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CHATS ON COUNTERFEITS.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Compiled from various sources.)

III.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 162.)

ICELAND.—Both the general issue and officials have been extensively counterfeited. The genuine stamps are engraved, while the forgeries are at the most poor lithographs. On the genuine stamps the 3, 4 and 16 sk. are perforated 12½, while the others are perforated 13½. The forgeries are all perforated 12½, so that in the case of the 3, 4 and 16sk. nothing can be told by the perforations. As will be noticed, the corners of these stamps are formed of lines of different lengths, making triangles. In the genuine there are twenty-four lines at the left-top corner, at the left-bottom corner twenty-eight, in the right-top corner there are twenty-six, in the right-bottom corner twenty-four. The forgeries differ from the genuine in this particular, in that there are in the left-top corner twenty-six lines, left-bottom twenty-seven, right-top twenty-eight, right-bottom twenty-six. In the genuine stamp the letter "O," in the words "POST" and "KJON" has an accent over it; in the forgery in neither of the two foregoing words is the accent visible. In the genuine stamp the top of the "A," in "ISLAND" is square, while in the forgery it is very sharp. In the genuine stamp the letters of value are almost as large as those in the name, in the forgery they are much smaller. In the genuine stamp the strawberry leaves are very distinct, and with the aid of a microscope the continuation of the lines of the background may be seen through the crown, between the cap and the arches. In the forgery the strawberry leaves on the crown are represented by three indistinct white blotches; and on examination the spaces between the top of the cap and the arches will be found to be quite blank. The gum on the genuine stamp is of a brownish color, while the forgery has no gum whatever. The forgeries have a decidedly suspicious appearance, and can usually be detected quite easily. The forgeries referred to are: The regular issue, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 16 sk., and 4 and 8, officials.

"*St. Thomas and Prince Islands.*" The forgeries of this place which I wish to describe are 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 and 100 reis, of the 1870 issue. The five reis the forgers apparently made separately from the other values, as it is decidedly different. I believe the following, which I have copied from *The Philatelist*, Vol. IX, will convey the desired information much better than any words of my own: "These stamps are very nicely designed, and printed, but the forgers have succeeded tolerably well in their imitations of them. The originals all seem to be from the same

matrix, though the five reis may be of a different type. The genuine stamps are engraved in *espargne* (typograph), on moderately stout-surfaced, white paper; perf. 13. The little pearls in the circle, around the crown, are all strung together and are 122 in number. The accent over the E, in THOME is quite visible in all the values; but the one over the E of PRINCIPE can only be seen in the five reis. The line under CORREIO goes quite to the boundary line of the stamp on each side, as does also the line above the value. A straight line drawn upward through the crown and through the cross on top of it would just miss the E of NAME. The body of the I of reis is perfectly straight between the top and bottom cross-strokes. Above the NC of PRINCIPE, and in the three corresponding corners, there are two little circles formed by the curves in the spanduls. Each of these circles contains a tiny quatrefoil with an open dot in the centre of it. The little white space in the centre of each O in CORREIO is an oval. The letters of the name are in very thin, ornamental type. I have not seen any used copies, so cannot say what is the ordinary postmark. I had several sets from Portugal, but they were invariably unused. The gum is brownish. *Forged:* Lithographed on thin, unsurfaced paper, ungummed; perf. 13, 5 reis. I am obliged to take this value separately, as it is different from the others. It may be known from the genuine 5r. by the following tests: The letters of CORREIO are too tall, and some of them touch (or almost touch) the outline at the top; the line under CORREIO touches the boundary line on both sides of the stamp, and the line above the value touches on the left side only. The right-hand end of the Etruscan ornament in the circle points towards E of PRINCIPE instead of outward. The little ornaments in the corners are wrong; all the ends pointing one way instead of inwards as the genuine ones do. The pearls are much too small and are separate. 10, 20, 25, 50 and 100 reis: all these are from the one matrix which is distinct from that of the five reis. The little pearls in the circle around the crown are separate from each other, and there are only 28 of them. In some copies there is no accent to be seen at all, and in others (the 20 and 25 reis) it is over the separate letter E instead of over the E of THOME. The lines under CORREIO and above the value do not touch the outer boundary line on either side. A straight line drawn upwards through the centre of the crown and the cross at the top of it, would pass between the E and P. The body of the I of reis widens out at the top and bottom where it meets the transverse strokes. The circles above the NC of PRINCIPE, and in the other three corresponding corners have no ornament in them. The little white space in the centre of each O of CORREIO is a rectangle. The letters of the name are much too thick and very clumsy. The postmark is like our own but minus the central figures."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)