**Flight Badges of the Central Powers, 1914-1918: Volume I – Imperial Germany Aviation & Commemorative Airship Badges**
By CDR. Robert S. Pandis USNR (Ret.). Publisher: Imperial House Antiques LLC.; 2nd edition, 2015. 12” x 9” Hardcover; Photographs, Bibliography. Pp.313. $95.00. ISBN 10: 1495137848

Robert Pandis has produced a variety of excellent works on early flight badges ranging from his first book covering the “United States Army Air Service Aviator Wings” to the more recent work “Flight Badges of the Allied Nations.” This updated edition of “Flight Badges of the Central Powers” Volume I is, as are his previous works, the go to source for information and details on the particular nature of those insignia worn in the early years of combat aviation.

Excellent examples of the select group of manufactures who produced the German Army Pilot, Observer, and Gunner tunic badges that were awarded during the war are covered in depth. Additionally, the metal Airship badges that were commemorative, which is to say they were available to those who rated them only after the war, as none were produced during the war, are quite well covered. Pandis also provides a good selection of the shoulder boards worn by both Army and Naval personnel.

The book is heavily illustrated with excellent close-ups of the various items recto and verso. Such details help to identify and to distinguish the genuine article from the forgeries. There is no doubt after reading this book that there are far more fakes available now than ever most likely due to the increased popularity and the number of unwitting buyers.

The book is divided into eight sections, with the majority covering the various badge manufactures. Overall, it is a comprehensive look at the badges, as well as a historical view of those men who battled a century ago in the skies over Europe. Indeed, the images of the pieces are excellent and for that alone it is a worthwhile book to own. It is a well-researched book providing a clear concise understanding of the particular nature of these badges, making it a distinctive work.

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