

Exhibit Synopsis

Title - Raoul Charles de Thuin: Forger of B.N.A. Bisect Covers - Kenneth W. Pugh

Purpose - To educate philatelists on the existence and scope of de Thuin faked bisect covers.

Exhibit Flow - 1. Samples of de Thuin's business address changes to elude postal authorities and his correspondence. 2. Examples of de Thuin B.N.A. faked covers and how to detect them.

Observations:

1. This is the most comprehensive reference collection of de Thuin B.N.A. covers in the world.
2. 14 of the covers in this exhibit present new information never before presented to the public.
3. The exhibitor has recently published (2017) the most comprehensive reference on de Thuin B.N.A. bisect fakes. All of these covers here are illustrated in this new reference.

Items of Impact: (red dot)

1. A Canada 6d bisect cover reverse co-signed by de Thuin and his close associate Angelo Panelli. This is the only known philatelic item co-signed by two forgers known. This is also the only known example of a de Thuin fake made from a lithographed reproduction of a genuine stamp and not a bisected original. Frame 2 - Canada 6d bisect
2. 14 Covers featuring bisects with rates that are the only known recorded examples.
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.B. 1860 diagonal half used as a 5c
 - only known record of a de Thuin Nfld 1861 6d vertical half used as a 3d
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.S. 1851 3d diagonal half used as a 1 1/2d
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.S. 1857 6d diagonal half used as a 3d
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.S. 1858 6d quartered used as a 1 1/2d
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.S. 1860 1c diagonal half tied to a 1c and 8 1/2c
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.S. 1860 1c diagonal half used tied to a 8 1/2c
 - only known record of a de Thuin N.S. 1860 8 1/2c diagonal half tied to a 8 1/2c
 - only known record of a de Thuin P.E.I. 1861 2d diagonal half tied to a 3d
 - only known record of a de Thuin P.E.I. 1861 6d diagonal half used as a 3d
 - only known record of a de Thuin P.E.I. 1872 2c diagonal half tied to a 2c
 - only known record of a de Thuin Canada 1852 3d diagonal half used as a 1 1/2d
 - only known record of a de Thuin Canada 1855 6d diagonal half (lithograph repro)
 - only known record of a de Thuin Canada 1859 10c diagonal half used as a 5c

Philatelic References:

Chemni, J.M. (editor-in-chief)

1974: *The Yucatan Affair: The work of Raoul Ch. de Thuin, philatelic counterfeiter*, The American Philatelic Society, State College, Pennsylvania, 523 p.

* Pugh, Kenneth Wayne

2017: Reference manual of B.N.A. fakes, forgeries and counterfeits, Series II - *Release 2, A study of the faked B.N.A. bisect covers of Raoul Charles de Thuin*. privately published, Chilliwack, B.C., 106 p.

* Original research based on::

1. *The Yucatan Affair* (text corrected by the exhibitor)
2. Unpublished notes from the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation (expanded upon by the exhibitor)
3. 45 years personal knowledge and publishing on fakes and forgery detection techniques.

RAOUL CHARLES de THUIN

Forger of B.N.A. Bisect Covers



Raoul Charles de Thuin, was the world's most prolific forger of BNA bisect covers. This study is the culmination of 45 years of research, and what follows is a brief sample of his attempts to foil postal authorities by continually changing his business name, there is a sample of his correspondence to a client, and the largest representation of his BNA bisect cover fakes (and notes on how to detect them) ever assembled and displayed for public view.

De Thuin was a Belgian stamp dealer who was forced to flee to Mexico to avoid arrest by the postal authorities. There, under many assumed business names and addresses, he continued to produce tens of thousands of faked stamps and cancellations. He limited his BNA activities to faked bisected covers.



This exhibit starts with 12 business covers from his French Philatelic Agency to his Maya Shop. The different return addresses were all designed to keep the postal authorities off track to the true nature of his business activities; selling fakes and forgeries to his clients. He was very successful.

The exhibit then presents 24 faked BNA bisect covers, each with an analysis as to why they are de Thuin fakes. Represented are 1 of the 4 recorded de Thuin covers from New Brunswick, 2 of the 16 recorded covers from Newfoundland, 11 of the 22 recorded covers from Nova Scotia, 8 of the recorded 21 covers from Prince Edward Island, and 3 of the 16 recorded covers from Canada. Items with green coloured dots are unique, ie. the only known de Thuin fakes of a particular colonial rate. The red dotted item is the only known forgery by anyone with the signatures on the reverse by two forgers - de Thuin and his friend and associate, Angelo Panelli. (see below)

*The American Philatelic Society eventually bought out his forgery stock and published their findings in *The Yucatan Affair: The Work of Raoul Ch. de Thuin, Philatelic Counterfeiter*. Predictably, he continued making forgeries until his death in 1975.*

De Thuin fake BNA covers continually appear on the philatelic market, and it is hoped that this exhibit will provide awareness in our community of the existence of these de Thuin bisect fakes.

