

New Orleans Carriers 1851 - 1860

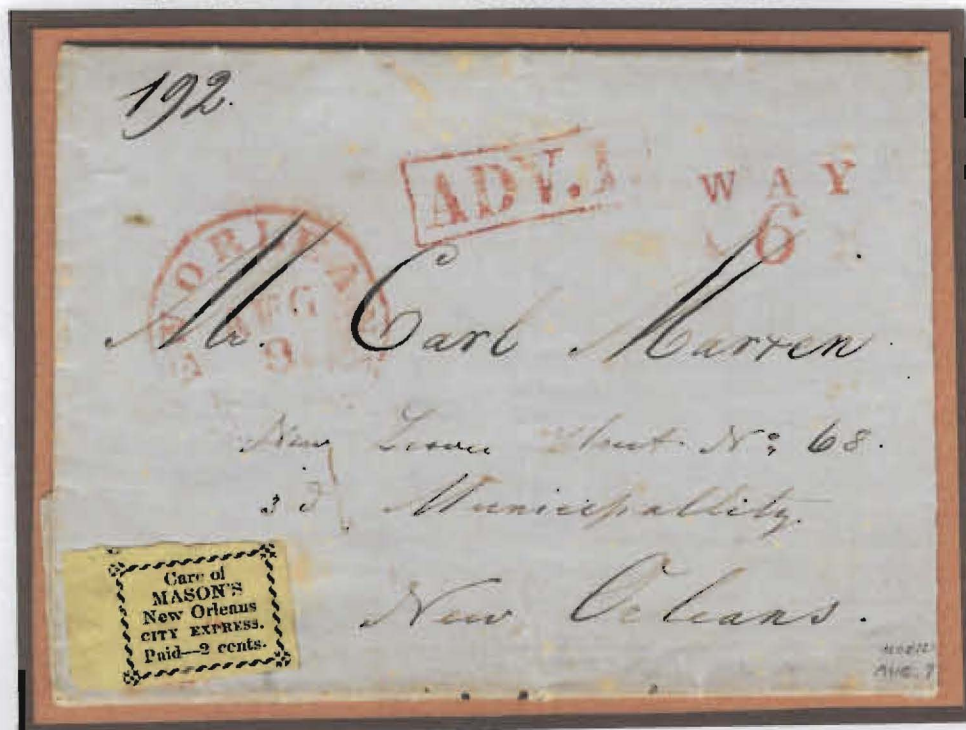
The start up of the New Orleans Carrier Service was advertised on August 8, 1851 in the *Daily Picayune* by Michel Musson, the Postmaster of New Orleans. By October 1851 five carriers were employed and Valery Wiltz was the first superintendent of the Carrier Service. The rates were two cents for delivery of each letter received by mail and one cent for local city delivery. The drop rate was one cent for letters brought to the post office for pickup by the addressee. Seven different handstamp markings were used. These included "CAR.1" which was a one cent carrier fee for local mail, "CAR.2" which was a two cent carrier fee for delivery from the post office, and "PAID/CAR.1" which indicated the prepayment of the local carrier fee. We find an "ADV.1" handstamp for the one cent fee to advertise a letter when the recipient wasn't found and also a "NOT FOUND" handstamp. The datestamp was a "snowshovel" which was replaced by an "N.O.U.S." circular handstamp.

This exhibit will show all of the New Orleans Carrier Service handstamps and the various colors of ink used as well as some very special usages in conjunction with U.S. general issue stamps and foreign general issue stamps. No New Orleans carrier adhesives were ever issued.

This exhibitor's research establishes the period of use the carrier department handstamps as follows:

Green snowshovel	August 19, 1851 to November 12, 1852
Red ADV.1	August 8, 1851 to July 4, 1852
Blue snowshovel	March 15, 1853 to December 7, 1854
Blue N.O.U.S.	September 14, 1854 to March 24, 1855
Black N.O.U.S.	May 9, 1855 to March 25, 1861

Earliest carrier letter in New Orleans



The last day of the Mason's City Express was August 7, 1851 and the New Orleans Carrier Service started on the next day. This letter was received in New Orleans on August 9 from a coastal vessel. The "WAY/6" handstamp was for 5¢ postage plus a 1¢ way fee. 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 is the latest of six recorded Mason's covers and the earliest of the New Orleans carrier covers. This is the only "way" or "advertised" cover known with the Mason's adhesive.** PF.