

Synopsis

New Orleans Carriers 1851 – 1860

Purpose of Exhibit

To tell the story of the New Orleans carrier service by showing all of the handstamps they used and showing some of the very special usages in conjunction with the U.S. regular issue stamps and foreign regular issue stamps. The exhibitor's research pinpoints the dates of usage of the various colors of the seven different handstamps used by the New Orleans Carrier Department. No adhesive stamps were issued by the New Orleans Carrier Department.

What is Presented

All of the seven different handstamps used by the New Orleans Carrier Department and the colors that can be found. There are incoming foreign letters with adhesives from the country of origin. Letters from three different countries are known and all are presented. In addition three different examples from France are shown with different adhesives from the country of origin.

Two very special covers are presented with the U.S. postage paid by the 1851 general issue stamps with this combination of U.S. regular issue adhesives.

A cover to New Orleans with a 1¢ 1851 Type II adhesive and a 3¢ 1851 adhesive is presented. It is the only recorded cover with this combination of U.S. regular issue adhesives.

Two "PAID/ CAR 1" covers are presented. Only three covers are recorded with this marking.

Two black "NOT FOUND" covers are presented. These are the only two reported examples.

Three green "NOT FOUND" covers are presented. These are the only three reported examples.

Two covers are presented with the black "ADV.1" marking. There are three recorded examples.

Three covers are presented with the red "ADV.1" marking. There are six reported examples.

Two examples of the "CAR.1" marking are presented. There are five recorded examples.

Examples of the black and blue ink circular N.O.U.S. datestamp are presented.

Examples of New Orleans carrier covers on Nesbitt envelopes are included. These are scarce.

Challenge Factor

This exhibit contains the most comprehensive collection of this material ever assembled. Many of the covers are from the Hubert Skinner collection assembled over a 50-year time span. The material highlights indicate the minute number of recorded examples.

Organization

Seven different handstamps are presented. The colors of ink of the handstamps are presented in chronological order as they were issued. The letter on page 1 has the Mason's City Express adhesive on their last day of business. The letter is also the earliest known example of any New Orleans carrier.

Material Highlights

The rare Mason's City Express adhesive is the only example known on a New Orleans carrier letter. This item is *Scott Catalogue* listed.

The only recorded cover from the West Coast to New Orleans is presented.

A valuable letter from St. Joseph to New Orleans is presented. There are two recorded examples.

The letter originating in England is one of only two recorded examples.

The letter originating in Hanover is the only recorded example.

Shown here are three covers from France with different French adhesives. Only seven examples are recorded.

A cover to New Orleans with three 1¢ 1851 stamps is presented. It is the only recorded cover with this combination of 1¢ 1851 stamps.

References Used in Preparing this Exhibit

1. *The Postal History of the U.S. Carrier Service in New Orleans 1851-1861, The Penny Post*, Hubert C. Skinner, April 2003, pages 48-71.
2. **The Larry Lyons Reference Library.** A record of carriers and locals sold at Auction. This record is housed in more than 500 binders in my personal library.
3. *Carriers and Carrier Markings.* Elliot Perry, in Stanley B. Ashbrook's *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857*, 1938, Volume II, H.L. Linquest, New York City, Pages 141-207.

Period
Ink Color

Handstamp Type
Period of Use

New Orleans Carriers 1851 - 1861

Purpose – To show the various handstamps used by the New Orleans Carrier Department from 1851-1861. The Carrier Department handled mail to and from the Post Office to the residents while the Post Office carried mail to other post offices. They were separate services.

Treatment – The New Orleans Carrier Department handstamps will be presented by ink color groups.

Study and Personal Research – The exhibitor finds **six major groups** of markings in **four time periods** and has **established the period of use** of the carrier department handstamps as follows:

Period	CAR. = Carrier fee	*Exhibitors original research
1	Green snowshovel with slug, CAR.	August 19, 1851 – December 31, 1851*
1	Green snowshovel with time, CAR., Not Found	January 1852 – December 3, 1852*
1	Red ADV.1	August 8, 1851 – July 26, 1852*
2	Blue snowshovel, CAR.	March 15, 1853 – December 7, 1854
3	Blue N.O.U.S., CAR.	August 23, 1854* – March 24, 1855
4	Black N.O.U.S.	May 9, 1855 – March 25, 1861

Rarity – **Eighteen** of the examples shown are recorded by the exhibitor in a quantity of **three or less**. **Five** of the markings are the **earliest** recorded examples and **six** are the **latest** recorded examples. Double borders signify importance.

Plan – The exhibit is organized **chronologically** with emphasis on the color of the handstamps in each period. Some **special uses in conjunction with U.S. and foreign general issue stamps are included**.

Earliest Carrier Letter in New Orleans

Previously the
post office
advertised
letters for two
cents

Mason's
Closed
Aug 7, 1851

Latest Mason's
Use



WAY/6
5¢ postage
1¢ "WAY"
for vessel fee

Street number
and local
post adhesive
indicate a
request for
delivery

The New Orleans Carrier Service started on August 8, 1851. This letter was received in New Orleans on August 9 from a coastal vessel. The addressee could not be located and the red "ADV.1" was applied and the letter was held at the post office. It is theorized that it was intended for Mason's to deliver the letter but the addressee could not be found and the letter was then held by the newly inaugurated New Orleans Carrier Service. **This the earliest recorded use of the red ADV.1 handstamp. PF**