



Fakes and Forgeries

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V.G. Greene - Garfield Portch

We are inviting a representative from all BNAPS study Groups and other like-minded fakes and forgeries parties to sign up as a liaison member. Liaison membership is gratis.

Welcome!

At long last. Since Sept. 2010 at BNAPEX in Victoria, the conception of a Fakes and Forgeries Study Group has been slowly evolving. Victoria indicated there was interest, and recently at BNAPEX in Calgary, Sept. 2017 our group got off the ground. That became possible when Jeff Arndt volunteered to serve as our editor. He brings with him his expertise and experience as a coeditor for BNA Topics. We still require a Treasurer, so please let us know if you would be interested.

Our study group is unique in that our topic touches every other BNAPS study group. We all are affected by fakes and forgeries, and we all need a method to communicate within ourselves whenever a problem arises. For that reason, I have proposed that our group invite a representative from every other study group to be a liaison member between Fakes and Forgeries and their own study group. Whenever we publish an article, report or comment that affects any other study group, they would be free to share it with their members. We would ask for the same consideration. Our study group liaison memberships would be on a gratis basis. Your input on this unique proposal would be welcome.

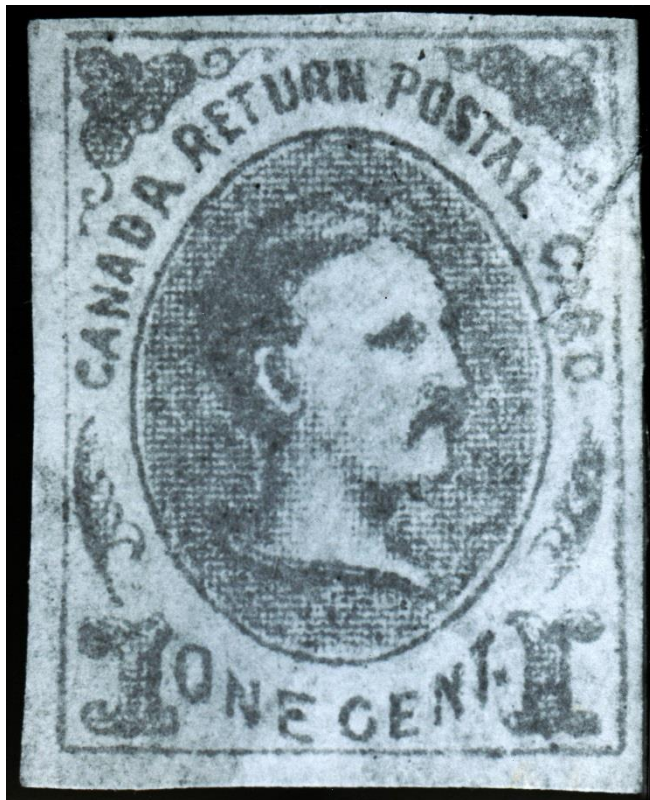
In this newsletter, feel free to submit articles, questions, comments, illustrations, book reviews etc. that pertain to BNA fakes and forgeries. Jeffrey will suggest the text and image formats that work best for him.

I look forward to a long association with you, and all our BNAPS members interested in BNA Fakes and Forgeries.

Ken Pugh

Mystery stationery –

Here is one for the stationery experts.



It is printed on card and in either in dark brown (sepia) or black. (My notes on this have gone missing.) In any case, I can find no references to this item and seek your help. Could the person depicted be Samuel Allen Taylor? It would be typical of him to produce this fantasy item. If you have information of thoughts please send comments to the editor.

ABOUT THE GREENE FOUNDATION

Garfield Portch FRPSC

The Foundation bears the name of Vincent Graves Greene who, prior to his death in 1988 was considered the dean of Canadian philatelists. A signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and a recipient of the Lichtenstein Award, he was a Fellow of both the Royal Philatelic Society, London and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He served on several international juries and made significant contributions to all areas of philately. The Canadian Philatelist (Sept-Oct, 1975) announced the establishment of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation on June 30, 1975. The photo that accompanied the story showed Vincent Greene presenting a cheque to Kenneth Rowe while Harry Sutherland looks on. The story reports that the Foundation directors were Vincent Greene, resident; Kenneth Rowe, treasurer; Harry Sutherland, secretary; Isobel Jephcott and Dr. Fred Stulberg, directors.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable organization registered in Ontario. As such, the Foundation can receive donations and bequests from individuals or organizations who wish to help develop the hobby. Donations are deductible for Canadian Income Tax purposes. The Directors are volunteers who serve without financial compensation. The Foundation owns office space on the ground floor of a building in Toronto containing a library, a meeting room and an administrative office. The current Board of Directors includes:

President: Ted Nixon FRPSC

Vice President: Garfield Portch FRPSC

Secretary: Charles Verge FRPSL, FRPSC

Directors: David Hobden, Ingo Nessel and Kimmo Salonen

The primary purpose of the Foundation is to encourage and promote research in the fields of philately and postal history. To implement the stated purpose, the Foundation has five main functions:

- The establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive library and archives for research and study purposes.
- The provision of an expertization service for the validation of Canadian philatelic and postal history items.
- To conduct or support lecture programs or courses of study designed to improve and expand the knowledge of Canadian philatelists and postal historians.
- To encourage, participate in, and organize philatelic and postal history exhibitions, competitions and displays.
- To underwrite and publish philatelic and postal history research work in various formats.
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The Harry Sutherland Library

The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library occupies about half of the Foundation's physical premises. It contains more than ten thousand philatelic titles that include books, pamphlets, monographs, research papers, post office records, auction catalogues and general stamp catalogues. The collection also includes some photos, CD's, DVD's and three-dimensional objects.



Part of the BNA / Canada collection

While the library regularly purchases new items and subscriptions, it has also been the recipient of many donations from generous supporters. Donors include many living philatelists, estates of deceased philatelists, philatelic trust funds and other libraries with which books are exchanged. All donations are approved in advance by the Library Committee. Books donated to the library are recorded as such and a special bookplate is printed for attachment to the inside front cover to acknowledge the donor.

The Foundation is fortunate to have three part-time librarians, each with a specific area of responsibility. Sheila Moll is the Chief Librarian, Kathy Hartley is the Research Librarian and Willow Moonbeam is the Cataloguing Librarian. This amazing team is responsible for coordinating all library activities, for maintaining the collection and for assisting patrons and researchers alike.

Once a month (usually the third Wednesday) the library is taken over by the Expert Committee of the Greene Foundation. On those days, visitation by patrons is discouraged as the committee members pore over submissions and continually remove books from the stacks to check and confirm details of philatelic items.

The library is subdivided into four general sections that house: British North America; the rest of the world; expertizing reference and rare books; and philatelic journals. All titles are recorded in a searchable catalogue that is available online at <http://www.greenefoundation.ca>. There are also extensive collections of major auction catalogues with prices realized.

A new collection of note is the digital library in which we have a collection of more than 300 journals, including many early issues from 1880 – 1930. There are also more recent journals including an almost complete file of Canadian Stamp News. The entire collection has been scanned ‘in house’ by volunteers. These journals can now be searched by key word. Ask the librarians!

This library contains the most comprehensive collection of Canadian philatelic literature in the world. The BNA section includes most (if not all) of the important published works plus unique monographs and limited-edition material. Recent donations by Library and Archives Canada have added a significant number of Post Office documents such as Postmaster General reports and Annual Postal Guides for the use of researchers. The BNA section is the most frequently used portion of the library and, as such, is the most complete collection.

The “rest of the world” collection is sorted geographically. This portion of the library has been assembled largely from donations of books from libraries of private collectors and estates. As such, some regions are better represented than others. In addition to regional titles, several volumes will be found relating to the mechanics of stamp production, thematic philately and general postal history. There are also several general and specific current catalogues such as Scott, Michel, Yvert-Tellier and Stanley Gibbons. Current editions of journals and newspapers are also available. Included in the collection of journals are complete runs of The London Philatelist, The Canadian Philatelist, BNA Topics, CPS of GP Maple Leaves, The American Philatelist, Topical Times and several others.

Members of the stamp clubs and recognized philatelic societies can borrow most of the volumes for research at home. Some titles, for various reasons, are not allowed to circulate. Rare books and the Expert Committee reference books are not available for circulation but are accessible for research.

The library is open to philatelists Monday through Thursday plus one Saturday each month when possible. Although open, free of charge, to all philatelists, visitors are discouraged when the Expert Committee is meeting or during special events. It is requested that those planning to visit phone the Foundation office to confirm that the library is open and staffed to serve visitors.

An electronic newsletter is published on a regular basis providing library news, notices of special openings and events, and other items of interest to library patrons. Anyone wishing to

subscribe and become a “Friend of the Library” is invited to register using the library email address shown below.

Tucked off in a corner room in the library is the VSC6000 H/S, the Video Spectral Comparator which is used by the Expert Committee for the forensic examination of stamps and documents. A companion piece is a digital micrometer, also used by the committee. Although not available to the casual library patron, researchers can use these tools by special arrangement with the Foundation.



The VSC6000 H/S is equipped with a high-resolution resolution colour camera and zoom lens, a range of viewing filters, and multiple illumination sources that range from ultraviolet through visible to infrared wavelengths. Instrument functions are selected and controlled through a simple graphical user interface and the Windows operating system includes casework management and image archiving facilities.

Future columns in this newsletter will describe some of the forensic processes used in the expertizing process and will demonstrate some of the capabilities of the VSC6000. Any member of this study group is invited to make use of the library and the VSC6000 for research purposes. Arrangements can be made by contacting the office at the Foundation by email or telephone.

Contact Information:

Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation

10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto

Phone: 416-921-2073

Email: vggfoundation@on.aibn.com

Email Library: library@greenefoundation.ca

Website: www.greenefoundation.ca

Keeping One Step Ahead of the Fakers

Kenneth W. Pugh

For anyone involved in the process of identifying various types of philatelic faking, it is a continuous task to stay one step ahead of the fakers. Some types of faking are routinely identified, but there are always some that present a danger to the hobby. It is a reasonable assertion that some fakes even go undetected, and even some have received expert certificates. Remember how Jean de Sperati assembled his “Livre d’Or” or “Golden Book”. All of his fakes that received good certificates from the experts were kept in a special personal album. What a ‘bad boy’ he was, but don’t we all chuckle whenever hearing the story.

The Canadian stamp that illustrates (Fig. 1 and 2) this article could have been mounted in the “Livre d’Or” of the Polish-Canadian forger Andre Frodel. At one time it received a good

certificate from The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, and at that time was carefully examined by some of Canada’s top experts, including Harry Sutherland, one of the Greene’s founders. Time passed, and the 7 1/2d eventually came up for auction at Eastern Auctions Ltd, perhaps Canada’s premiere philatelic auction house. There, it came under the watchful eye of Yohanne Tanguay who suspected that something was not right and forwarded the stamp to the Greene Foundation in Toronto to be recertified.

The stamp was again examined by a team of experts and passed all the more traditional tests, yet there was still a lingering suspicion about its authenticity. Something just did not “smell” right. It was at that moment when Garfield Portch suggested it go under the Foster+Freeman VSC 6000 H/S. This amazing analytic tool can examine a stamp under any colour



Figure 1. Front with natural light.

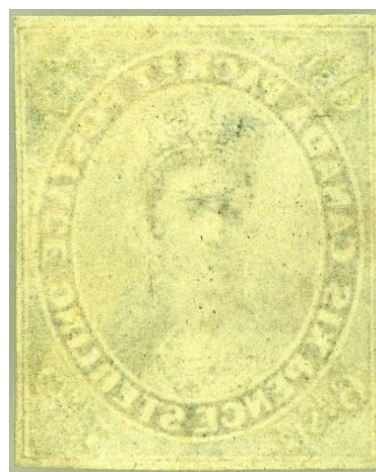


Figure 2. Back with natural light.



Figure 3. Spot fluorescence front.

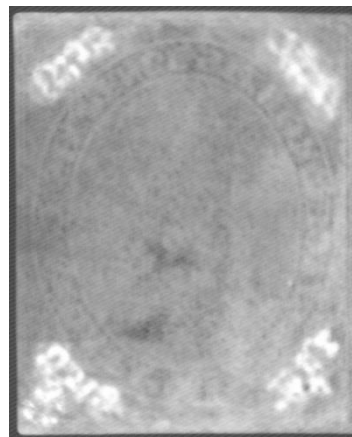


Figure 4. spot fluorescence back.

of light through the visible spectrum plus UV and infrared, including fluorescence. The light can also be directed from any direction including underneath.

The VHS 6000 has many investigative functions besides light analysis. To describe all of them could require another article. Suffice it to regard it as the “Swiss army knife” of philatelic forensic tools. It can take images at every examination stage and record every conceivable linear measurement as well. The result of the VSC 6000 H/S examination revealed areas of faking that glowed like a neon light (Fig. 3-5).

It is similar to the results achieved by the author using an infrared luminescence photography technique using black and white infrared film and appropriate IR filters. That technique, taught to the author by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Forensic Laboratory in Winnipeg, Manitoba to detect chemically removed cancellations (Fig. 6), required a photo dark room and each image required up to 30 minutes of continuous



Figure 5. Lower tablets, spot fluorescence.

flash exposure to generate differences in heat at the molecular level. All chemical reactions generate heat, and the heat differences between altered and non-altered areas of a faked stamp would be captured on IR film. It is amazing that the heat generated by physical or chemical alterations can be detectable up to 150 years after the faking took place. The entire process to examine one stamp required an hour of darkroom work. The author observed Garfield Portch achieve comparable

results using the VSC 6000 H/S in seconds!

Figures 4 and 5 depict the reverse view and a detailed section of the fake. It can easily be observed where the faker removed the original 12 1/2c values of the 1859 issue replacing them with a value taken from damaged copies of the 7 1/2c issue of 1857. The substitution was expertly achieved and holds up to magnification.

There is only one faker known to the author that was an expert in manipulating paper, and created fakes like this on B.N.A. issues. That person was a Polish-Canadian



Figure 6. Top is block in natural light. Bottom shows the altered cancellation.

named Andre Frodel. His fascinating life story and examples of his B.N.A. and world fakes will soon be published by the author.

At this time, only a very few expert committees have access to the VSC 6000 H/S - The Royal Philatelic Society of London, The Philatelic Foundation in New York, and the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, Canada. It can be safely stated that without access to either a VSC 6000 H/S or a photographic lab that can take infrared luminescent images, the fakers will continue to have the upper hand.

Photo Credits:

Figures 1-5 Garfield Portch using the VSC 6000 H/S at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Figure 6 - The Author as published in Reference Manual of Fakes, Forgeries and Counterfeits, Release 11 - Detection techniques - Infrared Photography, and Infrared Photography - Cleaned Cancellations, 1981

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