

** Genuine*

PUZZLE: FIND THE GENUINE!



The most widely counterfeited of the General Issues is the first stamp of the Confederacy, the 5¢ Jefferson Davis. The imitations range from the superior engraving from Birmingham, to visually excellent lithographs, to the crudest of woodcuts. The portraits include a perplexed Davis, a worried Davis, an inane Davis and a "Massa Jeff" Davis. Most, however, are readily identified as bogus when compared with the genuines: the two stamps on either end of the second row.

THE BIRMINGHAM FIVE



CONSTANT IDENTIFYING MARKS

The scroll ornaments in the lower corners of the genuine are elongated; here they are rounded.

The portrait detail of the counterfeit is more sharply drawn than in the original.

A colorless area between the upper and lower bars of the "E" in "POSTAGE" exists on the genuine. The space is closed on the counterfeit.

This is a masterfully executed counterfeit of the first Confederate stamp. In fine detail of workmanship it is in all respects superior to the original. It was produced in Birmingham, England by means of lithography and exists in red-brown, green, rose-vermillion and in blue. Cancelled copies are generally obliterated by a fake grid killer.

THE 10¢ ROSE SPERATI



CONSTANT IDENTIFYING MARKS

The "E" of "POSTAGE" is jagged on the back side of the downward stroke.

The upper right numeral "1" of "10" resembles a malformed figure three.

Two colorless spots - one under the "1" of "10"; another over the "E" in "TEN".

Two dots in the center bar of the letter "T" in "TEN".

An excellent counterfeit of the Hoyer and Ludwig 10¢ Rose lithograph. It is signed in pencil on the reverse by Mons. Jean de Sperati. Copies exist both "mint" and "used". The most dangerous killer of all is one of concentric circles; the least dangerous being a "Cincinnati" postmark! Copied on somewhat thinner paper from stone position number 38.

THE NEW YORK "LONDON" PRINT



THE COUNTERFEIT



THE GENUINE

CONSTANT IDENTIFYING MARKS

The outer framing line of the counterfeit is twice the thickness of the original.

The center bars of the "F" and "E" of "FIVE" appear to be shorter in the counterfeit.

The white centers in the upper stars are smaller, while their flanking trefoils are larger than on the original.

This typographed counterfeit is clearly the finest of the earlier imitations. It was made from a wax impression of the "Altered-Value" Ten Cents rather than the issued London Print as was first supposed. The altered "TEN" was probably soldered out and "FIVE" reinstated. Impressions were then made again and grouped into a pane of 100 subjects. It represents excellent matching of the original paper, gum and ink. Strips and blocks are easily spotted by the irregular spacing. Produced in New York City.

THE SPERATI "T-E-N"



A SIGNED PROOF



- (A) The letters "T" and "E" of "TEN" are joined together at the top.
- (B) The broad single colorless line of the frame extending beneath "TEN" carries a double colorless line on the genuine stamp.
- (C) There is a slight downward-slanting spur on the serif of the first leg of the "N" of "TEN".

The Archer and Daly "TEN" is the most accurate of the Sperati counterfeits. It was probably produced from an etching on copper rather than by intaglio as was the original. The paper is a composition of linen or cotton and therefore a good match-up to the original. Cancelled copies ---including one from New York---are known to exist. The signed proof is one of the rarest items in fakery, it being one of not more than half a dozen in existence.

THE SCOTT ILLUSTRATIONS



One of the principal sources of Confederate counterfeits and facsimiles is the catalogue illustrations used many years ago. The crude woodcuts that are shown here were taken from Scott's 1894 Catalogue. After use in the catalogue, the cuts apparently fell into private hands. Anyone even vaguely familiar with the genuine stamps would not be fooled by these raw facsimiles. Only one comes within a mile of the original, the 10¢ Rose shown above in used condition. These woodcuts exist in the true colors and in other hues.

▢▢▢▢▢ VARIATIONS ON A THEME ▢▢▢▢▢



These gaily colored reprints typographed on multi-colored sulphite papers were made from one of the several sections in existence of the "Altered Value" plate. Note that in shortening the denomination from "FIVE" to "TEN" cents the letter spacing was thrown out of balance. These plate sections are now, and have been since the '70's in private hands and reprints in all the rainbow's colors are known.

Fifteen of those above form a single American set; the deep rose on white comes from a different section of the plate and had its origin in England.

Although this plate was ordered by the Confederate government it was never put to use and therefore can be afforded no official status.



This strikingly realistic lampoon of the United States souvenir sheets issued by James A. Farley was the work of the Columbus Philatelic Club.

It was made from the "Columbus Section" of the Altered-Value plate which has been re-touched. Although an inferior print, the strip at right shows the four major scars in the left marginal stamps which identify the Columbus Section. This block of nine is preserved in the Ohio State Museum.

THE SPRINGFIELD FACSIMILES



The most dangerous of the modern American imitations...at prima facie. Issued in "mint" and "used" condition in 1934 by the Tatham Coin and Stamp Co., Springfield, Mass. Copied without permission from copyrighted pen-and-ink pattern drawings made in 1919 by Gen. August Dietz, Sr. Readily detected as spurious by a drop of diluted Aniline Sulphate or by the Herzberg Test. Printed in pale, pastel shades on sulphite paper. Gen. Dietz incorporated one secret mark in each drawing and they are a part of these facsimiles.

SELMA



SPARTA



LIVINGSTON



MOBILE



GREENVILLE



THE LIVINGSTON LITHOGRAPH



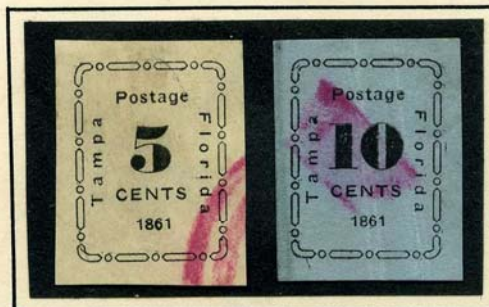
The Livingston, Alabama lithograph, of which the above is a fair imitation, was the most attractive of all the Postmaster Provisionals. The genuine shares honors with Mobile, Alabama for being the only two pictorials among the many provisionals issued in the Confederacy. It is possible they both came from the same atelier... probably in Mobile. The counterfeit is a woodcut and exists in many colors on white and tinted papers. The deep blue copy is cancelled "...ERMANIA".

0000000000 FLORIDA 0000000000

MADISON



TAMPA



THE EXPRESS



◻◻◻◻◻◻◻ MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA ◻◻◻◻◻◻◻



Like Sherman, the counterfeiters marched through Georgia leaving behind a trail of fakery that includes these woodcut and typeset frauds. The Savannah stamp is one of the only two pictorials in the catalogue of Confederate tomfoolery.

BATON ROUGE



NEW ORLEANS



TYPE ONE



TWO



THREE



FOUR



TYPE ONE



TYPE TWO



TYPE THREE

□□□□ NORTH CAROLINA □□□□

WELDON



STATESVILLE



LENOIR



THE WILMINGTON "MEMPHIS"



THE MEMPHIS

Daniel Dickson, the Wilmington, North Carolina postmaster, used several different handstamps but issued no adhesive of any type. The faker who "issued" this set of mediocre woodcuts patterned them after the 2¢ Memphis, Tennessee provisional.

An odd assortment of denomination numerals were used in the center of the stamp. The band at the foot is mortised and the city designation: WILMINGTON is typeset in 6 point type. The inclusion of the never-used 3 cent stamp would indicate that these fakes were manufactured North of the Mason-Dixon Line after the War by someone unfamiliar with the Confederate postage rates.

□□□□□□□ SOUTH CAROLINA □□□□□□□

CHARLESTON



CHARLESTON



COLUMBIA



COLUMBIA



0000000000 TENNESSEE 0000000000

MEMPHIS



TYPE ONE

TYPE TWO

TYPE THREE

KNOXVILLE



NASHVILLE



RHEATOWN



NASHVILLE



RHEATOWN



MEMPHIS



KNOXVILLE



0000 VIRGINIANS --- BUT NOT GENTLEMEN! 0000

MARION



DANVILLE



PITTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE

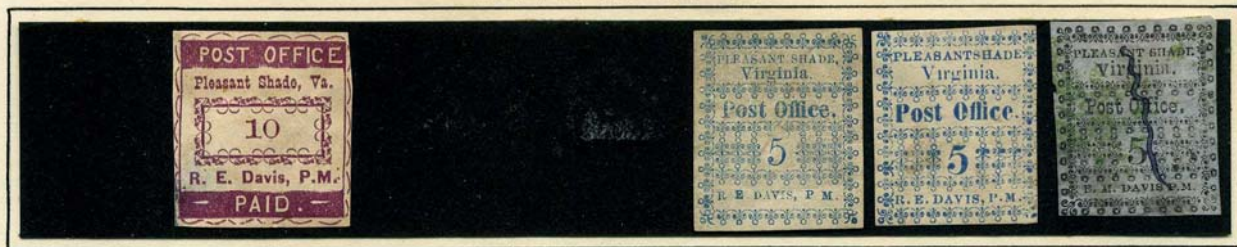


PETERSBURG



0 0 0 0 0 0 0 MORE VIRGINIA CREEPERS 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

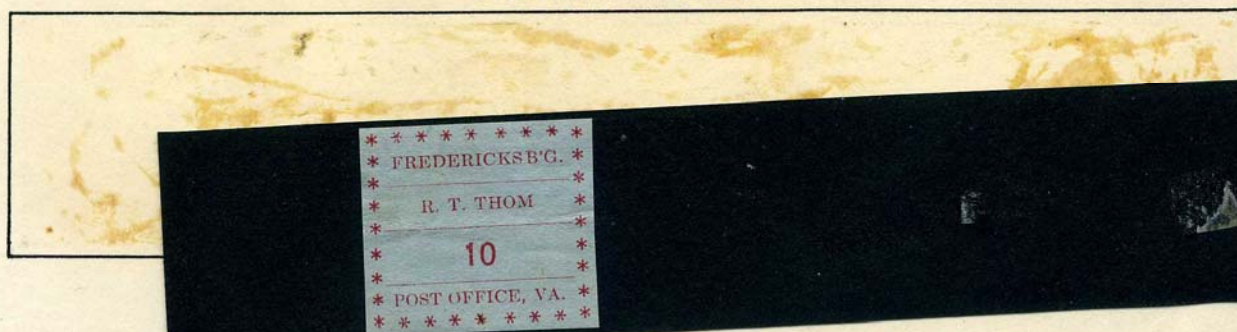
PLEASANT SHADE



LYNCHBURG



FREDERICKSBURG



THE BLOCKADE POSTAGE



The "Blockade Stamp" was one of the first fantasies to achieve general notoriety, making its appearance in 1864. It was a logical issue since the Federal blockade of Southern ports had been so effective that foreign mail was carried only on those ships able to run the blockade. The Confederate Post Office did not perform the service this label represents.

The fantasy above is an imitation of two earlier fakes purporting to frank mail to the West Indies and Europe. The earlier stamps were possibly the work of S.C. Upham, famous Philadelphia counterfeiter. The one here is undoubtedly the work of S. Allen Taylor, famed for his own forgeries and for imitating the fantasies of other fakers.

Copies of the "Blockade Stamp," all in \$1.00 denomination, exist in a rainbow of colors.

BUCKS RICHMOND EXPRESS



The most frequently encountered fantasy is this label for the non-existent Bucks Richmond Express. Several different types are known. Comic legend has it that "Buck" must have been the giant negro of that name who was a porter for Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond engravers!

THE CHARLESTON "FORT SUMTER"



This famous old woodcut from Charleston, South Carolina depicts the Confederate Stars and Bars flying over Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The rogue who created this fanciful fabrication out of the whole cloth "issued" the 10¢ denomination first and followed up with the 1¢, 2¢, 5¢ and one mysterious "X".

Since Charleston Postmaster Huger issued only one Provisional adhesive, a scroll ornamented 5¢, it is safe to assume this to be the work of a damnyankee.

Colors recorded for the Sumter fake include, among others: red, green, brown, blue, salmon-pink, gray and purple...on a variety of white and tinted stock.

THE CSA FLAG

TYPE ONE



TYPE TWO



The genuine of the above was an equally crude stone lithograph prepared by the engraving firm of Hoyer and Ludwig and presented to the Contract Bureau as an essay. The characteristic which distinguishes the genuine essay from the two counterfeits is the substitution of ruled lines for a cross-hatch background.

THE RICHMOND DUCK PINS AND BATTLE FLAG



The Capitol of the Confederacy came in for more than its share of hanky-panky from the fakers. Two leading examples are the Duck Pins (actually crossed cannons and cannon balls) and the Battle Flag. Both are mythical labels.

THE HELL BOX



A Hell Box is a receptacle into which a printer throws discarded or pied type. This assortment of odds and ends is a good start on a Hell Box of Confederate fakery.



Aside from the pitfalls of excellent counterfeits that plague Confederate collectors, there is still another group the wary will be wise to look for: genuine stamps with fake cancellations. These are found most often trying to make used copies of the 2¢ red-brown, the 2¢ green and the 20¢ green since these three stamps are more valuable in used condition. All the tricks have been used by the fakers to make the stamps shown here appear to be genuinely used: smudges, grids, fake logos, even including that scourge of the Twentieth Century...the ball-point pen!

* General

FROM BAD TO WORSE



It's bad enough when genuine stamps are counterfeited by means of adding bogus cancellations, but far worse when fakes are encountered in "used" condition! Included in the Rogue's Gallery above are ovals drawn in pen-and-ink, rubber stamps, nondescript smudges and even one tic-tac-toe! The Springfield counterfeit Type II cancelled "VA." was "issued" by the Tatham Coin and Stamp Company in mint and used sets. The Petersburg 5¢ Red may be called either a cancellation or a C.S.A. surcharge. Regardless, one is as fake as the other!