

# THE B.N.A. FORGERIES OF GIOVANNI PATRONI

**Historical Context** - - Giovanni Patroni was a mystery forger for decades. He was one of those nefarious souls who preyed on stamp collectors and dealers of his day, and preferred to stay in the shadows. As a result, his forgeries largely remained unattributed to him. Until now.

**Research** - Research on B.N.A. forgeries often requires research and analysis of world forgeries, and the answers to our questions are often not found in traditional B.N.A. literature. In fact, we are often misled by studies that are inclusive of B.N.A. only. The exhibitor found the answers to who made these B.N.A. forgeries by studying European focused collections.



Samples of Patroni B.N.A. forgeries

While Patroni was not known to many B.N.A. specialists, his forgeries were familiar to some, and were labelled "Italian Forgeries". Others attributed them in error to more well known forgers - Spiro, Fournier, Oneglia and even Sperati.

**Treatment / Exhibit Plan** - This exhibit describes all identified Patroni B.N.A. forgeries (New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) and compares them to the genuine. A study of his colours and cancellations for each design follows.

Also provided is an account of his fraud trial in Philadelphia in 1875, He was the first forger in the world to be arrested and charged for defrauding stamp collectors, The comments of the presiding judge are worth noting for your amusement.

These forgeries were also the basis for the only reference book on Patroni forgeries, titled the same as this exhibit.