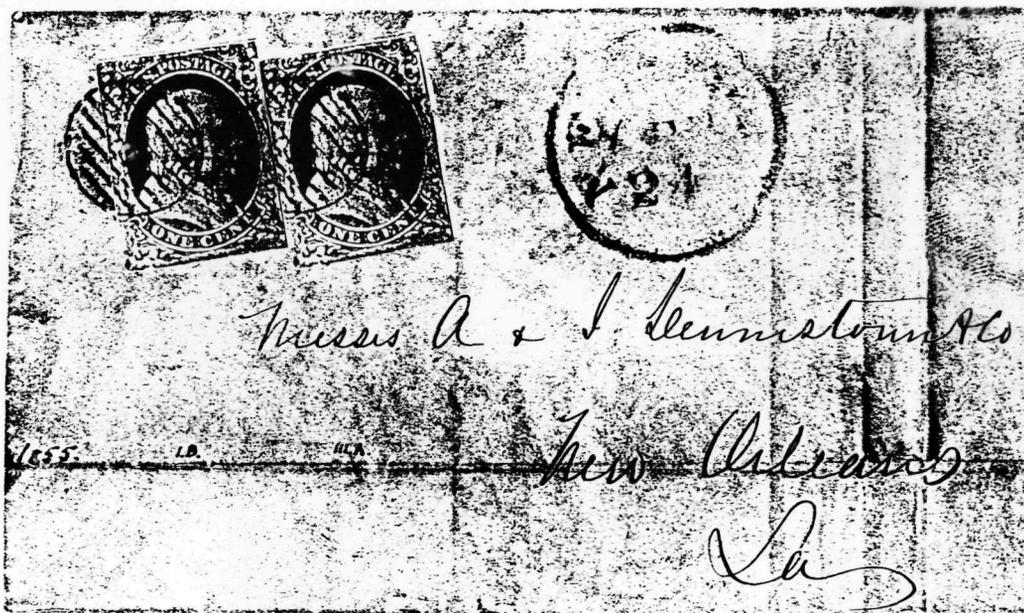


FORGED POSTAGE STAMPS of the AMERICAS

EXCLUDING
BRITISH EMPIRE



ILLUSTRATED REFERENCE MANUAL

by
H. Bynof-Smith

**FORGED
POSTAGE STAMPS
of the
AMERICAS**

**EXCLUDING
BRITISH EMPIRE**

ILLUSTRATED REFERENCE MANUAL

Items selected from
The Bynof-Smith collection of Forged Postage Stamps of the World

FORGED
POSTAGE STAMPS
OF THE
AMERICAS
FORGED
BRITISH EMPIRE

ISBN
0 646 05265/9
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BYNOF-SMITH
1991
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

WORD PROCESSING
& TEXT EDITING BY
BEVERLEY HAMANN

424269

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PREFACE

This reference manual is presented as a companion volume to 'FORGED POSTAGE STAMPS of the BRITISH EMPIRE' published in 1990.

The contents of the INTRODUCTION are basically the same as in the previous manual except that those parts of the text particularly relating to the BRITISH EMPIRE have been replaced with information relevant to the stamps of the countries of North, Central and South America but excluding countries which are or were part of the British Empire.

In many ways the study and hence detection of the forged stamps of the AMERICAS is more difficult and more time consuming than the comparative study of the forgeries of the British Empire.

For example; numerous British Empire stamp issues from about 1862 were engraved, they were watermarked and many were perforated, making detection for forgeries relatively easy. They were invariably printed in England by one or two well known establishments.

In the case of the AMERICAS most of the issues of the small Central American countries were printed outside their country, either in the United States or France, whilst most South American countries had their stamps printed locally.

Most of the genuine stamp issues of the countries of the AMERICAS prior to the 1860's were imperforate except for the United States which issued its first perforate stamps in 1857. Very few of these nineteenth century issues were watermarked, making a more thorough and detail investigation necessary to determine the differences between the genuine and forgery. Usually a magnifying glass is required to ascertain the minute difference in the design and method of printing. (Checking by colour is not a reliable test as age, length of exposure to daylight and quality of printing can result in subtle colour changes).

The majority of the forgeries described and illustrated in this manual relate to genuine stamps issued by the authorities between 1842 - 1898.

However there are forgeries of later issues included; Honduras (1902); United States (1926, 1929, 1930 zeppelin); Bolivia (1930) and Uruguay (1908, 1934, 1947).

INTRODUCTION

What is a forged stamp? Is It a counterfeit? What is a fake? What constitutes a bogus stamp? What is a facsimile?

Every philatelist has at one time or another asked himself these questions.

Dictionary definition of 'forgery' include, 'counterfeit', a 'spurious thing', the act of forging, devising or inventing.

The American Stamp collectors Dictionary (1949 ed.) defines a forgery as 'a fraudulent imitation of a stamp, sometimes made to defraud the postal authorities, or to swindle collectors'.

In his publication 'Philatelic Forgers', V. E. Tyler (1976 ed.) defines 'forgery' in a broad sense, "it is synonymous with counterfeit, facsimile, imitation, reproduction, reprint-forgery, fake or even bogus items.

However the definition of a forged stamp used by the author in this reference manual is offered as 'AN IMITATION OF ANY STAMP ISSUED BY A POSTAL AUTHORITY'. This includes a facsimile, a counterfeit, fakes and in some instances bogus issues.

Many philatelists consider that the definition of a forged stamp must include words such as 'to defraud', 'to deceive'. Although the majority of forgers produced stamps for gain by fraud or deception, there are many others who simply forged stamps for collectors to be used as 'space fillers' and advertised these as such.

In philatelic circles there are two recognized types of facsimile (a) an imitation of a stamp produced by a forger with the words 'facsimile' superimposed, (b) the production of a 'true copy' of a genuine stamp usually officially authorized to celebrate or publicize a particular or important event. In the majority of instances they are printed as part of a brochure or exhibition catalogue.

These 'facsimiles' should not be confused with official reprints since they have no official status and are invariably printed by contemporary methods. However, these 'true copy' facsimiles are only superficially the same as the genuine items. They are produced on different paper, from different dies and plates from the genuine. They will vary in colour and perforation, and invariably be devoid of any watermark and therefore should be classified as forgeries. Especially is this so when they could be subsequently offered as genuine by some unscrupulous party.

Faked stamps are those which are usually of genuine origin but have been repaired, regummed, changed, perforations added or deleted, colour changelings, paper thickness altered, or cancellations removed and the like.

As mentioned previously, not all forged stamps are produced solely to defraud a postal authority or deceive a collector. Forgers, the like of Francois Fournier and Philip Spiro, who operated between the latter part of the nineteenth century and World War 1, each produced forgeries that they classified as facsimiles and offered them to collectors as 'space fillers' to take the place of rarities which the average collector had no hope of acquiring.

However the majority of forgeries are known in two main categories: those items produced (a) to defraud a postal authority and (b) to deceive collectors.

Forgeries of the former type are rare and therefore most difficult and expensive to obtain.

A large majority are of the latter category. They are common and not too hard to obtain. However, they range in quality from good to poor to crude. Forgeries in this group are not likely to deceive most collectors.

Francois Fournier even printed a sixty-four page catalogue of 'Facsimiles' with price lists to suit the 'little man'. This catalogue was officially registered as a trademark in Berne, Switzerland in 1913.

V. E. Tyler in his excellent publication titled 'Philatelic Forgers' - Their Lives and Works, lists the names of eighty-four forgers. However only a small number of these produced forgeries of a high quality.

Of these, Sperati, Panelli, Spiro, Fournier, Hussey and Scott, come to mind as forgers whose reproductions were of first class quality and therefore require careful scrutiny. Many of their reproductions, usually of very rare and valuable stamps, require the use of magnification to determine their status.

The countries for reference in this manual are listed alphabetically in accordance with Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, except for the United States where the Scotts Specialized catalogue was used. It includes most of the countries of North, Central and South America, from issues covering the years 1842-1947.

Although the genuine stamps were issued during this period, it does not mean that all of the forged counterparts were produced at the same time.

Sperati and Panelli in particular, separately produced excellent forgeries during the 1910-1950 period. However, the greatest number of forged stamps were produced between the second half of the nineteenth century and World War 1.

This manual does not describe or illustrate stamp forgeries of every country of the AMERICAS, nor does it claim that every stamp forgery of the countries selected has been included in this reference work. Nor is it claimed that the material or items selected have been described or illustrated correctly in every detail. In this regard the author would welcome comments and constructive advice on the material contained in the manual.

It will be apparent that there are obvious omissions, this is because some forgeries are so rare that they are practically unobtainable. Some forgeries obvious by appearance or of very poor quality have not been included irrespective of their origin.

Every stamp in this manual is shown to its original size. Colours are indicated in accordance with the Scotts colour guide.

Each genuine stamp or item is illustrated with a black surround in contrast to its forged counterpart.

In some illustrations the clarity of the reproduction is such that minute details of design are not readily perceived.

However, the illustrations are essentially for the purpose of identifying the issue, size and general characteristics of the stamp; similar in manner to the illustrations in stamp catalogues, such as Scott's and Gibbon's.

The illustrations are not intended to be studied in detail, since it is assumed that every specimen to be identified would be a specific study, checked in most cases by the use of a magnifying glass and related to the appropriate '*DETAIL TESTS*' of the text.

Some countries had a particular stamp forged more than once - in this manual the different productions are indicated by 'TYPE A', 'TYPE B', etc. This method of identification is not related in any way to the type listing in Scott's catalogue or any other reference work.

Since this manual deals essentially with the design and printing differences between genuine and forged stamps, the subject of cancellations has not been treated in any great depth.

Where a stamp with a cancellation is judged to be a forgery, the cancellation is invariably bogus.

On rare occasions however, one comes across forged stamps which have been postally used with genuine postmarks. These are very rare and of great philatelic interest, especially on cover. Such items require specialized study.

The text which accompanies the illustrations describe in detail the different types of forgeries and their genuine counterparts. Those forgeries of very crude printing or appearance may receive little or no commentary.

Most forgeries are lithographic printings and although often of good quality, they can be readily detected especially when compared with genuine engraved copies.

'Master Craftsman' forgers such as Sperati and Panelli produced excellent engraved forgeries which are most difficult to recognize. Often only a certificate from a reputable expert committee will determine the stamps status.

One might be of the opinion that forged stamps are of little monetary value, but this is not so. For example; forgeries produced by Sperati command high prices - the 10 CENTS 'Washington Head' issue of 1847 of United States would bring about \$250. at auction and his 5 CENT forgery of the New York Postmaster's Provisional, would realize about \$200.

Of course the degree of scarcity and the quality of production of any forgery will determine its value as is the case of genuine stamps.

The detail study and research involved in the detection and classification of postage stamp forgeries can be time consuming and often frustrating, but is never-the -less most fascinating and rewarding.

To ascertain and pinpoint the often minute difference in design and printing between the genuine stamps and its forged counterpart, gives satisfaction of achievement and supreme enjoyment to every collector of postage stamp forgeries.

MEXICO

First stamp issued 1856.

GENUINE. Issue of 1856-1861. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla.
Engraved.
No wmk.
Imperf.
Colours. MEDIO REAL - blue, buff.
UN REAL - yellow, green.
DOS REALES - yellow-green, pink.
QUATRO REALES - rose, yellow, red.
OCHO REALES - red-lilac, green, red-brown.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed.
No wmk.
Imperf.

TYPE A.

Colours. MEDIO REALES - pale blue.
UN REALES - black/grey-green.
OCHO REALES - blue-grey/toned.

DETAIL TESTS.

* *Name panel at top reads 'MEDICO' - should read 'MEJICO'.*
* *'MEDIO REALES' and 'UN REALES' should read 'MEDIO REAL'. * Lettering too small and crude.*

TYPE B.

Colour. MEDIO REAL - prussian blue.

DETAIL TEST.

* *Name panel reads 'MEJIOS' - has 'OS' instead of 'CO'.*

TYPE C.

Colours. MEDIO REAL - blue/toned.
UN REAL - yellow.
DOS REALES - grey-black/toned.
QUATRO REALES - orange-red/yellow.
OCHO REALES - dull green/brown, black/pale red-brown.

DETAIL TEST.

* *'Curl' ornaments on top and right hand side of oval are missing.*

TYPE D.

Colour. DOS REALES - apple-green/toned.

DETAIL TESTS.

* *Coat lapel shading composed of straight lines - should be curved.*
* *Background of oval has diagonal hatching added.*

TYPE E. Attributed to F. Fournier.

Colours. QUATRO REALES - red/yellow.
OCHO REALES - brown-red/buff.

DETAIL TESTS.

* *Curl ornaments at top and sides missing. * Coat lapel not evident.*

MEXICO

-1856-61.

GENUINE .

Engraved
No wmk.
Impert.

With or without overprinted District name .



curl
on right side
of oval



FORGERIES.

Lithographed
No wmk.
Impert.

TYPE. A.

'D' should
be 'J'

should
be 'REAL'



TYPE. B.

'OS' instead
of 'CO'



TYPE. C.

curl on right side of oval is missing.



TYPE. D.

Sloping
lines
added to
background



TYPE. E.



MEXICO

Issue of 1864. Hidalgo. - Surcharged with district name.

GENUINE. Engraved.
 No wmk.
 Perf. 12.
 Colours. UN REAL - red.
 DOS REALES - blue.
 QUATRO REALES - brown.
 UN PESO - black.

FORGERIES. Attributed to F. Fournier.

Lithographed.

No wmk.

Perf. 11.

Colours. UN REAL - pale red-brown.
 DOS REALES - pale blue.
 QUATRO REALES - pale grey-brown.
 UN PESO - grey.

DETAIL TESTS.

* *No vertical shading lines in 'C' of 'MEJICO'.*

* *Letters in top panel are too thin.*

BOGUS SURCHARGES on GENUINE stamps.

1/2 on UN REAL in grey-black - thin numerals with long serifs.

1/2 on UN REAL in black - thick numerals with short serifs.

MEXICO

-1864-

GENUINE WITH BOGUS SURCHARGE.



GENUINE.

Engraved
No wmk.
Perf. 12.

2 lines of
shading
in 'C'



* Remainders - without district name overprint.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed
No wmk
Perf. 11.



No shading
lines in 'C'

MEXICO

GENUINE. Issue of 1864-1866. Coat of Arms.
 Engraved.
 No wmk.
 Imperf.
 Colours. TRES CENTAVOS - brown.
 MEDIO REAL - brown, lilac, grey.
 UN REAL - blue, ultramarine.
 DOS REALES - orange.
 QUATRO REALES - green.
 OCHO REALES - red.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed.
 No wmk.
 Imperf.

TYPE A. Attributed to F. Fournier.
 Colours. TRES CENTAVOS - brown.
 UN REAL - blue.

DETAIL TESTS.

- * *Letters small and uneven.*
- * *Serpent should have a 'head'.*
- * *Central strokes of 'M' of 'MEXICO' should touch line below.*
- * *'S' of 'CORREOS' too far from 'O'.*
- * *Downstroke of 'X' is thin - should be thick.*

TYPE B. Attributed to P. Spiro.
 Colours. MEDIO REAL - grey.
 DOS REALES - orange, yellow.
 QUATRO REALES - green.
 OCHO REALES - brown-red.

DETAIL TESTS.

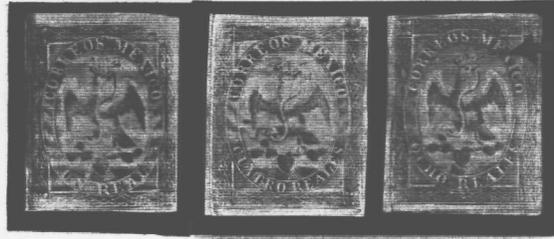
- * *Serpent should have a head.*
- * *'M' of 'MEXICO' as TYPE A.*
- * *'S' of 'CORREOS' leans to the right.*
- * *Downstroke of 'X' is thin - should be thick.*

MEXICO

-1864 -66

GENUINE.

Engraved
No wmk.
Imperf.



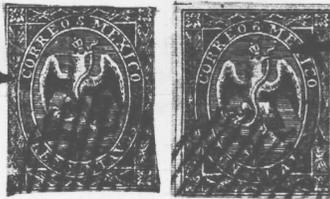
Wide downstroke
to 'X'.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed.
No wmk.
Imperf.

TYPE. A.

Small
lettering



Serpent
should
have head.

TYPE. B.



'M'

GENUINE. Issues of 1866-1867. Emperor Maximilian.

1866. Lithographed, Engraved.

No wmk.

Imperf.

Colours. 7 C - grey, lilac-grey.

13 C - blue.

25 C - buff, orange.

50 C - green.

1867. Engraved.

No wmk.

Imperf.

Colours. 7 C - lilac.

13 C - blue.

25 C - orange-brown.

50 C - green.

FEATURES.

- In the four corner spandrels there are a series of rectangles which are cut by the oval frame line. Each rectangle contains a dash.
- There are five complete rectangles running vertically in each of the four corners and four complete rectangles running horizontally. In each case the sixth and fifth rectangles are broken by the oval frame line.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed.

No wmk.

Imperf.

TYPE A.

Colours. 7 C - lilac, violet-brown.

DETAIL TESTS.

- * *Complete rectangular frames as follows; - three vertical and two horizontal in all corners.*
- * *Eye-brow is foreshortened.*
- * *'7' and 'C' are too far apart.*
- * *Lettering too small and rotund.*

TYPE B. Attributed to P. Spiro.

Colours. 7 C - dull purple.

25 C - dull orange.

50 C - green.

DETAIL TESTS.

- * *Complete rectangles in corners as follows; -*
- Top right - three horizontal - two vertical.*
- Top left - two horizontal - three vertical.*
- Bottom left - three horizontal - three vertical.*
- Bottom right - three horizontal - three vertical.*
- * *Dots after values positioned incorrectly.*
- * *Lettering uneven.*

MEXICO

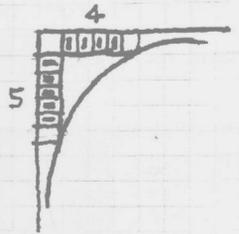
-1866-67. Lithographed or Engraved.
 No wmk.
 Imperf.

GENUINE.



Lithographed

5 complete
 oblong ornaments



FORGERIES. Lithographed
 No wmk.

TYPE. A

Too bald
 on top



3

should be
 5 full oblongs
 ornaments.

3only.

TYPE B.



MEXICO

GENUINE. Issue of 1868. HIDALGO - Surcharged with district name.
Lithographed.
No wmk.
Imperf.

- (a) thin figures of value without period.
(b) thick figure of value with period.
- Colours. 5 CENT - black/buff.
12 CENT - black/green.
25 CENT - black/blue-pink.
50 CENT - black/yellow.
100 CENT - black/brown.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed.
No wmk.
Imperf.

- Colours. 6 CENT - black/buff.
12 CENT - black/green.
25 CENT - blue/light blue.
50 CENT - black/yellow.
100 CENT - black/brown.

DETAIL TESTS.

- * *'MEXICO' in small letters except for 'X' which is large.*
- * *'C' of 'CENT' larger than other letters - should be same size.*
- * *There are thirty-nine horizontal shading lines from 'X' of 'MEXICO' to end of shoulder on right hand side - should be forty-one.*

GENUINE. Issue of 1872-1874.
Lithographed.
No wmk. or wmk 'PAPEL SELLADO' in sheets.
Imperf.

Colours. SEIS (6) CENTAVOS - green.
DOCE (12) CENTAVOS - blue.
VEINTICINCO (25) CENTAVOS - red.
CINCIENTO (50) CENTAVOS - yellow.
CIEN (100) CENTAVOS - grey-lilac, lilac.

FORGERIES. Attributed to P. Spiro.

Lithographed.
No wmk.
Imperf.

- Colours. SEIS CENTAVOS - grey-green.
DOCE CENTAVOS - blue.
VEINTICINCO - crimson.
CINCIENTO - ochre.

DETAIL TESTS.

- * *Labels containing values have ends which are only slightly curved. In genuine the curve is pronounced.*
- * *Outer lines around stamp are thick and even. In genuine the lines between corner squares and labels are thin.*
- * *In the SEIS value the word should read downwards.*

MEXICO

-1868-

GENUINE. Lithographed
No wmk
Pert. or Impert.

-1872-74-

GENUINE. Lithographed
With or without wmk
Pert. or Impert.
Moire pattern on back.

With district name, number & date.



Small 's'

Thin frame line



Design 24mm high

FORGERIES. Lithographed
No wmk
Impert.

Small letters



39 lines

FORGERIES. Lithographed
No wmk. or wmk.
Impert. or pin-pert.

Curve too flat

should read down



Heavy frame line
Design 24½ mm high

Heavy moire pattern on back

REPRINTS. 24½ mm.



MEXICO

GENUINE. Issue of 1875. PORTE DE MAR.
 Lithographed.
 No wmk.
 Imperf.
 Colours. All values in black.
 Small numerals - CENTAVOS - 2, 10, 12, 20, 25, 35, 50, 60, 75, 85, 100.
 Large Numerals - CENTAVOS - 5, 25, 35, 50, 60, 100.

FEATURES. Some values show evidence of printers plug marks.
 e.g. • movable '2' in 2, 12 and 20 CENTAVOS.
 • movable '5' in 5, 25, 35, 50 and 75 CENTAVOS.

FORGERIES.

Lithographed.
 No wmk.
 Imperf.
 Colours. All values black.
 Small numerals - CENTAVOS - 2, 10, 12, 20, 35, 50, 60.

DETAIL TESTS.

- * *There is only one dot in ornament opposite 'PO' of 'PORTE'.
 In the genuine there are two dots.*
- * *'CENTAVOS' is too close to frame line below.*
- * *'N' and 'T' of 'CENTAVOS' are joined at top.*
- * *Middle stroke of 'E' of 'CORREOS' is above centre.*
- * *No evidence of printers plug marks in any of the numerals
 containing a '2' or a '5'.*

MEXICO

-1875-

SEAPORT ISSUE.

GENUINE.

Typographed
No wmk.
Impert.

With or without district name.
Figures & 'centavos' small or large.

Evidence
of printers
plug.

'NT' not joined



Middle stroke
of 'E' in centre.

101 horizontal
lines in oval

One horizontal
line below value.

SMALL NUMERALS



SMALL.



2 dots

'NTA' rests on 4th
line from bottom.

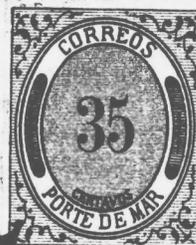
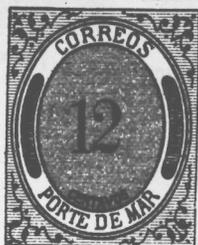
NUMERALS . LARGE .

FORGERIES.

Lithographed
No wmk.
Impert.

TYPE . A .

SMALL NUMERALS



108 lines
in oval.

'NT' joined
& word
too low.



1 dot.