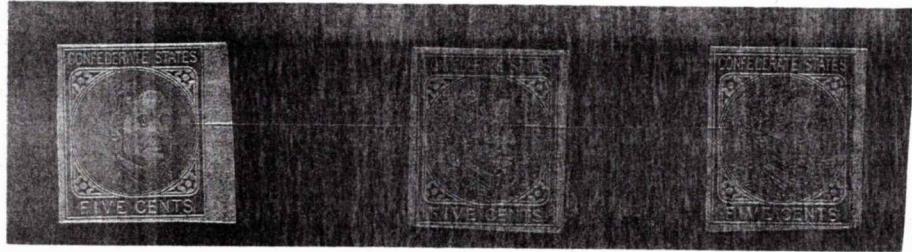


## CONFEDERATE GENERAL ISSUES #6, 7L, 7R



#6

#7L

#7R

Number 6 was printed by the Thomas De La Rue Company in England. It was a five cent denomination. The first shipment of 2,150,000 stamps arrived on the blockade runner Nashville on February 28, 1862. The second shipment of 5,400,000 stamps arrived in mid March, 1862. With the stamps was a printing plate and English paper. The third shipment of 4,855,000 stamps was captured on April 17, 1862 by a union ship and the stamps destroyed. There was another shipment that left England on March 24, 1862 but there is no record that it reached the Confederacy.

Number 7L was printed in Richmond, Virginia by Archer & Daly using the printing plate and English paper included with the shipment of number 6 from England. The "L" stands for London paper. The early printings of 7L can be difficult to tell from number 6. In fact, with worn stamps on cover, nearly impossible.

Number 7R, the "R" standing for Richmond, were printed on inferior southern paper.

The first Confederate postage rate was five cents for a distance up to 500 miles. Ten cents beyond that. On July 1, 1862 the rate for any distance was raised to ten cents. Being a five cent stamp, number 6 was only used as a single stamp for about three months before the rate change was made. A vast majority of number 6 and all of 7L and 7R on cover are pairs to make the ten cent rate.