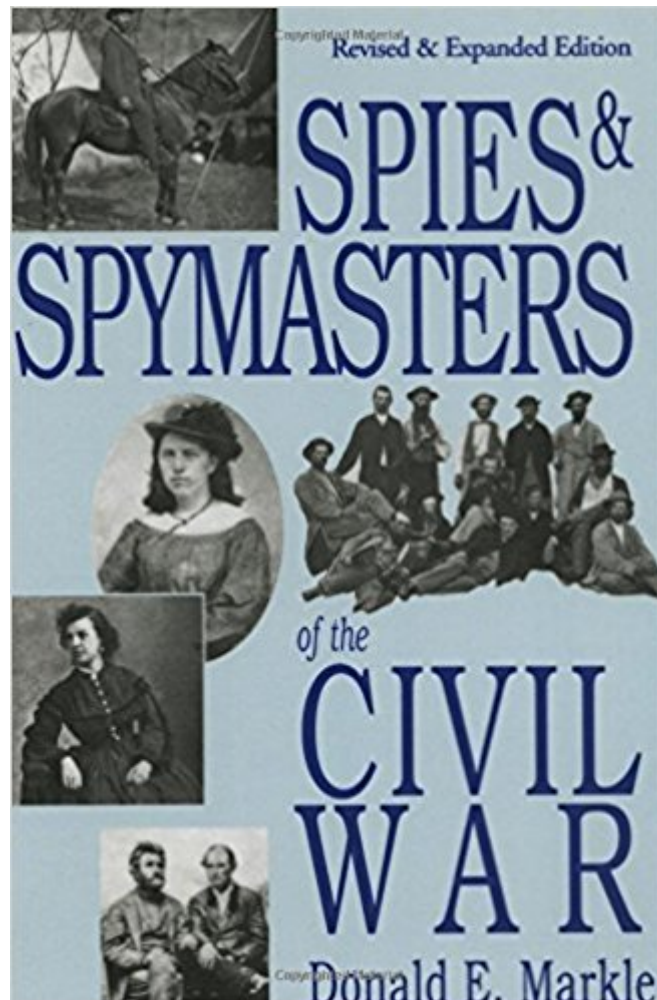




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Spies And Spymasters Of The Civil War



Synopsis

From Library Journal Written by an intelligence professional, this treatment of Civil War espionage reflects his background; he frequently interjects his opinions and provides deep detail for operational topics. Although Markle's informal and enthusiastic style is quite readable, the book's topical organization and exhaustive treatment of some fairly arcane topics make it more useful for researchers than general readers. In fact, the book's final five chapters have a quasi-reference organization; featuring Markle's discussions of all known Civil War spies, they would alone make the book worth considering for academic libraries... this is the most general account in print. Fritz Buckallew, Univ. of Central Oklahoma Lib., Edmond From Booklist The history of Civil War espionage is usually mentioned only in passing in general accounts of the war. Lying under a cloud of romanticism, its details have had to be ferreted out in specialized sources. For his complete account of the subject, Markle draws upon just about all the available material and summarizes it with judgment, balance, clarity, and occasional wit. Among the subtopics are technology (photography for mapmaking and Confederate use of a forerunner of microfilm), the value of women spies (less subject to suspicion, they could move with greater freedom than male spies), and the roles of blacks as spies. A good case could be made that this volume is the single most valuable contribution to general Civil War literature so far this year. Roland Green

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a great all-round reference to the world of Civil War espionage. It has an almost encyclopedia-type approach, giving the names of every known spy, both male and female, and on

both sides of the war. It profiles their tactics, equipment, motives, and, for many, their fates, and tells real-life stories of dashing heroics and close escapes. In short, if you want to read about the spies and espionage of the Civil War, this is your book.

A very basic primer that seems to have been written with a young adult audience in mind. The language is humpty dumpty, and Markle ends every! other! sentence! with an exclamation mark! It's an okay place to start, but if you have any real interest in the topic you'll need to go much farther elsewhere.

Useful resource for writer research. Great anecdotes and story fodder. Interesting and helpful way of organizing the info, female spies, northern spies, southern spies, black spies, the various spymasters and their philosophy and methodology. Most fascinating thing to me was how we basically had no established spy network prior to the war, so there was a lot of improvisation as well as a lot of misfires.

While I did find this to be a decent "overview" of the subject, the depth of coverage just wasn't there. Also I expected a more "professional historian's" treatment. This one came away with me thinking it was designed for high school or very undergraduate use.

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