

# The Forgery Collection

The Forgery Collection was established in February 1924 under the stewardship of Hugh Monro, the incumbent President. Up until then the Society made donations to the forgery collection held by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The collection has been enhanced over the years by many donations and looked after by J R Raeburn, Donald Chisholm, James Merrylees, R Kerr, Bert Mendelsohn, Jim Fairbairn, Graham Hoey, Garry Buchanan , Alan Wishart and now by the current forgery warden Stewart Gardiner and it is available for consultation by members on request.

A photocopy of all fully written-up pages of the collection, which are listed below, resides in the library and is available at meetings to members. These represent about 60% of the collection. The collection will be made much more accessible soon as all the fully written up pages are being scanned and will be available on CD to members. This will greatly enhance its value to members.

The collection is not limited to forgeries as it also includes reprints, fakes and bogus stamps.

The collection contains some very scarce material including the scarce Mauritius reprints shown below.



## Tutorials

A very useful part of the collection is a series of “tutorial” pages that provide clear examples and explanations of:

Forgeries	A range of genuine and forged stamps of the same type.
Forgeries	Some dangerous types.
Forgeries	Forged overprints applied to genuine stamps.
Forgeries	16 Sperati reproductions: eight of France; one of Saxony; three of Spain; two of Newfoundland and one each of Great Britain and Lagos.
Forgeries	False postmarks.
Forgeries	Official imitations made from new dies or plates.
Reprints	A range of examples with strength in German States.
Reprints	Examples of reprints with false postmarks.
Reprints	A range of “Seebecks”.
Fakes	Stamps which may be wholly or partially genuine but have been altered to be not what they seem.
Bogus	Fictitious stamps or overprints.
Remainders	Obsolete stamps sold by their respective governments which can be unused or cancelled by favour.
Repairs	Stamps with faults that have been covered up.
Printing	How to distinguish typographed and lithographed stamps.

The collection provides guidance on how to distinguish genuine stamps from forgeries and provides many examples for comparison as shown below.



### Repaired stamps.

These are dangerous because they are genuine but worthless. The repairs are often carried with great skill which make them very difficult to detect.

France, 1863 issue. 25 centimes blue.  
Complete new margin at right, frame-line touched-in in blue, and continuation of postmark touched-in in black across the added margin.



Great Britain, 1891 issue. 1s green.  
Complete new margin added at right (possibly with the use of stamp edging to obtain the correct perforation) and the design touched-in in green ink.



Tuscany, 1851 issue. 3 crazie dull purple.  
New margins added on four sides and frame-lines touched-in in purple ink where necessary.



Cape of Good Hope, 1853. One penny.  
All three margins added.



Great Britain, One pound, Wmk. Maltese Cross.  
All four margins added and postmark touched in at left.



New South Wales, 5d green.  
All four margins added.

# *Great Britain and Commonwealth*

Great Britain	The 1/- green Stock Exchange forgery and a number of originals. Two examples of photographic forgeries of entires with 1d black stamps. A photographic forgery of a used Mulready envelope. A reprint of an Uddingston pre-stamp postmark. The miniature sheet commemorating the centenary of the 1d black and 2d blue produced by James Walker. The forged "England Winners" overprint.
Bahamas	Forgery of the four pence on six pence overprint.
British Columbia	Forged Vancouver Island stamps.
British Guiana	A good range of forgeries of the 1862 Provisional, the 1860-65 and the 1860-75 issues.
British Honduras	Lithographed forgeries of the first issues.
British North Borneo	Forgeries of the first issues.
Brunei	The first issue originally thought to be bogus: the set in mint pairs plus one with forged postmark.
Cape of Good Hope	An extensive range of forgeries of the triangular issues.
Ceylon	Lithographed forgeries.
Dominica	A range of forgeries.
Faridkot	A range of reprints and forgeries and a bogus issue by the Post Office.
Heligoland	Reprints with forged postmarks.
Hyderabad	Reprints.
Gambia	Forgeries.
Hong Kong	A good range of forged QV stamps some with forged surcharges.
India	Reprints of service stamps.
Ionian Islands	Lithographed forgeries.
Mauritius	Reprints of the "Post Office" stamps. Sheets of forgeries of the "Post Office" and "Post Paid" issues. Forgeries of the "Britannia" type. Forgeries of the 1860 issue.
Nevis	Engraved and lithographed forgeries of the first issues.
Newfoundland	Engraved forgeries and a good range of lithographed forgeries.
New South Wales	A good range of lithographed forgeries of the "Sydney View" issue. Reprints of the second issue. Lithographed forgeries of the 1854-56 issue.
Nova Scotia	An engraved forgery and lithographed forgeries of the first issue. Lithographed forgeries of the second issue.
St Helena	One engraved and several lithographed forgeries of the first issues.
St Lucia	Lithographed forgeries of the first issue.
St Vincent	Lithographed forgeries of the first issue.
Sierra Leone	Forgeries of the first and second issues and a forgery of surcharge on the second issue.
Sudan	A good range of forgeries of the overprinted stamps of Egypt.
Tasmania	Lithographed forgeries.
Transvaal	Unofficial reprints with forged postmarks.
Victoria	Lithographed forgeries of the "half length" issue including a sheet by Jeffries. A re-perforated example of the 1871-73 8d.
Virgin islands	A good range of forgeries of the 1d and 6d "St Ursula" type and the 4d and 1/- values of the "figure of the Virgin" type.
Western Australia	One engraved and a good range of lithographed forgeries of the "Swan" type including forged surcharges.

## G. B.

### The Stock Exchange Forgery.

Genuine



Note Postmark.

"Manchester Fish Market"

Genuine



Genuine



Genuine



M.O.O.  
Money Order Office

In the early 'seventies a large number of 1s. stamps were used on telegrams sent from the Stock Exchange post office. The 1s. stamps in use at that time were printed in green on paper watermarked with a spray of roses. Four different plates were used for printing the stamps and the plate numbers appeared in a small rectangular tablet on either side of the Queen's head. During 1871 stamps printed from plate number 5 were employed, but in the following year plate 6 was brought into use.

In 1898 Mr. Charles Nissen, then a young London stamp dealer, was examining some 1s. stamps which he had obtained from a wastepaper merchant. The stamps were attached to telegraph forms and bore the cancellation of the Stock Exchange post office. While going through the stamps he was astounded to find that many of them were on unwatermarked paper and closer examination convinced him that the stamps were forged.

He informed a Post Office official of his suspicions and an enquiry was set on foot. The philatelist was proved to be correct and a considerable number of forged stamps were discovered and destroyed.

The exact circumstances of the fraud have never been brought to light, but it has been surmised that there was a conspiracy between two people, one of whom was a clerk at the post office. It would have been a comparatively simple matter for the clerk to have smuggled sheets of forged 1s. stamps into the post office, to have sold them over the counter as genuine and then pocketed the proceeds.

Most of the forgeries bore the plate number 5, but when the stamps printed from plate 6 were issued the forgers made the appropriate alteration on their products. Apart from the fact that they are on unwatermarked paper, the forgeries can be recognised if the squares containing the corner letters be examined carefully. In the genuine stamps the edges of the squares, especially at the corners, are sharp and clean; on the forgeries the edges of the squares are irregular and the corners often rounded. In general the forgeries have a more blurred appearance than the originals. Specimens of the "Stock Exchange" forgery are worth about ten times as much as the genuine stamps.



Stock Exchange  
Forgery  
Plate 5

# Foreign

Argentina	1858 issue - genuine 5c stamp plus remainders with forged postmarks. Four types of forgeries. 1862-64 issue - originals plus reprints. Bogus 10c and 15c values. Forgeries. Complete sheet of reprints plus complete sheet of bogus 10c stamps. Reprint of 1862-64 five cent reprint on cover London postmark. Pair of bogus 15c stamps with forged cancellation.
Austria	1851-56 newspaper stamps: Range of used forgeries and mint reprints.
Azerbaijan	Bogus stamps.
Belgium	1866 2c value - forgeries. 1878 5 franc value -dangerous forgeries in blocks. 1879 and 1882 railway stamps - genuine and forgeries. 1914 and 1918 - range of bogus red cross stamps. 1911 Charleroi overprint - genuine and forged overprints; three types. 1914 5c, 10c and 20c Red cross - genuine and two types of forgeries. 1914 5c, 10c and 20c - genuine and three types of forgeries. 1914 - cover with Red Cross stamps and postmarks, all forged.
Bolivia	1894 issue - originals, and reprints with forged postmarks and reprints genuinely used.
Brazil	1843 Bulls Eyes. Photographic reproductions of originals and three types of forgeries.
Bulgaria	1844-48 issue, originals and two types of forgeries. "Battle of Shipka Pass" issue - originals and forgeries, mint and with forged postmarks.
Chile	1854-67 issue - originals and forgeries. 1867 issue - originals and forgeries.
Costa Rica	1881-82 surcharge on 1863 issue - original and forged surcharges.
Danzig	1920 original and forged overprints.
Denmark	1851-53 issue - forgeries.
Danish West Indies	1873-79 issue - forgeries.
Dominican Republic	1900 - original and forgeries.
Egypt	Suez Canal Company - genuine and range of forgeries.
Finland	1845 postal envelope cut-out - original and forgery. 1850 postal envelope cut-out forgery.
Formosa	1888 issue - forgeries. Bogus stamps.
French Colonies	1892 issue - originals and forgeries - rare Panelli approval booklet. 1892 issue -originals and range of Fournier forgeries. 1892 issue - bogus overprints.
French Post Offices in Crete	1903 issue - original and dangerous forged stamps with forged surcharges and postmarks.
Germany	1943 propaganda forgeries of 12pf Hitler head stamp: single and block of four. Cover with block of nine 12pf Hitler head propaganda forgeries together with a single original 30pf stamp from the same issue.
German Occupation of France	1941-42 Petain propaganda forgery.
Greece	Large Hermes Heads. A good range of forgeries.

Hamburg	1859-65 issue. Good range of original and forged stamps: five types. 1864-66 issue. Originals and forgeries. 1866 rouletted issue. Original and forgeries. 1864 issue. Range of Goldner reprints: imperf. and perf. 11 ½ or 13 ½. 1864-67 issue – range of remainders cancelled with original postmark which was never legitimately used to cancel stamps.
Hawaii	1853 issue. Forgeries, mint and “used”. 1859-62 issue - range of forgeries mint and two “used”. 1864-71 issue. Lithographed forgeries.
Latvia	1933 Latvia-Gambia flight issue. Forged overprints.
Luxemburg	1852 issue - two “used” forgeries. 1859-63 issue - two “used” forgeries. 1875-80 issues - range of forged overprints.
Mexico	1856-61 issue. Two originals and range of lithographed forgeries - eleven types. Also two bogus stamps.
Norway	Article on the Grieg “Phantoms”.
Parma	1859 issue- photographic reproduction of an original and several forgeries.
Russia	1918 - bogus stamps.
Serbia	1904 issue (the “death’s head” issue) originals and forgeries.
Shanghai	1865 issue - Fournier forgeries in a block of eight (6 candareens) and a sheet of 16 (12 candareens).
Sicily	Originals and lithographic forgeries - five types.
Spain	1852 and 1853 issues forgeries. 1866 issue. Range of forgeries. 1873 and 1874 issue forgeries.
Switzerland	<u>Basle</u> : 1845 Basle Dove - original and forgeries. <u>Geneva</u> : 1843 issue- photographic reproduction of original and forgeries, one with forged postmark. <u>Zurich</u> : 1843 issue - original and forgeries of 4 and 6 values.
Turkey	First issues - range of forgeries. Liannos first local - forgeries. Duloz type - originals and forgeries. Duloz type - unofficial bisects - originals and forgeries. 1914 overprints - originals and forgeries. 1916 overprints - originals and forgeries and bogus.
Turkistan	1918 – bogus surcharges on original stamps.
Tuscany	First issue - lithographed forgeries. Third issue - forgeries.
USA	5c Post Office – forged pair on piece. Newspaper stamps -good range of forgeries some overprinted “Facsimile”.
Upper Silesia	1920 forged CIHS overprint.
Uruguay	1858 issue reproductions of originals and range of forgeries - four types. 1859-62 issue. Originals and good range of forgeries - six types.
White Russia	1918 unissued originals and forgeries.

Geniue.

Lithographed in Paris by M. Chéroux, on white wove paper.

Points of design common to all values:-

Both vertical and oblique lines of shading in the space between the oval and the top of the POSTES label.

Five passengers, one in the bows, two between the fore- and mainmasts, one just behind the mainmast and one where the rigging behind the funnel joins the rail. There are also two spots of colour in the stern below the sail.

The "commas" at right and left are not joined to the ornament below. The right comma is smaller than the left.

The funnel is very heavily shaded with vertical lines only. The smoke never touches the oval frame.



First forgery.

Lithographed on white or on brownish paper from transfers taken without authority from the 40 centimes stone. Those on white paper are dangerous, but the 1c, 5c, and 20c differ in small details from the originals and the 40c stamps are taller by fully 1/2 mm. The impressions are rough.



Second forgery.

No diagonal lines of shading above POSTES label. Extra passenger in front of mizzen mast. Many shades. Imperf or part.



Page on the Suez Canal Company stamps