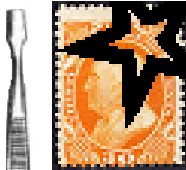




and



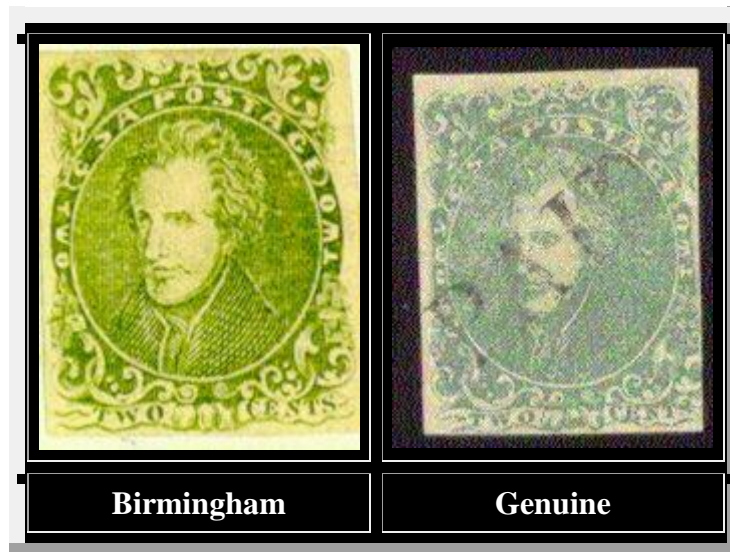
CSA Stamps Fakes, Counterfeits, Reprints, Facsimiles

Birmingham Counterfeits

Reproductions of CSA #1, CSA #3, and CSA #4 were made some time in the past reportedly in Birmingham, England. The reproductions themselves were lithographed and were so good that they even found their way into certain catalogs and albums as illustrations for the genuine stamp. These Birmingham Counterfeits are actually somewhat scarce and also have significant value as a collectible item in their own right -- but not as great a value as the genuine stamp. The 5c values CSA #1 and CSA #4 are quite easy to tell from the originals by one major characteristic. The scroll ornament at the lower right corner in the counterfeit is circular whereas in the original it is distinctly oval. Also, the appearance of the Jefferson Davis portrait on the counterfeit is somewhat different and has been described as the "Silly Grin" appearance. Below is illustrated only the CSA #1 Birmingham Counterfeit as the CSA #4 Counterfeit is exactly the same with the only difference being the blue color.



The Birmingham Counterfeit of the 2c value CSA #3 illustrated below is rarely seen. The Birmingham Counterfeit of the CSA #3 can be distinguished from the original by a rich yellow-green color, a well formed nose (much better than the original), the absence of all three periods after "C. S. A." and the absence of some small ornamentation at the top center. Birmingham #3 illustration courtesy of Peter Powell of Richmond, Va.



Sperati Forgeries

The famous French forger, Jean de Sperati, counterfeited two of the Confederate stamps -- the 10c rose CSA #5 and the 10c (T-E-N) CSA #9. His reproductions, especially of the CSA #9, are of excellent quality. Almost all of them are signed on the back with the Sperati signature, but there are still a number of the Sperati forgeries that are unsigned. Illustrated below is the Sperati CSA #9 Forgery. There are a number of minor distinguishing marks, but the most prominent is the fact that the "T" and "E" of "TEN" are joined at the top in the forgery and are distinctly separate in the original. Otherwise, the forgery is almost indistinguishable from the genuine.



The Sperati CSA #5 Forgery is rare and is seldom seen. There are quite a number of differences between the Sperati #5 and the Genuine #5. In the illustration below, I have pointed out the four most prominent and easy to see characteristics found on the Sperati #5 Forgery. The Sperati #5 illustration is courtesy of Peter Powell of Richmond, Va.

1. The "1" of the upper left "10" is smaller than the "0" and under magnification appears as a "3."
2. The upper right star has a color dot in the center.

3. The "1" of the lower left "10" has a color flaw at the bottom.
4. Another colorless flaw appears below and slightly to the right of the "0" in the lower left "10."



Sperati was also known to have forged certain postmarks. Most of these forged postmarks are found on his own reproduction stamps, but some are also found on genuine CSA stamps. The most famous is a New York City PAID 12 ship marking on a CSA #8 stamp illustrated to the left. Other postmarks that he was known to have forged are Charleston SC; Chattanooga, Tenn (Aug 8, 1863); Cincinnati, O; New Orleans, La / 2 (partial strike); and Richmond, Va (July 9, 1863 and May 10, 1865). Sperati Reproductions are very collectible items in their own right. For example, the Sperati CSA #9 sells for almost as much as the genuine stamp. But the Sperati fake cancels on the contrary have only a nominal value of a few dollars.



There are in existence numerous deceptive labels which have the look of genuine Confederate issues but are in reality entirely bogus. These items are very deceptive to the average collector as many of them were made many years ago and very often turn up in older collections. They are interesting in their own right, but are not rare and are not particularly valuable. Do not be taken in by the fantasies. I have put together a page illustrating and explaining some of the more commonly seen fantasies. Click the link below to view the fantasies and use the back button to return to this page.

[Fake Provisionals](#)

We now come to my last planned section on the subject of Fake and Phony Confederate Stamps -- the Fake (Reprint and Reproduction) Confederate Provisional Stamps. Provisional stamps were printed by postmasters in various cities and towns with the full permission of the Confederate Government to use until CSA General Issue stamps became available. There are quite a number of different CSA genuine provisional stamps, and many of them are quite rare. They were in use only locally during the latter months of 1861 and the very early months of 1862. We have CSA provisional stamps from such cities as New Orleans, Memphis, Mobile, Nashville, Charleston, Knoxville to name but a few. Refer to the new 2000 Scott USA Specialized Catalog for a full listing of these provisional stamps.

Album makers in the late 19th Century illustrated these provisional stamps in their albums. But many were so rare that the collectors of the day could not obtain them. Scott, Taylor, Upham and others therefore reproduced (copied) all these rare provisionals by the thousand just so the collectors would have something to put into their albums. (Yes it was the same Scott whose name is on the catalog). Consequently, these reproduction fakes (often referred to incorrectly as reprints when they are actually counterfeits or forgeries) were mostly done in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and always show up in older collections. The fake provisionals are distinguished from the fantasies discussed above in that these fake provisionals are actually copies of real genuine stamps whereas the fantasies never existed as a genuine stamp. In some cases actual reprints of the provisional stamps (later private printings from the same plates as the originals) also exist.

Make no mistake, these fake reproduction provisionals are essentially worthless labels. They have only a token monetary value as a reference item. But many of these fakes are so good that the uninformed collector can easily mistake them for the real thing. The problem was compounded by album makers and catalog publishers because many of the illustrations used in some albums and catalogs are of the reproductions and not the genuine stamps. I am in the process of putting together a demonstration page of the more commonly seen CSA Provisionals with details on how to tell the fakes from the genuine ones. Fake ones turn up all the time on E-Bay Auctions and in dealers' stocks misidentified as genuine. In this area, it is truly a "Buyer Beware" market. Be very careful with the CSA Provisional Stamps. Click the link below to view the Fake Provisional Page and use the back button to return to this page. The Fake CSA Provisionals page has multiple images, so it may take a minute or two to load.

 [-- Fake CSA Provisionals --](#) 

This discussion on the fake and phony CSA issues is in no way complete, nor was it meant to be. What has been shown and described are the items which the average general collector is more likely to encounter. If I have missed any items that you would like to see discussed or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an E-mail. I hope that this demonstration has been of some value.

Herm Island

Herm Island for many people is probably best known for its colourful postal history, having issued its own stamps for a 20 year period from 1949 to 1969 when Channel Islands postal services came under the auspices of the British Post Office. Failure by this authority to recognise the need for a regular postal link brought about this inter-island service and Herm's own issues were used in conjunction with the Guernsey regional stamps of the British Post Office to help defray some of the operational costs involved.

Over the years this proved to be a beneficial and popular amenity, appealing particularly to the 100,000 or so annual visitors to the island. Then, on the 1st October 1969 the British Post Office became a public corporation from which Guernsey wished to remain apart, and so consequently formed its own Post Office Board, issuing its own stamps. The new Board on seeing the volume of mail from Herm-as many as 200,000 items per year-then promptly decided to ban any local issues, making it an offence to use them under penalty of heavy fines. An official Sub-Post Office was then opened on Herm where now only Guernsey stamps may be bought and used for posting, although mail is still cancelled 'Herm Island' With a metal hand stamp.

We are still able to offer a comprehensive range of Herm Island stamps from the original printing at realistic prices. For further details of the various mint sets, first day covers, proofs and colour trials which make a unique and appreciating collection.

*Meeting Minutes***April 27, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM., Geoff Owens presiding. 23 Members and 2 guest were present.

Officer Reports

- Secretary's report – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.
- Treasurer's report – No report due.
- Program VP's report – Quarterly Auction tonight; May 11, "Texas Postal History Transatlantic Mail", speaker Tom Koch; and May 25, "Spring Cleaning Bourse".
- Editor's report – The April newsletter has been published.
- Membership report – 44 members, 36 paid.
- Publicity report – No report.

Old Business/New Business

- Edward Ulbricht membership application approved.

Program

- Quarterly Auction held.

Announcements

- The April 26 Granbury auction postponed to May 24 due to weather.

Trivia/Show & Tell

- Rod Gabel discussed "Guam" written by Harry Pederson and published in Possessions, The Journal of the US Possessions Philatelic Society, about letters written by Gunner Cox and early Guam postal history.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- Jack Urish and Geoff Owens graciously donated door prizes for the membership. Rod Gabel and Ivan Zuniga were the winners of the donated door prizes. The album drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

May 11, 2016

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

25 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 – Guest speaker Tom Koch discussed "Texas Postal History Transatlantic Mail" tonight; May 25, "Spring Cleaning Bourse"; and June 8th Stan Bartnikowski will speak about the "Travels of Pope John Paul II".
- Editor's report – The May newsletter is being drafted.
- Membership report – 45 members, 38 paid, and 1 application for membership.
- Publicity report – No report.
- Exhibits – The TexPex One Page exhibit s have been all returned to members.

Old Business/New Business

- None.

Program

Tom Koch discussed the different Postal Treaty agreements in effect between US and European Countries that affected Texas. Trivia/Show & Tell

- Ben Schkolne had a question in regards to a Prexie precancel. Keith Johnson showed the members several Bhutan stamps that he acquired during his visit to Bhutan. Stan Bartnikowski circulated several pictures of different European mail boxes. Jack Urish circulated Hungarian postal labels and expat certificate. Jack Urish and Stan Bartnikowski auctioned stamps.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- Stan Bartnikowski, Ed Ulbricht, Bill Davis and Joseph Baker donated door prizes. The album drawing was held. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

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Stamp & Tongs**APS GOLD AWARD****Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter****Rick Houghland, Editor****2016 DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**President **Geoff Owens**Vice **Stan Bartnikowski**

President

Secretary **Joe Baker**Treasurer **Jack Urish**Directors **Jon Cagley****Chris Titus****Perry Denton**