

## A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Confederate Catalog

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

### *Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*

#### A History of Confederate States Catalogs

Although published information on various aspects of Confederate philately dates back to the 1870s, it wasn't until the early 1920s that authoritative information began to become available to collectors.

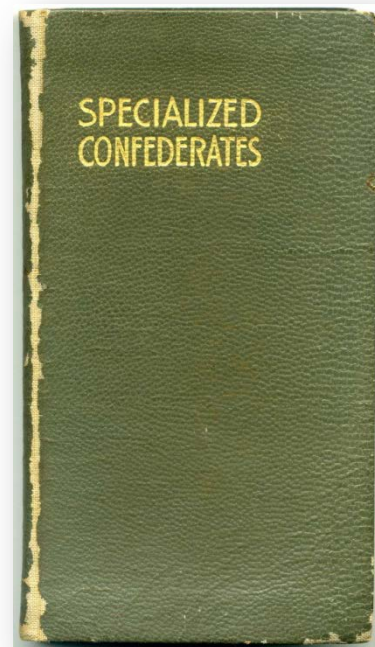
In 1929, August Dietz, Sr. published *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America*. This monumental endeavor remains the most definitive work on Confederate

stamps and postal history to this day. Dietz produced three versions, a standard edition (cloth), library (quarter-bound leather), and deluxe (all leather binding, laid paper and a special insert).

The popular 1929 Postal Service book was followed in 1931 with the publication of his first catalog of Confederate stamps (*Dietz Specialized Catalog of the Postage Stamps of the Confederate States of America*). The volume only measured 3 1/4" x 6". It was augmented with a supplement in 1932 and followed by subsequent editions of the Dietz Catalog in 1937, 1945, 1959 and 1986.

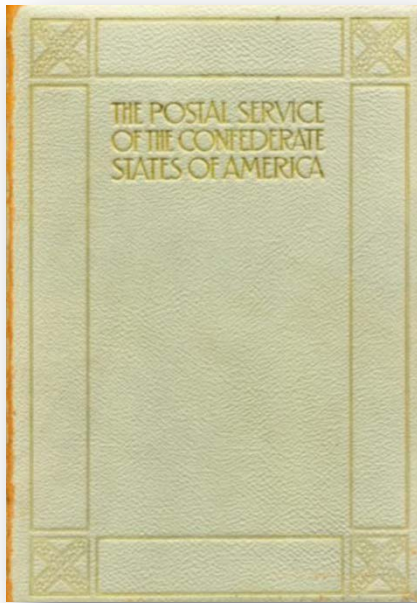
Mr. Dietz, born in Prussia in 1869 not long after the American Civil War, moved with his parents to Richmond in 1871 and began collecting as early as 1880. An engraver trained in lithography and typography, Mr. Dietz understood the printing processes necessary for the preparation of the various Confederate postage stamps.

With his in-depth knowledge of printing and interest in Confederate postal history, it has long been speculated that Dietz obtained some of his information directly from the postmasters, printers and/or clerks that had firsthand knowledge of many of the actual philatelic items used during the Civil War. This has been verified by some of the original



correspondence between postmasters and Mr. Dietz in my personal files. By 1896, Dietz was the editor of *The Virginia Philatelist*, a monthly stamp magazine printed in Richmond. In March 1901, he started his own company, the Dietz Printing Company in Richmond.

In 1924, as an avid researcher and collector, he began writing informative articles on the subject of Confederate postal history to aid the increasing number of Confederate collectors. In subsequent years, he operated his printing firm with his son, August Dietz, Jr. as Business Manager, and published *The Southern Philatelist* (1924-1929), *The New South Philatelist* (1929-1933), *Stamp and Cover Collecting* (1933-1936), and *Stamp and Cover Collectors Review* (1937-1939).



Each of the publications on which he worked contained articles related to Confederate philately, including new finds, plating research, illustrations of postal markings, and answers to questions from collectors. He also wrote several reference books on Confederate philately, including the 1929 treatise, *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America*. That book, often referred to as "The '29 Dietz," included most of the information printed in his earlier publications. Today, August Dietz, Sr. is considered the Father of Confederate Philately. A short biography of August Dietz, Sr. appears in the September 1900 (Vol. IV, No.1) issue of *The Virginia Philatelist*.

By mid-1934, a small group of serious Confederate collectors was beginning to emerge. In February 1935, Dr. Marye Y. Dabney, another enthusiastic Confederate collector and friend of Mr. Dietz, wrote to him and suggested that an organization

be formed for the more intensive study of Confederates, the exchange of relevant data, and the dissemination of acquired knowledge. The name of the organization suggested by Dr. Dabney was the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA), a name that has continued to this day. Dietz, not surprisingly, was the first CSA president as well as the first member to be given the honorary title of "General" in 1948. The CSA has been an APS affiliate since 1978 (affiliate #73).

The Berlin Philatelic Club bestowed the Lindenberg Medal on Dietz in 1938. He received the very first Luff Award from the American Philatelic Society (APS) in 1940 for Exceptional Contributions to Philately and the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Medal for Distinguished Service



to Philately in 1955 by the Collectors Club of New York. On September 26, 1963 Dietz died in Richmond, Virginia and he was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame in 1964.

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In October 2006, the Confederate Stamp Alliance announced the acquisition of the rights to *The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*, which was published in 1986. Patricia A. Kaufmann was appointed Editor-in-Chief and chose respected Confederate students Francis J. Crown, Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo to round out the editorial team. That lead team was augmented with extensive input and assistance of dozens of Confederate students who contributed in their areas of specialty, without which this catalog might never have come to print.



Kaufmann, Crown and Palazolo (from top to bottom at right) have closely worked together as part of the Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Service. Palazolo was Chairman for many years, more recently turning that job over to Crown. Both Kaufmann and Crown did a stint as Recording Secretary. All members of the editorial trio have served as president of the CSA in the past and all three carry the honorary title of "General" within the Confederate Stamp Alliance, as well accumulating numerous awards for research and writing. Kaufmann and Crown contribute to the annual update of the Confederate section of the *Scott Catalogue* and worked together as part of the Confederate States Postmaster Provisional Revision Committee for the *Scott Catalogue* in the late 1990s. Kaufmann and Palazolo also worked together as researchers for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum on the extensive Arago cataloging project which was unveiled at Washington 2006. Additionally, Kaufmann currently serves on the Council of Philatelists of the museum.



After six long years of effort, the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, more casually referred to as the CSA Catalog, is finally ready just in time for the 2012 holidays.



Each revised edition of the Dietz Catalog since its first publication over eighty years has seen many new listings. With the 1931 edition, the basic format was set and remained the same through the final 1986 edition. The CSA Catalog is by no means a simple revision of prior catalogs. The 2012 CSA catalog takes a new approach, incorporating many of the basic features of the old Dietz Catalog but building the actual contents from the ground up. To accomplish this task, the editors began with the listings contained in the 1986 New Dietz Catalog. They also mandated that every listing in the 2012 CSA Catalog be verified by an image of the item. In cases where no image could be found, the listing was retained as a legacy listing and indicated by an asterisk. Information was derived from original

period documents where possible, rather than repeated from the often conflicting statements of prior publications.

In comparing prior published works and catalogs, one invariably finds conflicting information. One of the most noticeable examples of this is in the section of Independent State and Confederate Use of U.S. Postage. In order to ascertain the actual dates of secession and admission for each state, the editors re-examined the secession and admission processes of each state from original period documents. Where the results are subject to more than one interpretation or vary from previously accepted dates, the editors set forth their explanation for the change in notes.

The General Issues section has been greatly expanded and enhanced with enlarged color images, enabling students to truly study the various issues. The CSA 10¢ blue lithograph, for example, has one Scott number but is in reality three different designs and produced by two different printers. To aid the collector, there is a cross-reference to Scott Catalogue numbers with each listing as appropriate.



Confederate lithograph student Leonard H. Hartmann shares his in-depth study of the Misplaced and Shifted Lithograph Transfers in the General Issues section, something found in no other philatelic catalog. A misplaced transfer is an image that is on a printing stone in a position that differs from that on the transfer stone. They were first discovered in the 1920s by Edward S. Knapp and others. The shifted transfers are given catalog status, as they are definitely constant varieties; up to six examples of some positions are known.



The new Perforated and Rouletted Stamps section was created from the files of the late W. Wilson Hulme, which the family graciously allowed us to use. This little understood area is now presented with detailed explanations of the officially perforated stamps as well as the accepted privately rouletted stamps.

The Postmasters' Provisionals section is far more detailed than in prior editions, over four times the size of the 1986 New Dietz, and includes information such as the earliest recorded

dates of use and uses from other towns.



The government imprint section has been completely revamped with a new intuitive numbering system and separated into three sections: Official, Semi-Official and State Government. Although most Confederate semi-official imprints include the branch of government, it is not always easy to determine to which Department they belong. This is further confused by state semi-official imprints prepared by branches of state governments that mirrored the same branches of the Confederate Government. Some of these imprints bear no indication of either Confederate or state origin. The editors have made every effort to list the semi-official imprints under the proper department, bureau, service, district, division or army of the Confederate and state governments.

New catalog sections include Confederate Mail Carrier Services, Way Mail, Indian Nations, Covert Mail, Generals' Mail, a guide to Advertising Covers, a Glossary and new revelations about the Arizona Territory and New Mexico. Other sections, while presented briefly in former catalogs, have been expanded to such a degree that they can almost be considered new sections as well. For example, the Confederate Railroad Markings section, which fully explains the role of railroads in handling the mails, the role of the station agent and the route agent's markings, as well as the revised listings themselves.

Private Express Company Mail is divided into two different categories: private across the lines express service and mail handled by express companies within the Confederate States. Suspension of Mail across the Lines includes some of the rarest and least understood mail as postal service in the seceded states was interrupted by the US Post Office Department. Trans-Mississippi Mails presents both official and private mail services, some of which are completely new listings such as Captain Bernos' Express, J.M. Barksdale's Express, E.W. Black's Express, and I.W. Sturdivant's Express, which join the more well-known listings of Arthur H. Edey's 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Regiment Express and E.H. Cushing's Express.

The Fakes and Facsimiles section has been completely redone to include those most commonly encountered by collectors, along with brief biographies of those who produced them. The Confederate Stamp Alliance anticipates publishing a more in-depth book on this subject in the near future.

This 21st century catalog takes advantage of all of the advances in technology that have occurred in the past quarter century, including publication in color. Much of the material in this catalog can be found in no other catalog or publication. Catalog groundwork has been laid for future generations with a digital image and information database maintained by the Confederate Stamp Alliance.

