

# *Philatelic Literature:* “One of the Finest Philatelic Journals”

by Dr. Everett L. Parker

In the spotlight this month is one of the finest philatelic journals you'll find, *The Confederate Philatelist*, journal of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. It's well-designed, edited and has a lot of interesting and “meaty” articles in each issue.



It's interesting that the philatelic group awards military “rank” to its officers, hence the editor is “Colonel” Randy L. Neil, and the president is “Colonel” Richard F. Murphy. There are several “Colonels” and even a couple of “Generals” on the journal's masthead.

This journal, prepared in the 7.0 x 10.0 inch format and printed on coated stock paper with full color, is both scholarly and interesting to read. Just how scholarly? In the April-June 2013 issue, and again in the July-September 2013 issue, Colonel Harry G. Brittain offered a new look at the papers and inks used in the early Confederate States of America stamps through his lens as a scientist, and with the use of state-of-the art technology.

Brittain and the Confederate Stamp Alliance entered a new era in the utilization of modern science to answer age-old questions, according to editor Neil. In the first installment, the question was how to discern between three types of printings of the five-cent Jefferson Davis issue, and in the second installment, the engraved two-cent Andrew Jackson issue was in the spotlight.

Title of Brittain's article in the April-June issue was “Forensic Studies of Stamps Issued by the Confederate States of America Part I: The Typographed 5-cent Blue Jefferson Davis Issues.”

While his forensic analysis was way beyond my comprehension, he led into the article by describing how the initial stamps printed by the Confederate States of America were

produced using a lithographic process, and these were followed by stamps produced by means of typography. "It is known that Confederate postmaster general John H. Reagan sought to print stamps whose quality equaled those printed by the United States Post Office Department, and eventually the Confederacy developed the technology necessary to print stamps by the intaglio process using steel plates," he wrote.

His introduction laid the groundwork for how the two-part study would be conducted, particularly in using infrared absorption spectroscopy. Illustrations in the first installment showed the equipment used in his studies.

In the July-September 2013 issue, Brittain presented his second part titled "Forensic Studies of Stamps Issued by the Confederate States of America Part II: The Engraved 2-Cent Andrew Jackson Issue."

His thesis was augmented by many graphs as well as stamp illustrations. There was also an extensive bibliography. There is no question these are deeply researched articles that will indeed set the benchmark for future study.

Also in the July-September issue, General Patricia A. Kaufmann discussed a newly recorded Athens, Georgia postmaster's provisional tete-beche pair on cover, addressed to Capt. George Hillyer, who was part of the 3rd Army of Northern Virginia. It is only the fourth such recorded pair used on cover. There are several other items of postal history, ephemera and antiquarian photographs accompanying the article.

Col. James W. Milgram, M.D. wrote about a flag of truce to and from Pocatigo, South Carolina to Port Royal, South Carolina. During 1863, civilian flag of truce and prisoners' mail could be transported between these two points, both near the coast, Port Royal being just north of Hilton Head.

For information on the journal, or to join the Confederate Stamp Alliance, contact Colonel Larry Baum, 316 W. Calhoun St., Sumter, SC 29150. His email address is: [csaadcovers@frontier.com](mailto:csaadcovers@frontier.com).

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*Remember that review copies of books, monographs, society journals and other philatelic literature are solicited. Please send all publications to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055-8906. Email is [eparker@hughes.net](mailto:eparker@hughes.net).*

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