





# Caveat Emptor

One of my philatelic interests is the British Consular Post Office that operated at Bangkok from 1855 to 1885. The stamps of Hong Kong, Straits Settlements, even Great Britain and of course Bangkok were used there. Recently, there have been a number of fakes offered on Internet auctions. With the widespread use of scanners, computer printers, philatelic reference works etc. fakers have discovered how easily these are to produce. Typically, the faker scans an image of a cancellation, or other postal markings, from auction catalogues, philatelic reference books and even genuine items and prints them onto a genuine stamp or cover.

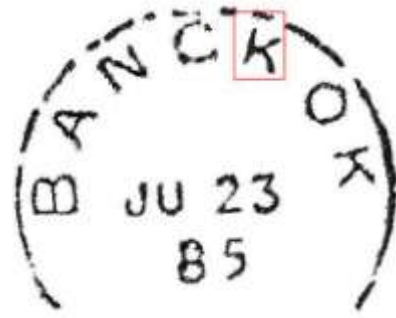
## The Making of a Fake

Based on an item that appeared on an Internet auction in February 2008.

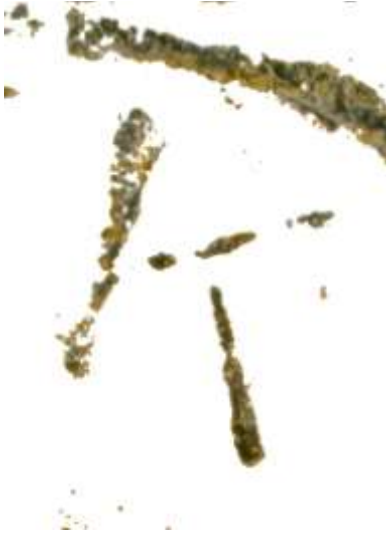
1.		Scan of an item from page 21 of <i>"The Collection of Championship Class – A Study of the Thai Mail 1688 – The End of King Chulalongkorn Era"</i> by Anatchai Rattakul, Bangkok, 1989.
2.		The blue stamp design was removed using graphic manipulation software leaving only the black CDS
3.		The cancellation is printed with an ink jet printer onto genuin stamps of the period ...
		or not!

**GENUINE**

This is a genuine example of the BANGKOK CDS from my collection. The red rectangle above the large “B” shows the area of study.

**FAKE**

The red rectangle is the area of study enlarged and shown below.



The scan was done at 2400 dots / inch.

**NOTE:**

1. the “K” looks “crisper” than the fake.
2. the straight strokes are more so.
3. the fly specks of ink are the same colour as the CDS.
4. the ink colour is not uniformly jet black but shades of “dirty brown.”



The scan was done at 2400 dots / inch.

**NOTE:**

1. the letter looks “fuzzy”.
2. the straight strokes are cartoon like.
3. there are many leftover fly specks of various colours.
4. the ink colour is jet black.