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HOW TO DETECT
FORGED STAMPS.

BY
THOMAS DALSTON.

CONTAINING ACCURATE AND
COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL FORGED AND
FICTITIOUS STAMPS.

PRICE ONE SHILLING, POST FREE 13 STAMPS.

Gateshead :
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY E. CHAMBERS, 115, HIGH STREET.

1865.

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INTRODUCTION.

MORE than twenty-four years ago the first Postage Stamp was issued in England. Formerly the postage of letters was paid in money, either before posting or on delivery; but now it is done by merely affixing a postage stamp. It was indeed a great mind that originated this method of prepaying postage, which for simplicity and economy, both of money and time, cannot be equalled. England was the first country which commenced the postage stamp system, and Sir Rowland Hill deservedly claims credit for its introduction. After England, Zurich appears to have adopted the new system, and a few years later, Belgium and the French Republic issued stamps. The very rare Madrid local stamps, bearing the arms of that city printed in bronze, was also issued at the same time. Another year later, and the Spanish, Baden, Wurtemberg, Prussian, and Thurn und Taxis stamps appeared, and not long after commenced the gradual and rapid adoption of the system in almost all the other continental states, and in fact in nearly every part of the civilized world.

The interesting and instructive amusement of collecting postage stamps did not commence until about four or five years ago, when the great number of stamps that had been issued in different countries, attracted a little attention; but now, the number of collectors in England alone may be counted by hundreds, whilst in France, Germany, Italy, and America, the pursuit is gradually extending

It is quite unnecessary here to expiate upon the pleasure or information to be derived from the study and collection of stamps, because it is presumed that all who refer to this small volume have already felt some taste and fondness for the pursuit. The non-collector who demands an explanation of the use of the study of stamps, I must refer to the introduction in Dr. Grey's Catalogue, which, I have no doubt, will convince the most averse non-collector, that there is some instruction in stamp collecting, and I can only add that the pursuit is so congenial to the taste, instructing and elevating to the mind, and so productive of good, that all collectors, become enthusiastic in the pursuit.

A postage stamp in addition to its use in prepaying letters, is a species of paper money, circulated by the state, which represents a fixed amount of sterling currency, and is negotiable through the Post-office, as a national bank is held responsible for the notes issued; and in order to prevent forgers from imitating them, the best artists and engravers are procured to design and execute stamps, which will at once comprise beautiful with intricate engravings, and thus in some degree render the efforts of forgers to imitate very difficult, if not impossible. There have been more than 2300 postage stamps issued in all parts of the world, and out of that number about 500 have been forged, yet I do not know of hardly any forgeries that have been executed for the express purpose of prepaying postage, and thus swindling the respective governments. The first forgeries appear to have been executed about three years and a half ago; indeed, I do not know of any that were executed prior to that time. The forgers mostly imitate old obsolete stamps, which are invariably simple in design, and commanding high prices; in fact, I have known instances of used specimens having sold for the great sum of one sovereign. There are, however, considerable quantities of stamps forged that are in present use, and some are exceedingly close imitations, and could easily pass as genuine in their respective countries, if they were not closely observed, and compared with undoubtedly genuine specimens.

I saw in a French paper, not long ago, that a vessel, laden with powder, and bound for Liberia, blew up, and on looking over the *debris*, a large packet of Liberian stamps, unobliterated,* directed to the English Consul, were found. A collector being present, discovered that they were Hamburg forgeries. The paragraph concluded by saying that without doubt they were intended to deceive the government, and that it was probable the negroes of Liberia had been thus imposed upon for a long time. This therefore shows that imitations which are sufficiently well executed to pass as genuine in the country of which its stamps are imitated, must needs deceive collectors, without they exercise great care, and as they cannot always obtain the loan of genuine specimens to compare with, it is the object of the present volume to fill up that deficiency, by supplying to each possessor of a postage stamp collection, a ready and sure mode of ascertaining whether the stamps are genuine or not, which can not be done by any work hitherto published. The method of comparing with genuine stamps is, on consideration, perfectly impracticable, for forgeries, owing to the small price for which they can be obtained, have now so large a circulation, that it is perfectly unsafe to trust to this method. I have known instances where two persons have had two different forgeries, and of course have been much puzzled to know which was genuine. In many instances there are two different forgeries of

* The Liberian stamps usually sold to collectors are neatly post-marked.

one stamp, in some three, and all these being different in workmanship, I have had to describe separately; so it will be seen I have had no easy task in bringing to light all the forgeries. This book also provides the general reader with a tolerably compact account of all the forgeries, and although my aim has been throughout to make the descriptions as concise and comprehensive as possible, yet I have at the same time described the genuine in such a manner, that if at any future time there should be more, and of course in some degree different imitations of the same stamp issued, the descriptions will serve to detect them.

A necessary, but not an agreeable part of my labour is to detect and point out the mistakes and errors of my predecessors. The English translation of Moens "*Falsification*" is utterly unfit for reliance, and ought not to be depended upon. In some of his descriptions he neither properly describes the genuine or the forgery; in fact, some appear to have been taken from two different forgeries. The reader will already be aware that there are sometimes several forgeries of some particular stamps. These descriptions have therefore destroyed all confidence in the work. Mr. Pemberton, in "*Forged Stamps, how to detect them*," is perfectly honest, and any inaccuracies which may occur in his work—and they are very few—must be attributed to error, not to design. In his first edition (the second has not yet come out) he only occupies about 15 pages with real forgeries. The rest of the book is composed of fictitious stamps, and stamps the colours of which are changed by chemicals, most of which, also, are fictitious, and out of nearly 500 forgeries, he has only described about 60 of them. I think it is useless devoting so much space to fictitious stamps; but as there are a great quantity in the market, I have appended a list of all the fictitious stamps that have been issued, and the stamps that have been changed in colour by chemicals, but, as it is very probable there may be more fictitious stamps issued, I would caution collectors not to purchase any stamps as rare that are not mentioned in the best catalogues, or any that are new which are not mentioned in the "*Stamp Collector's Magazine*," "*Stamp Collector's Miscellany*," or "*Stamp Collector's Examiner*," all of which publish descriptions of new issues as soon as it is possible for dealers to get them.

The principal persons who forge stamps reside on the Continent. Spiro Brothers of Hamburg, have produced the most, and some of them are exceedingly well executed, amongst which are the Bergedorf, British Guiana, Finland, Geneva, Greece, Hamburg, Liberia, Old Lubeck, New Granada, Nicaragua, Pony Express, Schleswig, Saxony, Western Australia, and many others. All that I have seen are post-marked—most of them are perforated—and the Schleswig $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch., has even the water mark in the paper. Indeed,

the above dealers have made quite a trade of it, and a very profitable trade too. There is a dealer in Zurich who sells good imitations of the Swiss Canton stamps, and there is another in Brussels whose forgeries are well executed, and widely circulated. Glasgow has turned out many *fac-similes*, but about all of them are inferior to the above in execution. I also find that there has been different forgeries executed in London, Manchester, and Newcastle, but they are only inferior imitations. I have also received some pretty good forgeries from New York, but the only passable ones are those sent from the Continent.

In concluding this brief introduction, I must thank the various gentlemen who have kindly sent me doubtful stamps on inspection, and who have also given me assistance in the compilation of this small, but, it is hoped, useful book; amongst the latter I must include Mr. D. Dean, editor and publisher of the "*Stamp Collector's Miscellany*," who has rendered me great assistance. I shall be very glad to give my opinion upon any doubtful stamp which may be sent me on inspection.

THOS. DALSTON,

MARKET PLACE,

April, 1865.

BARNARD CASTLE.

HOW TO DETECT FORGED STAMPS.

ANTIGUA.

Name, Head of Queen Victoria, 1d. red.

This is a very poor imitation. The outline of the face, however, is very correct; but on a close examination of the back-ground, it will be perceived that instead of very fine and minute engraving, it is composed of smudged dots.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.

1861 issue.—*Name ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION, design rising sun with cap of Liberty, coloured impression on white paper, 2c. red, 5c. green, 10c. blue.*

There are several separate and distinct forgeries of this set of stamps, which slightly differ in execution, so that I append separate descriptions. In the two first descriptions, it will be seen I have mentioned, that in the genuine 5 centav there is a dot after 2, but in the 10 c. and 15 c. there is no dot after 10 or 15, whilst in the forgery all three have dots after numeral of value. This may be accounted for in the following manner:—most forgers of stamps when about to engrave a set of stamps in which the design of all of them is the same, except some trifling thing which has escaped notice, choose any genuine stamp of that set they have at hand, and engrave the whole set therefrom, referring to a catalogue for information as to colour, &c.; or it may be, having the stamp to buy for the engraver, they have selected the cheapest. Further on it will be seen that this mistake has often occurred when forging a set of stamps, the design of which is in all of them the same.

No. 1 FORGERY.

GENUINE.

The hands hold a small staff, at the top of which is a cap of Liberty.

The glory round the head is not so thick as that near the border.

There is a dot after 5 in the 5 centav stamp, but not in the 10 c. and 15 c.

FORGED.

The staff and cap of Liberty are both left out; probably the engraver had a copy with that part of the stamp covered by the obliterating mark.

The glory round the head is of the same thickness throughout.

There is a dot after the numeral of value in all three stamps.

No. 2 FORGERY.

GENUINE.

The cap of Liberty is in most cases very much smeared.

The G of Argentine is very clumsy, and not at all like the C of Confeon.

The top dash of the two dashes under Confeon is the same length as the bottom one.

The oval containing staff, cap of Liberty, &c, touches the border of the stamp at the right and left sides.

There is a dot after the 5 of 5 centav, but not after the 10 or 15 c.

FORGED.

The cap of Liberty is very clear, even clearer than in the genuine.

The G of Argentine is almost exactly like the C of Confeon.

The top dash is much shorter than the bottom one.

The oval does not touch the border.

There is a dot after figure of value in all the set.

No. 3 FORGERY.

GENUINE.

The E of Confeon is the same size as the other letters of that word, excepting O N.

The G of Argentina does not touch the E.

The glory round the head is not thick.

The last described forgery is decidedly the best executed of the lot, but it may be remembered that the whole of the forged Argentine Confederation stamps are too bright in colour.

FORGED.

The E is much larger than the other letters of that word.

The G does touch the E.

The glory round the head is thick.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Name, 5 centavos, red.

This is a badly executed imitation; the lettering of inscription is very bad and irregular, in some places smudged; in the genuine, however, the inscription is very clear and well defined. The whole appearance of the stamp is very bad, and it looks as if it had been printed as cheaply as possible.

AUSTRIA.

1855.—NEWSPAPER LABELS.—*Arms, inscription "Kais Kon Zeitungs stempel," coloured imp. square 1 kr. black, 2 kr. green, and red brown.*

1858.—*Same design as last, 1 kr. blue, 2 kr. brown, and 4 kr. red brown.*

There are numerous differences between the genuine and forgeries in the above stamps, but the undermentioned will suffice. The genuine stamps are wood engravings, whilst the forgeries are lithographed.

GENUINE.

The letters and eagle are clear.

In each corner there is a round ornament, and on two sides of it is a kite-shaped ornament; the latter does not touch the former.

FORGED.

The letters and eagle are not clear.

The round ornaments are smudgy, and they touch the kite-shaped ones.

1857.—*Head of Mercury to left, blue, yellow, and pink.*

GENUINE.

The letters of inscription are pretty regular, and all are about the same thickness throughout.

The letter T in stempel at bottom is very clear and well shaped.

The ornaments in all four corners are almost all like each other.

FORGED.

The letters of inscription are not all same size, and are badly executed.

The letter T in stempel at bottom is very badly defined; the left side of the top part of it is less than the other side.

There is great differences between the four ornaments in the four corners.

BADEN.

1850.—*1 kreuzer buff.*

In the forgery the letters of inscription are rather irregular, but in the genuine they are very regular. The ornaments at top and bottom of the inscription at sides, are all separate at the bottom; in the forgery, they however, touch one another at the bottom in the genuine.

1862.—*18 kr. green and 30 kr. orange.*

GENUINE.

The corner ornaments are very clear and finely engraved, and on comparison with the present issue 1 kr. black stamp (which is comparatively common), they will be found to be alike.

The dots of the shield are very regular, all nearly of the same size, and in straight rows.

FORGED.

The corner ornaments are very irregular, and differ very much with the 1 kr. black.

The dots on the shield are very irregular, and are scattered about here and there.

UNPAID LETTER LABELS.—*Inscription: "Land-Post Porto Marke," figure indicating value, black impression on yellow paper, 1 kreuzer, 3 kr., 12 kr.*

GENUINE.

The letter S in "Land Post" is very regular.

The hyphen between Land and Post is below the centre of the letter P.

The colour of the paper is a darkish yellow.

FORGED.

The letters in "Land Post" are very irregular.

The hyphen is almost at the centre of P.

The colour of the paper is very light yellow.

Most of the above genuine stamps are perforated, but the above forgeries are not. I have, however, seen a badly perforated 1 kr, which was also very badly executed.

ENVELOPE, 3 kr. blue.

In the forgery the head is badly embossed, and the parting of the hair is invisible; it is also printed on thicker paper than the genuine. Altogether it is well printed, but the engraving has been badly done. The inscription across the envelope, in the forgery, is printed in roughly formed letters, the colour being lemon instead of orange. The imitation appears to be lithographed, but the genuine is die printed.

BAVARIA.

1849.—*Inscription "Bayern Franco riu Kreuzer," large figure indicating value in a square, 1 kr. black.*

GENUINE.

The ornamentation of the large figure 1 is very clear.

The large figure is not particularly distinct and clear at first sight.

The ornamentation in the back-ground is very fine and clear when closely observed.

The paper on which it is printed is not exactly white and the ink is not shiny.

There are also photographs of this valuable stamp in the market which are of course correct in every detail; and if any of our readers are suspicious of the above stamp, or, in fact, of any other black stamp or essay whatever, which they may think is photographed, they may easily detect it by applying cyanuret of potassa (a chemical which may be obtained at any druggists) to the face of the engraving. If photographed it will instantly remove the impression, leaving the paper white; whereas if the stamp has been printed in the usual way, it will not injure it in the least.

1862. UNPAID LETTER LABEL.—*Black impression on white paper, 3 kreuzer.*

This forgery is printed in shiny ink, and is altogether a poor imitation. The execution is in all respects bad, and when compared with the other adhesive stamps of the same country may be easily detected.

BARBADOES.

Name, coloured impression on blue paper, value not indicated, red, blue, and green.

These three stamps are forged, and are well designed, but they are very badly printed, and are all lithographed. They are also easily recognizable by the smaller print of the characters.

BERGEDORF.

1861.—*Name, black impression on coloured paper $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. violet, 3 sch. rose.*

GENUINE.

The number of small circles in the large ring round the arms in both the above stamps is 55.

FORGED.

The number of small circles in the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. is 46, and in the 3 sch. is 62.

There are also forgeries of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 3, and 4 sch. of the present issue. The $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 sch. are printed from the same dies as the above, so that the above description will suffice. The forged 4 sch. has 55 small circles round the arms.

BRAZIL.

All the first issue and the 10, 30, and 60 reis of the second issue are forged. They are all however badly imitated, especially the second issue, where the forger has omitted to shade the figures, and instead of engine turned lines of dots in the background, there is only smudged dots.

BREMEN.

1855.—*Black impression on blue paper, 3 grote.*

GENUINE.

The A of Stadt is exactly like the A of AMT.

Both the letters T of Stadt are alike.

The D of Stadt is flat on the top.

The letters of Stadt Post Amt are of a uniform size.

FORGED.

The A of Stadt is longer and unlike the A of AMT.

The first T of Stadt is much larger than the other.

The D of Stadt is round on the top.

The letters of Stadt Post Amt are very irregular in size.

1855.—*Green impression on white paper, 5 s. gr.*

GENUINE.

On a careful examination of the 5 s. gr, it will be perceived that almost half a dozen of the thin background lines run through the border, half way down the 5, the same number running through the border to the top of the S, and on the outside of the gr. will be found some very short strokes.

The top part of the outside of the oval containing the key does not touch the line holding the key.

FORGED.

The 5 s. gr. is quite plain, and there is nothing of the kind on it as mentioned opposite.

The top part of the ornament touches the line.

1863.—*2 grote, orange.*

GENUINE.

The outside of the ornamentation enclosing Bremen and Zwie Grote consists of round lines, very regular, and never pointed.

The above-mentioned ornamentation touches the inside line enclosing the word Stadt.

FORGED.

The outside of the ornamentation is irregular and in many cases pointed.

The ornamentation does not touch the line.

1855.—*5 grote, rose, black impression.*

GENUINE.

The ornaments at corners at the outside of the line are regular and like each other.

The M in Marke is like the usual printed capital M.

FORGED.

The ornaments are much unlike each other.

The last stroke of the M is longer than the other strokes.

1861.—10 *grote*, black impression.

GENUINE.

The dots outside the oval enclosing key are pretty clear.

The letters of inscription are firm and neat.

The figure 0 in 10 at the right side top corner is like the other figures in the other corners.

FORGED.

The dots are in some parts blotched.

The two E's in Bremen are unlike each other, and the shading of all the letters are rather blotchy.

The figure 0 is badly shaped.

BRITISH GUIANA.

1860.—*Name, ship in full sail to right in garter, 1 cent black, 2 c. red, 4 c. blue, 8 c. plush, 12 c. grey, 24 c. light green.*

GENUINE.

There is a dot in the centre of each of the two star ornaments upon the garter, which is very clear.

The two G's in Guiana and Postage are both alike.

The lines forming the sky are very close together, and not to be traced by the naked eye.

They are very nicely printed.

FORGED.

Neither the dot or the ornaments are distinct or clear; in fact, the dot cannot be seen at all.

The G in Guiana is not so well shaped as the other.

These lines may be easily perceived, and even counted.

Most of the forgeries are badly printed and have a washy look, which will not easily deceive the experienced collector.

NEWSPAPER LABELS WITH PEARL BORDERING.

There appears to be much uncertainty amongst collectors and others, respecting these labels, *i. e.*, which are authentic and which not. All the genuine I have seen have a signature in the centre, mostly in red ink, and invariably blotched. The B in British and the S in Cents, are not on a level with the other letters, being a little lower. The O in Two is like a C, and the U in Guiana touches the top line. I have only seen one set of forgeries, and it is in most cases, I understand, post-marked with four short thick smudgy lines, instead of the letters and figure A. O. 3. I may also state, that in all genuine stamps, the shading in the little circles or pearls forming the border is towards the inside, and the circles are seen with two fine outlines, which gives them the appearance of one thick one.

BRUNSWICK.

1852.—*Name, Braunschweig, arms, value in figures on each side, coloured impression, 1 silb. gr. rose, 2 s. gr. blue, 3 s. gr. vermillion.*

1854.— $\frac{1}{4}$ s. gr. brown, $\frac{1}{3}$ s. gr. white, 1 s. gr. yellow, 2 s. gr. blue, 3 s. gr. pink.

GENUINE.

The colour of the 3 s. gr. is vermilion.

The crown in the oval is clear and well defined.

The inscription is very regular.

The printing is very nice and clear.

FORGED.

The colour of the 3 s. gr. is light brown and the colours of the other stamps are rather thin.

The crown is indistinct.

The inscription is badly done, and is rather irregular as to size, &c.

The printing is blotchy, especially the shading.

1862.—*Same device, coloured impression, 3 silb. gr.*

The forgery is printed in red orange, instead of rose. The letters of the inscription are also uneven. Altogether it is a poor imitation, and is badly printed.

ENVELOPES.—*Inscription: St. P. Fr. in circle; printed in red with hand stamp on coloured paper, green, white, blue, and yellow.*

These stamps when genuine are so plain and simple in design that it is extremely easy to forge them. The forgeries are wretchedly printed and there is no curl at the bottom of the T.

 BUENOS AYRES.

Name, Head of Liberty in a circle, 1 peso blue, and rose, 2 pesos blue.

GENUINE.

The letters of Peso are all of equal size.

The top curl of the hair is shaded.

The letters in the inscription are all well formed.

FORGED.

The letters of Peso gradually diminish in size the P being the largest and the O the smallest.

The top curl of the hair is *not* shaded.

The letters are in most cases badly formed and irregular in size.

 CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

1861.—*Name, Bust of Jefferson Davis to right in oval, 5 cents blue, and 5 c. green.*

GENUINE.

The background appears almost solid, being composed of very fine close lines.

The head is some space from the inscription above.

The inscription is printed in short compact letters.

FORGED.

The lines in the background are wide apart, and very distinct.

The hair of the head almost touches the letters above.

The letters are thin and rather apart.

Name, Bust of Davis in circle, 5 c. blue.

GENUINE.

In the corners round the head are some stars which do *not* touch the lines outside them.

The engraving is very good, letters rounded and clearly defined.

FORGED.

Most of the outside stars *do* touch the lines.

The engraving is some places deficient, especially shading, and the letters long, thin, and badly printed.

Name, 2 c green, 10 c. blue and rose, 20 c. green.

These stamps are badly executed, and could not well pass as genuine. I am of opinion that they were not originally intended to cheat collectors, as I have almost always seen them sold in sets and as *fac-similes*; but one dealer sent them to me on inspection as genuine, saying the government having run out of their stamps before they could get fresh ones, had to get a local engraver to execute some, specimens of which he enclosed me. The colours are in all cases very thin and washy in the forgery, and the engraving very bad. Some are printed better than others, but in all cases the stamps are blotched more or less, (that is, in the forgery.) The inscription is also very bad.

NEW ORLEANS.

1861.—*Name, figure indicating value in circle, inscription: J. C. Riddell. 2 c. red, 2 c. blue.*

GENUINE.

The letters are all regular but rather indistinct.

The printing is altogether rather indistinct and appears to be coarse.

FORGED.

Some of the letters are thin and others thick, but the whole are very distinct.

The printing is very clear and very fine.

5 c. mauve, 5 c. brown

GENUINE.

The letters in the word Post touch the line above them.

The mark between New-Orleans touches the O.

The right hand top ornament is rather shaded.

FORGED.

None of the letters touch the line.

It does not touch the O.

The right hand top ornament is quite clear.

RICHMOND.

Inscription: Richmond Postage, 5 cents, flag in oval, 5 cents green and yellow.

GENUINE.

The ink with which it is printed is not shiny.

The outside line enclosing the whole stamp is very firm and clear throughout.

FORGED.

The ink is shiny.

The outside line is in some parts, especially at corners, very indistinct, and there are several gaps.

NASHVILLE.

1861.—*Name, figure indicating value in oval, 5 cents crimson.*

GENUINE.

The printing is very indistinct and smudged.

The border is composed of one white line.

The stars are thick and rather smudged.

FORGED.

The printing is very distinct and clear.

The border consists of two white lines one thick and the other thin.

The stars are pretty small.

CUBA.

1857.—*Coloured impression on white paper, $\frac{1}{2}$ rl. plata blue, 1 rl. pl. green, 2 rl. pl. green.*

GENUINE.

The execution is good, and all the stamp is clearly printed.

The beads within the central circle are all of one size.

FORGED.

The engraving is in some places bad, and the printing is rather blotchy.

The lower beads are smaller than the upper ones.

COSTA RICA.

1863.— $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue, 2 r. green.

GENUINE.

The letters RE of Real touch each other.

The letters of Medio Real are all the same size.

The sea behind the mountains on the right side of the left hand mountain, is on a level with that on the left side of the said mountain.

The letters of Real mostly touch each other.

FORGED.

The letter RE do not touch each other.

The letters are not all the same size.

The sea behind the mountains on the right side of the left hand mountain, is much lower than that on the left side.

The letters of Real never touch each other.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

MOLDAVIA.

1854.—54 paras green, 81 par. blue, 108 par. rose.

These three simply designed stamps are very well imitated. The inscription in the forgery is in all three rather irregular. In the 81 par. the ear on the left hand side is lower down than the opposite one. At the wide end of the bugle-horn in the forgery of the 108 par. is 5 strokes to represent shading.

1861.—*Inscription: Porto Scrisorei, coloured impression, 40 paras blue, 80 par. red.*

NEWSPAPER LABEL.—Inscription: Porto Gazette, 5 paras black.

The above three imitations emanate from Glasgow. None of them have got a thin stroke to join the two thick ones of the H together in Hap. The colouring is exceedingly thin and poor, and they are badly printed on nearly transparent paper. In the 5 paras the right hand bulls ear appears not to be finished. In the 40 p. both the right hand ear and horn is thinner than the opposite ones, and the right ear in the 40 p. and also the 80 p. points more to the top corner than the left hand ones.

MOLDO WALLACHIA.

1862.—*Inscription: Franco Scrisorei eagle displayed and bull's head over bugle horn, 30 par. blue.*

The forgers of this stamp have made a very flagrant error, which will at once detect it, viz:—by omitting the R in Scrisorei. Probably the stamp used by the engraver to copy from was much obliterated about that part.

DENMARK.

1852.—*Inscription: Kgl. Post Frimærke 2 rigsbank skilling blue.*

GENUINE.

The M in Frimærke is neatly printed.

The mouthpiece of the horn is pointed towards the left hand top corner.

The mouthpiece end of the horn is very thin.

FORGED.

The second stroke, i. e., the first thick one in the M is clumsily done, and not so thick as the last stroke.

The horn is only slightly curved from the middle to the mouthpiece, and therefore does not point up to the corner.

The end is rather thicker.

ESSAY.—Head of Mercury, 4 R. B. S., (1½ sch. c.)

ESSAY.—Head of King, 8 R. B. S., (2½ sch. c.); colour brown, on a ground composed of diagonal blue strokes.

GENUINE.

The figure 4 in Head of Mercury Stamp is like the *written* figure.

The wing at the far side of the Mercury's head is higher than the one nearest, so that a narrow piece of the whole length of the wing is perceptible.

The King's ear is only partly to be seen, the top half being covered by the hair.

FORGED.

The figure 4 is like the usual *printed* figure.

There is only a very little of the far side wing to be seen.

The King's ear is wholly perceptible.

DUCHY OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

1848.—1 sch. blue, 2 sch. rose.

There are very good imitations of the above old Provisional Government Stamps, which are well engraved and printed, but they are disfigured with

great blotchy postmarks, whereas the genuine are very little postmarked. The genuine stamps have a thread made in the paper down the middle of the stamp, and the only practicable way to detect these forgeries is by taking off the paper which is affixed to the back of the stamp (which may be done by soaking the stamp in warm water, when it will easily come off), and the thread will be found to be inserted between the stamp and the paper.

1864.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch. blue.

This stamp is well imitated; in fact, the very water-mark in the paper is copied. The letters in the inscription are not so well done as in the genuine. The first stroke of the M in the inscription at bottom (4 S. R. M.) is very thin in the forgery. The H in H. R. Z. G. L. at the left side is not so large as the other letters and is badly formed.

DUTCH INDIES.

I hear of the 5 c. being forged, but as I have not yet seen a specimen, I must describe it from the description which was sent me. In the forgery the face of the king is not shaded, and on the collar and ear to the right there is very little shading. The forgery is not well executed, the shading being the worst, but it is well known the genuine is beautifully executed.

FINLAND.

ENVELOPES.—5 kop blue, 10 kop rose; transversely oval.

GENUINE.

The lines on the shield touch the outline above and below.

Round the left and right side of the crown are 9 dots.

FORGED.

The lines do not touch the outline either above or below.

Round the left and right side of the crown are 8 dots.

Same as above.—20 kop black.

This imitation appears to be of a greenish slate colour. Inside the wide end of the left hand horn, within two circles, is a thin mark, and at the top of it is a dot; this is not so in the genuine. The eight stars also are very badly done in the forgery.

FRANCE.

UNPAID LETTER LABELS, 1863.—15 centimes à percevoir, square.

The inscription in the forgery is rather irregular, and the V in percevoir is like a U. It appears to be a badly printed lithograph.

GRANADA CONFEDERATION.

1860.—*Arms in circle; 10 c. cinnamon, 20 c. blue.*

The upper and middle compartments of the shield in the 10 c. forgery are divided by only *one* line, whilst in the genuine, by either *two* or *three* lines. This one difference, I think, will suffice for to detect the above. The other stamp is rather better executed, but the following deficiencies will be found:—The white dots round the circle are not of a uniform size, and the two stars, one at each end of the bottom inscription, are very much *unlike* each other. The right side one looks like a cross with a dot at the left hand top corner and a smaller one at the opposite corner.

1861.—*Arms in shield; 2½ cents black, 5 c. buff, 10 c. blue, 20 c. red, 1 peso rose.*

GENUINE.

There are *nine* dots in the oval band containing shield.

There is a dot after *centavos*.

The 20 c. is printed in redy-brown.

FORGERY.

There are only *eight* dots, one being in the centre, three on the left side, and four on the right.

There is no dot after *centavos* excepting in the 5 c.

It is printed in vermillion.

1862.—*Arms supported by wreath under nine stars; coloured impression, 5 cent orange, 10 c. blue, 20 c. red.*

In the forged 20 c. red the A of *Nacionales* is less than the other letters. The B also in *Columbia* is like a figure 8. The Na of *Nacionales* in the forged 5 c. is much less than the two end letters. In the forged 10 c. the letters E S in *Nacionales* touch each other, and the two right hand branches in the ornament at the right hand bottom corner touch each other. The above imitations have a forged look about them. The paper is very white and the ink very glaring.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ENVELOPE, 1840.—*Vignette by W. Mulready, R.A.; upon the cover, coloured impression, rect.; 1d. black, 2d. blue.*

The engraving at the back of the envelope is entirely missed out of both the imitations. These are mostly sold by continental dealers, who would not, I think, hesitate to sell them to English collectors.

GREECE.

1862.—*Coloured impression on tinted paper, 1 lept light brown, 2 l. cinnamon, 5 l. green, 10 l. red, 20 l. blue, 40 l. violet, 80 l. rose.*

GENUINE.

The circle round the dots is of the same thickness, and very distinct throughout.

The dots in the circle round the head of Mercury number 88.

The letters and Greek border are of equal thickness.

FORGED.

The circle is very thin, and in most places very indistinct.

The dots number about 75.

The letters and Greek border are of variable thickness.

HAMBURG.

1859.—*Arms behind every figure indicating value ; $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. black, 1 sch., chocolate, 2 sch. red, 3 sch. blue, 4 sch. green, 7 sch. orange, 9 sch. yellow.*

1863.—*1 $\frac{1}{4}$ schilling mauve, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ green.*

GENUINE.

In all of them the thin upper stroke in the K in Postmark is longer than the lower one.

In the $\frac{1}{2}$ the dot above I of Ein is the same size as the dot after schilling.

In the $\frac{1}{2}$ also the A of Hamburg does not touch the M.

FORGED.

The thin upper stroke is in all cases less than the thick lower one.

The dot after schilling is about twice as large as the other.

The base of the A touches the M.

HANOVER.

1858.—*Name Hannover, figure under crown, 3 pfennige rose ; also same pattern 3 pf. green.*

GENUINE.

The lettering and crown is clear and well defined.

The figure 3 is well shaped.

There is shading at the ends of the band holding inscription.

FORGED.

The inscription and crown is badly printed, being very much smudged.

The figure 3 is badly shaped.

Instead of shading there is only smudged blotches.

INDIA.

1854.—*Head of Queen to left, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna red.*

There are three imitations of this very rare stamp. The first is simply the comparatively common 1 anna of the same issue with the value erased, and "half" neatly painted in its place. The ornaments in the corners of these two stamps being different, this may easily be detected by comparing with the common 1 anna. The second imitation is printed from a forged block, and it may be detected in the same way as the above, as it appears to have been copied from the above mentioned imitation. The other forgery is a very good one and I therefore append full description.

GENUINE.

The two A's of Anna are square at the top.

The marks in the side borders are pretty large and triangular shaped.

The inside white border is not narrow.

FORGED.

The two A's of Anna are pointed at the top.

The marks are small circular dots.

The inside white border is very narrow.

Same design, 1 anna red.

This forgery is too new looking, and the red is over bright.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

1860.— $\frac{1}{2}$ d. yellow, 1d. blue, 2d. lake, value not indicated.

These forgeries are very blotched, and the inscription is irregularly printed. The last N in Ionikon is only about half the size of the first, and the two I's are not the same size. The collector has little chance of being mistaken in the identity of these forgeries.

LA GUAIRA.

1864.—Name, $\frac{1}{2}$ real pink, 2 reals green

GENUINE.

The Q of Paquets has a long curved tail.
The O in Cabello is round.
The waves are nicely engraved.
The 8 in right hand top corner in the 2 r is well shaped.

FORGED.

There is hardly any tail.
The O is circular.
The waves do not seem to be well done.
The 8 is badly shaped, and appears like a piece of ornament.

LIBERIA.

Name, Figure of Liberty seated in circle; 6 cents pink, 12 c. blue, 24 c. green.

GENUINE.

The clouds are very distinct.
The C in cents is not under LI of Liberia in the 12 c.
In the 6 c. the toe of Britannia does not touch the border.
Part of the postmark is the word *Monrovia*.

FORGED.

In the 6 c. and 24 c. the clouds are scarcely visible.
The C is directly under the LI of Liberia.
The toe touches the border.
This part of the postmark is *Monrowa*.

The same set of stamps are forged at another place, but are not so well executed. The shading on the rock in the forgery touches the BE of Liberia, and it may be observed that in all three stamps the lines of the background run the same way, but not so in the genuine.

The 12 cent stamp numbers three imitations. In the third one the following differences may be detected:—In the genuine a full view of the face of Britannia is given, but in the forged it is turned to the left. The C in Cents is directly under B of Liberia in the forged, but it is not so in the genuine.

LIVONIA.

Briefmarke, red impression with inscription in black on white paper.

Pakonmarke, same design with green impression.

In the forged green stamp the first K in Pakenmarke is rather badly shaped, the bottom of the short part being not quite on a level with the front and long mark. The lines in the background are also blotched. The small

white cross at the left hand bottom corner is not quite finished in the forged red stamp, as the right hand bottom stroke is wanting. The other small crosses are also badly finished.

Red impression, green centre.

The colour of this imitation is bright, but the ink with which it is printed appears to be very poor; whereas in the genuine the ink is very good. The small white stars in each corner in the genuine have five distinct rays, but in the forgery the rays cannot be counted, being very indiscernible; indeed, the left hand bottom one appears to be a square white dot.

LUBECK.

1859.—*Name, ½ sch. violet, 1 sch. orange red, 2 sch. brown, 2½ sch. red, 4 sch. dark green.*

GENUINE.

There is a dot after *Postmarke*.

There is no dot after *Schilling*.

The toe does not touch the line.

In the ¼ sch. there is shading after *Halber*.

In the 1 sch. the eagle's tail is *not* pointed.

The K of Lubeck in the 2 sch. does *not* touch the ornament on the side of it.

The 2½ has shading by *zwei ein halber*.

The shading of the riband in the 4 sch. is neat.

FORGED.

There is no dot after *Postmarke* in most of them.

In each stamp there is a dot after *schilling*.

The right hand toe of the eagle touches the line just above the E of *Postmarke*.

The is no shading after *Halber*.

The eagle's tail *is* pointed.

The K *does* touch the line.

There is *no* shading by *zwei ein halber*.

The shading of the riband is too thick.

There is another forged set of the above, but it may easily be detected on account of the letters of inscription being coarse and irregular in size.

LUXEMBURG.

1859-63.—*Name, arms in circle, 1 centime buff, 2 c. black, 4 c. yellow.*

The roughly executed forgeries of these stamps correspond with each other in the principal distinctions; therefore if any one has a genuine stamp of either three (all of which are very common when genuine), they will easily be detected by comparison. The forgeries have a line running up the side, and are printed on thin paper.

Name, arms in oval, 10 c. blue, 12½ c. rose, 25 c. marone, 30 c. violet, 37½ c. green, 40 c. vermillion.

GENUINE.

The letters UX of Luxembourg do not touch each other at any part.

The paper is not thin.

The thick stroke in the first U in *Luxembourg* is of equal thickness throughout.

FORGED.

The letters UX touch each other at top.

The paper is very thin.

The thick stroke in the U is rather thicker at the top than the bottom.

MAURITIUS.

1857.—*Value not indicated, red, dark green, magenta, slate.*

These stamps are evidently imitated by the same person that forged the Barbadoes stamps without date, and the same discrepancies may be observed. The colours also are not correct having a washy look.

MEXICO.

1857.—*2 reals green on white paper.*

GENUINE.

The name of the issuing State is printed in black on the right side of the stamp.

The background is composed of lines close together.

The ornaments at sides are neatly done.

FORGED.

No name is printed at all on the side of the stamp.

The background is solid.

The ornaments at sides are badly done.

Same issue.— $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue, 1 rl. yellow, 2 rs. green, 4 rs. red, 8 rs. violet.

1861 issue.—*Black impression on coloured paper, $\frac{1}{2}$ rl., 1 rl., 2 rs., 4 rs. red on yellow, 8 rs. green on brown, and several more of the same design, but fictitious colours. In all 20 varieties.*

The colouring of the above imitations is extremely poor and thin, and the lettering very indistinct and irregular. The top inscription is *Medico* instead of *Mexico*. They are, in fact, so poorly executed that it is utterly impossible for them to victimize collectors.

MODENA.

Inscription: Poste Estense, eagle under crown, 5 c. green, 9 c. b. g. violet, 10 c. rose, 10 c. brown, 15 c. violet, 15 c. yellow, 25 c. primrose, 40 c. blue, 1 lira white.

GENUINE.

The claws of the eagle are both alike, and have only three toes.

The letters of *cent* are short and thick.

The ornaments at the right and left hand borders curl round at the ends.

Printed on unglazed paper.

FORGED.

The claws are represented by four short thick strokes pointing downwards.

The letters of *cent* are long and thin.

The ornaments do not curl round at the ends.

Printed on glazed paper.

The above are poor imitations and I could name many more differences, but those mentioned will suffice. The above stamps are also forged a second time, and appear to be better executed, so that I append description.

GENUINE.

The crown *does not* touch the head of eagle.

The tail of eagle *does not* touch the legs.

The eagle is properly shaped, and the feathers are neatly imitated.

FORGED.

The crown *touches* the head of eagle.

The tail *touches* the legs.

The eagle is badly shaped, especially about the neck, which is too thick, and the feathers are blotchy.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

1859.—*Arms (cross on shield), between two laurel branches, 5 cents green, 15 c. purple, 20 c. violet, 40 c. rose, 80 c. orange.*

GENUINE.

The corners are divided into equal sizes by the cross.

The point at the bottom of the shield is at the middle of the upright white line in the cross.

The cross on the ball at the top of crown is very indistinct, and some distance from the border line.

FORGED.

The lowest right hand corner is less than the others.

The point is more to the left at the bottom of the white line.

The cross on the ball is very clear and nearly touches the line.

NEWSPAPER LABEL.—*Inscription "Tassa Gazette" encircling eagle; black impression, 10 cents.*

GENUINE.

Printed on unglazed paper.

Printed from a wood block, and having a blotched and half finished appearance.

FORGED.

Printed on glazed paper.

Lithographed, and the lines and inscription very neat.

MONTE VIDEO.

Second issue.—Name, arms in circle; 120 cents blue, 180 c. green, 240 c. carmine.

The forgeries under notice do not require a full description, as they are so badly executed and blotched in appearance, that it is impossible for them to deceive collectors. The ornaments in the corners are hardly perceptible, and the glory round the head is extremely blotched.

Same as above; 240 cents carmine.

This is better executed than the above, but the colouring is too thin and poor. The four dots at the right hand top corner are much lower down than the opposite ones. The inscription all around also touches the lines above and below.

1859.—*60 cents lilac, slate, brown, and pink.*

The following is the principal errors in this imitation, viz: the accent over the E in *Centisimias* is wanting—the ornaments in the corners are too large—and the letters of "Correo" on both sides of the stamp are thin and irregular in size.

Same issue.—80 cents orange, 180 c. green, 240 c. red.

GENUINE.

The letters EVID in Montevideo do not touch any where.

The ornament between the corner ornament and the M of Montevideo is as clear and well defined as the one between Correo and the same corner ornament.

FORGED.

The letters EVID all touch one another at the top.

The ornament is in most cases a thick stroke, but it is never so large and well shaped as the other one.

NEVIS.

1861.—*Name, 1 d. lake.*

GENUINE.

The letters of Nevis are a fair size.

The left arm of the female supporting the fainting one is held out straight to the standing one.

There is a mineral spring coming from a rock in the back-ground.

FORGED.

The letters are unreasonably large.

The left arm is turned up to the standing female.

There is no mineral spring, and the rock is represented by wavy lines all pointing downwards.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

1861.—*Name, coloured impression; 12½ c. blue (steam vessel.)*

The engraver of this forgery evidently worked from a description, and I cannot congratulate him on his success. The steamship has no paddles, but is apparently propelled by a screw. The colour is also much fainter than the genuine one.

ESSAY.—*Name, bust of Connell (formerly Postmaster-General), black impression on greyish paper.*

There are two imitations of this stamp, one of which is beautifully printed on India paper, and it may be detected by putting a drop of water on the stamp, when it will run as on blotting paper. The other imitation is a French photograph which may be detected in the same way as the 1 kr. black, Bavaria. (See Bavaria.)

NEW SOUTH WALES.

View of Sydney, coloured impression on white paper, 1d. red, and 2d. pale blue.

In the forgeries the first I of Siegillum is shorter than the S, and it appears to touch the line above it; the S touches the line beneath it. In the bottom right hand corner there is a square enclosing a cross, and in each corner of the square there is a small stroke, but the stroke in the right hand top corner in the same square is thicker than the others and blotched.

NICARAGUA.

1862.—*Name, coloured impression, 2 centavos blue, 5 c. black.*

GENUINE.

The letters are remarkably clear.

The U and A of Nicaragua just touch.

The figures in the corners are all alike.

The letters of Centavos are all the same size, except the I, which is a trifle larger, and the bottom of V is flat.

FORGED.

The letters are indistinct.

The U and A of Nicaragua are a reasonable distance from each other.

The figures in the corners differ very much.

The letters are not all same size, and the bottom of V is pointed.

The 5 c. is also forged at another place, and printed on India paper; it may be detected by putting a drop of water on the paper, when it will run like as on blotting paper.

NIE CALIDONIA.

1860.—*Name; 10 centimes grey.*

GENUINE.

The front part of the neck does not touch the border.

Many of the letters of both top and bottom inscriptions touch at both top and bottom the lines enclosing them.

The forehead touches the border enclosing the head.

The photographs of this stamp, which are sold by French dealers, may be detected in the same manner as the black Bavaria.

FORGED.

The front part of the neck touches the border.

The letters of Nie Calodonic only touch the top line enclosing them, and 10 c. Postes, only touches the bottom line.

The forehead does not touch the border.

NORWAY.

1850.—*Inscription: Frimærke, arms in a circle, coloured impression, 4 skilling blue.*

In this forgery the lettering is small and indistinct, the colour light blue ultramarine, and is printed by lithography, generally postmarked, and the postmark is far too clearly defined and printed.

OLDENBURG.

1852.—*Name, black impression on coloured paper, $\frac{1}{20}$ thaler blue, $\frac{1}{12}$ thaler rose, and $\frac{1}{10}$ thaler yellow.*

GENUINE.

The bottom edge of the mantle (surrounding the shield), is formed by very small dots.

In the $\frac{1}{12}$ the point of the small upper shield is over the right side of the figure 1 of $\frac{1}{15}$.

The shading in the band, in the $\frac{1}{30}$ is very perceptible.

The figure 1 in the $\frac{1}{15}$ stamp above 15 is in the middle of the divisional line.

FORGED.

The bottom edge is formed by rather large dots on the right side.

The point of the small shield is just over the centre of the figure 1.

The shading is very indistinct in the band in the right hand lower portion.

There is a larger portion of the divisional line of $\frac{1}{15}$ to the right of the figure 1 than the left.

All the above, also 1853 issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ gros green, 1 gros blue, 2 gr. rose, 3 gr. yellow. 1860 issue, $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. orange, $\frac{1}{3}$ green, $\frac{1}{2}$ redbrown.

These forgeries are wretchedly executed. The genuine are neatly designed and executed, but these are miserable lithographs. The inscription is bad and irregular, the colouring bad, the printing smudgy, and hardly any shading in the whole lot.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Name in Turkish characters inscribed in a crescent; black impression on coloured paper; 20 paras yellow, 1 piastre lilac, 2 piastres blue, 5 piastres rose.

These forgeries may be detected by a close examination of the Turkish character in the crescent immediately beneath the Sultan's autograph. The imitation of the Turkish inscription consists merely of dots and flourishes, but without the slightest semblance of the original.

PARAGUAY.

These stamps are very mysterious, as it is not really known whether they were ever issued, or whether they are simply essays. Out of the four best catalogues that are published, two call them essays and the other two mention 3 stamps as being issued for postal uses. As it is not required of me to give any opinion respecting that moot point, my purpose merely being to detect forgeries, I must give a description of six of them which I know to be forgeries. The colours are respectively red, green, grey, black, yellow, and brown. The stars in the corners are badly formed; the lettering on inscription also is badly executed, the letters being thin and smudged. The pole above the lion's head is represented by a white mark; and the circle of dots at the right side of the oval are larger than those on the left.

PARMA.

First issue.—Coloured impression on white paper, 5 c. yellow, 15 c. red; black impression on coloured paper, 5 c. yellow, 15 c. red.

GENUINE.

The stamps are very smudgy, especially the coloured impression ones.

The background consists of white crossed lines, which makes it appear like small square dots.

FORGED.

They are very clearly printed.

The background is composed of rather rough looking large and small dots.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

1859.—Coloured impression on white paper, 5 c. green, 10 c. brown, 20 c. blue, 40 c. red, 80 c. orange; black impression, 6 c. carmine, 9 c. blue.

GENUINE.

All the lines forming the border are concave.

The middle line in the border is nearer to the outside than to the inside line.

The lines are rather broken.

FORGED.

The 4 short lines, are quite straight, and the four longer ones concave.

The middle line is nearer to the inside line.

The lines are too sharp and neat.

PONY EXPRESS.

1, 2, 3, and 4 dollars all in five colours.

There are two separate forgeries of these stamps, but the first with which I will treat are the Hamburg emanations and which are the most widely circulated. In the forgery the second thin stroke in the N in Pony is thinner than the first. In the genuine the breath is shown to issue out of the horses nostrils, but nothing of the sort is perceptible in the imitation. These two differences I think will suffice for the above. In the other imitations the breath which ought to issue out of horses nostrils cannot be seen, and the P in Pony is badly shaped. The ornamentation in the corners also is very blotchy and badly defined.

PRUSSIA.

ENVELOPES, 1851.—*Head of King; 7 s. gr. vermillion.*

GENUINE.

FORGED.

Colour is vermillion.

Colour, dull red.

The two threads across the stamp are worked in the paper.

The threads are inserted between the embossed paper and some thin paper pasted on the back.

On the neck of the King there is the word *Schilling* in very small letters.

The word *Schilling* is wanting.

ROMAGNA.

1860.— $\frac{1}{2}$ bai yellow, 1 grey, 2 yellow, 3 dark green, 4 red, 5 lilac, 6 green, 8 rose, 20 blue.

GENUINE.

FORGED.

The paper is rather coarse, and the colour is not shiny.

The paper is very glaring in colour and pretty fine and smooth.

The two dots after Bai: are square.

The two dots after BAI: are round.

ROMAN STATES.

Inscription: Franco Bollo Postale; 50 baj. blue.

In this stamp there is a rather large ornament in each corner, and in the ornament there is two short lines running from the corner and pointing towards the centre of the stamp. In the forgery this is correct in three corners, but in the left hand bottom corner there is only one stroke in the ornament, and the other stroke is represented by a very small dot touching the enclosing line. In the genuine the letters TAL of *Postale* touch each other at the bottom, but in the forgery the letters TA only touch each other.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

1860.—*Inscription: Inter Island Hawaiian Postage; 1 c. blue, black, 2 c. blue, black.*

The simple design of these stamps render imitation very easy, and the forgeries I am about to describe being very close copies, it is extremely difficult to detect them. The large figure 2 in the 2 c. is thicker in the original than in the forgery, whilst the C in the 1 cent is very broad, but only moderately broad in the imitation. In the 2 c. forgery the tail of the 2 projects a little outwards, with a rounded turn, but in the genuine the tail does not point out any further than on a level with the back of the 2, and it is perfectly straight, not being curved as in the forgery. In the genuine 1 cent the letters are all pretty thin and neat, especially the 1, which has a long and thick stroke at the top. In the forgery the letters are thicker and rather smudged, and the stroke on the top of 1 is very thin and much shorter than the genuine.

Name Honolulu, bust of King, 5 c. blue.

GENUINE.

The whole face is thickly dotted, excepting the nose.

The six buttons on the king's coat on the left side of the leaves are very distinct and white.

FORGED.

There is a small white place under the left side of mouth which is not dotted.

These buttons are very indistinct and four can be perceived.

Same as above.—13 c. red.

This forgery is lithographed, but the genuine is printed from steel dies. In the genuine the figure 8 in the right hand space is on a level with the letters of States, but in the forgery it is above. There is no dot after the words "United States" in the forgery, but there is a dot in the genuine.

SAXONY.

1850.—*Name Sachsen; 3 pfennige red.*

There are two imitations of this stamp; the first, which I now describe, is decidedly the worst executed, and may be detected by a close observation of the ornamentation in the large figure 3. In the genuine it is composed of ornaments very like small figures 3. The other and better imitation I more fully describe.

GENUINE.

The word Pfennige is printed in the centre of the side label.

There is a stop after Franco.

The ornamentation in the background touches the figure.

FORGED.

The word Pfennige is too high, as there is more space below than above it.

No stop after Franco.

There is a white margin all round the figure.

1851.—*Head of King to right in oval; printed in black on coloured paper, 1 n. gr. rose, 2 n. gr. blue, 3 n. gr. yellow.*

These are very like Messrs. Spiro Brother's lithographs, but they appear to come from Liverpool, only in very small quantities however, and almost totally obliterated with post marks.

GENUINE.

At both ends of the label enclosing Sachsen there is, more or less, some very fine shading.

The ground within the oval when closely examined will be found to form five lines very close together, so much so, that it appears to be solid.

The numerals of value at sides and bottom are all one size in each respective stamp.

FORGED.

It is not shaded here, but there is a solid mass which was perhaps intended for the shading.

This background in the oval is entirely solid.

The figure of value at bottom in the 1 n. gr. is less than the others, but in the other two stamps it is larger than the side ones.

SPAIN.

First issue.—Bear on tree, and printed in bronze, 1 cuartos, 2 c., and 3 c.

GENUINE.

The centre band contains seven dots or stars.

The band enclosing bear and tree is oval shaped.

FORGED.

The band only contains five dots.

The band is quite circular.

The above is a very poor imitation and I might name many more distinctions. There is another and better set of forgeries in the market, which I now also describe.

GENUINE.

There are two small ornaments below the third bunch of leaves on the left hand side.

There is a star in the oval, exactly opposite the above small ornament.

FORGED.

There is only one ornament below the bunch.

This star is on a level with the top of the leaves of the bunch, below the third bunch.

1850.—*6 cuartos black.*

This is an exceedingly bad imitation, being badly lithographed and printed. The original is pretty well engraved, and the inscription is regular in size and thickness. The ink with which the imitation is printed is very thin and not so black as the genuine.

1851.—*2 reals red.*

This fac-simile, although executed by the same persons as the above, is about the best Spanish forgery extant. The colour is not what would be desirable, yet the printing is very good and neat. In the genuine the ornaments in all the four corners are like each other, but in the imitation there is considerable difference both in size and shape.

1851.—6 *c. black.*

This is one of Spiro's worst imitations, suffice it is to say that in the forgery the C of Cuartos is only half the size of the R, and that all the corner ornaments are blotched. The next is the

1852.—5 *reales green.*

GENUINE.

The ornaments are all alike in the angles.

There is a stop after Correos.

The first O of Correos is smaller than the second.

FORGED.

The ornament in the right side lower angle is incomplete.

There is no stop after Correos.

The first O is larger than the second.

1853.—5 *reales green.*

GENUINE.

The small circles round the oval are all of equal sizes

The C of Correos is on a level with the other letters of that word.

FORGED.

These circles vary in size.

The C appears to the naked eye to be almost touching the line underneath, and it is lower down than the other letters.

1855.—6 *c. red.*

There are two different forgeries of this stamp. In one the letters of inscription are thin, in the other thick. In the best looking imitation the A and N of Franco touch each other at the base, and the lines in the corners outside the oval are very thick and far between. In the other imitation, which is an emanation from Hamburg; the colouring is very washy looking, and the Queen's head is very unnatural looking. There is only a few dots on the left side of the neck and none about the chin.

1854.—5 *reales green.*

In this imitation the bottom half of the figure 8 is larger than the upper one, but in the genuine they are equal in size; another noticeable feature is the 4 in 1854, which is longer than the other three figures.

OFFICIAL LABELS, 1854.— $\frac{1}{2}$ *onza orange*, 1 *rose*, 4 *green*, 1 *libra blue*.

GENUINE.

In the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 there is a large dot after the word onza.

In the left lower quarter of the shield the lion's right front leg is composed of two thin lines.

The cross on the top of the crown does not touch the line above; in the 1 onza it appears to the naked eye to do so, but it really does not.

FORGED.

This dot is extremely small.

The lion's leg is formed of only one rather thick stroke.

The cross touches the line in all the four stamps.

1855.—*Oval*; $\frac{1}{2}$ *orange*, 1 *rose*, 4 *green*, 1 *libra blue*.

GENUINE.

The C of Official evidently touches the I after it.

The stamp is very clearly shaded.

FORGED.

The C does not touch the I anywhere.

It is not remarkably clear, in some places rather coarse.

SPANISH POSSESSIONS

CUBA, HAYTI, AND PORTO RICO.

1857.—*Laureated Head of Queen Isabella II. to right in circle, printed in colour on white paper, ½ rl. plata f. blue, 1 rl. plata f. green, 2 rl. plata rose.*

GENUINE.

The number of small white dots round the edge of the circle enclosing Queen's head, is 73.

The small ornaments in each corner are round

In the top frame at each end of the inscription, is a white dot.

FORGED.

The number of white dots is 68.

The ornaments are no uniform shape at all, some being square, some triangular, some like stars, and others a mere blotch.

This dot is at neither end of the inscription in the ½, and it is only at one end in the 2 rl. plata.

SWITZERLAND.

FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.

1850.—*Black impression, 5 rappen, 10 rap.*

1852.—*Same device, 5 rap', 15 rap.*

GENUINE.

The letters of Rayon do not touch each other anywhere.

The four ends of the cross are all about one size.

FORGED.

The letters of Rayon nearly all touch one another at the base.

The right side end of the cross is decidedly the least.

In addition to these two points, the forgeries are all so covered with obliterating marks that the design of the stamps can hardly be seen, whilst in the genuine, although they are sometimes well postmarked, yet the design is almost always wholly perceptible.

GERMAN AND FRENCH CANTONS.

Inscription: Poste Locale, 2½ rappen.

In this stamp there is a small perpendicular line under 2½ and R P, but in the imitation it is omitted. The paper on which the forgery is printed appears to be of a blueish colour, whereas in the genuine it is white.

BASLE.

Inscription: Stadt Post Basel,, 2½ rap green.

This forgery is neatly executed, and the surest test for detecting it, is by observing the ground. In the genuine it is formed of alternate blue and white dots, whereas in the forgery it is composed of a ground, uniform blue.

GENEVA.

There are forgeries of all the Geneva stamps issued, and owing to the considerable differences between the genuine ones, it makes it impossible to give a description of any differences which may exist between the original and the imitations. The only sure way of detecting one or two of them is by observing the paper, the genuine 5 cent green is printed on white paper, but the forgery is printed on rather bluish tinted paper. The genuine 5 c. dark green is on extremely dark blue paper. The other forgeries are impossible to detect without they are submitted to some one who is well conversant with forgeries. The following is a description of Spiro's emanations:—The UX of Lux touch each other at the top. The shading round INS at the top is blotchy. The second E in Tenebras is larger than the first. The end of the band containing inscription above the shield touches the enclosing line at the right hand side, but not at the left.

NEUFCHATEL.

Inscription: Poste Locale, white cross on red ground, 5 cents.

GENUINE.

The label containing inscription above the cross is some distance from the top, and the two three pointed ornaments at each end of the label are *not* so broad as the label.

FORGED.

The label is very close to the top, and the three pointed ornaments are as broad as the label.

VAUD.

Same as above with Post Horn, 4 c., and 5 c., black impression.

GENUINE.

The top of the post horn on the right side is slightly turned outwards, and the left end of it almost touches the border of the scroll.

The letters of inscription Poste Locale are long and neat.

FORGED.

The top of the horn is turned inwards, and the left end of it is further off the scroll.

The letters are short and rather blotchy.

WINTERTHUR.

Inscription: Orts-Post, Poste-Locale, 2½ rappen, black impression.

This is a very nicely executed *fac-simile*. There are two varieties of the genuine, one with the horn longer than the other. In the forgery there is no stop after the word Post, and the rope or chain holding up the cross is composed of six circles. The genuine has a stop after Post, and the chain holding up the cross is composed of eight circles or links.

ZURICH.

1843. ESSAYS.—4 and 6 rappen, name, large figure indicating value.

In the above forgeries the horizontal red strokes that are painted over the large figure and the background, are more numerous and nearer together on the left side of the large figure than on the right; in fact there are about two to one. All the imitations I have seen are post marked, but I am assured that no stamps were issued in Switzerland until 1850, so the above can only be essays.

1856.—Name; 4 rappen, Local Taxe.

There are two imitations of this stamp. The first (Spiro's) has the T of "Taxe" almost touching the line above, and the whole letters of "Local Taxe" are smudged. In the top right corner there is a small square with five dots; the middle dot is about twice the size of the others. The X in "Taxe" is not so large as the E following.

In the other forgery, which is better executed, there is no hyphen between the words "Local Taxe," but in the genuine there is. The small semi-circles and ornaments in the border, and also the four corner squares, are much thicker and darker than the rest of the stamp, whereas in the genuine all the circles are of the same thickness, both in the border and in the corner squares.

Cantonal Taxe, 6 rappen.

Spiro's imitation of this stamp may be detected by observing that the hyphen joining the words "Cantonal Taxe" is omitted, and the three top ornaments and semi-circles in the border at the right side are much larger than the three top ones on the opposite side.

The other imitation shows the following inaccuracies, viz: there is no hyphen joining the words "Local Taxe," it is printed on rather blue glazed paper, the border is composed of four thin lines. In the genuine there is a hyphen joining "Local Taxe," and it is printed on rather dirty white unglazed paper. The border is composed of three thin black lines.

 TRINIDAD.

Value not indicated, crimson, blue slate.

These forgeries are exceedingly bad lithographs. The characters and inscription are too small, and the colours very thin and poor.

TUSCANY.

Lion on white paper, 1 quattr, 1 soldo, 1 crazier, 2 cra., 4 cra., 6 cra., 9 cra., (Provisional Government), 5 cent, 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., 80 c.

GENUINE.

On rather coarse and unglazed paper.
There is a water mark in the paper.
In the Provisional Government stamps there is a cross on the top of the crown.

FORGED.

On very smooth paper.
There is no water mark in the paper.
The cross is hardly perceptible.

There is another forgery of the 1 quattr black, which would have been pretty well executed had the left hand inscription (Franco Bollo) not been left out. It is usually sold as a rarity.

TWO SICILIES.

SICILY.

1859.— $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. orange, 1 gr. olive, 2 gr. blue, 5 gr. red, 10 gr. dark blue, 20 gr. black, 50 gr. dark red.

There are two forged sets of the above stamps. In the first set I describe, it appears that the forger has only had a part of the set to forge the whole seven stamps from.

No. 1 FORGERIES.

GENUINE.

In the half gr. the numeral of value is like this $\frac{1}{2}$.
The colour of the 1 gr. is orange, and the 50 gr. is dark red.
There is a dot after Sicilia in the whole set.
The background is formed of rather rough crossed lines.

FORGED.

The half is like this $\frac{1}{2}$.
Both these stamps are coloured red.
There is no dot after Sicilia.
The background in some of them is solid.

No. 2 FORGERIES.

GENUINE.

The B of Bollo does not reach as far as the corner of the border enclosing the head.
The background is composed of crossed lines.
The dot after Sicilia is generally wanting, always very indistinct.

FORGED.

Part of the B comes past the left hand corner of the border enclosing the head.
The background is quite solid.
This dot is always very distinct.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

October 1860.— $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese blue.

In this forgery there is wanting a small G, which ought to be in the bottom white line almost under the half. The head which ought to be at the juncture of the three legs is also wanting.

November, 1860 — ½ tornese blue.

The small G which is wanting in the above forgery is also omitted in this, and in the genuine the outline of the three legs and fleur-de-lis as in the first issue, can be seen, but it is rather indistinct, whereas in the forgery no traces of anything of the sort can be observed. There are two imitations of this stamp. The other is by the Hamburg forgers, and is a very poor imitation; it may be detected in the same manner as the above. I may also say that the inscription is very irregular and blotched.

NAPLES.

1857.—*½ grano, 1 gr., 2 gr., 5 gr., 10 gr. 20 gr., 50 gr.; printed in lake on white paper.*

GENUINE.

Printed on rough coarse looking paper.

The horse's mane is composed of a white clear space like the neck, with a line to divide the mane from the neck.

The three fleurs-de-lis are all much like each other.

FORGED.

Printed on fine white smooth paper.

The horse's mane is thickly shaded.

There is more or less difference in all the stamps between the three fleurs-de-lis, some are smaller than others, or some are not so clear as others.

VENEZUELA.

1863.—*Eagle in circle, ½ real yellow, 1 rl. blue, 2 rls. green.*

GENUINE.

There is a dot after Real.

The letters of Real are not so large as those of Federation.

None of the letters of Venezuela touch the line of the scroll underneath.

FORGED.

There is no dot after Real.

The letters of Real are of the same size and thickness as those of Federation.

Some of the letters touch the line.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Name, a swan naiant, 1d. black, 2d. pink, 2d. blue, 6d. green, 6d. brown red.

GENUINE.

All the letters are flat at the ends.

The background is very elaborately executed.

The letters of inscription are very regular in size and shape.

FORGED.

Nearly all the letters are round and pointed at the ends and badly engraved.

Background consists of straggling dots.

The letters are somewhat irregular in shape, especially the A's in Postage and Australia, no two being alike.

WURTEMBERG.

1850.—*Square inscription: Wurtemberg, 1 kreuzer buff, 3 kr. yellow, 6 kr. green, 9 kr. rose.*

GENUINE.

At the top of the U in Wurtemberg, there are two dots.

The ornaments just outside of the diamond touch, or nearly always touch, the corners of the inner square.

There is a dot after the large figure 3 in the diamond.

FORGED.

In the 3 kr. there is only one, and in the other stamps there is none.

The ornaments are a good distance from the corner.

There is no dot after the figure 3,

1850.—*Name; 18 kr. neutral.*

This is a very good imitation as regards execution, but the colour of the paper is reddish purple instead of neutral. The number of lines from the top to the bottom are 23, but there are 25 in the genuine.

RETURNED LETTER LABEL.—*Inscription: Commission Für Retourbriefe; black.*

The forged emanation from Hamburg of this stamp is beautifully lithographed. In the genuine there is a dot after "Retourbriefe," but it is omitted in this fac-simile. The two lower ornaments in the forgery between the oval and the square ornament in the corner are very unlike each other in shape.

There is another imitation of this stamp which is bad to detect; in it, however, the dot after "Retourbriefe" is omitted, and it is printed on white paper, whereas it must be remembered that the genuine is in all cases on white paper with a bluish tinge in it.

ADDENDA.

The following counterfeits have come under notice too late for insertion in their proper places.

BADEN.

1855.—*Inscription: Baden Freimarke, 1 kreuzer white.*

GENUINE.

The minute inscriptions at sides are very neatly executed.

The corner ornaments are all *like* each other in size and shape and neatly executed.

The lettering of *Freimarke* is a uniform size, and neat and regular.

FORGED.

The inscriptions at sides are exceedingly poorly done, and it is utterly impossible to read them.

The corner ornaments are very much *unlike* each other, and badly done.

The first R in *Freimarke* is larger than the second R, and the whole word is carelessly executed.

BRAZIL,

1861.—*Oblong Roman figures indicating value, printed in black, 10 reis, 20, 30, 90, 180.*

GENUINE.

The figures are very distinct, especially the black shading.

The outside enclosing line is very straight and well defined in the whole set.

The numeral of value is in all the stamps well shaped.

Probably the 300 and 600 reis of the same issue are forged, but I have not yet seen a specimen. I would however beg to caution collectors against the same, and if they are forged, which is very probable, the above description will no doubt suffice to detect them.

FORGED.

The black shading of the figures is not well defined and it runs into the background.

This line is crooked and broken in several places; in the right hand top corner of most of the stamps it runs into the line within it.

The 9 in the 90 reis is leaning towards the left and is very badly formed.

CORRIENTES.

I hear of the Corrientes stamp being forged, but I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing a copy. I understand, however, that the imitations are much better executed than the genuine, and that there is great dissimilarity in the paper. I merely mention this to put collectors on their guard against this *fac-simile*, but if they should see two copies of this stamp unlike each other, they need not conclude that one of them is forged or *vice versa*, as the genuine stamps are printed in plates of eight, and all of them are slightly different in design.

GERMANY.

NORTHERN STATES.

1850.—*Inscription: Freimarks, large numeral of value in square, printed in black on red brown paper, $\frac{1}{4}$ silb. grosch.*

GENUINE.

In each of the four corners of the inner square, there is a small shield with numeral of value thereon neatly executed.

The small horns in the four corners are all very much alike.

FORGED.

The numeral of value on the shield is wretchedly done, in the two lower corners especially. In the left lower corner the mark between 1 and 4 thus $\frac{1}{4}$ is entirely missing, and in the opposite corner it bears no resemblance to a figure.

These horns hardly resemble each other. The small end of the one in the top right corner is very short and blotchy, whilst the small end of the lower one on the same side is much larger.

There are several more differences, but the above will suffice. The forgery, although it appears at first sight to be an exceedingly good imitation, yet the execution bears no comparison with the genuine, the small letters on the sides not being near so well executed.

FICTITIOUS STAMPS.

The stamps I mention under this head, are:—

1. STAMPS WHICH NEVER EXISTED AS *BONA-FIDE* POSTAGE STAMPS, BUT WERE ORIGINATED BY FORGERS.

The first mentioned stamps are all purely imaginary, and appear to have been executed more for the inexperienced collector, than for the victimizing of Collectors in general. I think it is not requisite to give a full description of them, so I merely append a list, with sufficient descriptions however to detect them.

BAVARIA.—Figure 3 in a circle; black impression.

CAPRERA.—Inscription: Postal Capera Italin; 1 scudo.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—Head of Davis to right in oval; 5 c. red and black.

JAPAN.—Several stamps all different sizes and colours. Design, imitation of a French horn.

JERUSALEM.—Inscription in hieroglyphical figures, design Pyramids in square.

MEXICO.—Pretended stamp to frank from Acapulco in Mexico to San Francisco in California. Name, McRobish & Co.; blue and pink.

NASHVILLE.—5 c. grey.

TURKISH.—Crescent and star; 6 bronze olive 3 mura red. Golden fleece, letters, J. E. below.

U.S. MORMON STAMP.—Head of Brigham Young. Inscription: Utah five cents Postage; red and green.

U.S. LOCAL STAMPS.—Blood's Despatch, eagle and dove, Clinton's Penny Post Clark & Co.'s Box, Clemin's Dispatch, Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post, Carrier's 1 c. Despatch, De Ming's Penny Post, Davis & Co.'s Post, Floyd's Penny Post, G. Carter's Dispatch, Ker's City Post, Paid Eagle Post at Adam's Express, Priest's Dispatch, Royal Post, Steven's 1 c. Despatch, Well's Penny Post.

2. STAMPS WHICH WERE NEVER INTENDED FOR POSTAL USE.

The stamps in this class are those which were never intended for postal uses, but which are, however, designedly sold by dealers as *bona-fide* postage stamps. Some of them are Receipt and Bill stamps and some are trade labels, &c.

- AUSTRIA.**—Complimentary Labels, which are intended to fill up the proper number of stamps on a sheet—47 varieties.
- BAVARIA.**—The whole issues of 1851 and 1862 are printed in black, and are called “Tribers d’Instruction.”
- BERNE.**—Name: Canton Berne, Bear on Shield; 10 rap yellow, 3 r. blue, Receipt stamps.
- BRUNSWICK.**—Stamps on the Receipts given for registered letters, 6 pf. red, lake, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. red.
- DENMARK.**—Inscription:—Thiele at sides; black impression.
- FRANCE.**—Several trade labels with Head of Emperor and French inscriptions.
- GENEVA.**—Man with spear leaning on a shield, various colours, Receipt stamps.
- ICELAND.**—Trade labels, various colours. Design: Bear in shield, Name: Vulneré.
- JAMAICA.**—Several Bill stamps.
- OCEAN POSTAGE.**—Six varieties. Inscription: Ocean Penny Postage, advertisements for bringing the universal system of the Ocean Penny Postage into notice.
- ZURICH.**—Various values, all Receipt stamps.

3. STAMPS WHICH HAVE BEEN CHANGED IN COLOUR BY CHEMICALS.

The stamps under this head are mostly comparatively common stamps, which have been changed in colour by a peculiar chemical process, and then sold as either rare undiscrined varieties, proofs, or essays. The only safe method to guard against such forgeries is, by refusing to buy any as such that are not mentioned in the best catalogues. I herewith append a list of all such stamps I have either met with or heard of.

- ARGENTINE CONFED:**—1861, 10 c. green changed to blue.
1850, 9 kr. blue changed to green.
- AUSTRIA.**—1858, Newspaper stamp, lavender changed to a dirty grey.
- BADEN.**—1850, 6 krs. green changed to yellow.
,, 1855, 9 krs. pink changed to white.
- BAVARIA.**—1851, 9 krs. green changed to pale lemon.
- BELGIUM.**—1849, 20 c. blue changed to black.
,, 1 c. to blue.
- BREMEN.**—1855, 5 grote pink to white.
,, ,, 7 gr. yellow to grey.
- BRITISH GUIANA,** 1853, 4 c. blue to black.
- BRUNSWICK.**—1852, 2 s. gr. blue to black.
- CONFEDERATE STATES.**—1862, 10 c. blue to black.
- FRANCE.**—1854, 5 cents green to blue.
,, ,, 20 c. blue to black.

- GERMANY, SOUTH.—1860, 3 kr. blue to green.
 „ „ 1 kreuzer to blue.
- GREECE.—20 lepta blue to black.
- HANOVER.—1858, 1 guten gr. green to yellow.
- HOLLAND.—1852, 5 cents blue to black.
- ITALY.—15 c. to green impression on yellow paper.
- MODENA.—10 c. rose to violet (there is a 10 c. violet stamp, but most of those sold at present are chemical varieties.
- NEWFOUNDLAND.—2nd issue, 3d. green to black.
- NEW ZEALAND.—1d. dark brown.
- NOVA SCOTIA.—1860, 1 cent black to green.
- OLDENBURG.—1851, 1 silb. gr. green to yellow.
 „ 1858, $\frac{1}{3}$ gros. green to grey.
 „ „ 2 „ red to white.
 „ 1857, 2 s. gr. blue to black.
- PRUSSIA.—1858, 4 pfug. green to blue.
 „ „ 1 silb. gr. pink to white.
 „ „ 3 silb. gr. yellow to grey.
- ROMAGNA.—1851, 20 bai blue to black.
- SAXONY.—1851, 1 n. gr. rose to white.
 „ „ 2 n. gr. blue to black.
 „ „ 3 n. gr. yellow to white.
- SWITZERLAND.—Rayon II., 10 rappen yellow to slate colour.
- UNITED STATES.—1861, 10 cent green to blue.
 „ „ 1 cent blue to black.
- WURTEMBERG.—1850, 9 krs. rose to white.
 „ 1860, 6 kr. green to blue.
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