



Fakes and Forgeries

From the Reference Collection of
The Philatelic Foundation

UNITED STATES AND POSSESSIONS

The purpose of this five frame exhibit is to show the breadth and scope of some of the fakes and forgeries that exist for United States stamps and the Possessions. Some are quite old and others are twentieth century creations. The viewer will see counterfeit stamps and cancellations, as well as genuine stamps altered to appear more valuable, such as imperforates made into coil stamps or fabrications from coil waste issues, as well as shaved and perforated plate proofs.

This exhibit is by no means a complete showing of the fakes and forgeries which have been made through the years. It is important to remember that an exhibit such as this shows some of the items that are known and that the only defense against forgeries is a reference collection of genuine stamps and covers. Comparing a stamp or cover to a known forgery may only tell you whether your stamp or cover is that particular forgery, or perhaps is another forgery. This is why The Philatelic Foundation maintains an extensive collection of genuine items as well as a collection of fakes and forgeries. The Philatelic Foundation hopes that the viewer will become aware of the need to study his or her stamps as well as the need to have stamps expertized.

Some of these frames represent a sophisticated arrangement of a single stamp in The Philatelic Foundation's reference collection. The arrangement for the Orangeburg coil was undertaken to allow easy identification of newly submitted stamps. Some of the basis for an updated census which appears in Opinions VII was a result of the arrangement of this exhibit.

Donations to this exhibit or to The Philatelic Foundation's reference collections are gratefully accepted and an appropriate donation letter will be given to the donor.