

 Philatelic Foundation Counterfeit Leaflet

The Philatelic Foundation, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

The Pence Issues of Newfoundland

The Pence Issues of Newfoundland have been a popular area not only for collectors, but for philatelic forgers as well. Panelli forgeries, for example, are known to exist in the 2d, 4d, 6d, 6 1/2d, 8d, and 1s values. As you can see from the comparative photos of the 4d value below, the Panellis are easily distinguishable from their genuine counterparts by the sharpness of their background engraving work and by the banner containing "ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND" being much darker in the counterfeit than in the genuine stamps. (This pattern holds true for all values.)



Genuine



Counterfeit

The most dangerous of the forged Newfoundland Pence issues are those created by Jean de Sperati. Examples of Sperati's work are compared below to genuine examples, with some of the chief distinguishing characteristics as described in The Work of Jean de Sperati and Reference Manual of BNA Fakes, Forgeries & Counterfeits, Vol. 1.



Genuine



Counterfeit

A. Outer frame line in top right corner is incomplete on genuine stamps just to the right of the inner frame line below the numeral "4". Not so on the Sperati.

B. The genuine, engraved stamps have fine, delicate lines of varying thicknesses, while Sperati's photo-lithographing shows heavier, uniform-width lines. (This characteristic is true for all values.)



Genuine



Counterfeit

A. There is a break in the right frame line of the scarlet-vermilion 6d Sperati just below the upper right numeral "6"; the orange-vermilion Sperati shows signs of retouching; on the genuine stamp the frame line is neither broken nor retouched.

B. In "SIX PENCE", the space between the "X" and "P" is not as dark on the Sperati as on the genuine stamp. The "S" finishes with a small diagonal white stroke extending from the tail end.



Genuine



Counterfeit

A. The frame line below the "F" in "HALF" is broken on the Sperati.

B. In "SIX", there is a colored dot in the head of the "S", a white stroke under the "I", and a colored dot in the right leg of the "X".

C. In "PENNY" there are white color breaks between "P" and "E" and between "N" and "Y".



Genuine



Counterfeit

A. In one Sperati type, there is a dot of color in the "J" of "JOHN'S".

B. In another Sperati type (photo above), the top of the "O" of "JOHN'S" is irregular, the top right of the "N" in "NEW" slopes diagonally to the right instead of being cut square, and the top of the "L" of "NEWFOUNDLAND" is rough.

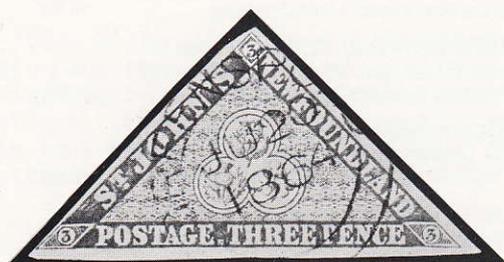
C. In the third Sperati type, there are colored dots in the right of the "H" and the top of the "S" in "JOHN'S", in the top of the "O" and the curve of the first "D" in "NEWFOUNDLAND", and in the "O" and "S" of "POSTAGE".

Sperati forgeries also exist on the 2d, while less dangerous counterfeits by Spiro and others have also been detected.

In many instances, the forged cancellations on "used" Speratis obliterate some of the distinguishing characteristics noted above. Because of the values involved, collectors are advised to seek expert advice on the Pence Issues before concluding that they have either a genuine stamp or a Sperati forgery.

FORGED CANCELLATIONS

In addition to the cancellations forged by Sperati (which experts can identify by their uniform positions on the forged stamps), collectors also must be alert to the "GREENSPOND" cancels on those Pence Issues that are either scarcer or worth more used than unused. Shown below are examples of these cancellations.



(Note that the dates as well as the positions of the "GREENSPOND" cancels are not always the same. Since no genuine "GREENSPOND" cancellations are known, any such cancellation must be deemed highly suspect at best.)

For further information on the Newfoundland Pence Issues, see:

The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland, Winthrop S. Boggs.

The Work of Jean de Sperati, British Philatelic Society, London.

British North America Reference Manual No. 1, Kenneth W. Pugh. ???