

Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History

The Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History edited by Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo. Sumpter, S.C.: Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012. Hardbound, 7-3/4 x 10-3/4 inch, 527pp., color illus.

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Producing a 21st Century Confederate Catalog

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

(Editor's Note: The Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook of Stamps and Postal History was released in October to much fanfare. Here, the lead editor provides a thorough discussion of the new catalog and the editions that preceded it. Having examined the new book, I can attest that it is indeed an impressive work, both in terms of content and production quality.)

The 20th Century Confederate Catalogs

Although published information about 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* (Figure 1). To this day, this historic endeavor remains the most definitive work about Confederate stamps and postal history. Dietz (Figure 2) produced three versions, a standard edition (cloth), a library edition (quarter-bound leather), and a deluxe edition (all leather binding, printed on 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, the *Dietz Specialized Catalog of the Postage Stamps of the Confederate States of America* (Figure 3). It was augmented with a supplement in 1932 and followed by subsequent editions of the *Dietz Catalog* in 1937, 1945, 1959 and 1986.

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

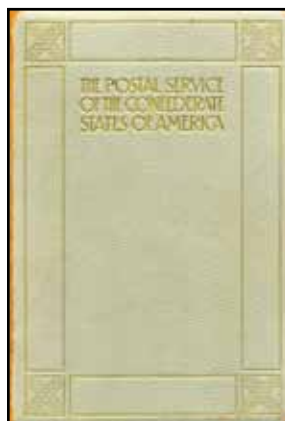


Figure 1: The cover of the deluxe edition of the 1929 Dietz *Postal Service* book.



Figure 2: August Dietz Sr.

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 was verified in my personal files by original correspondence between postmasters and Dietz.

By 1896, Dietz was the editor of *The Virginia Philatelist*, a monthly stamp magazine printed in Richmond. He started his own company, the Dietz Printing Company, in Richmond in 1901.

In 1924 he began writing informative articles on the subject of Confederate postal history to aid the increasing number of Confederate collectors. He operated his printing firm with his son, August Dietz Jr., as business manager, and published *The Southern Philatelist* (1924-1929), *The New Southern Philatelist* (1929-1933), *Stamp and Cover Collecting* (1933-1936),

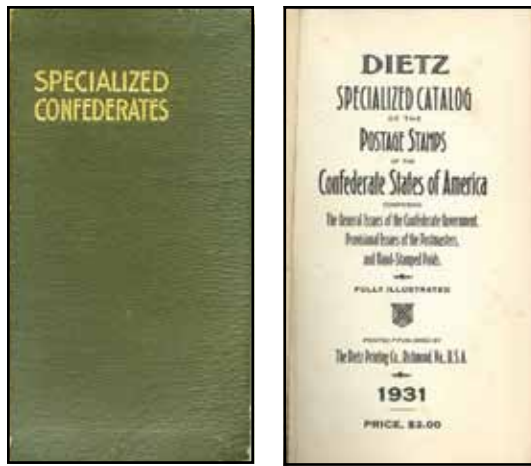


Figure 3. The 1931 Dietz Catalog and title page; the first Confederate catalog.

and *Stamp and Cover Collecting 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.

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 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 Dabney was the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA), a name that endures to this day. Predictably, Dietz was the first president, as well as the first member given the honorary title of “General” in 1948.

The Berlin Philatelic Club bestowed the Lindenberg Medal on Dietz in 1938. He received the very first Luff Award from the American Philatelic Society 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.

Dietz died in Richmond in 1963 and was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame in 1964.

A 21st Century Confederate Catalog

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 (Figures 4 and 5) to round out the editorial team. The lead team was augmented with extensive input and assistance from dozens of Confederate students who contributed in their areas of specialty.

After six long years of effort, the 2012 *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, more casually referred to as the *CSA Catalog*, is off the press and in user hands. At 528 pages, it is almost twice the size of the last catalog produced in 1986. In the 2012 volume, the stampless listings alone are almost the size of the 1986 edition.

Each revised edition of the *Dietz Catalog*, since its first publication more than 80 years ago, has seen many new listings. With the 1931 edition, the basic format was set and remained the same through the final 1986 edition.

The new *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 extensive 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.

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 geographic areas from which they were used are generally the names by which they are known, for example, the Baton Rouge roulette or Shenandoah Valley roulette.

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 2012 catalog corrects what is considered by most students to be a major mistake in the 1986 volume and returns stampless covers to that section, instead of intermixing them with handstamped and adhesive provisionals. The “Government Imprint” section has been completely overhauled 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 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 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 U.S. 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 5th 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.



Figure 4: Catalog editors Patricia Kaufmann and Jerry Palazolo at the CSA booth at the APS Stampshow 2012.



Figure 5: Catalog Editor Francis S. Crown Jr.

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. Updates to listings will be uploaded in the future to: www.csacatalog.org.

More information about the catalog and CSA membership is available at www.csacatalog.org and www.csalliance.org, as well as from Patricia A. Kaufmann, 10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln, DE 19960.