

# Confederate Stamp Alliance

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## The Confederate Philatelist

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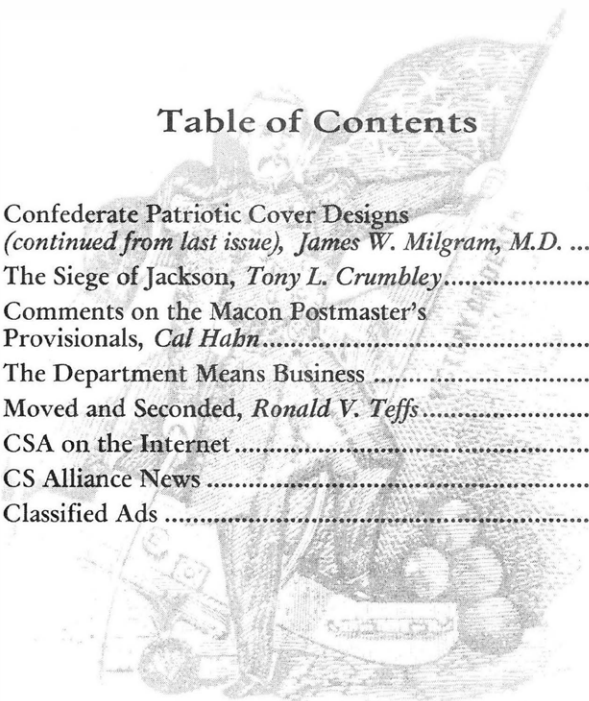
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# Confederate Patriotic Cover Designs

*James W. Milgram, M.D.*

*Continued from Last Issue*

## Unused Confederate Patriotic Covers

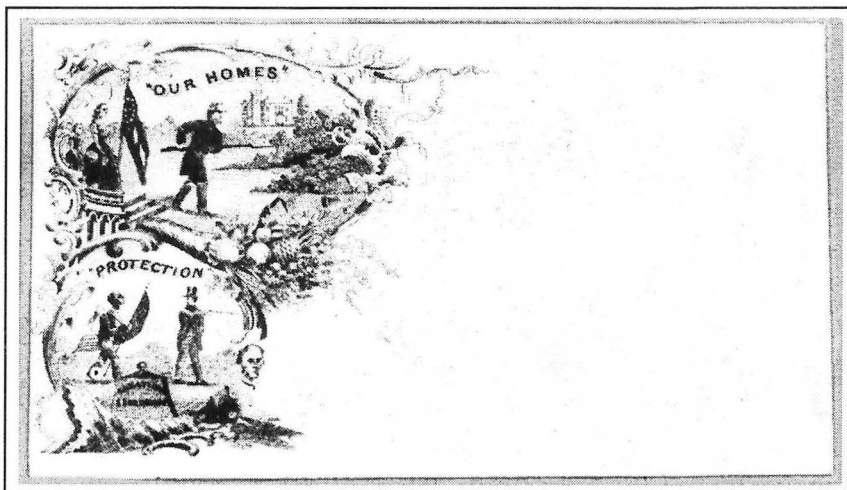
Much discussion has been made about the paper quality of southern patriotic covers, that the Union blockade kept the South from obtaining high quality paper envelopes on which to print. But I have shown here that a large number of Confederate patriotic covers were produced and used before the Civil War even began. To obtain a shipment from New York or Philadelphia to Charleston or Montgomery was a matter of days by railroad in 1861. Thus there is no reason to believe that the first Confederate patriotic covers were printed on any type of inferior paper.

There are many Union patriotic cover designs which are extremely rare and even unique as used examples, yet unused envelopes are more plentiful and even common. True, there are other Union designs known only used with few or no unused examples known (I can cite the patriotic covers of western manufacture as examples). But by and large there are examples of unused envelopes of the majority of Union patriotic cover designs.

This is not true in the South. Envelopes became scarce because of the Union blockade of southern port cities, so very few examples of true Confederate patriotic covers or lettersheets exist unused.

Figure 16 is the most fancy C.S.A. patriotic design, a rarity of which only two examples are known in used condition. The illustration is one of two examples in mint condition known to me; there may

be more. The design shows a soldier and a hand-painted flag (in red) showing 11 stars, so its production is certainly after the commencement of war. It is likely that it was printed early because the paper of the envelope is an excellent coated stock. Incidentally it has been said that the portrait at the bottom of the design is Lincoln. But I think it looks more like Jeff Davis, who has been crushed by the heavy weight of taxation or debt.



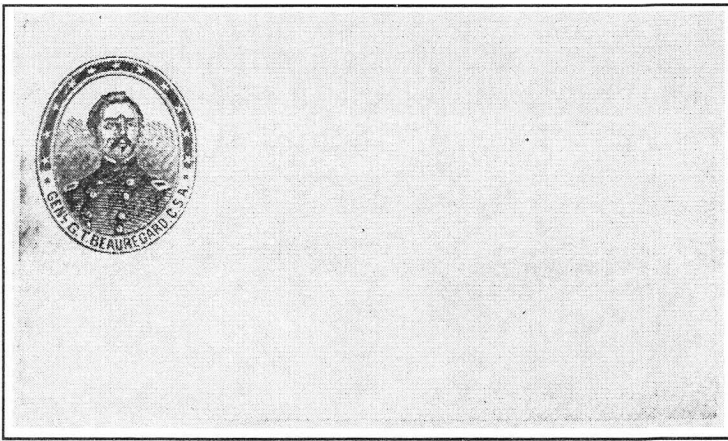
**Figure 16.** "OUR HOMES" "PROTECTION" extremely fancy C.S.A. design with two scenes in ornate frame, genuine unused C.S.A. patriotic.

Another design shown in the Dietz catalog is that of a soldier holding an 11-star flag with the motto, "MY COUNTRY'S FREEDOM." and imprint, "10 Camp St. N.O." (Figure 17). This envelope is of inferior or rough paper, of a printing consistent with later in the war. The design is Figure 190 in Wishnietsky.



**Figure 17.** Detail of unused cover.

In Figure 18 is an example of the orange Beauregard oval design. It too is printed on soft paper. A fourth envelope, which appears also to be an example of JD-3 in blue, is a tiny envelope, smaller than any Union patriotic cover I have ever seen (Figure 19). I have a purple lettersheet that incorporates this same Davis seal. That item (a different copy) is shown in part in Wishnietsky, but the full design with Memphis imprint on a larger sheet with different spacing of the three illustrations is shown as Figure P-13 in my Lincoln book. I believe the unused cover to be a genuine Confederate printing. The same seal is also the central portion of the two color Jeff Davis patriotic cover designs. In Figure 20 is a wonderful cover of the larger seal design with first day of Confederate postal usage.



**Figure 18. "GENL G.T. BEAUREGARD. C.S.A." unused envelope design in orange.**

In Figures 21-23 are a group of unused envelopes all with designs listed in Dietz. The covers in Figure 21 with the exception of one flag design bear imprints of Confederate printers. Two of the designs are among the most common of used patriotic covers. Three are printed on the poor paper of many later Confederate envelopes. The blue and red flag Dietz F11-3 with imprint 25 has a two-color tassel, which is different from the printing on the cover shown in Wishnietsky's Figure 89, but his cover does not have the

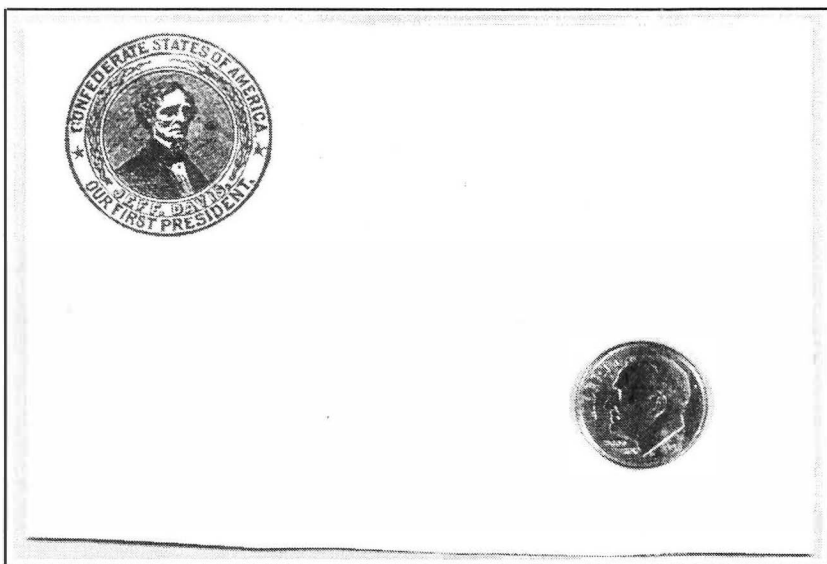


Figure 19. Blue Jeff Davis seal on tiny envelope (dime showing scale).

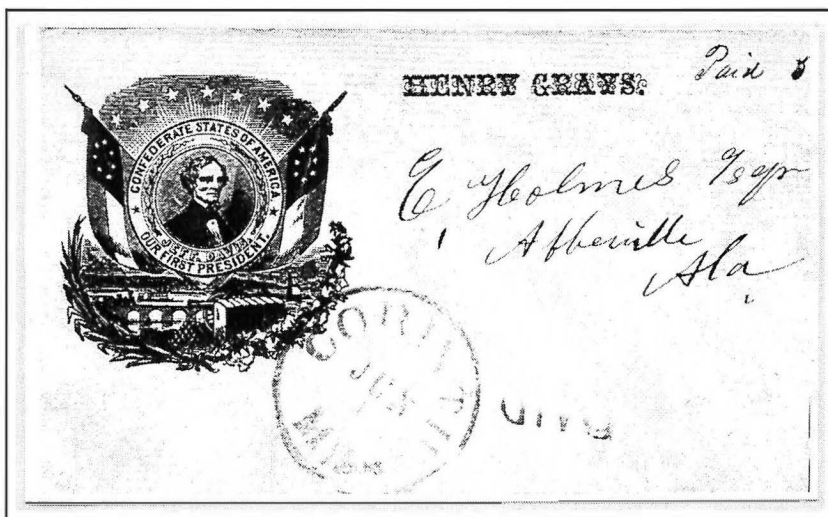


Figure 20. Same Jeff Davis design used in a black design with imprint "HENRY GRAYS." with postmark on first day of Confederate usage "CORINTH MISS JUN 1" and "PAID".

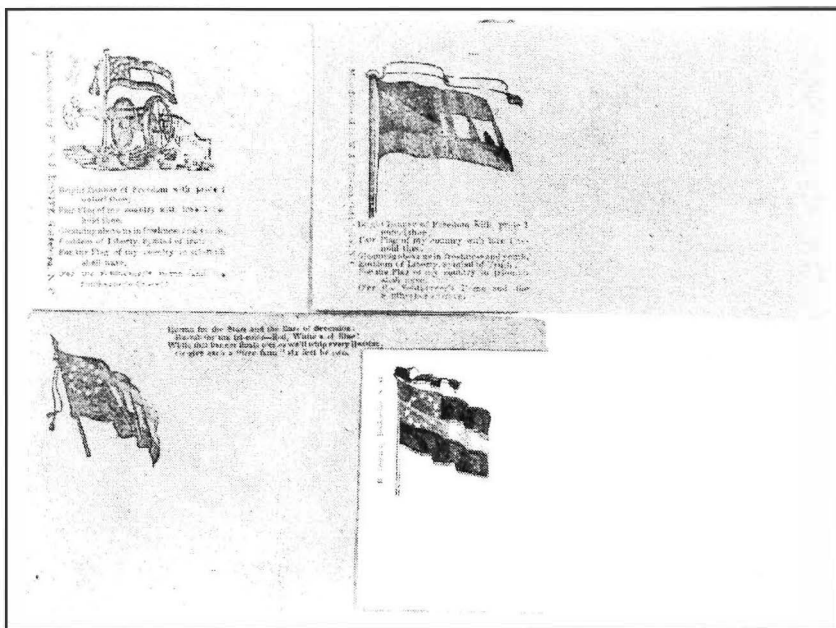


Figure 21. Four unused patriotic envelopes, three in black on homemade paper and one on blue paper with printing in red and blue inks, R. Coburn, Bookseller, N.O. imprint.

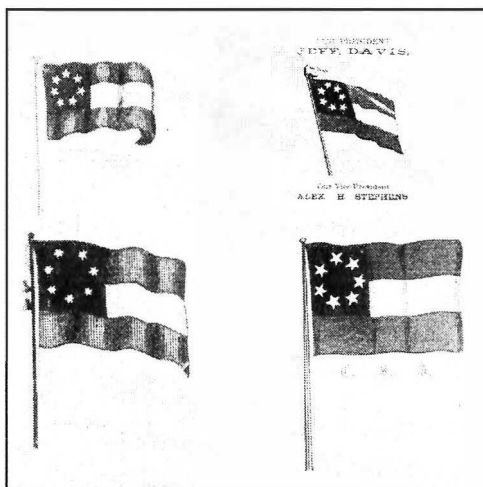


Figure 22. Four unused seven star flag designs printed in red and blue.

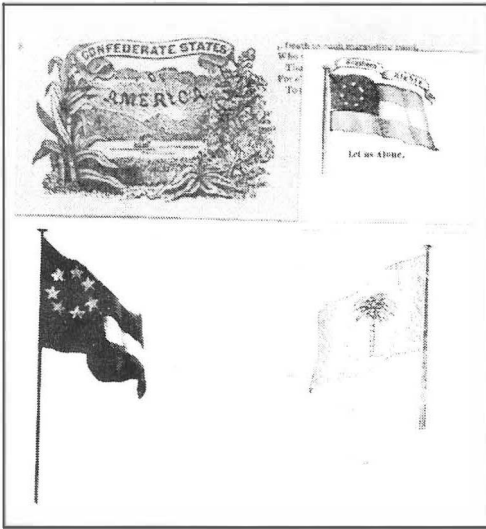


Figure 23. Four unused Confederate patriotic envelopes, three listed in Dietz and one hand-painted. The three printed designs most likely have been printed in the North.

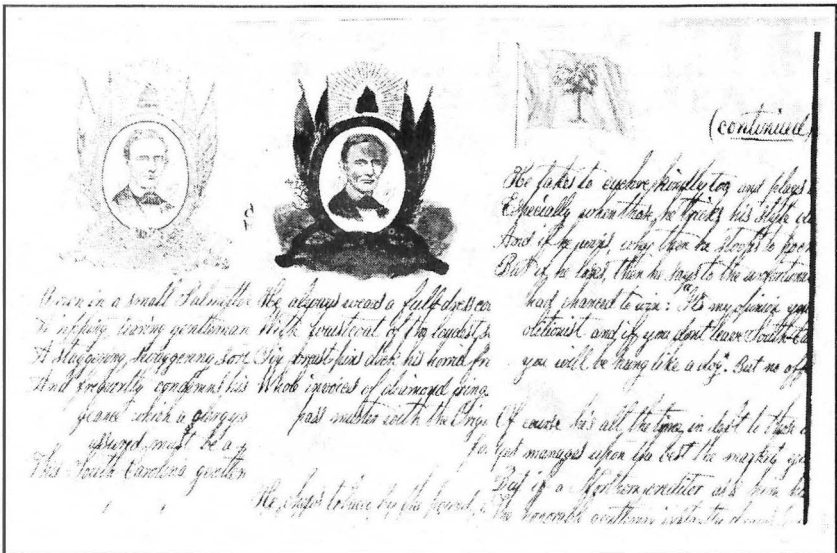


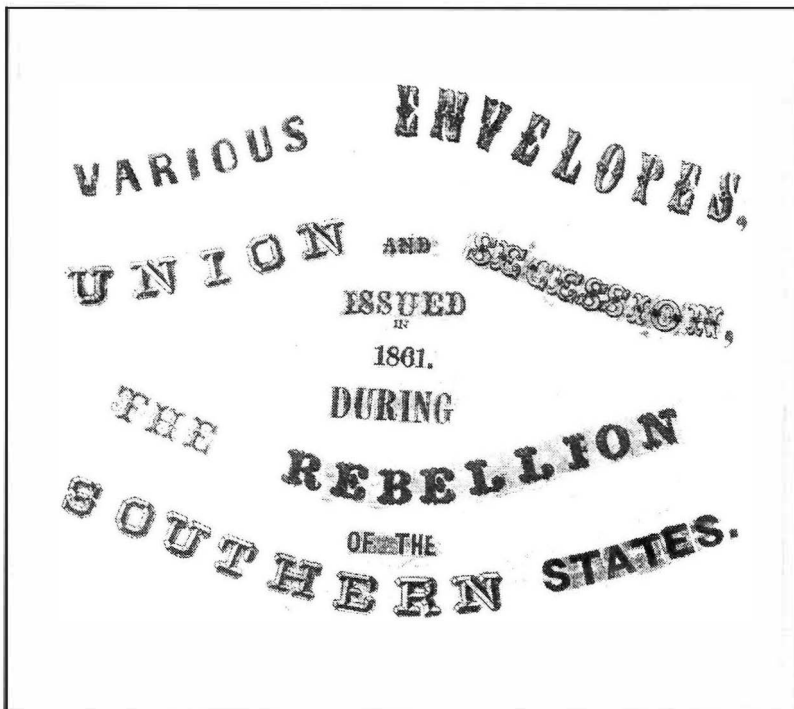
Figure 24. Poem "South Carolina Gentleman" on three sheets of stationery, two 1860 Lincoln campaign (one hand-painted) and one South Carolina flag.

imprint. He does show this two-color tassel type with imprint under the Fakes, Figure C. The covers in the other two figures are all types listed in Dietz except the furled flag, which is hand-painted. If these covers had been printed in the North, I would think that unused copies would be more common. But I do not think one should rule out the *possibility* that some of these envelopes were printed in the North even though used examples of all of them exist with southern usage. This could be explained by northern printers selling their products to southern customers. This question of printers remains somewhat unresolved. But it does not change my premise that patriotic envelopes were devised first by southerners.

The item shown in Figure 24 is a very vicious attack on a "South Carolina Gentleman" written on three sheets of illustrated stationery. The design of the first sheet is a presidential campaign design for Abraham Lincoln (Milgram AL-66), which I have not seen as a lettersheet before. The second sheet is another sheet of the same letter paper, but the design has been altered by hand-painting that obliterates the lettering below Lincoln's portrait. The third sheet, however, is a blue palmetto flag, Dietz type FSC-1, which is a design that saw usage before the Civil War. It is not listed in Dietz as a lettersheet. A used example with an additional imprint is shown with a June 28 dating as Figure 158 in Wishnietsky. This is the same cut with similar printing flaws.

From the nature of these three sheets being used together and the contents of the poem, one can reliably date this item as probably from April-June, 1861. Because the first two sheets would be quite unlikely found in the South, one must assume this item was made physically in the North, and therefore, the Confederate sheet was available for someone in the North to use in this fashion. The combination usage of these three sheets together suggests that the Confederate sheet may have been one printed in the North but sold to southern stationers.

## Confederate Designs Printed in the North Without Intent of Southern Usage



**Figure 25. Title page of homemade album containing about 2000 patriotic cover fronts.**

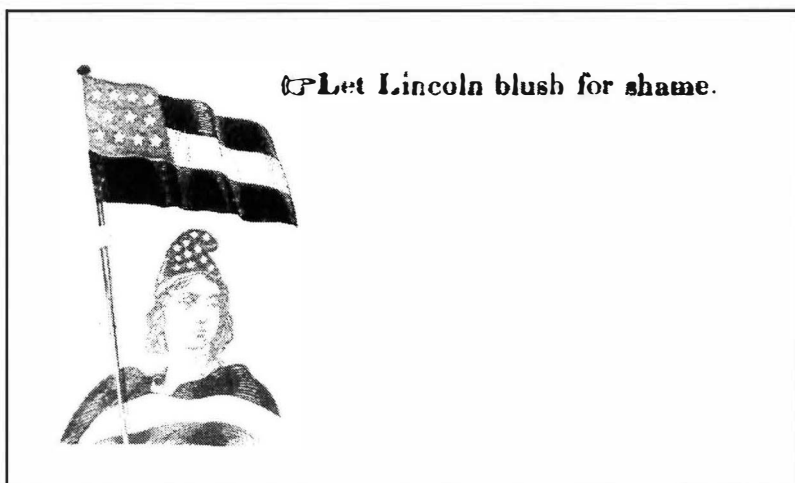
To understand why any items of this character exist, one has to know that in the North with its lack of any paper shortage the collecting of patriotic envelopes was encouraged by the printers. There are all sorts of newspaper advertisements for patriotic covers in large groups. Special blank albums (books) were manufactured for the collector. Figure 25 is the reverse of a Currier and Ives print of Liberty which was used as the title page to one of these scrapbook type albums. The covers themselves often were cut into fronts and glued into the album. The reader should note that the contemporary collector who made Figure 25 stated that such envelopes were made in 1861. This is

not true of all patriotic cover designs, but certainly the majority of designs were printed in the one year between April 12, 1861 and April 12, 1862.

While the first Union patriotic designs did not appear in any quantity until war was declared, their numbers exploded with the war excitement in the North. This is evidenced by the large number of patriotic covers bearing different designs that can be found with stamps of the 1857 series which were subsequently demonitized in late summer and the fall of 1861. Still larger numbers of patriotic designs were produced in the second half of 1861 and early 1862. The number of new Union designs printed in 1863, 1864, and 1865 was relatively small in comparison. How many patriotic covers refer to Gettysburg or Vicksburg? Grant is uncommon as a portrait design in comparison to McClellan. The martyr, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, was used to hype the war fever everywhere in the North.

The large number of different designs was conducive to collecting these unused envelopes (as versus to using them postally). And since some patriotic envelopes were printed largely for collectors, it should not be a surprise to know that some of these souvenir type envelopes were pro-South in their sentiments. While pundits are fond of stating that patriotic envelopes were printed after the war for souvenirs, there is not a shred of evidence to show that such was the case. In fact, because a few of these types of designs were postally used and because many more are found glued into albums that were assembled in 1861 (from contemporary dating or associated designs in the album), I believe it is likely that practically all northern Confederate patriotic covers were printed in 1861.

A large number of the pro-Confederate designs appear to have been printed by a single publisher. I suspect this is Magee of Philadelphia. These are the most common types encountered in the albums (about 20 were in the album of Figure 25) or as loose covers today. One has a very sleepy looking Liberty in



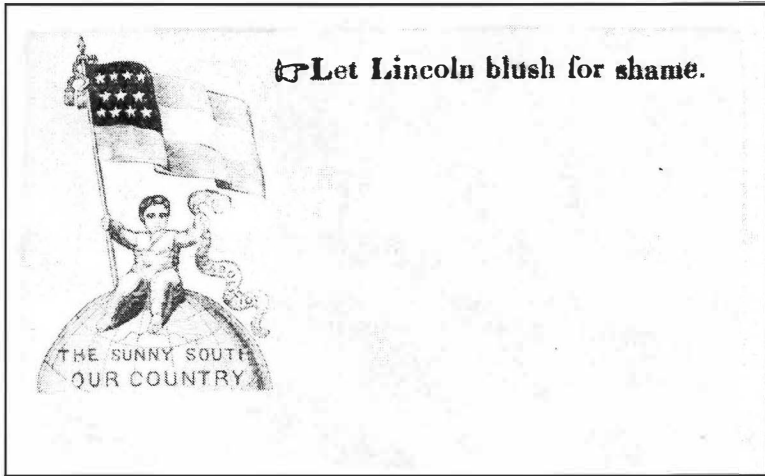
**Figure 26. Northern design with sleepy Liberty and imprint "Let Lincoln blush for shame."**

Confederate garb (Figure 26). There are a number of different imprints known:

1. "Let Lincoln blush for shame."
2. "WE ARE IN THE FIELD AND THE BARS ARE UP."
3. "OUR GOD, OUR HOMES AND JUSTICE."
4. "PRO ARIS ET FOCIS."
5. "TOUJOURS EN AVANT."
6. "ANIMAS OPIBUSQUE PARATI."
7. "A BAS LES TYRANTS."
8. "NOVA CONSTELLATIO."
9. "GOOD FOR ANOTHER 'BULL'S RUN' "
10. "MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE."
11. "DIEU ET MON DROIT."
12. "PRIDE OF THE SOUTH."
13. "FOR OUR ALTARS AND OUR FIRESIDES."

Another has a large gawky portrait of Jefferson Davis that is not particularly becoming. One design (Figure 27) is listed in Dietz as MS-5 in brown, "THE SUNNY SOUTH OUR COUNTRY"

with a baby holding a snake labeled "ABOLITION". The proof that this design is of northern origin is that it exists with black overprints: "We Swear upon our country's altar, Never to submit or falter." , "WE ARE READY.", and "Let Lincoln blush for shame." And most are small flags, shields, and other symbols associated with the C.S.A.



**Figure 27. Northern design with baby and snake labeled "ABOLITION" printed in brown with imprint "Let Lincoln blush for shame."**

A few of these envelopes have purple designs of Confederate flags. In Figure 28 is one with contemporary postal usage, possibly sent by a southern sympathizer or maybe just for a lark. A very similar flag design in red and blue exists with a banner over the flag reading "RIGHT MUST PREVAIL." And the covers with a banner can be found with black overprints: 1. "COME IF YOU DARE."; 2. "OUR CAUSE IS JUST AND GOOD."; and 3. "Our Homes, Our Wives, Our Children." One of the common red and blue flag designs is shown in Figure 29 with postal use from Baltimore. This city was the site of the well-known riot when northern troops were passing through to Washington on April 19, 1861. It needs to be emphasized that

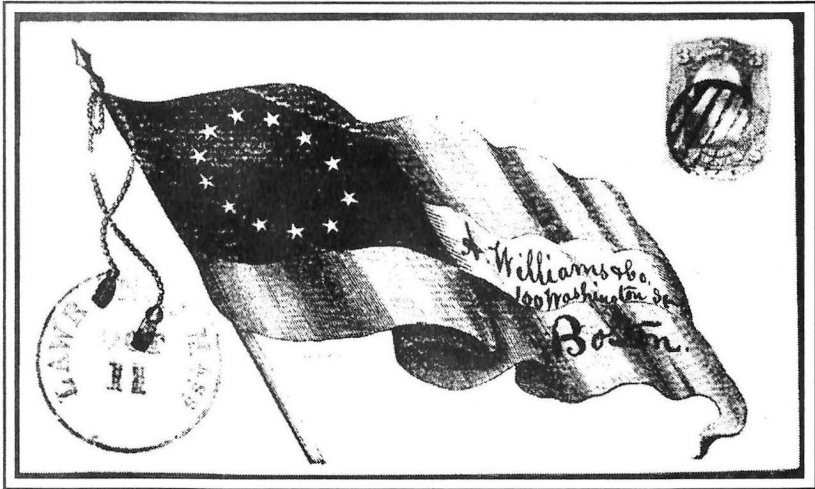


Figure 28. Overall purple twelve star Confederate flag, northern printing, 3¢ 1861 postmarked "LAWRENCE MASS. OCT 11" with usage to Boston.

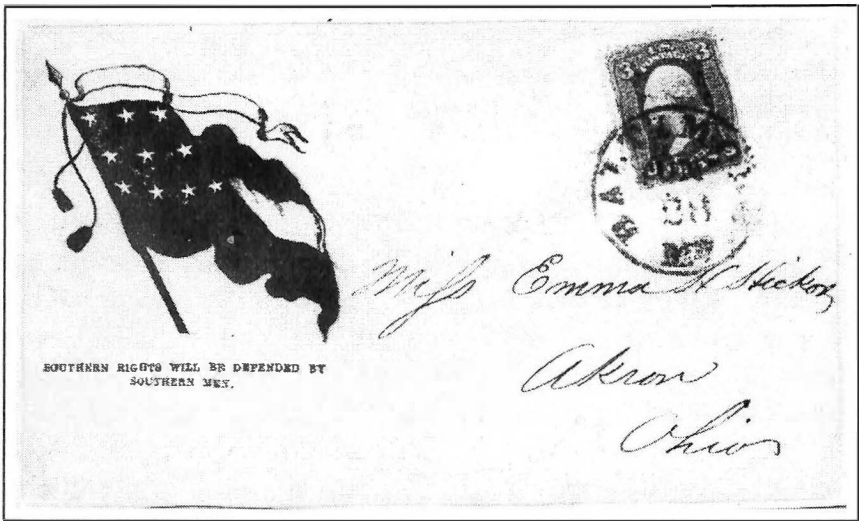


Figure 29. Ten star red and blue Confederate flag, northern printing, 3¢ 1861 tied blue "BALTIMORE MD JUN 28" to Akron, Ohio.

these postmarked envelopes are not northern usages of southern envelopes; they are northern usages of northern envelopes. However, because the sentiments in the designs are pro-South, they would have been used postally only by a person who sympathized with the South. They are very rare postally used. Even southern printed patriotic covers can be found postally used from Baltimore (Figure 30).



**Figure 30. Confederate design in black with soldier on horse and poem on cover used with a 3¢ 1861 stamp tied blue "BALTIMORE Md. MAR 16" (1862) – a northern usage of a Confederate patriotic envelope.**

Very strange uses are shown by two different patriotic cover designs printed in purple depicting Jeff Davis and modified by obliteration of the reference to Davis and red and blue "ROSECRANS THE HERO OF THE WEST" additions. One of these has been discussed by the writer in *The Confederate Philatelist* (March-April 1986), a cover with two known examples, and the other more spectacular example with a large picture of Davis was in the recent Bischel Collection of Civil War patriotic covers (Figure 31).

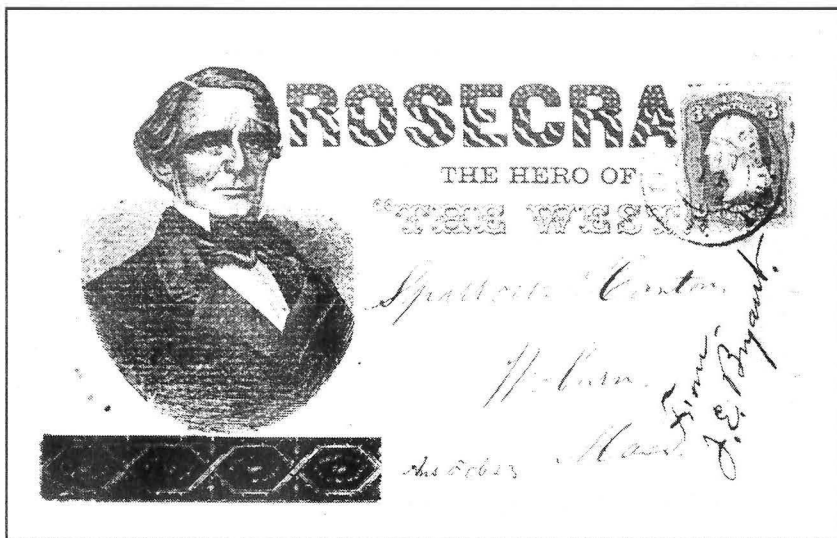


Figure 31. Confederate design with purple Jeff Davis bust and obliterated slogan (bottom left) with additional red and blue text "ROSECRANS THE HERO OF THE WEST" with three cent 1861 tied "OLD POINT COMFORT Va. JAN 14", probably usage by a soldier.

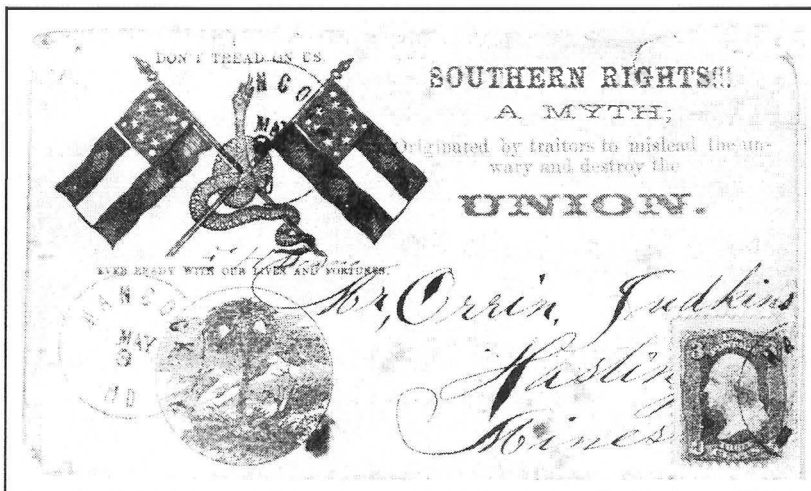



Figure 32. Two different illustrated Confederate-type designs with strong anti-South and pro-Union slogan to right, 3c 1861 tied with a blue "HANCOCK MD MAY 3" (stamp moved).

## Dual Design Types

A second group of these C.S.A. design envelopes have been discussed by me previously in *The Confederate Philatelist* (March-April, 1986; November-December, 1990; and March-April, 1996). These are purple or red and blue designs of pro-South sentiment with additional text to convert them into pro-Union patriotic designs. They were probably printed by Magee because this printer did most of the two color large lettering designs. In Figure 32 is an unusual example with two different Confederate-sentiment designs plus a third blue "SOUTHERN RIGHTS" imprint. I have separate unused examples of both of these types, the top "DON'T TREAD ON US" design in red and blue and the blue South Carolina seal below it. To the right there appears a northern sentiment text in blue so this cover is actually anti-South. The 3¢ 1861 stamp with Hancock, Maryland cancellation has been moved to the lower right in order to show the full picture that was beneath it. In addition, I have recorded the flag and snake design in two types with the imprint in red or in blue. And there is a dual design with a different blue circular seal design of a Greek temple with "CONSTITUTION" at the top. Thus there are four different pro-southern type envelopes without the blue "SOUTHERN RIGHTS" pro-northern slogan.

To be continued

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