



and



Congress

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society
2nd & 4th (7:30pm) *Wednesday's*

Edgemere Retirement Center
8523 Thackrey
Dallas, TX

CSA Stamps
Fakes, Counterfeits, Reprints, Facsimiles
Springfield Facsimiles

We begin our discussion with the Springfield Facsimiles as these are the fakes that are most commonly seen. Here is the story behind these fakes: Beginning in the mid 1930's a set of 14 counterfeits of the Confederate General Issue stamps was made and sold by a stamp dealer in Springfield, Mass. These facsimiles were also used in the so-called TASCOS Booklets prepared in 1941. TASCOS stands for Tatham Stamp Company of Springfield, Mass. In order to make the counterfeits, a set of original drawings made by August Dietz in 1919 were used. The drawings were copyrighted, and the use of these drawings was done without the permission of August Dietz. These counterfeits were made and sold as singles or as blocks of four in either unused or used condition. Since they originated in Springfield, Mass they have come to be known to collectors as the "Springfield Facsimiles." Protests over these fakes were issued at the time, and the maker then agreed to stop selling the bogus used ones and to put the word "facsimile" (sometimes misspelled as "facsimilie") on the backs of the unused stamps. But a number had already been sold, so these fakes exist both with and without the word "facsimile" on the back. And there are still some "Springfield Facsimiles" floating around with phony postmarks, and some have even been used to create phony covers. These fakes are everywhere and still fool many of the uninformed collectors today. The 14 Springfield Facsimiles are illustrated below.





The Springfield Facsimiles were all printed on paper that was far different from the paper used for the genuine stamps. Many of the facsimiles were printed on a bleached white paper while others were printed on a yellowish newsprint type paper. Being familiar with the papers is the best way to tell the difference between these facsimiles and the genuine stamps. On the fakes that are not marked "Facsimile" on the back, here is how to distinguish them from the real thing

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- The CSA #1 and #4 facsimiles differ from the originals in the paper used and in the overall appearance. The facsimiles have a flat appearance, and the vertical lines under the value are incomplete or missing altogether.
- The CSA #2 and #5 facsimiles differ from the originals in the paper used and in the appearance of the portrait design and the general flat appearance. Some of these facsimiles are termed the "pouting mouth" design because of the appearance of Thomas Jefferson's lower lip. Also, the facsimiles have distinct cross-hatching around the portrait whereas the genuine stamps have only a suggestion of cross-hatching.
- The CSA #3 facsimile is the most dangerous. Again it is the paper that is different. Also, in the facsimiles there are various missing periods after the "C.S.A." and the crossbar of the "T" of "TWO" is usually not connected to the upright bar.
- CSA #6 and #7 facsimiles are 1mm narrower than the originals and the lines of color in the background and the face are the same intensity. In the originals, these lines of color are darker in the background and lighter on the face.
- The facsimiles of CSA #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13 should fool no-one. The original stamps are all engraved whereas the facsimiles are not engraved. Therefore, the facsimiles have neither the look nor the feel of an engraved stamp. Instead, the facsimiles have a flat smooth feel and appearance.
- The CSA #14 facsimile is clearer and more detailed than the original but still has a somewhat dull appearance and was printed on very white paper. The facsimile is also 1mm taller than the original.

Altered Plates

The private printing reprints (proofs) from the 2c and 10c Altered Plates of the CSA #6 and CSA #14 stamps are also extremely common. These Altered Plate printings are not genuine CSA stamps but were instead printed privately over the years from the plates and portions of the plates which are still in existence. The story of the Altered Plates is somewhat complex.



New York Counterfeits

Another very common counterfeit which is found frequently in collections and in dealer's stock is the New York Counterfeit of the CSA #6 stamp. This stamp is very commonly mistaken for the real stamp by collectors and dealers alike. To fully understand the story behind the New York Counterfeits one must first be aware of the story behind the Altered Plates as the two are tied together. If you have not already reviewed the Altered Plates story above, then please do so now as it will help you to understand these counterfeits.

These counterfeits were made in the 19th Century not long after the end of the war with the apparent express purpose of deceiving collectors. They were made in New York City, hence the name "New York Counterfeit." Someone apparently got their hands on a flawless section of the 5c to 10c Altered Plate that had recently been broken up. A print was made from this section and the value tablet was redrawn back to the original "FIVE CENTS." Apparently some sort of a photographic technique with which I am not familiar was used to combine the print with the redrawn value tablet and used to construct a new printing plate of 100 subjects. A large quantity of these counterfeits were then printed.

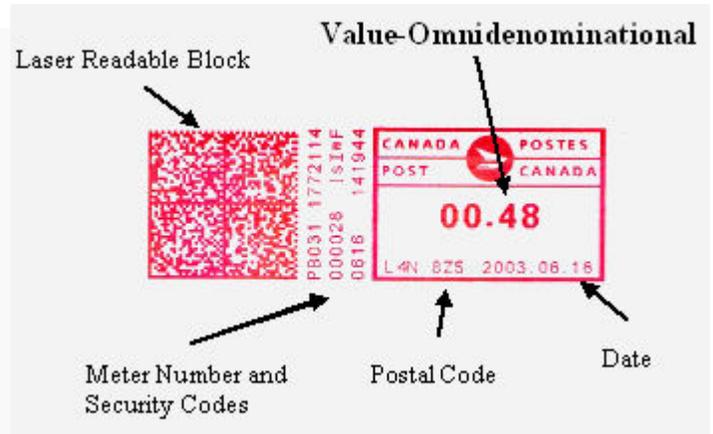
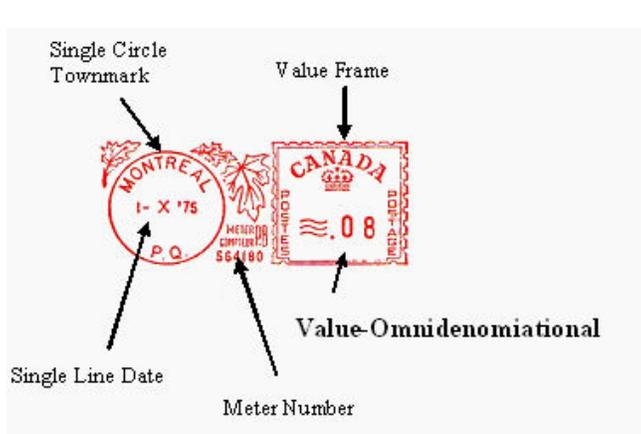
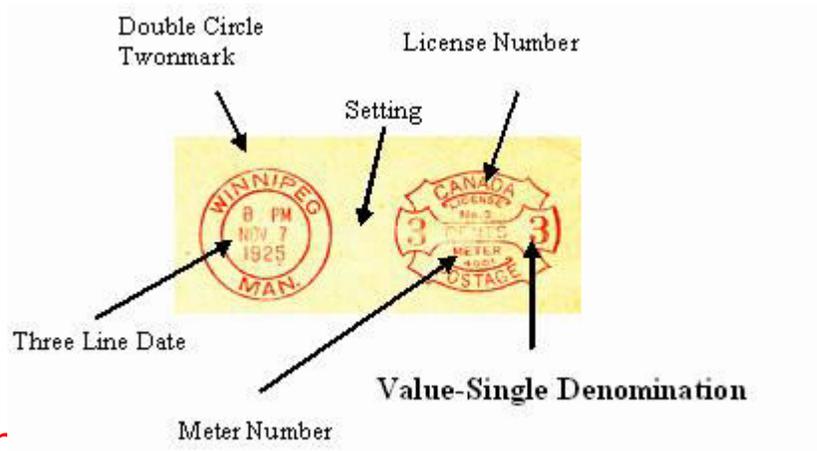
But these counterfeiters made some mistakes. The counterfeits are actually very easy to tell from the originals. But you have to be aware of their existence and also know what to look for. The counterfeits have a somewhat flat appearance with a very distinctive blue-green color. The original CSA #6 stamps were never printed in a blue-green color but are all a uniform blue or light blue color. There is a somewhat cloudy appearance to the design of the counterfeit and a sleepy look to the portrait with nearly closed eyes. Also, the hair of the portrait appears mostly solid while the original has distinct lines in the hair. But the easiest to see characteristic other than the sickly blue-green color is the mistake that was made in redoing the value tablet. The crossbars of the "F" and the "E" of "FIVE" are distinctly shorter than the originals. Beware the New York Counterfeits as they have no significant value except as a reference item.



Meters



1st meter



*Meeting Minutes***March 23, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding.

16 Members and at least 7 guests were present.

Program

- Club social. Mark Solomon graciously provided the wine, and the Edgemere, under the direction of George Clayton, provided the appetizers and a dessert. A couple of members also brought desserts.

Announcements

- Dave Kyser auctioned off a few items.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- Jack's album drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

April 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding.

24 Members and 1 guest were present.

Officer Reports

- Secretary's report – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.
- Treasurer's report – The Treasurer's report will be distributed separately.
- Program VP's report – TEXPEX One Page Displays will be discussed by exhibitors; April 27, Quarterly Auction; May 11, "Texas Postal History Transatlantic Mail", speaker Tom Koch
- Editor's report – There will be an April newsletter due at the end of the Month.

Membership report – Total: 46; 2016 dues paid: 35; delinquent: 11.

- Publicity report – Chris Titus provided statistics on the club Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- Ralph Blackburn voted into club by membership.
- Stan Bartnikowski and Ralph Blackburn auctioned stamps.
- The club awarded the TEXPEX prize to Paul Witthoft for his work in putting together the the One Page Club display.

Program

- TEXPEX One Page exhibitors discussed their displays.

Announcements

- Mike Smith, President MCSC, invited DPSPS members to participate in an Auction April 26 at MCSC Granbury meeting. The auction lots will be distributed in a separate email by the club secretary.

Trivia/Show & Tell

- None.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- Stuart Barzune, Joe Baker, Bill Davis and Stan Bartnikowski graciously donated door prizes for the membership. The Jack's album drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Stamp & Tongs**APS GOLD AWARD****Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter****Rick Houghland, Editor****2016 DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**President **Geoff Owens**Vice President **Stan Bartnikowski**Secretary **Joe Baker**Treasurer **Jack Urish**Directors **Jon Cagley****Chris Titus****Perry Denton**