

Goliad, Texas

John (Jno.) A. Clarke, Postmaster

The Confederate postmaster of Goliad was John (Jno.) A. Clarke, whose name was signed by hand on stamps of the first provisional issue and set in type as part of the setting for the second issue. Clarke also served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees of the Paine Female Institute, which later became Goliad College. Clarke signed an oath of allegiance after the war on January 9, 1866 (an image of the document is available at www.fold3.com).

August Dietz reported that the Goliad provisional stamps and the similar stamps of Helena, Texas, were printed at the offices of the *Goliad Messenger*. The editor of this newspaper was Reverend Alexander F. Cox (his middle initial was incorrectly stated as “M.” by Dietz). The publisher was R. W. Peirce. The November 12, 1864, edition of the *Goliad Messenger* is available on-line at <http://texashistory.unt.edu>. Reverend Cox died on April 5, 1897, and his obituary appeared in the *Weekly Picayune* (April 9, 1897).

The Goliad provisionals were printed from typeset forms in denominations of 5c and 10c. The Type I setting, without Clarke’s name, was used to print stamps issued prior to the Type II setting, probably in 1861 and 1862. The Type II setting was probably made in 1863.

Our records of Goliad provisionals contain eight 5c Type I stamps and four 10c Type I stamps. All but one of the twelve recorded 5c and 10c Type I provisionals bear the postmaster’s manuscript signature in either black or red ink. The Type I stamps were printed on a variety of colored papers, classified as White (5c 29X1, 10c 29X4), Gray (5c 29X2) and Rose (5c 29X3, 10c 29X5). Some stamps have a blue or red ink wash that appears to have been applied to the sheets. The variation in paper and signature color makes it difficult to accurately assign Scott numbers to each known example of the Type I provisionals.

Putting aside the paper or signature differences, the current census shows only *three* Type I provisional uses: the 5c cover-front offered in this sale (lot 1025), a 5c cover in the British Library’s Tapling collection, and the 10c on a patriotic cover, ex Caspary, Lilly and Hart. The Tapling cover will never become available, and there has been some debate about whether the 10c stamp originated on the patriotic cover. The cover-front offered in lot 1025 is the only one of the three with a Goliad postmark — the other two are uncanceled and have no town marking — and it is the only 5c Type I use available to collectors.

The Type II setting, in which “J. A. Clarke” and “Post Master” were added to each stamp, apparently followed in 1863. The earliest recorded date of use for any Type II provisional is October 21, 1863 (lot 1026 in this sale). When the second setting was assembled, the letters “I” and “O” were transposed in one position, creating the “GOILAD” error in both the 5c and 10c denominations.

The Type II provisionals were printed on two kinds of paper: Gray (5c 29X6, 10c 29X7) and Surface-Coated Dark Blue (5c 29X8, 10c 29X9), which is similar to the paper used for the British Guiana provisional issue. The printing on Dark Blue paper is represented by only one 5c stamp (on cover) and three off-cover 10c stamps (none with the “GOILAD” error). Two have February postmarks, which we believe are 1865 dates.

The July 1862 rate change to a 10c rate for any distance eliminated the need for a 5c stamp. While it seems likely that the Type II setting and printing occurred after July 1862, it is difficult to understand why Postmaster Clarke would bother to print 5c stamps when there was no 5c rate at this point. The 5c Type II stamps (on any type of paper) are much rarer than the 10c stamps. Our records of the 5c Type II on Gray paper (29X6, 29X6a) contain two single off-cover stamps, a pair with a combination of the normal “GOLIAD” and “GOILAD” error, and no covers. There is one recorded copy of the 5c on Dark Blue (Type II, 29X8), used on a cover from which the other 5c stamp was removed (it has never been located).

Of the eight normal 10c Type II (29X7) stamps in our records, five are on covers, including an uncanceled stamp on a cover in the Tapling collection at the British Library, which leaves four covers available to collectors. Only three of the four covers have stamps tied by the town datestamp or “Paid” cancel. In addition to the normal 10c Type II, there are three examples of the Type II “GOILAD” spelling error, including two on separate covers and one off cover with a circular datestamp. The three recorded 10c stamps on Dark Blue (Type II) are off cover.

Census of Goliad Provisional Stamps

The following census of Goliad provisionals identifies the basic features and source for each recorded example. Paper and signature colors are based on past descriptions.

| Type | Paper | Signed | Cat. | Cancel | Notes | Source | |
|------|-------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|---|---|
| 5c | I | Gray | Black | CAN | Blue/red wash | Crease, thin | Ferrary (629), Hind, Caspary (126) |
| 5c | I | Rose | Black | CAN | PAID | Slight faults | Caspary (127) |
| 5c | I | Rose | Red | COVF | PAID | Front only, Goliad cds, to Clement R. Johns, Austin | Ferrary (627), Caspary (128), Lilly, Kilbourne, Gross, D.K. Lot 1025 |
| 5c | I | White? | Red? | COV | Uncancelled | To Wm. E. Marshall, Blains Crossroads nr. Knoxville | Tapling Coll., British Library |
| 5c | I | White | Red | CAN | PAID | Repaired, crease | HRH 3/1/1962 |
| 5c | I | White | None | CAN | Pen dots | "W.H.C." backstamp | Hessel |
| 5c | I | Gray | Red | CAN | Blue wash | Thins and paper breaks | Weill Stock, CRL 10/13/1989 (1134) |
| 5c | I | Rose? | Red? | CAN | Faint cancel | | Steves photo (PF files) |
| 10c | I | Gray? | Red | CAN | Faint cancel | Faults, repaired BL corner | Caspary (129) |
| 10c | I | Rose | Black | COV? | Uncancelled | Creased, on patriotic cover (possibly did not originate) | Ferrary (632), Hind, Caspary (130) Hart, Lilly |
| 10c | I | Gray | Red? | CAN | Blue wash | Nick, small hole | Green 11/13/1944 (49) |
| 10c | I | Rose? | Red | CAN | Faint cancel | Right edge added | Weill Stock, CRL 10/13/1989 (1135) |
| 5c | II | Gray | — | CAN | Pen "v" | | Siegel 1998 Rarities (S800, lot 388) |
| 5c | II | Gray | — | CAN | Pen "v" | Repaired BL corner | Hessel |
| 5c | II | Gray | — | CAN | CDS | Left GOILAD in pair | Ferrary (626), Caspary (131), |
| 5c | II | Gray | — | CAN | CDS | Right GOLIAD in pair | Lightner, Lilly |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | PAID | To Mrs. John S. M(?) Stonewall Tex. (10/21/1863) | Hessel, Hill, D.K. Lot 1026 |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | PAID | To Susan F. Moody, Victoria Tex. (Aug. 1864) | Camina (Siegel S757, lot 622) |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | CDS 8/19 | To Capt. William Headen, Corpus Christi Tex. (8/19/64) | Caspary (133) |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | Pen | To Capt. William Headen, Corpus Christi Tex. (8/16/64) | Avery, Kilbourne, Gross |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | CAN | CDS | Small thins | Worthington, Caspary (132) |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | CAN | PAID | Deep thins, small hole | Weill Stock, CRL 10/13/1989 (1136) |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | CAN | PAID | | Ferrary (630), Hind |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | Uncancelled | To Capt. William Headen, Corpus Christi Tex. | Tapling Coll., British Library |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | PAID | GOILAD To Capt. William Headen, Corpus Christi Tex. (8/18/64) | Caspary (135), Lilly |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | COV | PAID | GOILAD To Lt. Col. P. Fulerod, Tyler Tex. | Ferrary (631), Hind, Camina (Siegel S757, lot 623) |
| 10c | II | Gray | — | CAN | CDS | GOILAD | Steves photo #11 |
| 5c | II | Dk Blue | — | COV | CDS, pen | To Kate Sweeny, Columbia Tex., missent to Columbus Feb. 23 (1865?) | Ferrary (628), Hind, Weill, Gross |
| 10c | II | Dk Blue | — | PCE | Pen "X" | On piece Feb. 15 CDS | Steves, D.K. Lot 1027 |
| 10c | II | Dk Blue | — | CAN | Pen "X" | Small faults | Steves photo #13 |
| 10c | II | Dk Blue | — | CAN | Pen "X" | Small faults | Worthington, Hind, Lilly, West Haven (Cherrystone 2006) |