

# Canada Postal and Philatelic Counterfeits - 39 Cents Coil Definitive (1990)

## Synopsis

**BNAPEX / RPSC Calgary** - September, 2022 Single frame (Traditional Class 3)

**Historical Note** - On March 5, 1992, three Montreal counterfeiters pled guilty to defraud the post office of \$6,500,000 in counterfeit 39c coil stamps. This exhibit gives an account of the gangs arrest, trial, and sentencing.

**Goal** - To provide awareness of stamp counterfeiting, and tell the story of a key example in Canadian philatelic history.

**Treatment** - The exhibit opens with a description of the genuine coil stamps and how the counterfeits differ in detail. This is followed by the involvement of three counterfeiters who organized and printed the stamps. Finally, examples of postal usage are shown making use of the counterfeit stamps.

**Philatelic Importance** - This is the first time the full story of the Montreal Murrin Gang 1990 counterfeit has been presented to the philatelic world in exhibition format. The counterfeits were previously described in the major literature reference on Canadian postal counterfeits, first published by the exhibitor in 2007, and updated and revised in 2022.

**Knowledge of Subject** - The exhibitor is a recognized expert in counterfeits and forgeries. He was trained in forensics by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and has appeared as an expert witness for The Crown on their behalf. He has written over 40 references on the subject of fakes and forgeries, and has served on the CAPEX 2022 Jury as a fakes and forgeries expert.

**Rarity** - In this exhibit, a notable rarity is marked with a colored dot.

- A full sheet of 440 counterfeits, one of very few known to have survived being cut into panes of 110 (also displayed) or smaller multiples.

## Bibliography

Pugh, K.W.

2007: Pugh Reference manuals of B.N.A. fakes forgeries and genuine, Series II - Release 8, *The postal and philatelic counterfeits of Canada*, privately published, Chilliwack, B.C.

2010, 2016, 2022: (*ibid*: updated as Release 8 Section B - The coil stamps)

Robertson, I.

1991: Collectors forking out for fakes, counterfeits on cover, Oct 8, pg. 1, 5.

1992: Canadian Stamp News, June 30, p. 2