

# *Fakes, Forgeries, and Fantasies*

*Some call them album weeds.*

**PURPOSE:** This is a short introduction to album weeds. I hope to show basic examples of what they are and how to identify them. I intend to show real and genuine examples to highlight ways to help you identify any "Album Weeds" in your collection. I will also show some fantasies which can be interesting and add color to your collection.

**THE EXHIBIT:** Telling a real from a Fake can be easy as a quick visual inspection. It can be as hard as extensive use of references, real copies, new technologies, and old technologies. In the past, many considered it quite acceptable to fill a space in an album with a facsimile (fake) when the genuine stamp was unavailable. Later, especially in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, massive numbers of stamps were forged for the packet trade, including very common as well as rare stamps, so that the fact that a stamp is common is no guarantee that it is not a forgery.



Forged First Cents Issue Dark Brown Die Proof of 10 cent Consort  
Engraved, die sunk (73 x 78 mm) on thick card (86 x 92 mm)  
Thought to originate from Montreal

**EXHIBIT PLAN:** This exhibit is organized to show examples that progress from Fakes (page 2), Forgeries and Counterfeits (pages 3 – 14), to Fantasies and Cinderella's (pages 15 and 16).  
*Boxes show items that are rare or hard to find.*

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**Scope:** This is an introduction with some basic examples to show how to tell forgery from genuine. It is not intended to be a complete treatment, just a teaser on what to look (or watch) out for. Choose some easy examples from the provencies?? and ending with some modern efforts. The use of the images is to show a visual example to match the words in most references. Finally used standard definitions to try and show the various types of Forgeries and Fakes out there.

There are three major pieces in this exhibit.

The first major piece is the forged First Cents Issue Dark Brown Die Proof of 10 cent Consort. This is thought to originate in Montreal, within the last 60 or so years.

The second is the Signed Jean de Sperati cancel proof strike.

The third is the Newfoundland Jean de Sperati 4d Proof in Black.

### References

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