



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

# Volunteer State

## Philatelic Gazette



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CHAPTER 0431

## Counterfeit, Faked, and Forged Stamps

In general, Counterfeits, fakes, and forgeries are labels that look like postage stamps but have been produced to deceive or defraud. Learning to identify these can be a challenging branch of philately. To a large extent the definitions below are consistent with those given in the introduction to various recent editions of the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. "We use the term "forgery" to indicate stamps produced to defraud collectors (properly known as forgeries) and to defraud stamp-issuing governments (properly known as counterfeits)."Fake" is used to indicate the alteration of a genuine stamp to make it appear as something else. Fakes might refer to cancellations, overprints, added or clipped perforations, stamp design alterations, etc." While difficult to do today, one famous case is the Stock Exchange forgery of the late 19th century.

### History of philatelic Counterfeits, fakes, and forgeries

The first postage stamp was issued in Great Britain in 1840, and by the early 1860s the first postage stamp forgery - in the sense of a stamp created to fool philatelists into thinking that it is a genuine one - appeared on the market. By 1863 forgeries were so common that the book "Forged Stamps: How to Detect Them" was published and by 1864, forgeries were being produced of both common and scarce stamps from a wide range of issuing countries such as Austria, British Guiana, Finland, India and Spain.

Jean de Sperati is among the master forgers in the history of philately. He created forgeries of the 10 cent black, one of the first United States postal issues, in 1847. It is possible to identify these forgeries by two small flaws. The Vancouver Island forgery refers to a stamp that was originally issued in 1865. To produce his forgery, de Sperati bleached a real, cheaper stamp of the same vintage. He then used a process called photolithography to make an almost perfect copy of the stamp. In his lifetime, Jean de Sperati forged over 500 stamps. He sometimes signed his work in pencil on the back. His forged stamps are now often worth more than the originals.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, spring is over and the long long hot summer is here! Not to worry because Summer is the best time to work on your stamp collection! There are several stamp shows coming up in the area. Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Evansville, Montgomery, and Memphis. And don't forget our club - we'll have lots of fun things coming up during this Summer!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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Nashville Stamp Show 2025  
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Our annual stamp show will be held next year on March 9-10 at the Gallatin Civic Center located at 320 Albert Gallatin Avenue in Gallatin Tennessee. This is a same location we used in 2023 and it will be our new home for years to come. We'll be sending out contracts to the dealers in all the states nearby Tennessee and we've already heard from some dealers that they will return next year too! Thanks to everyone who volunteered at our stamp show this year and we couldn't have been such a successful one without you! Of course we'll need people for next year's show too. Please volunteer!

Roger Hunt asks for donations of old albums  
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Roger Hunt asked the members to donate old, partially-filled stamp albums for the "children's stamp table" our forthcoming stamp show. As you may remember during our 2024 show there were tables setup between the dealers tables and exhibits with loose stamps for children and some adults to pick through. So if you have any old albums just sitting around the house please think about donating them to help get children interested in stamp collecting again. You may contact Roger at the club meetings or contact the club and we'll get your message to him. Please email: [show@nashvillephilatelic.org](mailto:show@nashvillephilatelic.org).

Articles for the newsletter  
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I need articles for this newsletter on any aspect of stamp collecting. They can be hand written, typed, or by computer in any format. I would be willing to help write them too. I have been getting some articles during the last few months, but I still need some more. If you see interesting articles in the philatelic press, please let me know. You may contact me at the club meetings or at [mhenward@aol.com](mailto:mhenward@aol.com). Thanks.

New Stamp Club Members  
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Ryan Belle Harran  
Ed Sherman

The Volunteer State  
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #117 Summer 2024

Matt Benward  
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke  
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Matt Benward President  
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President  
David Bodkin Second Vice-President  
Madeline Seibert Jr. Vice-President  
Tom Tribke Secretary  
Mark Thompson Treasurer

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Philatelic Fellowship at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting at 6:30 p.m., Program or Auction at 6:45 p.m., out by 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Bavarian Bierhaus, 121 Opry Mills Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC GAZETTE is an official Publication of the Nashville Philatelic Society

Opinions expressed in THE GAZETTE are those of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nashville Philatelic Society or its members.

This publication is free and copies may be requested by writing to our PO box, emailing using the info email address on our web page, or by download from our webpage.

Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org>  
The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

# Nashville Philatelic Society

## Minutes Review for April 2024 – June 2024

NPS held its 4/8/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/25/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ryan Belle Harran's application for NPS membership received first reading. Rudy Caduff won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 865 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1208 "followers". Mark Thompson presented a Treasurer's Report and a Palmares Awards Report for our past Show. Members who had lots for our "Premium Auction" at our next meeting were asked to coordinate with Dennis Fielding. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "Scouting on Stamps" by Tom Tribke and others.

The NPS held its 4/22/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 4/8/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ryan Belle Harran's application for NPS membership received second readings and was approved and she was welcomed to NPS membership. Courtney Cochran won the door prize. Roger Hunt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 921 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1203 "followers". The business session was then adjourned for the Special "Premium Auction" organized by Dennis Fielding and conducted by David Perry.

The NPS held its 5/6/2024 meeting (held early due meeting room scheduling) at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/22/2024 meeting were read and approved. Andre Goodman won the door prize. Jack Payne Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 951 "likes" on Facebook. The past "Premium Auction" was reviewed concerning the type and number of lots. The next Premium Auction is scheduled in August. Rudy Caduff discussed new Swiss issues and programs. The business session then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on the "Large Banknote Series Stamps S/C Nos. 134 - 218" conducted by Dennis Fielding.

NPS held its 5/27/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 5/6/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ed Sherman's application was received for NPS membership given first reading. Dennis Fielding won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 956 "likes" on Facebook. As requested, a copy of the NPS By-Laws was provided to all members at our meeting. The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

The NPS had its 6/10/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and two guests were present. The minutes of the 5/27/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ed Sherman's application for NPS membership received second readings and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Mike Gillespie won the door prize. Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Matt and others reported on the Louisville and Huntsville shows. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 951 "likes" on Facebook. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program and movie with a handout on "Heligoland" by Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 6/24/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/10/2024 meeting were read and approved. Al Bollmeier won the door prize. Buzz Bolton won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1199 "followers" on Twitter and 993 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned those members who had lots for the "Premium Auction" in August should coordinate their lot information with Dennis Fielding. The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

# Nashville Philatelic Society

## Minutes Review for December 2023 – March 2024

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/12/2023 at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall. Seventeen NPS members and one guest joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!! We watched several videos about Christmas stamps and held a short auction with 28 lots. 20 lots were sold.

The NPS held its 1/8/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Jay Elmore's application for NPS membership received first reading. Andre Goodrow won the door prize. Al Bollmeier won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, and Social Media committees! It was reported that our Facebook site had 869 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1209 "followers". Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would be held on March 9 - 10 at the Gallatin Civic Center and that help would be required with show set-up and take down. Matt also advised that our theme for the show would be "150 years of Postal Cards (1873 - 2023)". The business session was then adjourned for an excellent program with handouts on "The Most Valuable Stamps in the World".

The NPS held its 1/22/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 1/8/2024 meeting were read and approved. Jay Elmore's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Margaret Bansemer's application for membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, and Social Media committees! It was reported that our Facebook site had 877 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1208 "followers". An informal discussion on stamp displays for our upcoming show was held. Matt again mentioned that our Stamp show would be held on March 9 - 10 at the Gallatin Civic Center and that help would be required with show set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry. The auction had 31 lots of which 23 were sold.

The NPS held its 2/13/2024 meeting (delayed till Tuesday due meeting room scheduling) at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members were present. Minutes of the 1/22/2024 meeting were read and approved. Margaret Bansemer's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to the club. David Perry won the door prize. Roger Hunt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 877 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1208 "followers". Mark Thompson presented Treasurer's Reports for 2023 and the 4th quarter of 2023 and a current list of dues-paid members. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would require help with set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program by Scott Simon and presented by Al Bollmeier on "Rocket Mail" with handouts provided.

The NPS held its 2/26/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 2/13/2024 meeting were read and approved. Tom Bain won the door prize. Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 877 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1207 "followers". Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would need help with set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

NPS held its 3/11/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 2/26/2024 meeting were read and approved. Roger Bendure's application for NPS membership received first reading. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Bob Winters won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 880 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1208 "followers". Matt thanked everyone who participated in our Stamp show for the good job done. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation and handout on the "Trans-Mississippi 1898 Issue" by Tom Tribke and other members.

The NPS held its 3/25/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/11/2024 meeting were read and approved. Roger Bendure's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Garry Speich won the door prize. Mark Thompson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 880 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1208 "followers". Matt again thanked everyone who participated in our Stamp show for the good job done. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

# Counterfeit, Faked, and Forged Stamps

## Postal forgeries or counterfeits

Those who produce counterfeits appeal to a very different market from philatelists. They depend on their stamps being produced in large quantities in order to be able to recover their outlay. The person who would use them must feel that he can purchase them for a price that is significantly lower than what he would pay at a legitimate post office, or is perhaps duped into thinking they are genuine. This makes the most common current stamp used for everyday mailing a prime target for counterfeiting activity.

The earliest commercial forgeries are all postal, and the Penny Black was the first stamp to be copied in 1840, its first year. Partial forgery consists of changing colors or changing the face values of stamps to imitate a higher value stamp. Other tricks consisted of methods to make the cancellation disappear (chemically erasing, placing a second stamp on it if it just hits a corner). As a curiosity postal authorities have published their own forgeries, thus the British Post Office forged its own 1d stamps in 1856 to see if its features were fraud-proof.

## Protective measures

Postal services developed, early on, measures to protect the integrity of their stamps. Some of these steps are similar to those used to protect against forged currency. Major steps include:

- Watermarks
- Special paper
- Delicate engraving
- Printing methods
- Special ink for postmarks
- Insertion of silk threads
- Secret marks either visible or invisible to the microscope
- Re-issue of stamps

It may not be possible to distinguish between a philatelic and postal forgery if the stamps are unused, merely by looking at them; the techniques utilized in producing them are identical. However, if the stamps bear cancellations, they may be more readily distinguished. If a stamp has a forged cancellation, it necessarily is a philatelic forgery since it was obviously made for sale to collectors, not to be used to send a letter. If the cancellation is genuine, it is likely, but not necessarily, a postal forgery, since sometimes forgers have used genuine cancellation devices to "cancel" forged stamps. A helpful distinction may be to have one of these stamps on an envelope that actually went through the mail, but that too requires caution. Counterfeits that reach the philatelic community are fairly scarce, and that alone makes them more valuable.

## Philatelic forgeries

Soon after their introduction, stamps became philatelic objects, and stamp forgery to the detriment of the collector became a problem. The first book about the topic was written by Jean-Baptiste Moens from Belgium "De la falsifications des timbres-poste" in 1862. Shortly thereafter Pemberton published "Forged Stamps: How to detect them" and Robert Brisco Earée "Album Weeds." Stamps produced by famous forgers have become collectibles, as well. Unlike counterfeits these are very common in collections. Many that were produced in the earliest days of stamp collecting in the 19th century are still plentiful. At that time many considered it quite acceptable to fill a space in an album with a facsimile when the genuine stamp was unavailable. Later, especially in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, massive numbers of stamps were forged for the packet trade, including very common as well as rare stamps, so that the fact that a stamp is common is no guarantee that it is not a philatelic forgery.

## Fakes

Fakes begin with a genuine stamp, which is altered in some way to make it more valuable to stamp collectors. When catalogues show different varieties with significantly different values this can be great motivation to alter the cheap example into something that can be sold for great profit. Sometimes only minor changes can affect the apparent valuation of a stamp. Knowledge is an important tool in helping to detect fakes and forgeries. A person who is able to identify some of the most obvious forgeries can save a lot of money in expertising fees, though the information may not yet be enough to establish that a stamp is genuine. Earée's "Album Weeds" and "Serrane's Vade Mecum" are only two books in the vast literature about stamp forgeries.

# Counterfeit, Faked, and Forged Stamps

## Expertising stamps as protection

As an expert can falsify stamps often quite easily, it is advisable particularly when dealing with stamps of value to have them examined and expertised. Such experts are highly specialized and generally focused on a selected philatelic area. Falsified stamps may be marked as such, while a genuine stamp of value should receive a certificate of authenticity by a reputable authority. In recent years, homemade forgeries can easily reach the market through the internet.

## Government and propaganda forgeries

Political and propaganda forgery is produced by countries in conflict to hurt the opponent. Stamps may be issued to deprive the enemy of revenue, to distribute propaganda material, to cause confusion, and to depict propaganda messages. Propaganda stamps are very collectable and have been philatelically forged: a forgery of a forgery. Many propaganda stamps would have been difficult to circulate in the postal system because they would have been immediately removed, thus used propaganda stamps are unusual (but easily falsified).

## Other types

### Official reprints

Official reprints of stamps that are no longer valid for postage are usually produced by governments to meet a philatelic demand. Scott numbers 3 and 4 of the United States were produced for this purpose. This also happened with several early sets of the People's Republic of China.

### Remainders

Remainders are surplus stocks of legitimate postage stamps that are put on the philatelic market after ceasing to be valid for postal purposes. Among these are the later stamps of Nova Scotia, before it became a province of Canada, and the German inflationary period stamps. One effect of distributing large quantities of remaindered stamps to the public is that used stamps can be much more valuable than mint ones.

### Bogus stamps

Bogus stamps are fictitious stamps which purport to be produced by an entity that exists and might have produced them, but did not. A bogus stamp is not a forgery because it is not based on any genuine stamp. It does not even resemble anything that the entity did produce, and only rarely are any of these labels ever shipped to the place that is shown as issuing them. The term also refers to a genuine stamp which bears the sham addition of an unauthorized surcharge or overprint. They are generally issued to deceive collectors. Among these are the "issues" for South Moluccas when Henry Stollow printed the Maluku Selatan stamps, and for the uninhabited Scottish island of Staffa. The 1923 famine relief stamps of Azerbaijan were bogus, but these too were also subsequently forged.

### Fantasies

Fantasies are stamps claimed to be issued by places that do not even exist. One of the most famous of these were "King" Charles-Marie David de Mayréna's stamps for Sedang. The stamps of New Atlantis required the construction of a bamboo raft that would be floated in the Atlantic as the country. In exceptional cases, even fantasies can be highly traded in collector circles.

### Local stamps

Local stamps are usually intended to serve a local purpose, and are not necessarily fraudulent. Thus we have in relation to the Great Britain: "... there were two local entities that 'performed much in the way of postal service ... Herm and Lundy.' Those two, it would seem, are considered thoroughly legitimate." These islands did not have official post offices, and a private service needed to be established to transport mail to the mainland.

# Counterfeit, Faked, and Forged Stamps

## Cinderellas

Cinderellas is a broad term for just about anything that looks like a postage stamp but isn't. While the term includes bogus stamps and fantasies, it also includes many fund raising labels, Christmas seals, and other stickers that were produced for legitimate purposes.

## Methods

### Entire forgeries

This is the most obvious way of producing forgeries. The forger starts from scratch, and engraves a completely new plate. It is virtually impossible to produce a new engraving that will be identical to the original. Thus, in the earliest set of Hong Kong stamps the forgeries can be distinguished by counting the number of shading lines in the background. Some early Japanese forgeries are distinguished by remembering that the chrysanthemum crest in the stamp should always have 16 petals. Modern electronic techniques would appear to make things easier for the forger, but understanding how different printing methods work can be very helpful in discovering these forgeries. Recently Peter Winter from Germany used modern technology to produce convincing reproductions which were then unscrupulously sold as genuine.

### Forged overprints

One would imagine that overprints should be easier for a forger to falsify. It is just a simple matter of applying a few letters to a stamp with black ink. Paying attention to detail can reward a philatelic sleuth.

### Reperforating

For many years, sheets of stamps were generally cut into four quarters (panes) before being perforated. This produced many stamps that were perforated on only three sides. On a pane of 100, for example, 18 stamps appeared with a single straight edge, the single (corner) stamp lacked perforations on two sides, and only 81 stamps were perforated on all four sides. (A pane of 50 commemorative-sized stamps typically contained only 36 fully perforated copies.) Because stamps with a straight edge are less desirable to collectors—and fetch lower prices—than fully perforated examples, unscrupulous dealers have “reperforated” many older straight-edged stamps: that is, they have carefully cut false perforations into the flat side, so that the copy can be sold for the same price as a normally perforated version. In other cases a valuable and a common variety of a stamp may differ only by the presence or size of the perforations. Thus new perforations are cut into the stamp, or perforations are cut off to make a common stamp appear like a rare imperforate or rare coil issue.

### Repairs

In some cases the value of a damaged stamp can be enhanced by repairing the damage.

### Color changes

The color of a stamp can be changed by exposing the stamp to various chemicals, or by leaving it out in bright sunlight. Carefully applied chemicals can also be used to remove specific colors to produce "rare" missing color varieties.

### False postmarks

A postal card canceled on "8 April 1885". This was thought to be a genuine (and quite valuable) used card until a noted collector of Puerto Rican postal stationery noticed that he had other cards postmarked Mayagüez and addressed to the same recipient who lived in Mayagüez, who he knew to be a representative of the Senf brothers, stamp dealers in Leipzig, Germany. The other cards were dated 8 April 1887 (for the 1887 card), and 8 April 1893 (for the 1893 card). This led him to the conclusion that the recipient addressed them to himself and had a sympathetic or complicit postal clerk fraudulently back date the year to match the card's date of origin. He probably then sent the uncirculated, but postmarked, cards to the Senf brothers who sold them to collectors.

# Counterfeit, Faked, and Forged Stamps

There are many instances of stamps that have been produced in large quantities, but where comparatively very small numbers have done postage service. Huge quantities of mint stamps can be left over after a bout of inflation, a political overthrow or loss of a war. In some cases a genuine stamp can have a fake cancellation applied to make it appear to be a rare, and valuable postally used example. A notable example is the 90¢ U. S. stamp of 1860, withdrawn within a year, on which a genuine cancellation raises the Scott Catalogue value from US \$3000 to \$11,000. Scott's listing includes the caveat: "All used examples ... must be accompanied by certificates of authenticity issued by recognized expertizing committees."

It is also important to know that not all cancellations are postal. Some countries have inscribed their stamps "Postage and Revenue". Some very high face values on such stamps could not reasonably have been used for postage, thus making any kind of proper postal usage exceedingly rare. More commonly these high face values were for fiscal usages to indicate the payment of taxes on real estate or corporate shares. While such cancellations are not fakes, they can easily be misrepresented to the unwary as the more valuable postal cancellations. Rainer Blüm was sentenced recently in a high-profile German legal case for forgery of postmarks to increase the value of stamps.

## Cancelled-to-order (CTO)

Technically CTOs are not fakes since they have been cancelled by the stamp issuing authority. Many of these are easily identified because while they have been postmarked they still retain their original gum. Some postal authorities cancel them and sell them at a considerable discount to the philatelic community. The authorities can do that profitably because they no longer need to provide the postal services that the stamps were meant to pay for. Many collectors are more interested in stamps that have been correctly used, and the corresponding used stamp may often be worth more than a mint stamp. Authorities who do this tend to use the same canceller for all CTOs, and apply it very neatly in the corner of four stamps at one time.

## Helpful websites for Counterfeit, Faked, and Forged Stamps

<http://stampforgeries.com/> - Stamp forgeries of the world

<http://www.philatelicfoundation.org/educational-resources/fakes-and-forgeries/>

<https://stamps.org/learn/forged-or-genuine> – APS forged or genuine?

<http://www.csafakes.net/> - Kevin Baker's website on fake Confederate stamps

<https://www.uspis.gov/news/scam-article/counterfeit-stamps>

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2021/fake-postage-stamp.html>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/501> - 18 U.S. Code § 501 - Postage stamps, postage meter stamps, and postal cards

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/behind-the-badge-case-histories-scams-and-schemes/stamp-frauds>

<https://postagestamps101.com/how-to-spot-counterfeit-stamps/>

<https://postaltimes.com/postalnews/fake-postage-can-stick-consumers-with-headaches-usps-says/>

<https://stamps.org/news/c/collecting-insights/cat/conversations-with-philatelists/post/conversations-with-philatelists-ep-90-detecting-counterfeit-usps-forever-stamps-with-wayne-youngblood>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/counterfeit-stamps-giving-postal-service-a-lickin>

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