



PHILATELIC FRAUDS.

BY

C. C. SIMMONS.

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1883

CHARITON, IOWA.



PHILATELIC FRAUDS,



BY

C. C. Simmons.

PRICE 15 CENTS.

CHARITON, IOWA.

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PREFACE.

In presenting this work to the Philatelic public I wish to thank all dealers and collectors who, by their kind assistance, have enabled me to make it as perfect as it is. It was my original intention to include the name and address of every Fraud known, but as I did not allow myself sufficient time to obtain lists from my foreign correspondents, I have been obliged to omit foreign addresses in this book, but shall probably present them in a supplementary form.

A number of dealers have shown the interest they take in this work by purchasing a large number of copies, which they will sell at publisher's prices. Very Respectfully,

C. C. SIMMONS.



FORGERIES.

In a work such as this, I think that a few facts about forgeries will not be amiss, and I shall endeavor to point out a few points which must be observed before you can distinguish, with any accuracy, a well executed forgery. Any collector can learn with but little study, how to decide whether any suspicious looking stamps which he possesses are genuine or not. In many cases however, a duplicate will be required for comparison.

The rough imitations, simply produced by printing in the correct colors from cuts, are worthy of no attention. I shall explain about such as are remarkable for the skill and shrewdness displayed by the forger.

Many forgeries are discovered from the perforation, as forgers often use but one machine for all their perforating, and all their stamps will be found perforated the same number of times. But, as all stamps of different countries, or even of the same countries, are not perforated the same number of times, these imitations can be detected, because of

the wrong number of perforations. I have known of some stamps perforated only seven times, while others range even as high as fifteen. I learn from R. B. Earee, that the usual guage employed in counterfeiting, perforates thirteen.

A Collector who has a doubtful stamp should be careful not to remove any of the gum, for in the case of the old stamps, the genuineness can often be settled by the gum alone. In the originals the gum will be found darkened in color this change made by nature, the forger finds difficult to imitate.

Collectors who hitherto have given no notice to water-mark, should learn what it is, and what it should be in every stamp, for here is where the forgers mostly fail. I clip from an article by the Rev. R. B. Earee, the nearest approach to success: "Lately I have come across one or two other forged water-marks, done by a different process. In these latter, as far as I can make out by examination of specimens, the form of the water-mark has been engraved, and then used on the stamp with great pressure, in an embossing press, without ink. The stamp has then been ironed out flat; but the pressure used with the die has made the paper transparent where the forged water-mark was embossed; the result being a capital imitation. I have at present, only seen these forged water-marks on some of the Tuscany stamps, and also on the 2 rigs-bank skilling, first issue, of Denmark; but no doubt others will exist, even if they do not do so already. Therefore my readers

must be careful not only to see that their stamps which ought to have a water-mark, really do possess one, but also that it be the proper water-mark, as to size, shape, etc.

In a poor and careless executed forgery, one look at the cancellation is sufficient; but of late forgers have even given their attention to copying the cancellation mark. As the cancellation mark of all countries can not be learned, we can not hope to detect all stamps in this way. Always give your attention to the paper on which your stamp is printed. If your doubtful specimen will stand all the tests just mentioned, you are justified in claiming that it is good, provided that the design is correctly executed.

In conclusion I will state a few of the tricks which a skillful forger will employ to put his stamps in the hands of dealers and collectors. I have in my possession several specimens of the forged 10-cent Prince Edward's Island stamp, resembling and intended as one of the issue. The author of these bought up a large number of the genuine sets, and placing his among them, sold quite a large quantity. Many of our leading dealers were fooled upon this stamp, and a space was even allotted in our albums.

Another cute method is to send a forgery to the inexperienced editors of philatelic papers, and have the stamp chronicled as a new issue. Of course this establishes a sale for the forgery, if a good one. Dishonest dealers will adopt every mode of swind

ling their customers. I heard of a well-known dealer, who was selling Brazil issue with small Roman figure having forged perforations, in as much as the perforated are worth ten times as much as the unperforated. If you undertake the study of forgeries, I am sure you will find it an interesting branch of our hobby."—S. C. C.

The various Stamp Journals of this country are to be commended for their various efforts in trying to suppress and expose dealers in counterfeit stamps. This meritorious act should not cease until the whole pack of counterfeiters are made to go out of the business. They do more harm toward stamp collecting than can be imagined at a glance. When a collector finds that some of his choicest specimens in his collection are counterfeits, he gets disgusted, and ceases to collect. Were it not for these counterfeiters who infest New York, (and whose names it will not be necessary to mention) there would not be half as many dealers in them; through these swindlers small dealers out of town are supplied with bogus stamps, and by these means counterfeits are imposed upon the market by unprincipled dealers who do not care; they only look forward to what can be made by doing so. We have in view a few of these dealers, who have extended their operations too far to be good to the stamp collecting public, and we warn them unless they stop their infamous trade, we shall expose them in full. Counterfeits are becoming more num-

erous every day. Collectors should be careful to purchase of reliable dealers only. Many persons labor under the impression that if a stamp is used it is genuine; this is not so; some of the most dangerous counterfeits are obliterated by a postmark, it being a valuable cloak to hide any defect there may be in the stamp itself. In addition to bogus stamps mentioned in our last, we would warn collectors against the following, of which there are a great many afloat: Straits Settlements, St. Helena, Cape of Good Hope, Shanghai, Virgin Islands, Buenos Ayres, Cuba, Figi Islands, and a number of others, which we shall mention in an early number.—S. C.M.

A great many, in fact most philatelic writers seem to think that this is the curse of philately, but I am of a different opinion, I do not mean that I hold with them, far from it, but out of evil there generally is some good to be derived; now, for instance, if there was no forgeries, very few philatelists would have taken the trouble to examine and make a study of stamps as they do: then, again, there is little fear of being deceived, for how very seldom do we meet with a forgery that cannot be told at a glance—it is quite an exception to meet with a good forgery, I suppose for the simple reason that to imitate a stamp well would cost too much, first for the engraving, next to have the paper made the exact color, quality, water-mark, etc., would necessitate an outlay greater than a person would be likely to receive by their sale.

I should also like to know what is the use of all the books, etc. on forged stamps, published in England; the best of these is undoubtedly the one recently published in London, edited by the well known authority on forged stamps—the Rev. R. B. Earee. It contains, I think, over 500 pages, and copiously illustrated, and the publishing price is \$1.75; now it is a known fact that old and experienced collectors are very seldom, if ever, taken in, but the young collectors, or school boys, who look out for bargains. I should like to know how many of these can afford \$1.75 for a book on forged stamps; had that book been brought out in a less expensive form, or in parts it would have been of great use, as it is however, I fear it will have a very limited sale at home or abroad.

In the English Philatelic papers I see that a gentleman has offered to form a Philatelic Society, and furnish rooms, etc., free, and that a small annual subscription should be paid to get a library together but the collectors in England run shy to join, though this would be the best way to guard against forgeries, as before buying stamps the purchaser could exhibit his approval sheets at the meeting, and would be soon told if they were genuine or not.

In conclusion I warn beginners against purchasing stamps for a cent or two that are catalogued at forty or fifty cents, for it is very seldom such a bargain is to be met with, as any dealer would be willing to purchase such stamps at one-half his retail price.—B. W. in C. L. T.

POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTING.

The collecting of postage stamps is not always such a frivolous pastime or occupation as many people imagine.

These little bits of colored paper, ornamented with portraits, or coats-of-arms, or peculiar devices have a great deal of information in them. They tell of the rise and fall of princes; of the history of the republics; of the manners and customs of the people; of the peculiar characteristics of the country. The French and Spanish stamps are epitomes of the histories of their respective countries; The English colonial stamps are a geography in themselves; and South American stamps present a fine display of mottoes and devices; from the West Indian stamps we learn something of the peculiar characteristics of these islands; while in the stamps of our own country, in common with others issuing from other quarters of the globe, we have national portrait galleries.

While postage stamps are being collected, or when they are put into their albums, they are examined and studied. The map is consulted to find the location of the countries issuing them. The history is opened to find whose portraits are figured on them. The cyclopedia is brought out to get some idea of their value. Some learned friend is questioned to find the meaning of the peculiar inscriptions and legends. And little by little, this research goes on, until the collector often finds himself, in a manner getting hints of almost everything

of interest going on in the world. If Russia and Turkey are quarreling over Montenegro, he can discuss the cause of the trouble. He found it out when he was examining the Montenegrin stamps in his album. When a young boy is placed on the throne of Spain, and the collector's attention is called to that country, stamps show him the many changes in that unfortunate country; and Amadeus, and Don Carlos, and Isabella and the proud and haughty nation that unveiled a new continent, pass before him like a panorama. The centennial is spoken of; our young collector takes out his album and sees Franklin with his kite, Washington at Yorktown, Perry on the lakes, Jefferson and Louisiana, Jackson behind the cotton bales at New Orleans, Scott on the plains of Mexico, and Lincoln with his emancipation proclamation.

In stamp collecting the judgment is sharpened in endeavoring to detect the good stamps, and to discard the counterfeits; the eye is drilled to appreciate the harmony and contrast of colors, in the proper arrangement of the stamps; patience is required and taste cultivated in the efforts to produce fine effects, and cases are known of foreign languages being learned, simply to enable the collector to decipher the legends and inscriptions on the stamps. A pursuit which is productive of so much good, should not be decried as a mere childish pastime.

The introduction of the postal system as it now

exists in all countries on the globe, has been credited to England, when, in 1840, covers and envelopes were devised to carry letters all over the kingdom at one penny the single rate. This plan was adopted through the exertions of Sir Rowland Hill, who has been aptly termed the "father of postage stamps." It now appears, however, that there is another aspirant for the introduction of the stamp system. In Italy as far back as 1818, letter sheets were prepared, duly stamped in the left lower corner while letters were delivered by specially appointed carriers, on the prepayment of the money which the stamp represented. The early stamp represented a courier on horseback, and was of three values. Whether Italy or Great Britain first introduced postage stamps, other countries began to avail themselves of the method for the prepayment of letters, although they did not move very promptly in the matter.

Great Britain enjoyed the monopoly of stamps for three years, and, though the first stamps were issued in 1840, she has made fewer changes in her stamps than any other country, and has suffered no change at all in the main design—the portrait of Queen Victoria. In other countries notably in our own, the Sandwich Islands, and the Argentine Republic, the honor of portraiture on the stamps is usually distributed among various high public officers; but in Great Britain the Queen alone figures on her stamps, and not even the changes that thirty,

five years have made in her face are shown on the national and colonial postage stamps.

The next country to follow the example of England was Brazil. In 1842 a series of three stamps was issued, consisting simply of large numerals denoting the value, and all printed in black. Then came the cantons in Switzerland and Finland, with envelopes which to-day are very rare, and soon after them, Bavaria, Belgium, France, Hanover, New South Wales, Tuscany, Austria, British Guiana, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig Holstein, Spain, Denmark, Italy, Oldenburg, Trinidad, Wurtemberg, and the United States. Other countries followed in the train, until, at the present moment, there is scarcely any portion of the globe inhabited by civilized people, which has not postage stamps.

HINTS TO COLLECTORS.

In looking through the collection of an amateur you are apt to find a large number of stamps that are worthless, being counterfeit, torn, or badly defaced stamps. It is also often the case in examining the collection of an advanced collector.

Now in collecting stamps, you should not try and see how many stamps you can get, but how fine a lot of stamps. A few badly torn or defaced stamps hurts the looks of a whole collection. Always bear

in mind that a counterfeit or torn stamp, no matter how rare it is, is worthless, and should not be allowed to enter your collection. In buying or exchanging for a stamp, if you are not a good judge of counterfeits, show it to some friend or collector that is, and be satisfied that it is genuine. There are a great many counterfeits of rare stamps, such as San Domingo, Reunion Isles, Buenos Ayres, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., Paraguay, Bolivia and other stamps, of course designs that are very deceiving, afloat. So it is policy to use good judgment in purchasing from reliable dealers, or persons, personally known to you.

Never stick a stamp fast to your album, for if you should ever want to remove it you would be apt to badly soil your album getting it out, or else tear the stamp.

Coins are getting to be quite extensively collected in this country. In collecting them about the same rules should be observed as in stamps, "never let a counterfeit, pierced or marred specimen enter your collection."

By observing the above hints, a collector, although a small one, will have a collection that he will not need to be afraid to show even to an advanced collector. And if tastefully arranged they will look very attractive—M. P.

Exchange Notices.

The following collectors wish to exchange stamps, and also desire dealers price-lists. We advise collectors to write before sending stamps.

F. F. Fletcher, St. Johnsburg, Vt.

George L. Hager, Box 6, Jefferson City, Mo.

C. W. McMillan, Box 807, Charleston, S. C.

Bailey M. Buck, 220 Capitol Av. Lansing, Mich.

W. G. Saxton, 92 W. Tuscarawas Av., Canton, Ohio.

Charlie Anderton, 21 Sycamore St. Dayton, O.

Hugo Kuenstler, 296 Tenth Av. New York.

C. E. Mayo, Box 291, Bristol R. I.

H. F. Robinson, Box 258, Wausau, Wis.

C. O. Osborne, Cuba, N. Y.

A. Lorne, Los Angeles, Cal.

A. Dawson, care Merchants' Nat'l Bank, Providence, R. I.

J. H. Houston, 204 B. St. N. W. Washington D. C.

"IT" WANTS TO BE A DEALER.

R. Titus, Bellville, Ont., alias Lewis Mason Brighton, Ont., is advertising under the name of S. L. Titus, Bellville, Ont., Canada, to sell samps. He has, no doubt, a good stock, as he swindled almost every dealer in America out of sheets.

I have a \$3.25 claim against him, and any collector who can obtain stamps from him to that amount, may keep them with my compliments. If he objects, don't return the stamps, but write to me, and I will make it all right. C. C. SIMMONS.

A person dating from Liverpool, is offering stamps, which are obviously forgeries, at very low prices. Our readers must be on their guard. In his communication to advertisers, he is offering 2d per name and address of stamp collectors which may be sent him, saying, "No doubt you have replies from persons that require stamps you have not got, or from some you do not care to deal with: now I am willing to offer you 2d per answer (name and address, taking them all round). Should this be so, and you care to hand them to me, in case of my corresponding, should you prefer, you may rely on my not mentioning your name." We trust that none of our younger readers will be tempted by the offer to be so dishonorable as to divulge the names of their correspondents. We do not give the name of the man, as we do not care to give him an advertisement, for, unfortunately there are a certain number of persons who would be only too glad to be able to buy forgeries to palm off on young collectors as genuine stamps.—The Bazar.

Dealers in Counterfeits.

E. M. Hardee, alias T. Westron, Boston, Mass.

L. Perkins, Philadelphia, Pa.

Englehart Folul, Saxony.

H. Baum, Switzerland.

Dodson & Co. Sheffield, England.

Star Stamp Co., Port Hope, Ontario.

Atlas Stamp Co., New York.

Equitable Stamp Co., New York.

Eastern Traffic Co., Richmond, Va.

Wallace, Healy & Co., Richmond, Va.

Union Stamp Co., New York.

Triumph Stamp Co., Richmond, Va.

D. Gifford, East Cambridge, Mass.

Chas. E. Degener, New York.

T. Gibson, Montreal, Canada.

Tom Stevens, Bournemouth, England.

Some send—me—a—sheet young men,
 Some never did cheat young men,
 Your stamps are mislaid,
 They are lost I'm afraid,
 Some hard to beat young men.

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 Thos. J. Henrique, San Francisco.
 Chas. Adams, San Francisco.

COLORADO.

Sam L. Grant, Denver.
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Eddie A. Peck, Waterbury.
 Geo. H. Strogoff, Waterbury.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Ed. Ramsey, Washington.

ILLINOIS.

W. Jerrems, 38 Aldine Sq. Chicago.
 J. M. Jacobs, Chicago.
 B. Hudson, 169 Chapel St. Chicago.
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 H. G. Burnett, 519 6th Avenue, New York.
 N. Martin, 111 South Street, New York.
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 Sam T. Hunt, 21 Park Row, New York.
 C. Henry, New York.
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F. G. Ogden, Elizabeth.

Bogart F. Conkling, Somerville.

Charles Wheeler, Bergen Point.

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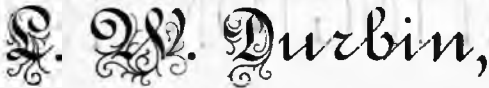
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