

STAMP COUNTERFEITIN - The evolution of an Unrecognized Crime

Retired Inspector Howard Petschel had just published his latest book on the history of counterfeit postage stamps. **STAMP COUNTERFEITIN - The evolution of an Unrecognized Crime.** I had the opportunity to preview the book and was captivated by the thoroughness and detail of the events.

It begins in Chicago in 1895, when the city was hosting the Columbian Exposition, World Fair, at the Great White City. Howard goes into great detail of the events, methods, equipment, distribution and investigative techniques used and developed. He even discusses basic information on the first mass murder in the United States, Dr. H. H. Holmes. He details the case so thoroughly, that those familiar with the Chicago area will notice that the first site of postage counterfeiting operation in the U.S. was located just blocks from Chicago's original and current MPO.

This is not dull history of stamp collecting or counterfeiting, it is a through accounting that takes through the early history of this criminal activity from 1895 through 1940. while detailing the good, bad and ugly personalities involved. If your're interested in Inspection Service history, I highly recommend STAMP COUNTERFEITING - the Evolution of an Unrecognized Crime, as an addition to your library.

The book jacket price is \$26.00, however, Howard advised NARPI members may send their order directly to him, and he will send at \$18.00. That will also cover shipping and handling. Howard can be contacted at 208-265-2559, mailing address 70 Cedar Drive, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864 or by email at tasin@sandpoint.net.

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