

FILATELIC PHORGERS MADAME JOSEPH



"In 1994 a little red book was placed on sale. This was to have as much impact on the Philatelic World as Chairman Mao's little red book had on the Chinese Nation some years previously".

Brian Cartwright (Gibbons Stamp Monthly)

The little red book by Derek Worboys edited by Roger West

Madame Joseph had produced many forged documents during WW2 to help the French Resistance. After the war, she turned her hand in producing forged postmarks. The book illustrates 438 forged postmarks of which 311 were carved in wood.

Most Commonwealth countries were represented in some way.



Examples of Madame Joseph forged postmarks

To quote Robson Lowe who wrote the foreword to the book "Benjamin and Sperati I met in my youth, but who is Madame Joseph? She would be an entertaining character to take to dinner".

FILATELIC PHORGERS JUAN CANOURA

THE HIALEAH FORGERIES

From about the year 2000, modern forgeries started to appear on eBay in large numbers. Using the name 'Atinvest', and located in Hialeah Gardens, Miami, Canoura offered forgeries of most of the World's classic stamps plus a number of bogus creations. It became apparent that he used auction catalogues as his source reproducing the illustrations with little regard to their actual size or colour. Many of his creations were oversize and being copies of photographs, they generally lacked the fine detail found on the original stamps.



Genuine (left) with forgery



Genuine (left) with bogus imperf forgery



Genuine (left) with bogus inverted centre



Genuine (left) with bogus double overprint



Genuine (left) with bogus imperf forgery



Genuine (left) with bogus imperf forgery

Constant pressure from collector groups eventually forced eBay to close the Atinvest account but not before tens of thousands of his forgeries had been sold.

FILATELIC PHORGERS

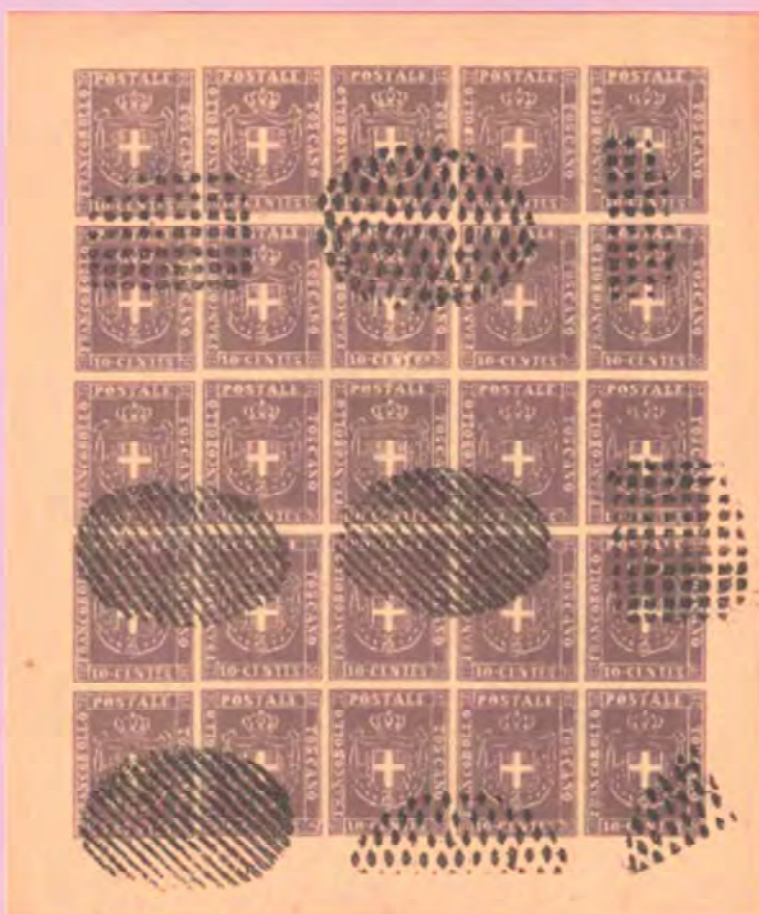
PHILIP SPIRO

THE SPIRO BROTHERS OF HAMBURG

Philip Spiro was head of the prominent lithographic firm Spiro Brothers in Hamburg, Germany. From 1864 the firm started producing facsimiles of postage stamps in the familiar 5 x 5 sheet format. Within about 15 years, they had a range of about 500.

Their own journal 'Der Deutsche Briefmarken-Sammler' offered these facsimiles in vast quantities and the threat of such a deluge prompted an attack in the form of 'The Spud Papers' or 'Notes on Philatelic Weeds'.

For a decade, detailed descriptions alerted collectors of these forgeries resulting in a marked decline in the counterfeit trade until the Spiros ceased production in about 1880.



Italy - Tuscany 1860 Arms 10c in complete 'used' pane of 25
The sheet format of 25 (5x5) and the cancellations are typical of Spiro's work