

New Mississippi Confederate Stampless Cover Project

A new project is being undertaken by CWPS members Frank Crown, James Montich and Jerry Palazolo. The intent of this project is to update and list “all known markings” on Mississippi stampless covers from the Confederate era.

Background:

This project is built upon the work of several prominent philatelists:

- In 1945 August Dietz began chronicling handstamped paid markings from the various Confederate States in his latest edition of a Confederate catalog. This effort included data on covers with handstamped postmarks used in conjunction with handstamped PAID markings were included.
- In 1952 Van Dyk MacBride consolidated the Dietz listings with various updates in a section of the 1952 edition of the ***United States Stampless Cover Catalog*** by Harry Knowiser. Again, only handstamped markings were included.
- In 1981 Morris Everett published a monograph which captured a series of updated listings of handstamped paid markings that he had written in the journal “The Dixie Philatelist” during the 1970s. This was followed by his addendum in 1983.
- Simultaneously during a thirteen-year period Robert “Bob” Werner authored annual installments of a listing of manuscript “paid” markings on stampless Confederate covers. Werner cooperated with Benjamin Wishniestsky and his panel of editors to include his data in the ***Confederate States of America Stampless Cover Catalog*** which was published in 1980 by David G. Phillips. This was the first comprehensive publication listing all types of postal marking found on stampless covers that included handstamped, manuscript and due markings.
- In 1986, the above format was followed and enlarged with a fully illustrated section of ***The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*** with the assistance of most of the same 90 contributors from that 1980 publication.
- In 2012, that inclusive concept of listing all stampless markings was carried forward to the totally revised ***Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History***.

During the past century major collections of Mississippi postal history have been formed by collectors such as Charles E. Walcott, Lucius B. Dabney, Jr, Bruce C. Oakley, Jr., Dr. J. A. Graves, Fred Kressman, Charles Miller, Don Garrett, Herman “Sonny” Hill, Robert Wein, Dale Ferber, Van Koppersmith, Karl Agre and William S. Parks.

Current Project and Scope:

Over the past decade, many of the above collections have been dispersed in various sales, both public and private. As material from these collections entered the marketplace, ownership began to concentrate in the hands of two current collectors--James E. Montich and Pete Dunn.

At the suggestion of these two collectors, a project has been launched to attempt to chronicle all the known postmarks on Mississippi stampless covers from the Confederate period. The project scope is to include not only those markings used to indicate prepayment of postage or the amount of postage due, but all other markings applied to indicate a type of mail or service.

Since the publication of the ***Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook*** in 2012, a number of previously unreported markings have surfaced—most notably from the collection of Lucius B. Dabney, Jr. who died in 2022. That collection had never been made available to the editors of that or previous editions. Given that the 2012 Catalog is not anticipated to be printed in a hard copy format in the near future, this project is intended to provide an updated digital version to bridge the gap.

In addition to covers from the major collections of Mississippi stampless covers past and present, images also being collected from other sources. This represents the early stages of this project and more images and data are being collected for inclusion. If you have covers that you would like to contribute or have questions about this project, please reach out to contact@civilwarphilatelicsociety.org and a team member will be happy to engage with you and discuss your material.

**** Special thanks to Pete Dunn, Jim Montich, and the family of Don Garrett without whom this project would not have been possible.**

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