

CHARLES MAGNUS CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC STATIONERY

Charles Magnus was one of the most prolific printers of ephemera during the late nineteenth century. A native of Germany Magnus made illustrated lithographed pictures in New York City from around 1850 to 1900. He had multiple addresses but from 1854 to 1868 his place of business was 12 Frankfort St. During this period his firm produced illustrated paper items of many varieties such as maps, prints, games, and stationery. His firm created more different hand-colored designs than any other printer.

This exhibit is about the stationery he produced during the Civil War: illustrated envelopes, letter paper and songsheets meant to be used as stationery. Used examples have been selected to demonstrate the different types of designs used on envelopes as well as letter paper (lettersheets).

Most patriotic covers were printed by other printers in one or two colors, many red and blue inks. But Magnus often printed black designs which were then painted in watercolors believed to have been applied as stencils. He also used multiple colored inks including bronze and even gold colors. The majority of watercolored Civil War designs are from his company. They are considered by collectors as the most choice examples of patriotic covers.

List of pages

1. Title
2. Battle Scenes
3. Military Scenes
4. City Views
5. Lincoln Review Type 1
6. Lincoln Review Type 2
7. Other Lincoln designs
8. 2 Part Washington Scenes
9. Large format letter paper
10. Generals with views
11. Generals other types
12. Songsheet with cover
13. Gold versus bronze inks
14. Hand-colored on colored ink
15. Various designs
16. Unusual designs

Cover and enclosure attached here

ROSE OF WASHINGTON

This rare used cover of this iconic design is the only example known with a letter describing the enclosed rose, a German-based design that unfolds to show 14 printed views plus the two colored rose pictures. **Usage:** Congressional free frank postmarked at Washington, D.C.

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Synopsis

Each of the 16 pages shows covers with a different subject type used by Magnus. The actual covers selected are also meant to show variations within the subject type such as different colors and variations in layout. The majority of Magnus used covers are very rare as used examples. More than 30% of the covers shown are the only ones recorded and almost all of the other covers are less than 5 examples known. There are two rare postal uses included, the manuscript GBD on Siegel and map cover is the finest GBD cover in existence and the West Union negative UNION in star was a featured cover in a Siegel rarity auction in 1977. Cancels of this marking are usually incomplete in some aspect; this is a gem strike. It is also the only known example of this Magnus design used. Due to space limitation the examples of letter stationery has been kept to a minimum, but Magnus lettersheets and songsheets are the most desirable types.

References would include the Weiss catalog of Civil War patriotic covers and the auction catalog by Nutmeg in 2000.s

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