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The Confederate Post

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

COMING: The new Confederate States Catalog in 2010

The publication goal of 2010 for the CSA Catalog is no coincidence. In 2010, the Confederate Stamp Alliance will celebrate its 75th anniversary in Richmond, Virginia in conjunction with APS StampShow. There could be no more appropriate time to release a new CSA Catalog.

August Dietz, Sr. published *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America* in 1929. It is the scholarly work referred to by generations of students to this day. In 1931, Dietz published the first actual catalog that bore his name, a small volume of 320 pages that was followed up with a supplement in 1932 of 80 pages. Subsequent editions were issued in 1937, 1945, and 1959. The most recent edition was published in 1986, and a new edition has not been issued since.

In 1924, as an avid researcher and collector, Dietz began writing informative articles on the subject of Confederate postal history to aid the increasing number of Confederate collectors. In subsequent years, he operated a printing firm with his son as business manager, and published a number of scholarly philatelic magazines. 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. August Dietz, Sr. is considered the Father of Confederate Philately.

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 August Dietz, wrote to suggest 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. The idea was warmly received and Mr. Dietz welcomed each new member and conferred upon him the honorary title of Colonel. In October 1948, the membership reciprocated and bestowed on him the first honorary title of General.

The 1986 *New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook* rights were secured in 2006 by the Alliance. The forthcoming volume will simply be titled the *Confederate States Catalog and Handbook* and is informally referred to simply as the CSA Catalog.

The 21st century edition of the CSA Catalog is long overdue and will no doubt be in much demand by collectors, serious students and dealers. The new catalog will take advantage of all of the marvelous changes in technology that have occurred in the past two decades, including a mostly full-color catalog with old black and white markings to be used only when no one has come forth with quality color examples of markings/uses.

Members of the Alliance are excited about this ambitious project. This type of project cannot be done without the assistance of many others. I would like to emphasize that this will be the labor of dozens of learned students and not just the editorial board who will organize and edit, as well as adding their own substantive content.

I was honored to be asked to head the editorial board, who are truly my dream team. I am working with well-known Confederate students Frank Crown and Jerry Palazolo, with whom I've worked closely on the CSA Authentication Service in most recent years and on other projects for many years before.

As with any catalog of this type, it is important for collectors and dealers to report errors in the old catalog, unlisted material since the 1986 edition, and offer any ideas or suggestions. Don't assume the editorial board or section editors are aware of all changes just because an item may have appeared on eBay recently or in an auction catalog. A full list of section editors and their areas of responsibility are listed on the CSA Catalog website where editors have also published want lists of material for which they need either information or good photo scans.

For more information on the catalog project, offers of assistance, or information on the Confederate Stamp Alliance, write Trish Kaufmann, 10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln, DE 19960 or e-mail trishkauf@comcast.net. Catalog website: www.csacatalog.org; CSA website: www.csalliance.org. ✉

