

## Athens, Georgia Thomas Crawford, Postmaster

The Athens adhesive provisional stamps were issued during postmaster Thomas Crawford's term and bear his name. Crawford was appointed U.S. postmaster of Athens on April 15, 1859, and reappointed as C.S.A. postmaster on July 20, 1861. Crawford's C.S.A. appointment was confirmed by the C.S.A. Senate on July 29, 1861. However, his reappointment under the permanent government on April 18, 1862, was not confirmed, and Josiah C. Orr was appointed in Crawford's place on October 10, 1862, and confirmed on January 26, 1863 (this information was provided by Francis J. Crown Jr.).

The Athens provisional adhesives were printed from two woodcut engravings that produced typographed impressions in pairs with Type I (small "Paid") on the left and Type II (large "Paid") on the right. Crown believes that the two woodcuts were separate units bound together to make impressions. Multiples made from two separate impressions usually show some variation in shade and impression. Examples of four different types of multiples are shown below. The normal configuration for a horizontal pair is Type I at left and Type II at right, and these impressions are usually fairly uniform (although Crown believes there is a slight observable difference due to unevenness in surface level between the two woodcuts).

Horizontal pairs from two *separate* impressions show the transposed Type II-I configuration (such as lot 1002 in this sale). Likewise, the one recorded strip of four was made from three separate impressions, creating a Type II-I-II-I arrangement (the center pair comes from one impression). Vertical pairs always come from two work-and-turn impressions, which produced tête-bêche pairs with a distinct difference in impression between Type I and Type II.

The first printing was made in the Fall 1861, and all stamps from this printing are in Purple (ranging from light to dark). In the Spring 1862 a second printing was made in Red. Crown observed that the recessed lines of the woodcut were strengthened before the Red stamps were printed ("Athens 5c Red Provisional Recut," *Confederate Philatelist*, July-August 2002). The Red stamps are much scarcer than their Purple counterparts.

The March 20, 1870, edition of the *American Journal of Philately* reported the discovery of a 5c Athens provisional in a Southern schoolboy's collection. An *American Philatelist* article in April 1888 reported that the stamps were printed at the Broad Street office of *The Banner Watchman*.



Normal Type I-II pair



Transposed Types II and I in pair



Strip of four from three impressions: 1 [Type II] - 2 [Types I-II] - 3 [Type I]



Tête-bêche vertical pair