

guished by the crowding of the letters in "Confederate" by which the letter "d" is compressed, or as printers would term it, condensed."

The New Orleans *Picayune*, on May 25, 1861, said: "One week hence there will not be any available mode of letter or newspaper express, or telegraphic communication between the Confederacy or the United States. Our postmaster has announced his determination to assume the discharge of the duties of his office on the 1st day of June. From that day all existing mail contracts, so far as we are concerned, will have to be annulled. Meanwhile the Washington administration adopts the same policy, and to make intercourse thoroughly impossible, prohibits express companies from carrying express matters, inclusive of letters, across the Potomac River.

Robert F. Houston was post master of Livingston, Ala., at the breaking out of the war, and is supposed to have issued the famous local of that burg. Livingston is the county seat of Sumter county and at the outbreak of the war rejoiced in a population of about 1,000. Just prior to the war the net revenue the post office returned was about \$375 per year.

Registration of letters was a thing unknown to and unrecognized by the Confederate postal laws the opinion of the official being each and every letter was entitled to the same careful handling as its neighbor; therefore the old U. S. law on this subject was repealed by act of March 15th, 1861.

Plates 1, 2 and 3 exist of the Columbia, printed 10-cent stamps and possibly plates 4 and 5. I have seen the three former, being informed of the existence of No. 4, and from possible evidence believe the existence of No. 5 possible.

Among the stamps recently offered in an auction sale of the Minneapolis society was a reprint on the original kind of paper, from the original die of the Salem, N. C., local, guaranteed as such by C. H. Mekeel. Orestes A. Keehn was the post master who was responsible for the issuance of this local.

The Richmond *Examiner* for Oct. 19th says: "The first of the new Confederate postal stamps were issued on the 18th of October, and were largely bought up. The new stamp is green, with a lithographic likeness of President Davis within a double oval border, surmounted with the inscription 'Confederate States of America.' Outside the circle and at the head of the stamp is the word 'Postage' and at the lower edge the denomination 'Five Cents.'"

The small 10 cent is but very rarely met with in cancelled pairs, the postage required on double weight letters. A cancelled block of four is to be seen in the collection of a western collector.

In addition to the local stamps of Columbia, S. C., there can be found several varieties of hand stamps. A 5c. and 10c. value being found both in black and blue ink.

The 2c. claret is printed in panes of 100, two panes to a plate, making a full uncut sheet consist of 200 stamps.

Among the curios which can be found in the different collections some of the most interesting are the wall-paper envelopes, which necessity caused to be made by the southern matrons in attending to their correspondence.

Among those who submitted bids and designs when the Confederate States through its post master general, called for bids for furnishing stamps and envelopes, were Hoyer and Ludwig, Richmond, Va., to whom the contract was awarded, Edmund Hoole, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Butler & Carpenter, of Philadelphia who prepared many of the interesting U. S. revenue stamps, G. F. Nesbitt, who issued the U. S. envelopes of the Nesbitt issue, and the American Bank Note Co., of New York, A. Hoen & Co., of Baltimore, and J. W. Hayes, of Newark, N. J.

The appropriations made for the postal service from July 1st to Dec. 31st, 1863, was \$36,389 for general expenses, \$10,000 for incidental and \$50,000 for telegraphic.

Mr. E. R. Ackerman, of Plainfield, N. J., has an unsevered strip of four Athens, Ga., locals on the original envelope. The strip includes the different die varieties and is probably the finest specimen of these stamps in existence.

Probably the finest lot of the local stamps ever offered at one time was the superb collection of Paul Strochlén, of Geneva, Switzerland, which was sold on Dec. 14 and 15, 1893, by R. F. Albrecht, 75 different pieces being offered, while the regular issue was represented by over 90 specimens, exclusive of a half sheet of plate 13 of the 10c.

By an act of the Confederate Congress on Aug. 30, 1861, prepayment of postage in money was authorized until the post master general could have the necessary stamps and stamped envelopes prepared.

The Livingston local sold for the fat price of \$750 at one of the Scott auction sales in 1892, which is the high-water mark price for a Confederate stamp.

The Fredericksburg, Va., local was printed from a plate of ten stamps in sheets of twenty. The manner in which the printing was done causes a variety in unsevered vertical pairs.

Among the minor varieties which command high prices is the small 10c. on ribbed paper. This can probably be ranked as second in variety to a cancelled perforate 10c. on original cover.

Careful examination of the first issue 5c. will disclose specimens showing a defect in the die, causing a vertical bar below the C of Confederate