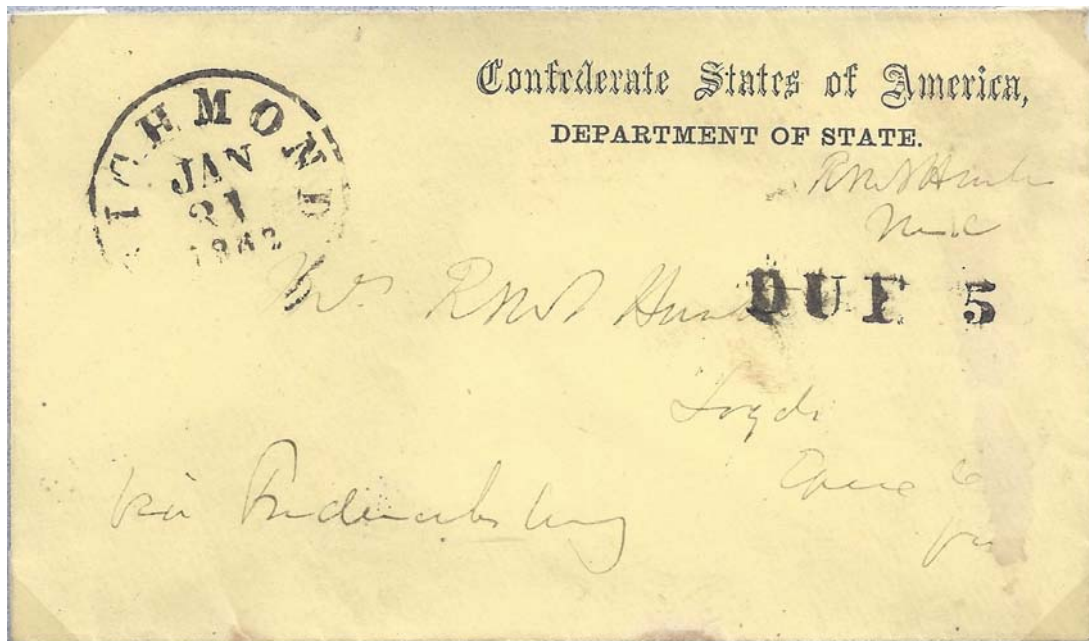


Second Secretary of State Robert M. T. Hunter: July 1861 to 18 February 1862

A prominent Virginian and former Speaker of the house and US senator, he joined confederacy in 1861 and was appointed Secretary of State in July 1861. He resigned on 18 Feb 1862 to become a Confederate Senator from Virginia.



Robert M T Hunter was the first Confederate Secretary of State depicted on Confederate \$10



31 January 1862: DOS imprint (Type DOS-1) cover signed, R.M.T.Hunter to his wife in Loyd, Va. with RICHMOND Va cancel. Cover was sent unpaid and Loyd post office applied "DUE 5" representing single rate and collected from Mrs. Hunter. Since he was in the office only 7 months, DOS covers with his signature are rare.

CSA: SECRETARIES OF STATE

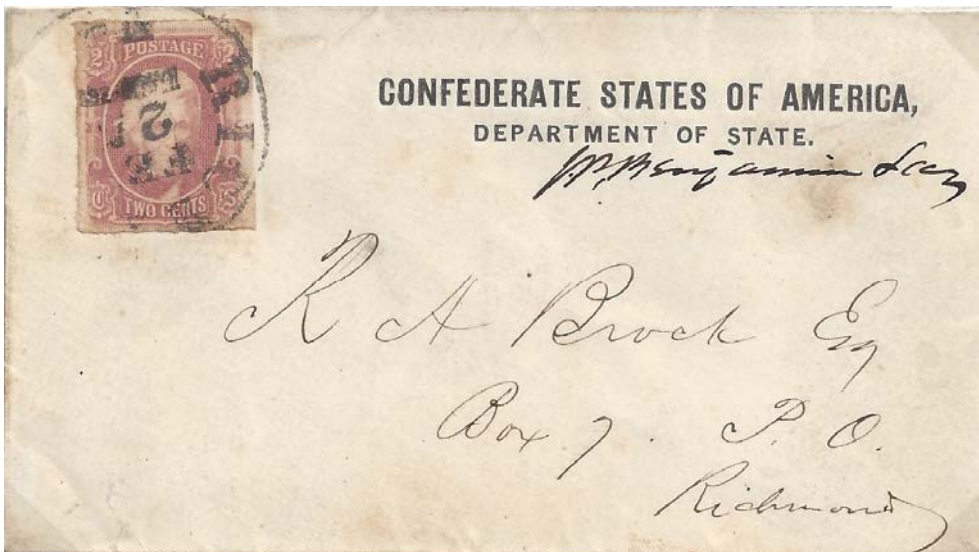
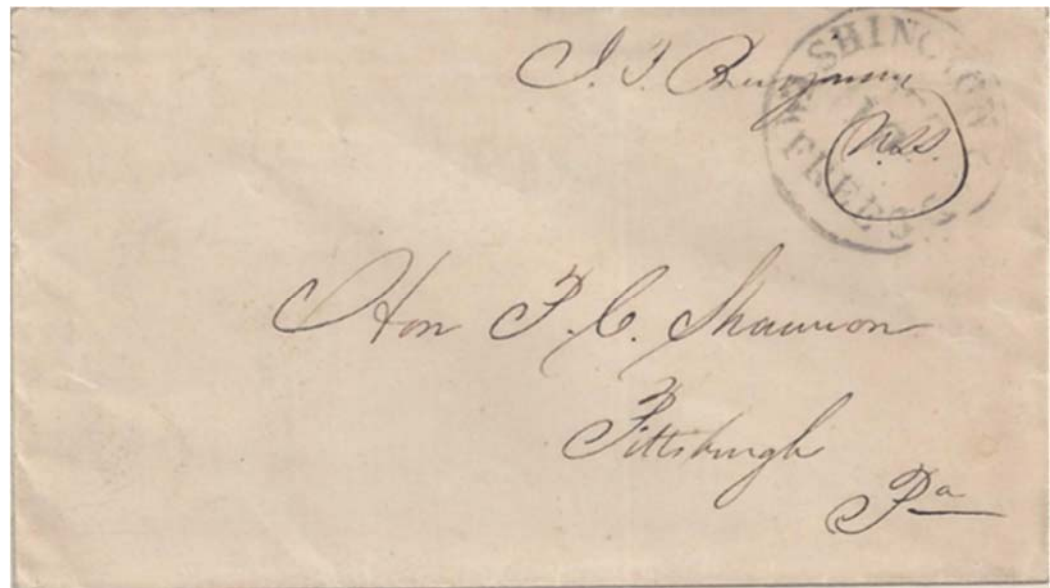


Last Secretary of State: 18 March 1862 to 10 May 1865



Judiah P Benjamin Former US Senator from Louisiana in 1853 was a firm supporter of slavery, secession and loyalist to President Davis. He was the longest serving Secretary of State for Confederacy for 3 years. He actively sought and failed to get recognition of Britain and France but eventually fled to Britain in July-August 1865.

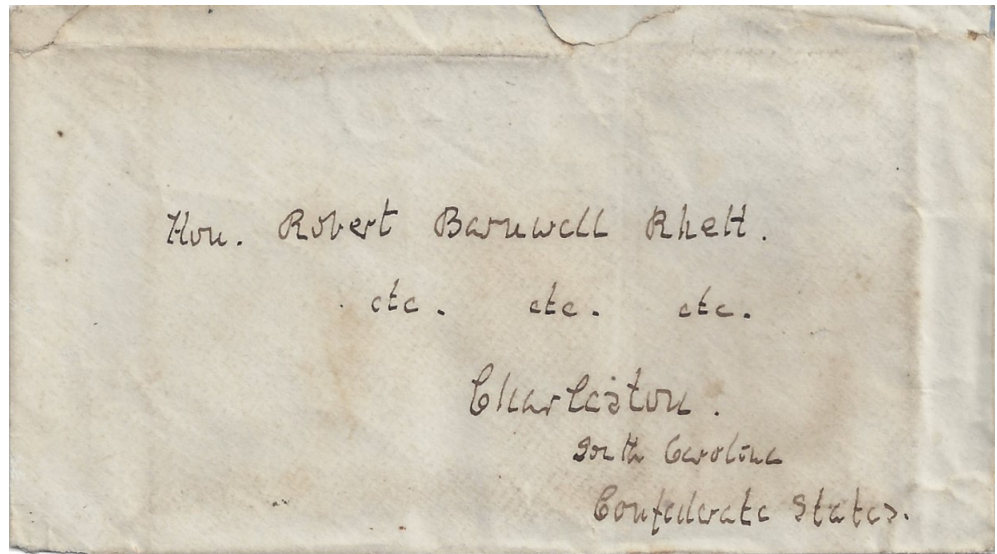
Circa 1853: Free frank as US Senator on a cover to Hon. Shannon of Pittsburgh, PA.



25 Feb 1864-1865: CSA DOS imprint (Type DOS-4) cover signed by Secretary of State Benjamin with 1863 2c stamp to pre-pay the local drop rate. Ex-Dietz



Ambrose Dudley Mann (1801-1889) was a career US diplomat and Assistant Secretary of State (1853-55) who sided with Confederacy. On March 16, 1861, he was appointed as the Confederate Commissioner to Great Britain by President Davis and Secretary of State Robert Toombs. He sailed for England on March 28, 1861 and was based in London before he was appointed to become Commissioner for Belgium and Vatican.



30 Sept 1861: Cover from one of first Confederate Commissioners to Europe to Hon. Robert B. Rhett, Charleston, South Carolina, Confederate States. This cover evaded US Blockade and most likely travelled via St. Thomas (DWI) and Havana. Rhett was an extreme pro-slavery advocate and reportedly aspired to be the President of the Confederacy. (Note: Philatelic Foundation

Private
46 Abchurch Lane,
London, Sept 30, 1861

My dear Sir:

In the casual interview which I had with you in the streets of Montgomery, just as I was quitting that city, you remarked, in substance "If the British government hesitates with respect to our recognition, cross over to France, where, in my opinion, you will be cheerfully received."

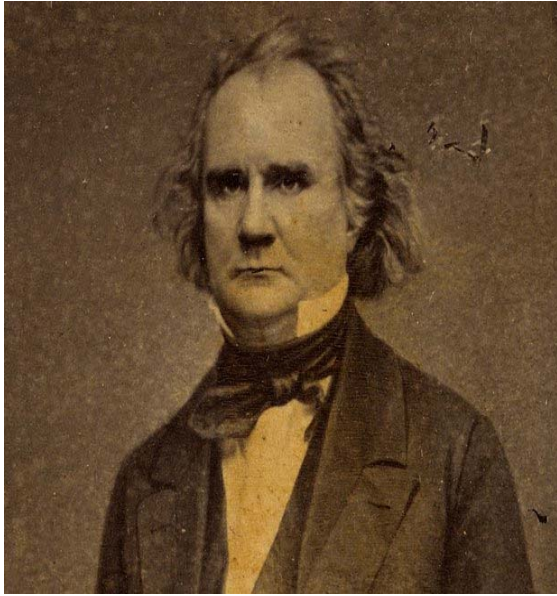
I can readily imagine your disappointment at the continued delay of our acknowledgment by the two great historic powers of Europe, as an independent country. Neither the one nor the other, however, can yet be prevailed upon to establish diplomatic relations with us.

But for the commencement of hostilities by the North I am quite certain that this government would have cordially welcomed the Confederate States into the family of nations by the 1st of July, and that such welcome would have been speedily followed by France, Spain and the other Continental Nations.

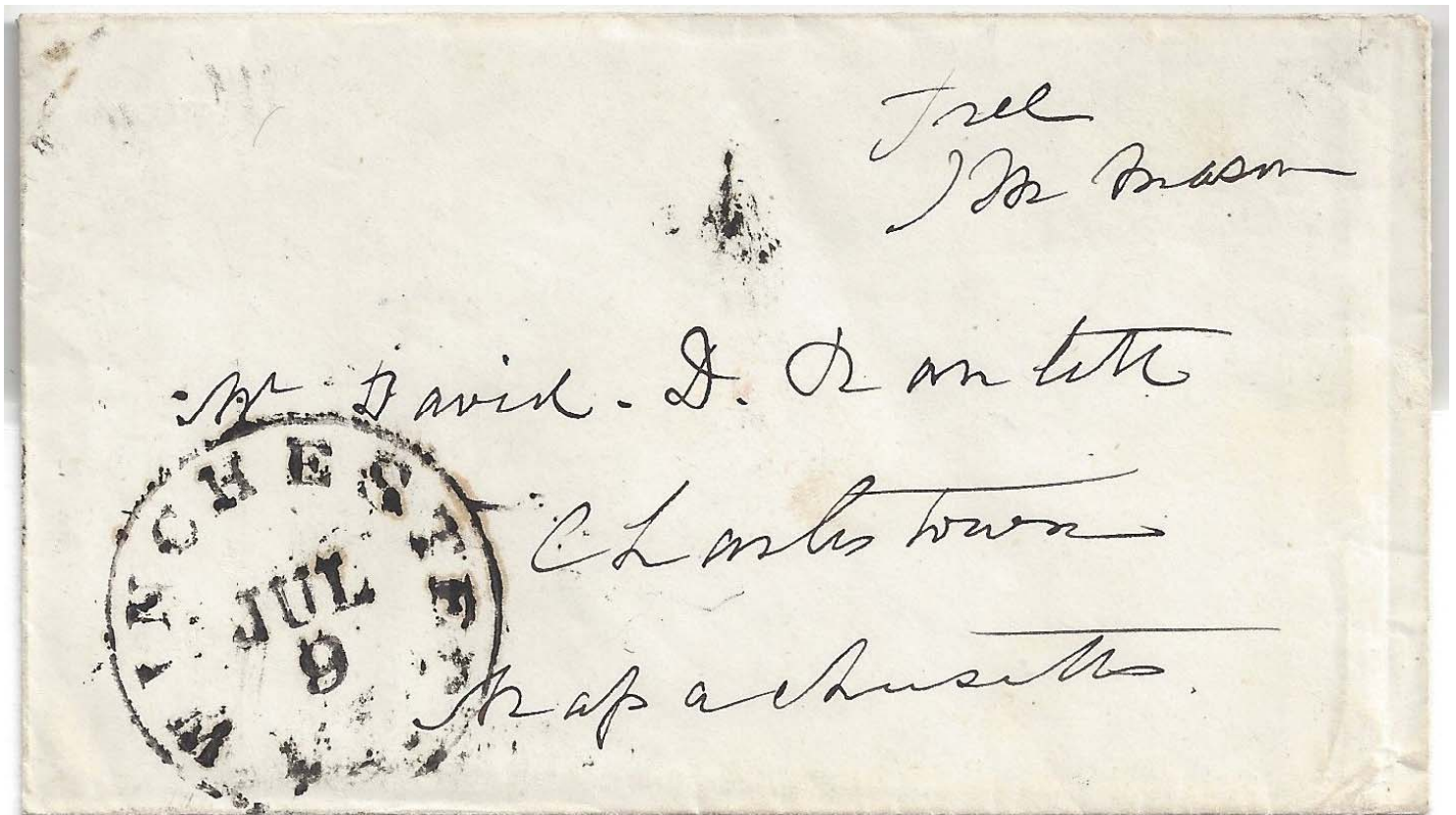
It is for our cause could be addressed than for prompt recognition of us as a sovereign

...should we be permitted to ...
...the purpose of the ...
...the only authority of the ...
...the subject will ...
...pursued to the consideration of the ...
...very early day. Governments that have ...
...relations, one with another, usually employ commercial ...
...of ...
...to the Confederate States ...
...with the ...
...that even our ...
...the ...
...will have been ...
...will ever be ...
...of peace from the ...
...with a large ...
...by my ...
...with high ...
Yours faithfully,
A. Dudley Mann.

Six page letter from Mann is full of details about Mann's numerous efforts and optimistic outlook to secure diplomatic recognition first from England to be followed by France, Spain and other continental nations by as early as July (1862). Letter also details political and diplomatic sensitivities of prevailing treaties with US etc.



James Murray Mason (1781-1871) a former Congressman and senator resigned from US Senate on 8 March 1861 to represent Virginia at the Congress of Confederate States in early 1861. Soon there after, President Jefferson Davis appointed him as the Commissioner to Great Britain and France. While travelling to his post on British Steamer Trent, he was captured by USS San Jacinto near Bahamas and held at Fort Erren, Boston. Secretary of State Seward released him on January 2, 1862 and he proceeded to London to represent Confederacy till fall of Confederacy in 1865. His efforts to seek recognition from Great Britain were unsuccessful as ultimately England did not recognize CSA.

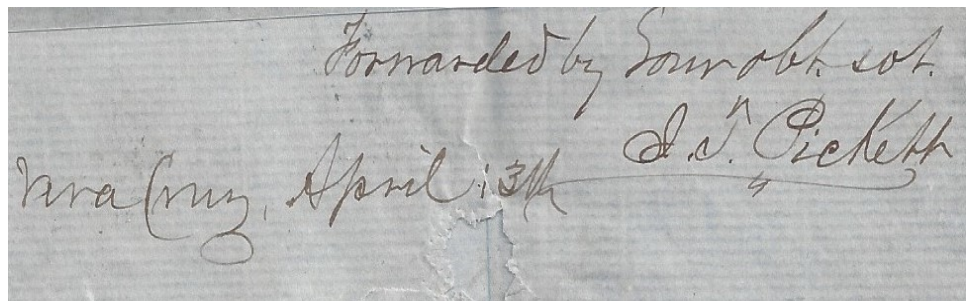


9 July (1853): James Mason, US Senator, free frank on a cover from Winchester, Va. to Charlestown, Mass.



John Thomas Pickett, a former US Diplomat in Vera Cruz through 1860 resigned from his post as US Consul at Vera Cruz when President Lincoln was elected in February 1861 to join the Confederacy. President Davis and Secretary of State Toombs appointed him first as Commissioner to Washington and then appointed him as Commissioner to Mexico from May 1861 to May 1862. He was unsuccessful in getting Mexico to recognize CSA despite his previous diplomatic experience in Mexico. Also arranged escape of CSA officials during the Civil War.

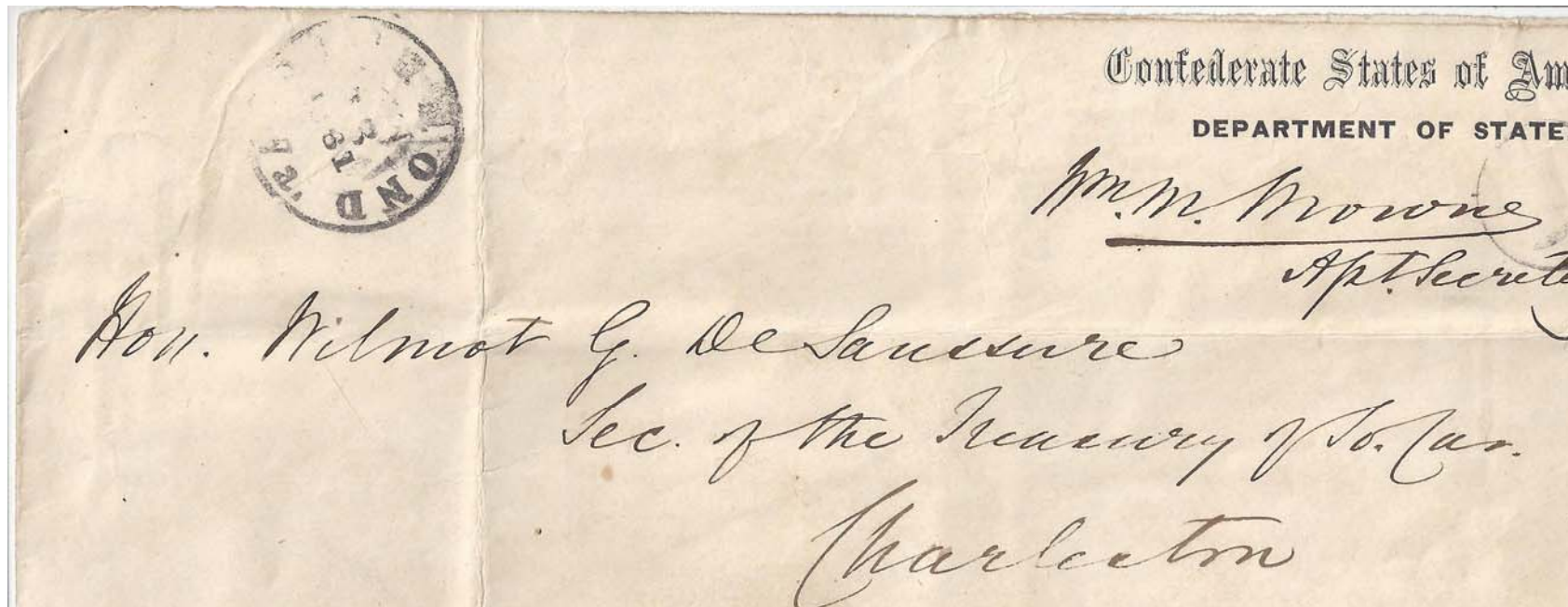
Back with "Forwarded by Your obt. Svt., J.T. Pickett Vera Cruz, April 13th" Manuscript forwarder's notation of the US Consul



15 Feb 1857, 3¢ dull red, type III. Strip of three and single, tied by two strikes of sharp "Charleston S.C. Feb 15 1860" circular date cancel on blue folded letter to John S. Cripps in care of the Legation of America, Mexico City, Mexico.

PRE-STAMP PERIOD: MAIL THROUGH CSA POSTAL SERVICE

Some DOS imprinted covers were sent through Confederate postal service and bear both postal cancellation



and rate charged marking.



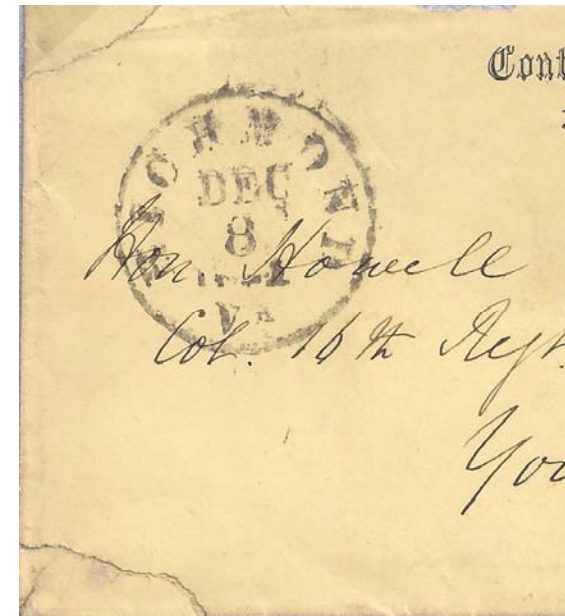
13 Jun 1861: The only legal size DOS imprint (Type DOS-1) used bearing the signature of Wm Browne as Assistant Secretary of State and is addressed to Wilmot G. [1] de Saussure, Secretary of Treasury for South Carolina at Charleston, South Carolina (13). He served as South Carolina Secretary of the Treasury from the summer of 1861 to April 11, 1862 (9) . Cover bears RICHMOND Va. and “PAID 10” (Type H) circular cancels in black.



8 Dec 1861: Smaller size envelope with DOS imprint (Type DOS-1) used from Richmond, Va addressed to Hon. Howell Cobb in Yorktown, Va. Cover bears " PAID 10" circular cancel (Type H-1) indicating prepayment of 10c rate .

Note that signature of an DOS official is absent on this cover.

Howell Cobb was both a member of Congress and a Captain in 16th Regiment of Georgia Volunteers.



Federate States of America.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.



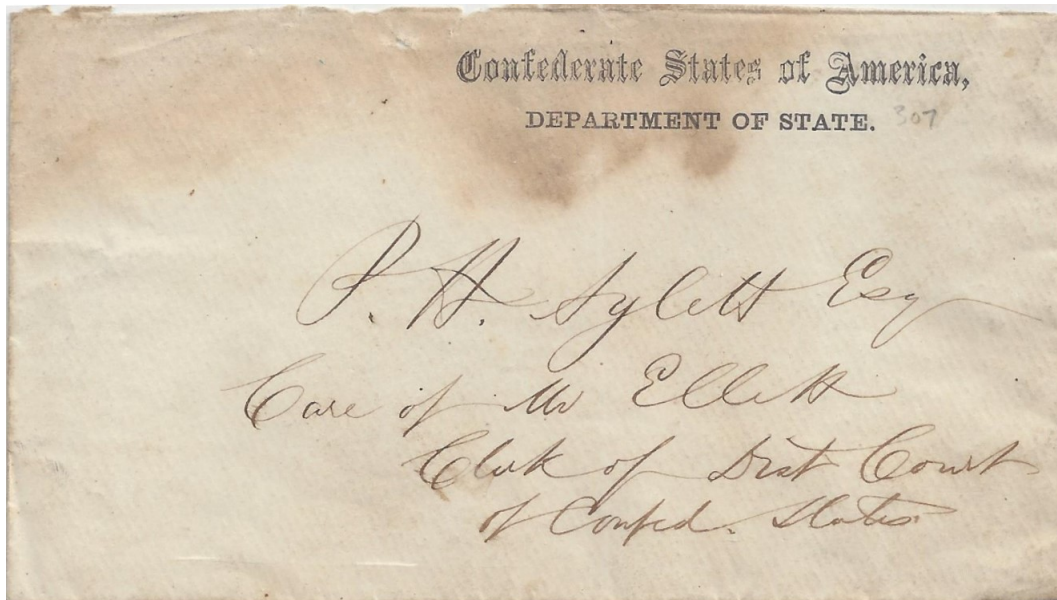
Jebb M. C.
Ga. Vols.

W. town
Va.

PRE-STAMP MAIL OUTSIDE OF CSA POSTAL SERVICE



At times, DOS imprinted covers were sent outside of Confederate postal service and bear neither the signature of Secretary of State nor any postal or rate markings.



Circa 1861-62: Semi-official cover Type DOS-1 is addressed to P. H. Aylett (Patrick Henry Aylett) care of Clerk Elliott of District court of Confederate States and apparently carried privately, most likely by a courier.

No postage was paid by DOS or collected from the recipient as it was handled outside CSA postal service.

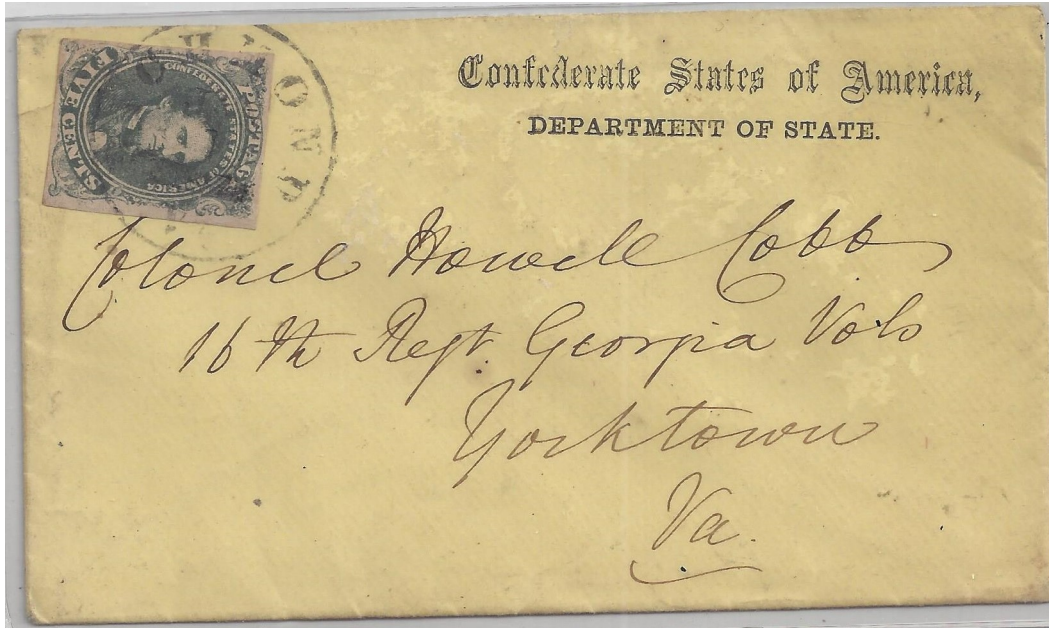
Mr. Aylett was reappointed as the Confederate District Attorney of Eastern Virginia in the district court in Richmond, Virginia by President Davis upon formation of Confederacy in 1861. (Ref: <https://mahockney.org/1825/05/09/patrick-henry-aylett-born-his-life-to-be-a-history-of-virginias-decline-and-fall/>)

STAMPED MAIL THROUGH CSA POSTAL SERVICE



Once CSA PO department issued Confederate stamps in October 1861, DOS also started using CSA postage stamps to pay for applicable postal

First CSA stamp used on cover from Department of State: Five Cents Rate



Circa July 1862(?): CSA first issue (CSA#1) 5c olive green (Stone A or B) on DOS corner card cover (Type DOS-1) tied by dated Richmond VA cancel. Cover is addressed to Colonel Howell Cobb with 16th Regiment Georgia Volunteers in Yorktown, Va. The 5c postage paid for less than 500 mile distance. Colonel Howell Cobb, former Secretary of the US Treasury from Georgia was a close friend of president Jefferson Davis and his Secretary of State Wm. Browne.

Only known DOS cover with first CSA postage stamp

STAMPED MAIL THROUGH CSA POSTAL SERVICE



The third CSA issue to pay 10c postage which became effective July 1, 1862



27 March (1863-64): A pair of 5c Jefferson Davis (3rd issue) tied by Richmond Va on Type DOS-1 imprint on yellow envelope. Cover addressed to Hon. A H Holmes in Staunton, Va. Cover does not bear signature of the Department of State official as was customary.

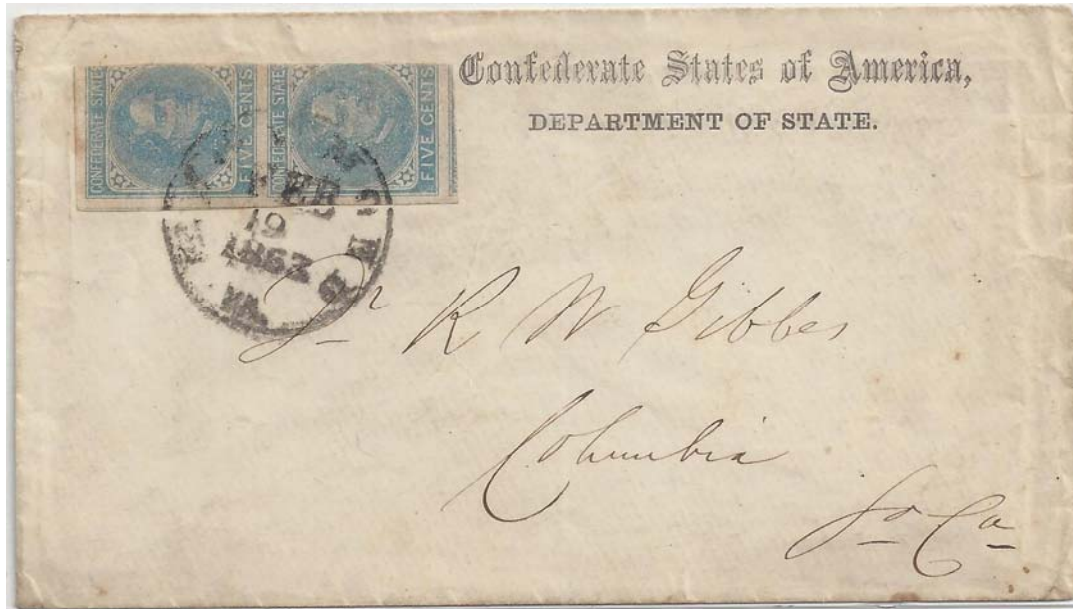
Note:

Recipient Alexander Holmes Hugh's Stuart was a prominent politician, former congressman, Secretary of Interior under President Fillmore and during early years of confederacy he was part of the delegation that met US President Lincoln on April 12, 1861 (Ref: Alexander Holmes Hughs Stuart, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hugh_Holmes_Stuart) However, this cover was mailed after 1862 as signified by 10c postal rate.

SEMI-OFFICIAL POSTAL STATIONERY



Confederate Department of State, like other CSA government departments produced its own stationery with "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA / DEPARTMENT OF STATE" corner card imprint in different types and font sizes and on different size and paper stocks. While the corner card imprint was believed to be printed locally, envelope stock bear the impressed imprint of "DE LA RUE LONDON" on the inner flap, indicating they were imported from England. Confederate States Handbook shows five different DOS imprints and the catalog numbers are used to identify them here.



Type DOS-1: Small envelope on cream stock. Envelope size: 14.1cm x 7.9cm. DOS-1 came in three different paper stocks and two different size envelopes as shown below. Paper stock and envelope size varieties are not listed in the CSA Handbook by Kaufmann et al.

19 FEB (1863): A pair of 5c Jefferson Davis (3rd Issue) tied by RICHMOND Va cancel on Type DOS-1 imprinted on grey envelope. Cover is addressed to Mr. R.M. Gibbs, Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. R. W. Gibbs, Columbia, S.C. chaired the Convention of Teachers of Confederate States at the time.

DOS-1: ENVELOPE SIZE & PAPER STOCK VARIETIES



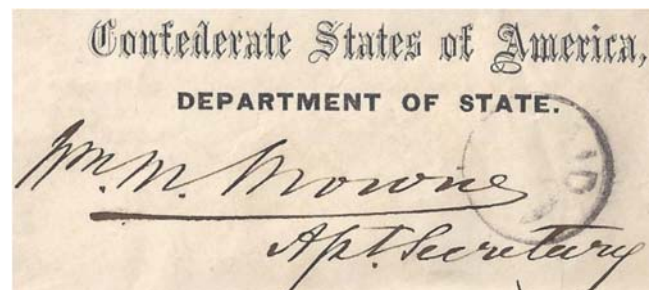
Paper Stock: Lemon;

Envelope Size: 14.1cm x 7.9cm



Paper Stock: Grey;

Envelope Size: 14.1 cm x 8.0cm



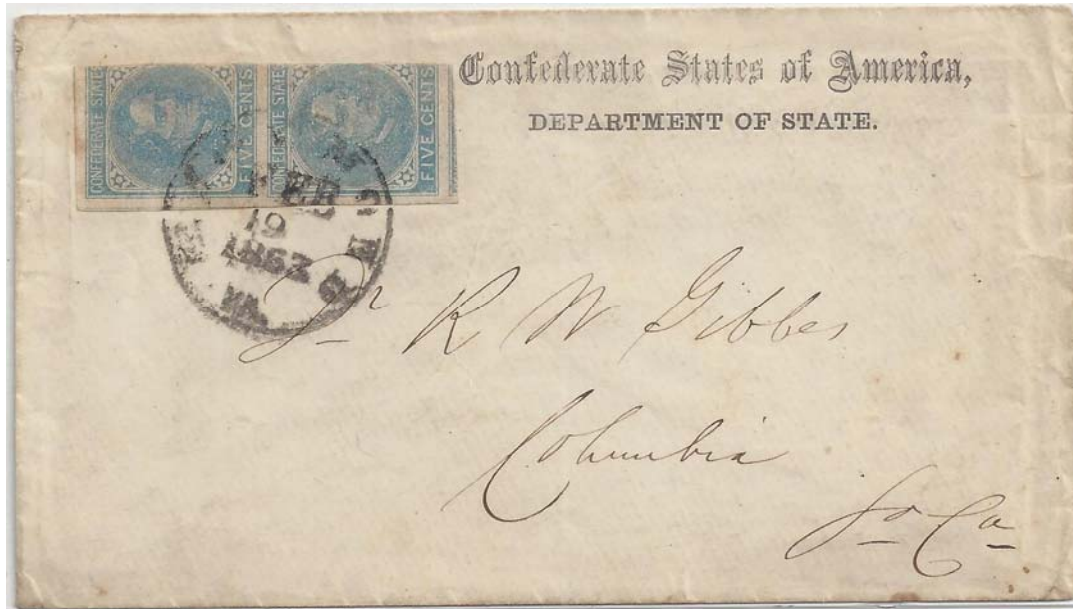
Paper Stock: White?

Envelope Size: 24 cm x 10.8 cm

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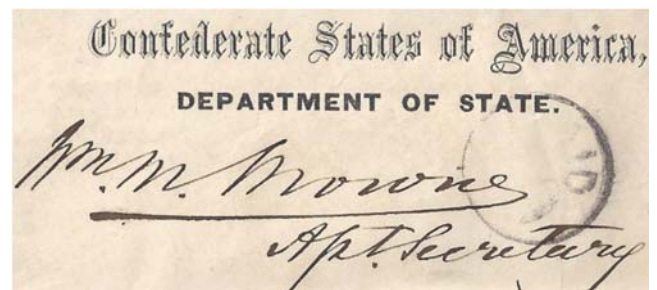
Paper Stock: Lemon;

Envelope Size: 14.1cm x 7.9cm



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Envelope Size: 14.1 cm x 8.0cm



Paper Stock: White?

Envelope Size: 24 cm x 10.8 cm