**Flight Badges of the Central Powers, 1914-1918, Volume II - The Imperial German Naval, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Ottoman Turkish Air Services**

By CDR. Robert S. Pandis USNR (Ret.) Publisher: Imperial House Antiques LLC. Hardcover 12” x 9”: Photographs, Bibliography Pp.384 pages $95.00 ISBN 9781792344350

This is the fourth and final book in a series on early flight badges written by Robert Pandis. As with the other books in the series it is an exceptional work. This notable reference work examines the Imperial German Naval, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Ottoman Turkish Air Services for the period prior to and through World War I.

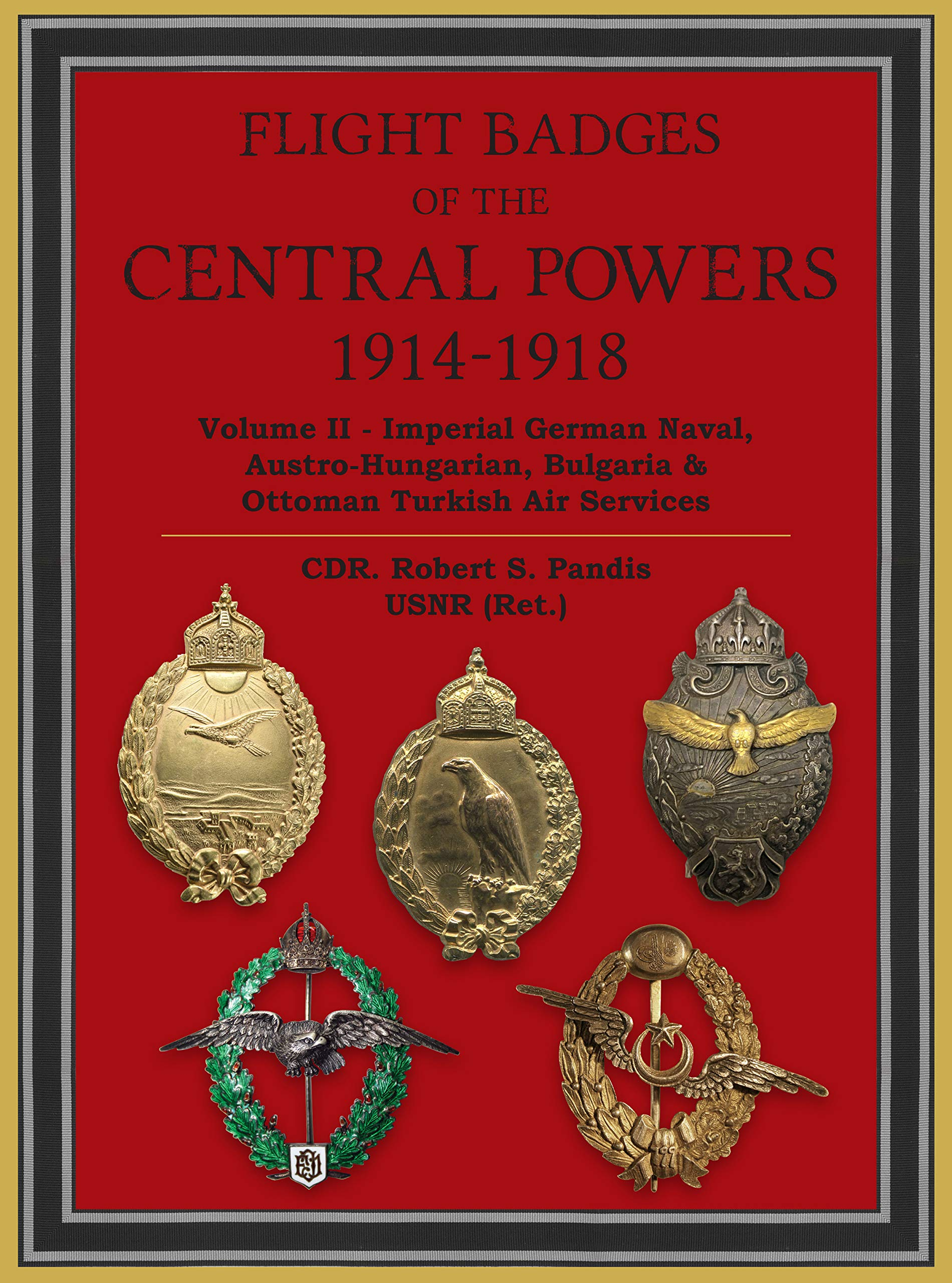
It covers in detail the changes of insignia worn as well as the related command orders for their creation. Of the emblems’ details he provides information on the nature of when, how and by whom each could be worn. These particulars provide an interesting record in the advance of early military aviation, and gives insight into the foundations of the various air services.

Pandis has produced a variety of excellent works on early flight badges covering the various combatants engaged in the World War I period. This updated edition of “Flight Badges of the Central Powers” Volume II of the Central Powers completes the sweep of the combatants who stood against the Allies. The sections on Bulgarian and Turkish air services are breakthrough and alone make this volume a very important contribution as very little has been described previously in English language publications. As in his previous works, this is easily the go to source for information and details on the particular nature of those insignia worn in the early years of military aviation.

Excellent examples of the various group of manufactures who produced the badges that were awarded during the war are covered in depth. The book is heavily illustrated with excellent close-ups of the various pieces front and back. Such details help to identify and to distinguish the genuine article from the fakes. The book is divided into seven sections, covering the various badge manufactures and styles developed.

Of particular interest are the German Ehrenpreis or Naval Honor Prize, a distinctive award that is not as well known as the Ehrebecher or Honor Goblet. The details and examples provide insight into a hitherto obscure award presented to German Naval aircrews.

Overall, it is a comprehensive look at the badges, emblems and commemorative awards along with a historical view of those men who battled a century ago in the skies over Europe. Indeed, the images of the pieces depicted 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.  
  
 *Carl J. Bobrow   
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