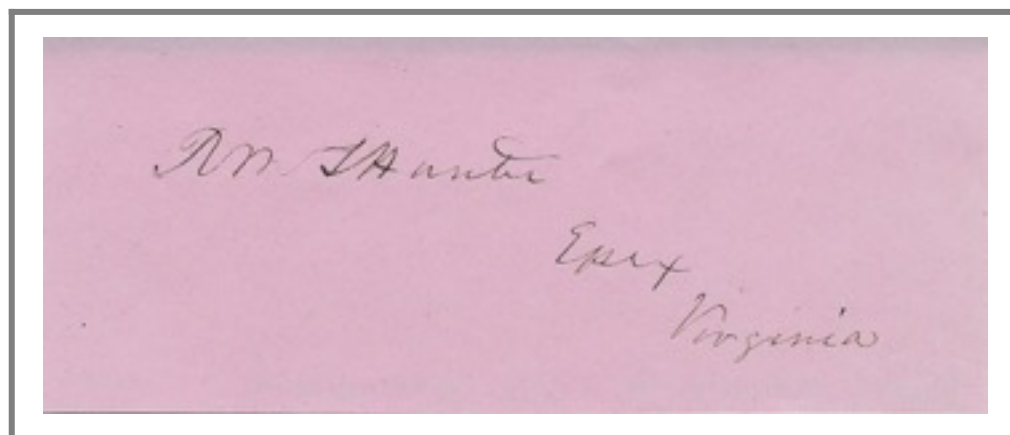


Robert M. T. Hunter: Lawyer, Statesman & Prisoner (1830-1887)

- **Purpose:** This is the philatelic story of the career of Robert Mercer Taliaferro Hunter. Herein is a detailed analysis of postmarks (MS or CDS), rates, dates, names & addresses, notes & directives, as well as important research.
- **Background:** Virginian Robert M. T. Hunter had a long & notable career. He began as attorney in Essex County (7 yrs), VA House of Delegates (3 yrs), US Representative (8 yrs, including Speaker of the House), US Senate (14 yrs), CS Secretary of State (1 yr) & CS Senate (3 yrs, including President Pro Tempore). He was a member of F Street Mess, a Southern Senate power group (David R. Atchison MO, Andrew P. Butler SC, R. M. T. Hunter VA & James M. Mason VA), Commissioner at Hampton Roads Peace Conference (Union Commissioners: Abraham Lincoln & William H. Seward; Confederate Commissioners: R. M. T. Hunter, Alexander H. Stephens & John A. Campbell), an unsuccessful attempt to end the war, & portrayed on CS \$10 bill. At war's end he became a political prisoner at Fort Pulaski (8 months) before returning to his plantation.
- **Plan:** To highlight the entire career of Robert M. T. Hunter, from when he became a lawyer to his time as political prisoner after Civil War & beyond. This will be accomplished through a description of philatelic covers during the different positions of his career. Running headings include position held, postmarks & rates. Exhibit pages include the following content, organized by position & in chronological order:

1) Attorney (Essex County VA)	(5) CS Secretary of State & Senate
2) VA House of Delegates	(6) Prisoner
3) US House of Representatives	(7) Post Civil War & Epilogue
4) US Senate	
- **Difficulty of Acquisition:** Given his lengthy political career, there is much correspondence to and from Hunter (e.g., as described in two books). Unfortunately, original correspondence is almost entirely in library and museum collections, the vast majority being at University of Virginia Library & Virginia Museum of History & Culture. It is very difficult to find Hunter letters in public domain, although page 7 displays a stampless cover w/ contents. This exhibit consists of those limited covers that could be obtained, which otherwise have been separated from their letters. **Red mattes are for important material.**



Original Signature
as CS Secretary of
State:
RMT Hunter /
Essex /
Virginia

Note: All exhibit material is original & owned by exhibitor.