

III - Confederate Cities and Towns

Introduction

This section is an alphabetical listing of Confederate cities and towns highlighting for each one the known fake postmarks, fake provisional stamps and envelopes, and the specific fantasies. It is not a definitive list as some fakes are obscure, and new fakes are discovered with regularity. The cities and towns chosen are those with the most dangerous fakes and those most likely to be encountered by the collector. Confederate collectors should heed the old adage "If it looks too good to be true, then it probably is." If an item looks too good or something just does not look right, have it authenticated.

Attribution Abbreviations – *

CB – *Confederate Bulletin*.

CP – *The Confederate Philatelist*.

CSAAS – Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Service.

PF – Philatelic Foundation.

RASAG – Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

SRPA – Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions

TC – *The Chronicle* (US Philatelic Classics Society).

USPCS – US Philatelic Classics Society SCRAP (Stamp and Cover Repository and Analysis Program).

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Confederate Period Standard Postmarks

Before the war, the United States Post Office Department (USPOD) supplied postmark canceling devices (Circle Date Stamps) to the higher volume post offices based on the amount of revenue generated. Postmasters at smaller post offices had to either acquire devices on their own or simply use manuscript markings. Most of these pre-war postal devices ranged in size from 29 mm to about 35 mm. Richmond, Va, is a good example. These devices, manufactured by Zevely and others, were in use in most medium and large US post offices in the years just before the war and continued to be used by the CS postmasters during the Confederate period.

In 1859, the USPOD began issuing a 26 mm double circle device of which Mobile, Ala, and Charleston, SC, are excellent examples. These smaller double circle postmarks were supplied to the larger volume post offices and to some of the smaller new post offices. These devices continued to be used in the Confederate period by the cities and towns that had them.

A great many of the genuine postmarks of the Confederate period contained only the month and the day and did not include the year. Only a relatively small number of Confederate period postmarks showed all three elements (month, day, and year). Very few 1863 and almost no 1864 and 1865 year dates are known within the postmarks.

Familiarization with the postmarks and markings of the Confederate period is essential to Confederate postal history collecting. Studying auction catalogs of Confederate postal history