

Description of counterfeit bills, which were done in imitation of the true ones ordered by the Honorable the Continental Congress, bearing date 20th May, 1777, and 11th April, 1778.

DESCRIPTION OF *COUNTERFEIT BILLS*,

Which were done in Imitation of the True Ones ordered by the Honorable the **CONTINENTAL CONGRESS**, Bearing Date 20th May, 1777, and 11th April 1778.

EIGHT Dollar Bill, dated May 20, 1777, signed Jn. Taylor and Aq. Norris, is done from a Copperplate, the Letters of which are not only irregular, but by having been engraved, appear more delicate than in the true Bills, which are done with Type, have a smaller aspect, especially in the Words "*Spanish milled, Silver, Philadelphia,*" &c.—The figures 1777, as well on the back as the front, appear less than in the true Bills.—In the Border at the Top of the Bill over the Words "United States," the two L's in the Word "Dollars" are more irregular and more from a straight Line than in the true Bills.

Six Dollar Bills, dated May 20, 1777, signed Jn. Taylor and Aq. Norris, or R. Smith and A. McCallister, or G. Young and C. Lewis, are also done from a Copperplate, the Letters of which appear for the same Reason more delicate than in the true Bills, and are also more irregular, particularly the Word "entitles," which stands higher than the rest of the line, and the V in the Word "Value" is placed too high and not on a line with the rest of the Word.—After the Words "Six Dollars" under the Device in the true Bills there is a full stop, in the Counterfeits there is none—On the Back of the Bill the Leaf is much plainer in the Counterfeits than in the true Bills, the Letters there being also more delicate, and the Figures "1777" have a smaller Appearance than in the genuine Bills.

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Forty Dollar Bill, dated April 11, 1778, signed D. Reintzel and S. Bryson, or D. Reintzel and J. Snowden, done from a Copperplate, of which the same Remark may be made as to the Delicacy or Neatness of the Letters as in the preceeding Descriptions.—Yet the whole of the Letters in the Words “**THE UNITED STATES,**” in the top Border of the Bill, appear stronger, tho' not so uniform or so well shaped as those in the true Bills.—In the Border at the right hand (or end) of the Counterfeit Bill the Words “**FORTY DOLLARS**” (which are in white Letters) are ill done, besides having an E instead of an F in the same.—The larger Leaf on the Back of the true Bills having beside the Branch at the upper end, five Branches on each Side of the Stem, the lowermost of which are not very plain and smaller than the rest; the two last mentioned are entirely omitted in these Counterfeits.

Another species of the Forty Dollar Bills of the same date, signed D. Reintzel and J. Snowden, also done from a Copperplate, of which the same Remark may be made at to the Delicacy or Neatness of the Letters as in the former Descriptions. The Letters however in the whole of the Bill ave very irregular, several being larger than the adjoining ones, and almost all the lines crooked, some being placed too high and others too low. In the Border at the right Hand of the Counterfeit Bill the white Letters [????????????????]

Another Counterfeit Forty Dollar Bill, dated 11th April, 1778, is signed J. Duncan and R. Davis, (who by the bye were never signers of Continental Money) the Back of which appears as if done from a Copperplate, and the Words in the front as if done with Types; the Borders and Devices as if cut in Metal. I am sorry to say that this Bill is rather so good an Imitation that it is really dangerous to most People. I will however point out a few other Marks, viz. The first N in the Word *Confederation* (in the Device) is not places so square as in the true Bills, the last Stroke of the said Letter leaning more than it should do; indeed the whole of the Letters of the Word *Confederation* are not quite so bold as those in the genuine Bills. The Stars in the Device appear more open in the Center of each of them than those in the true Bills, which appear mostly closed. In the Word *Forty* at the Top of the Bill the Tail of they y in the Counterfeits comes nearer to the Bottom of the t than in

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the true Bills; the o in the same Word appears on a Level with the rest of the Word, whilst in the true Bills it is placed rather lower than the r which follows it. In this Counterfeit (like one of the others) the larger Leaf on the Back (exclusive of the top Branch) has but four Branches on each Side thereof, while the true Bills have five Branches on each Side, of which the two lowermost are the most faint, as is already mentioned.

Note: In some of the Bills of different Denominations D. Remzell is signed for D. Reintzell. It may be further necessary to observe that it is very probably there may be other Names affixed as Signers to some or all of the different Denominations than are noticed in the preceeding Descriptions, having mentioned in the foregoing only such as I have seen.

Some Persons in the United States having been much alarmed on comparing of Bills of Credit, by finding Bills of the same Denomination and Date to differ from each other in respect to the Letters, some having broken Letters and others not, and frequent Conclusions having been drawn that the former were true Bills, and the broken Letters were originally made as private or secret Marks: It is therefore become necessary to inform, That those were not intended as Marks, but that at the first Beginning of printing an Emission the Letters were whole, and that during printing the Emission, from hard Lumps or Gravel or Sand in the Paper, with the Force of the Press, those Letters at different Times were accidentally and unobservedly broken.

John Gibson

Permit no Copy of these Descriptions to be taken, unless at the Request of the Executive Authority of the State to be place in Confidential Hands.

No. 1 Description of the Counterfeit Bills May 20th 1777 and Ap 11th 1778. From the Trial Board.