

Confederate Postmark Tracings of August Dietz

Try to imagine that you are in a printers shop in the 1920's. Close-up photography was virtually unknown and laser copying machines were not even dreamed of. You are watching Mr. August Dietz, who is also a student of Confederate postal history, as he meticulously copys a newly-found Virginia postmark using india ink and the aid of a jewelers glass in his eye. For many years he had recorded southern postmarks and handstamped PAID markings for his forthcoming "The Postal History of the Confederate States" and later in 1931 for the first issue of his "Dietz Specialized Catalog of the Postage Stamps of the Confederate States of America".

Mr. Dietz was an avid printer and philatelist all of his life. He had already been an editor and publisher of philatelic journals beginning with the first issue of "The Virginia Philatelist" in September 1897. His primary interest was that of the postal history of the confederate states. He recorded markings sent by collectors who had a similar interest. He recorded in longhand, which usually was only 1/32nd to 1/16th inch high, the color of the markings and in many cases the name of the collector who loaned the piece.

Many of these collectors are still remembered among the greats of confederate philately: Waill, MacBride, Everett, Ashbrook, Kohn, Gravely, Weatherly, Konwiser, Wolcott, DuBose. etc. Some others were collectors who Dietz knew in Richmond: DeWitt, Harowitz, Hofmann, Scheer, Nash, Vietor, etc. There are many others who I do not recognise

I was presented with this material sometime after Mr. Dietz passed away. It was stored away until 1995, and part of it is shown here for the first time with the thought that collectors would like to see this exquisite handwork of August Dietz

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AUGUST DIETZ, SR.

FOUNDER AND HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT OF THE

CONFEDERATE STAMP ALLIANCE