

Summer Seminar 2016

4 – Day Course

Expertizing Techniques – Rich Drews & Mercer Bristow

Course Description:

A study of why, how, when and by whom (where known) fakes, forgeries and phantoms have been created and how to protect yourself against them by using many different expertizing techniques. Emphasis will be on U.S. stamps and covers but not restricted to them. Basic expertizing techniques will be taught and information on advanced scientific techniques will be provided.

Participants will learn:

- What to look for when examining stamps and covers
- Basic expertizing techniques and examination “look fors”
- How to detect most repairs, reperforations, and alterations
- Which specialized catalogues to use
- When to use reference materials to help examine questionable covers and cancels
- How to locate appropriate reference materials that go beyond the catalogs
- How to use UV light to detect fake or altered overprints and cancels
- How to use auction catalogs and census data to compare items from known finds
- When to seek expertizing services

Intended Audience (who should attend):

- Any collector or exhibitor who wants to be more confident that they are actually getting what they are paying for. Collectors who want to know what to look for before buying something and what to avoid.

To get the most out of this course, participants should know:

- How to read a specialized catalog to narrow down what a stamp could be

To get the most out of this course, participants should be able to:

- Use watermark fluid, perforation gauges, and color reference to make a tentative ID
- Measure using precise mm overlays
- Use a scanner to view stamps and covers in extreme close-up

Materials participants will need to bring:

- Tongs
- Watermark tray and fluid
- Perf gauges
- Other tools used when identifying stamps
- Specialized catalogs or reference materials
- Any stamps, covers and certificates you would like to discuss
- USB thumb/flash drive