By : Thurston “Bubba” Bland

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Today’s Collector part 2

Finding Answers

How to Critique Something Philatelic



MEXICO --- ELMHURST PHILATELIC SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Fraudulent

No. 37848 Date 4 Oct 2020

THE MEPSI EXPERT COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 29040 Denver, CO 80229-0040

We have examined the enclosed Mexico,

1867 Guadalajara Provisional 3rd Printing Un Peso on faded lilac quadrille paper tied to wrapper by GDA muite with additional DILIGENCIAS oval cancel. Scott # 23 USED.....

Submitted by Bubba Bland

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion that

The stamp is genuine but did not originalte on this genuine Diligencias wrapper, the mute cancel is fraudulent.....

pert Committee

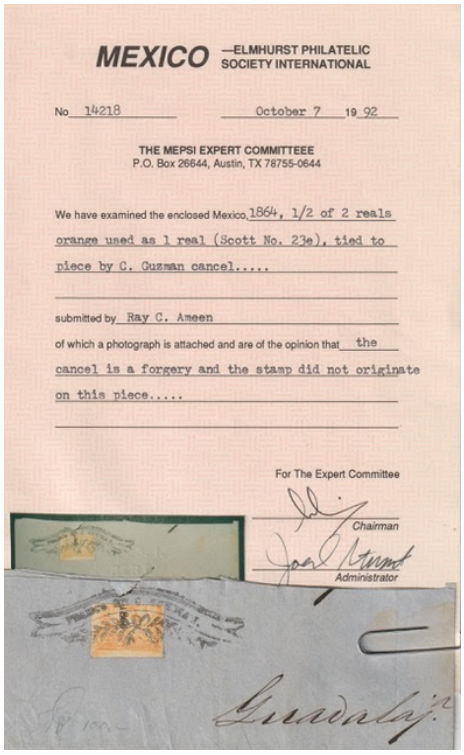
Administrator

This cover was in a collection I purchased, and it had two old genuine certificates: APS and MEPSI.

I wasn't sure about the cancel, so not wanting to sell a fake, I sent it to MEPSI EC.

The above certificate was marked Fraudulent. I lost this one for any sale, but gained experience.

Over the years, collectors have sent me scans of things they have found or purchased, and some things they might purchase. Of course, they are usually philatelic and generally from Mexican Philately. Stamps and covers; sometimes it might just be a cancel on an obviously genuine stamp. They may wonder whether a stamp is truly genuine or just a reprint. Sometimes people send me a picture of something I have no idea is even philatelic, or it may just be a promotional item. I have had all sorts of questions about items, and questions are sometimes the hardest to answer because I might not know the answer. In those cases, I either go to someone I know who may have the answer or, in some cases, I send them a note to reach the person best suited to answer the question. Bottom line: there are no wrong questions; there are only correct answers. Today's message is about searching for answers, and the complexity of the work comes from experience. I am going to list some of the things that need to happen when searching for answers for philatelic material.



MEXICO —ELMHURST PHILATELIC SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

No. 14218 October 7 19 92

THE MEPSI EXPERT COMMITTEEE
P.O. Box 26644, Austin, TX 78755-0644

We have examined the enclosed Mexico 1864, 1/2 of 2 reals orange used as 1 real (Scott No. 23e), tied to piece by C. Guzman cancel.....

submitted by Ray C. Ameen

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion that the cancel is a forgery and the stamp did not originate on this piece.....

For The Expert Committee

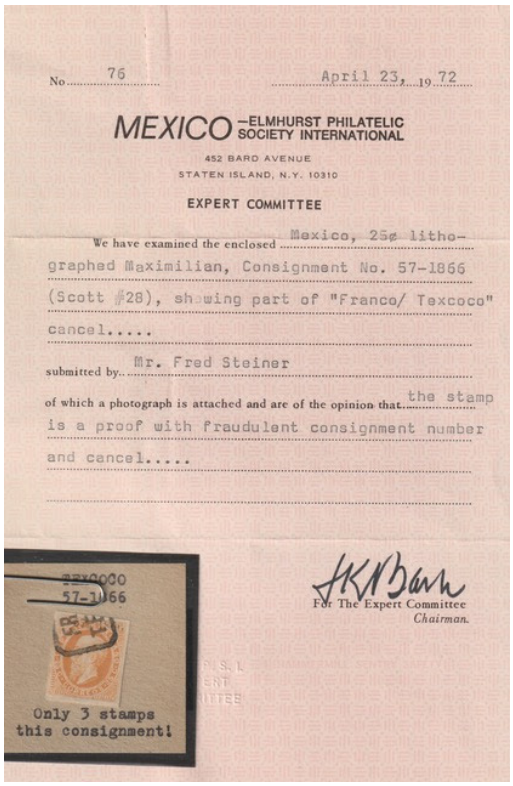
Chairman

Administrator

This certificate turned out to be a fake split 2r Eagle and cancel.

Splits are among the most common altered fakes, but add a cancel, and you won't be fooled.

1. First, ask whether the item is real or fake. When looking at stamps, assess whether they are genuine. Even on covers, a bogus stamp will likely make it clear it is a fake.
2. Next, inspect the cancels and overprints. Often, these markings will be poorly done to the point of requiring a great deal of inspection and comparison with genuine examples.
3. Questionable postmarks are another key to finding a fake stamp and the cover as a whole.
4. See that, if on cover, the stamps are original and tied to the cover. This means the stamp can show overlapping postmarks on the cover, proving it originated from the material in question.
5. Many stamps don't show they are tied to the item by postmarks, but other details can make it seem plausible that they originated on cover. One thing might be the area around the stamp where a wrinkle in the paper shows detection markings.
6. Postage rates can tell the story of stamps in question by the weight required for the distance the stamp might have traveled. So, if the stamp's rate seems too high or too low, it might indicate that additions to the cover are not valid. If too low, the stamp may not have been right for the cover sent, which should have a higher rate.
7. When viewing only the stamps, fake perforations should definitely be considered forgeries; that is also true of one on cover.
8. When in doubt about your estimate of genuineness, get help.
9. Do not overestimate your ability to critique any philatelic item you are unfamiliar with. Use research materials as your guide, and seek help from other knowledgeable collectors.
10. Experience is key to being a philatelic critic.



No. 76 April 23, 1972

MEXICO – ELMHURST PHILATELIC SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

452 BARD AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10310

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed Mexico, 25¢ litho-graphed Maximilian, Consignment No. 57-1866 (Scott #28), showing part of "Franco/ Texcoco" cancel.....

submitted by Mr. Fred Steiner

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion that the stamp is a proof with fraudulent consignment number and cancel.....

For The Expert Committee
Chairman.

Every collector would like to own a stamp that only had a population of 3.
This one turned out not to be Texcoco, but it had an added overprint.
Truth is, this was a proof; unaltered, it would not be as rare, but it is a good item to have.

In all my years of dealing in and collecting Mexico, I can testify that, even in my own field, I still need help analyzing many things that can be deceptive on Mexican stamps and covers. This is true of any philatelic collection material. There are always new things to learn. Fortunately, hands-on experience, study of reference material, and help from other collectors are key to gaining the experience needed. Oftentimes, I have needed to give a valid critique of an item's genuineness; only with secondary help on any subject can I feel secure in my own estimation. When I say reference material, I don't mean a Scott catalog. It takes a good library of in-depth studies of all philatelic things in Mexico. Likely very few collectors have it all in their references, so you'll need to make decisions with other serious collectors.

Enjoy!

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MEPSI #2795
APS #198784, USPCS #4060,
Western Cover Soc. #1423, UPSS #6670,
CCNY #7864 and Royal Philatelic Society of London