

# THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

*The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge,  
and enjoyment of stamp collecting.*                      *APS Chapter 1584*

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## **Club News**

Now well into our second year, the Santa Rosa Stamp Club continues to attract new members who have a variety of stamp collecting interests. After getting the Club off to an excellent start, Martin Feibusch decided to step down as president. He has been replaced by the able Paul Von Gottfried. Doug Iams is now our new vice president. Our monthly programs have informed members about the intricacies of collecting Falkland Islands map stamps and the problems and opportunities of buying and selling stamps on *ebay*. Our March session was devoted to answering member questions regarding stamp mounting techniques and the strategies for identifying difficult stamps. Our club auctions continue to offer members many excellent bargains. In the meantime, members are urged to attend one of the premier stamp events in our region. From April 26 to April 28, WESTPEX will convene at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Burlingame. The show features 5000 pages of exhibits, 75 dealers, an auction, meetings and seminars.

## **Get to Know Your Members**

Martin Feibusch, our former Club president who recently celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, has been collecting stamps for over eighty years. Although work and family obligations provided little time for collecting, retirement offered him a new challenge and he decided to resume his former hobby of stamp collecting in earnest. He started by developing several United States, German and worldwide collections. He then began to specialize with an eye to developing exhibit material. His first effort was a study of the Third International Stamp Exhibition (TIPEX) souvenir sheet issue of 1936. He then created an outstanding collection of the first flight covers of the Hindenburg zeppelin from Germany to the USA and the return flight to Germany. As he acquired new items, he constantly refined his exhibits and entered them in various stamp shows winning several major prizes. During this period he and his wife Connie took annual seven-week driving vacations throughout the country where they attended stamp shows that displayed his exhibits. They called it their "philatelic safari." After selling his prize-winning exhibits, Martin has kept up his philatelic interests by collecting postally used US booklet and coil stamps.



For several years Martin was president of the Peninsula Stamp Club in San Mateo. He was a Northern California stamp exhibit judge and Chair of Judges for the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies. For several years he chaired the Penpex Stamp Show in Redwood City. He also chaired the Youth Activities Program at the WESTPEX show in San Francisco. He is a member of about two dozen specialty stamp societies and clubs including the American Philatelic Society, the Collectors Club of San Francisco, the Redwood Empire Collectors Club, the Postal History Foundation, the American Philatelic Library, the Western

Philatelic Library and the Sequoia Stamp Club. The Santa Rosa Stamp Club is indeed fortunate to have had Martin as our first president. His extensive experience in the world of stamp collecting has contributed immensely to the success of our first year as a club.

### **Forgeries & Fakes – An Introduction**

[Editor's Note: A version of this article first appeared in the *Hamilton Hinge*, the newsletter of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (NJ) from November 2007. It is reprinted with the permission of the *Hamilton Hinge* editor, Anthony Zingale. The article represents an excellent opportunity for our Santa Rosa Stamp Club members to brush up on this important subject.]

Let's start by clarifying some *basic terms* including items not usually considered as a forgery.

*Bogus* (aka Fantasy) items appear to be regular postage issues, but they are not. This group includes labels for non-existent stamp-issuing entities and fictional denominations.



Ankh-Morpork Fantasy

*Cinderellas* encompass many items including bogus stamps and fantasy-type issues, fund raising labels, Christmas seals and other stickers that were produced for perfectly legitimate purposes

*Counterfeit* (aka "cf" or Postal Forgery) issues are imitations of philatelic items created to defraud the postal authorities.



Confederate States Facsimile

A *Facsimile* (aka Repro) issue is a reproduction of a genuine postage stamp, intended for educational or philatelic purposes, and not meant to defraud (stamps are often identified as such on the back or front).

*Fake* (aka Faux, Fraudulent) items are genuine stamps altered as to color, design, value, cancel, gum status, perforation, etc. to increase its monetary value for sale to collectors.

*Forgeries* are imitations of genuine philatelic items created by a private party to defraud collectors. Note that the terms Counterfeit and Forgeries are often used interchangeably, and are commonly referred to as a forgery or a forged item.

*Propaganda* stamps are usually issued during wartime when combatants forge the stamps of their enemies. During WW II, the Allies forged the Hitler head stamp so that their operatives behind German lines could mail letters without supporting the German government.

*Remainders* are not really forgeries, but are surplus stocks of legitimate postage stamps put into the philatelic market after being demonetized. Examples include some Nova Scotia

issues (before it became a province of Canada) and German inflationary period stamps.

*Reprints* (aka Official Imitations) are issues authorized by postal officials but not intended for postal use. They are usually produced from the original plates. Scott #'s 3-4 of the U.S. are reprints of the first two issues that used new plates.

*Production Methods and Techniques* for the creation of forged stamps vary. Fournier, the Spiro brothers and other forgers re-engraved plates attempting to match the stamp issued by postal authorities. Invariably their plates differed slightly from the originals providing an opportunity to identify the forged item.

Jean de Sperati was famous for bleaching a low value issue and then overprinting the paper with a high value of the same set. The forgery would be the correct size and have the proper paper, perforations, watermark, and sometimes even a cancel.



Bleached 2£ Kangaroo

Numerous other forgery methods exist including:

- Re-perforation (RP)
- Re-gumming (RG)
- Forged overprint
- False postmarks
- Repairs
- Color changes
- Faked cover use



RG Columbian – Gum on Perforation Tips

*In conclusion*, if you have doubts about the authenticity of a particular stamp, a first step would be to consult a specialized catalog to determine whether or not questionable copies of the stamp are known to exist. Such stamps may have been subjects of study by experts and written about in the philatelic literature. A good philatelic library may be able to provide assistance in finding the relevant studies. Another route is to have the stamp examined by a reliable expert especially if the item has a high potential value. The American Philatelic Society can assist in finding such help. Finally, many collectors find this aspect of collecting so fascinating that they build a collection of the various types described above.

#### The Santa Rosa Stamp Club

Membership is open to anyone interested in stamp collecting and who agrees to abide by the club By-Laws. The new member fee is \$10.00 which includes \$5.00 dues for the first year of membership. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Lodge at Paulin Creek, 2375 Range Avenue, Building D, Santa Rosa. For information about club membership call: 707- 545 - 0870 or send an email to: srsc2012@yahoo.com

#### SRSC Officers

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