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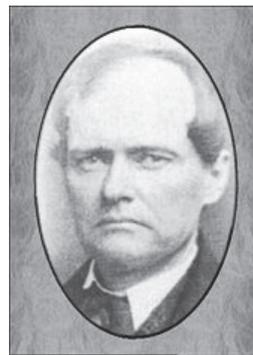
Here is a subject philatelists have been enthralled with for over 100 years.



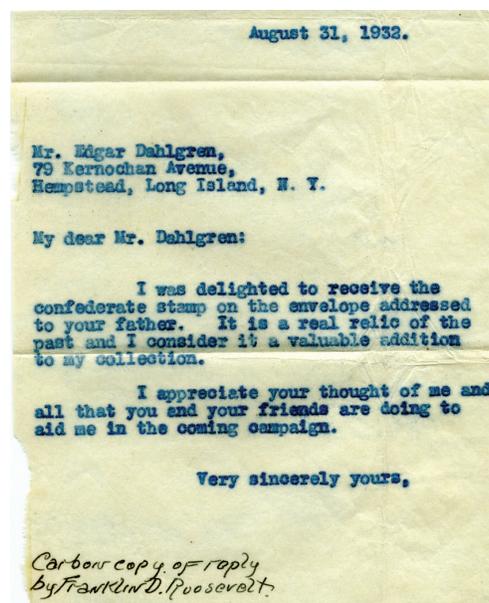
The Confederate Post

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

A Confederate Cover with Stellar Provenance



General Charles G.U. Dahlgren



The illustrated cover is franked with a Scott CSA #12-KB, 10¢ deep blue Keatinge & Ball print tied with a Greenville, SC March 24 [1865] postmark and addressed to General Dahlgren, Albany, Georgia / Via Washington Georgia. It is used quite late in the war on a turned cover made from a cut down semi-official Camp of Instruction imprinted cover. Only a couple of weeks later Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to US Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1864.

The cover is one that is almost more interesting from the back than the front. It is handstamped "From the Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection Auctioned Feb., April, 1946 by H.R. Harmer Inc. N.Y." With the cover comes a tissue-thin copy of an 1932 dated typewritten letter to Mr. Edgar Dahlgren, son of General Charles G. Dahlgren. In the letter, then presidential candidate and New York Governor Roosevelt thanks Edgar Dahlgren for the gift of the envelope addressed to Dahlgren's father saying:

"It is a real relic of the past and I consider it a valuable addition to my collection. I appreciate your thought of me and all that you and your friends are doing to aid me in the coming campaign."

There is a long handwritten pencil description by Van Dyk MacBride as well as his inked and 1946 signature guarantee. I first sold this at auction in the 1970s as part of the Judge Harry J. Lemley collection. It was purchased by Broadus R. Littlejohn, Jr. and from that collection returned to my hands. It is a wonderful provenance not that far removed from the war itself.

Charles Gustavus Ulrich Dahlgren (1811-1888) was a Confederate Brigadier General, Commander of the Third Brigade, Army of Mississippi. Oddly enough, he came from a family that played a prominent role in the effort to preserve the Union. His older brother, John A. Dahlgren, was a rear admiral in the US Navy and enjoyed a measure of fame for inventing the Dahlgren gun. In 1864 John's son, Col. Ulric Dahlgren, died in a Union cavalry raid against Richmond. Charles' other brother, William, spent part of the war in England spying on Confederate purchasing agents. In ironic contrast, Charles' story evolves within the hierarchy of Southern aristocracy. Born to the Swedish Consul stationed in Philadelphia, wealthy Mississippi banker and slave owner Charles Dahlgren chose to defend his way of life while his brothers sided with the Union. When the South surrendered, he lost everything and moved his young family to New York to reinvent himself. ☒