

COUNTERFEIT STAMPS

In our last issue we alluded to the fact that information had reached us from a correspondent that counterfeit stamps of Montevideo had been issued. This having been noticed by members of the Philatelic Society of Uruguay the Secretary of that Society has favored us with a letter bearing date of November 12, 1881, in which, after alluding to our caution to collectors as above, he says:—

"I must tell you that this falsification is made in the Argentine Republic and the (forged) stamps belong to that country instead of to Montevideo and they correspond to the issues of 1858-9. This falsification was discovered by the Directive Commission of the Uruguayan Philatelic Society as you will perceive by the following from its minutes which I have been directed to send you with a request that you will publish the same."

EXTRACT.

From the record of the regular session of the Uruguayan Philatelic Society held at Montevideo on the 4th day of June, 1880.

COUNTERFEIT STAMPS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

BUENOS AYRES, TYPE 1858-9 (BOOTS).

Cuato Ps. (brown).

1. Paper is quite different and newer than that of the genuine.
2. The sea is ill-colored and blurred or indistinct while in the genuine the waves can be clearly seen.
3. The lettering of the value (*cuato*) is very badly executed.
4. The letter "F," the abbreviation of the word *fuerte*, looks as if it was meant for a "E."
5. What should be a little "s" after the "F." already mentioned is shown, on examination with a lens, to be merely a dense spot.

Tres Ps. (green).

1. The same observations regarding the paper and the sea as in the preceding.
2. The letter "e" in the word *Tres* is very badly made.

NOTE.—This stamp is better made than are the other counterfeits examined.

Cuato Ps. (red).

1. The same observations regarding the paper and the sea as in the preceding.
2. The "o" of the value (*Cuato*) is of the same size as the rest of the letters except the "a," which is made

considerably larger. In the genuine the "o" is only half and the "a" the same size as the other three letters. These defects are very glaring and easily noticeable.

3. The letter "P," the abbreviation of the word *pesos*, touches the border of the oval in which this value is placed, which, in the genuine, it does not.

4. There is also in existence another counterfeit of this value (*cuato pesos*) which has the same defects as those noted above in the falso *cuato fuertes*.

Cinco Ps. (orange).

1. The same observations regarding the paper and the sea as in the preceding.
2. The initial "C" is much larger than the other letters, whereas it should be the same size.
3. The final letters, "c" and "o," of the word *Cinco* are smaller, thicker than the other letters and are exact circles, whereas in the genuine they are of the same size and thickness and are ovals.

NOTE.—The plate of the *cinco pesos* transformed from *IV pesos* exists on the notes of the Provincial Bank (in Buenos Ayres) and as the same letters, *J. N.*, are found the stamp under consideration and because the same defects pointed out in respect to the initial "c" and the "co" on the stamp are also found in the bank notes of that value we suppose that the now manufacturers have taken the plate of the notes to work the stamps from."

We are under deep obligations to the U. P. S. and to its Secretary for the very full information thus kindly afforded and point to this report as an example to others who have analogous facts in their possession.

MANY large firms in the principal cities of the United States use immense quantities of postage and revenue stamps in their business every year. They often purchase for convenience hundreds of dollars worth at a time. It has been discovered that they are often defrauded by their clerks appropriating the stamps and selling them to other parties. The U. S. Department has now under consideration a proposition that they stamp or cut before delivery on the stamps the initials of purchasers of large quantities—say \$500 and over at a time. It is a good suggestion, and should be adopted. It will prevent the misappropriation by making the second purchase of such stamps extremely hazardous.

World's

HALIFAX

As proprietor of the Halifax Edition of the *World's Black List for Philatelists*, I request from all my correspondents, for publication, any information of dishonorable conduct on the part of stamp dealers



Black List.

EDITION.

and stamp-collectors that may come to their knowledge. This list will reach all reliable dealers in the two hemispheres for their protection from fraud.

N. B.—As this will be published quarterly in the *Philatelic Courier*, I will be thankful to receive the latest and promptest information.

H. HECHLER, Editor,

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