

# CANADA

## POSTAL AND PHILATELIC COUNTERFEITS

### THE MURRIN GANG 1990 39 CENT COIL STAMPS



**PURPOSE** - To describe and tell the story of the Murrin Gang postal counterfeits of the 1990 39 cents coil definitive issue of Canada.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT** - Postal counterfeits were intended to defraud the Canadian government of postal revenue, and the counterfeiters printed \$6,500,000 face value in stamps to do exactly that. They were apprehended by the Montreal Police just as their product was about to be distributed to retail stamp outlets in the greater Montreal and Toronto area. All that remained to be done was to perforate the sheets of stamps.

#### EXHIBIT PLAN

1. Technical details of the genuine and counterfeits including a full uncut sheet.
2. The Murrin Gang story - printing to arrest and convictions.
3. Samples of the counterfeits postally used.

**SIGNIFICANCE** - This is the first time the full story of the Murrin postal counterfeits has been told in an exhibition. Stamp counterfeiting is an area of criminal activity seldom revealed to the public, and most philatelists are not fully aware of the extent of this 'darker' side of philately. It is important to be aware of these illegal activities as the problem persists to this day.

**REFERENCE** - Pugh reference manuals of B.N.A. fakes, forgeries & genuine, Series II Release 8 Section B - *The postal and philatelic counterfeits of Canada - coil stamps*, 2022.