

# The B.N.A. Forgeries of Giovanni Patroni

## Synopsis

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

**Historical Note** - Collectors and dealers are defrauded all the time, right up to the present day. Giovanni Patrone stands out as being the first forger in the world to be arrested for defrauding collectors.

**Goal** - To illustrate the B.N.A. forgeries of the mysterious "Italian Forger", identified for the first time as being made by Giovanni Patroni. Prior to this exhibit, the forgeries of Giovanni Patroni have been incorrectly assigned to others by Smythies, Pugh, Gratton, Lafreniere, and Archives Canada. These forgers include Philip Spiro, Placido Ramon de Torres and Francis Fournier.

**Exhibit Plan and Treatment** - The following topics are covered in this presentation.

- The Patroni forgeries of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and New Brunswick, are fully described and compared with the genuine.
- The forgeries are organized by province, comparison with the genuine design, colours and cancellations. Based on 40+ years of research in this area, all of Patroni's known B.N.A. forgeries are included in this exhibit.
- Included is a summary of Patroni's trial for philatelic fraud in Philadelphia, 1875. Although not specific to B.N.A. the comments of the presiding judge are of particular interest to all philatelists, as it puts the treatment of philately in the context of the times.

**Unique or rare Items** - While Patroni forgeries are not as rare as those made by the Forgery Master, Jean de Sperati this is the first, and most complete collection of Patroni B.N.A. forgeries assembled for an exhibition under his name. For those reasons, the entire presentation is unique.

**Knowledge of Subject** - The exhibitor is one of the foremost researchers of B.N.A. fakes, forgeries and counterfeits, and has published over 45 reference books on the subject since 1979. He served on the Jury at CAPEX 2022 as an expert in world fakes and forgeries. His reference collection of B.N.A. fakes and forgeries is the largest ever assembled.

**Assistance Received** - The exhibitor first learned on Patroni's world forgeries from an unpublished article written by Gerhard Lang-Valchs. From the foreign cancellations illustrated by Gerhard Lang-Valsch, the exhibitor was able to determine by examining Patroni's unique world cancellations, all the B.N.A. forgeries made by the same forger.

**Research** - The Patroni forgeries in this exhibit were the basis for the only published reference of Patroni's B.N.A. forgeries. (See below)

## References:

Anon.

1875: *The American journal of philately*, Dec.20., pp.181-182.

1876: *The philatelist*, The philatelic Society, London, v. 10, pp.22-23.

Lang-Valchs, G.

2021: The 19<sup>th</sup>. Century forgers and the “fancy cancels” workshop, in *The Stamp Lover*, v. 113, no. 6, December, pp. 174-279.

*in prep.* Giovanni Patroni - un falsificador por redescubir, *Chile Filatelico*, p. 302

*Ibid.* Rediscovering a forgotten forger in *Posthorn Magazine of International postal history and philately*, No. 6.

Pugh, K.W.,

2022: Pugh reference manuals of BNA fakes, forgeries & genuine, Series II, Release 26, *The B.N.A. forgeries of Giovanni Patroni*, 2022, privately published, Chilliwack, B.C.