RECOMMENDED EXPERTIZING SERVICES (limited list)

2010 cost estimates

NON-PROFIT EXPERTIZING SERVICES

American Philatleic Expertizing Services (APEX)
www.stamps.org/services/ser_aboutexpertizing.htm
worldwide, USA, covers
90 days
$25 minimum
$25 for catalog up $1000; 2% of catalog over $1001
$400 maximum
$8 no opinion fee
submitter pays postage by sending SASE with submission

Philatelic Foundation
www.philatelicfoundation.org
USA, foreign before 1940; grading is now being offered.
30-35 days
$25 minimum
$25 for catalog value up to $555
4% of catalog value for stamps over $555
$600 maximum
covers are 5% of valuation with $25 minimum and $600 maximum
$2 per packet handling fee regardless of # of stamps in packet
Shipping is $12.50 for items $.01 to $1000, up to $25 on items over $10,000

Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Committee
www.webuystamps.com/csaauth.htm
confederate stamps

The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
www.greenefoundation.ca
Canada, British North America

British Philatelic Association (BPA) Expertizing, Ltd.
sec.bpa@tcom.uk is the email address
British Commonwealth

Royal Philatelic Society of London (R.P.S.L.), Ltd.
experts@rpsl.org.uk is the email address
worldwide

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
spsv@smartchat.net.au is the email address
Australia and Australian states

FOR PROFIT SERVICES

Professional Stamp Experts (PSE), Inc.
www.psestamp.com
30-35 days; 15 day express service is available but expensive
Mostly USA and B-O-B but will not do Philippines, Local & Carrier, Essay & Proof, Confederate
Stamps of less than $100 catalog may be submitted in quantity of no more than 5 for $25 each.
$25 minimum; there is a $12 economy service for modern US stamps but the only reason for expertizing such a stamp is to determine color variety.
$25 on catalog value less than $700
$30 on catalog value $700 - $999
$45 on catalog value $1000 - $2499
$70 on catalog value $2500 or more
NOTE: shipping and handling charges are based on the catalog value of the item and range from $12.60 to $42.10 for regular and regular + insured services. Be mindful that their primary purpose is "for profit" and to promote their "grading" service to investors. Their grading service is mostly subjective but stamps PSE grades at 95 or higher are considered some of the best samples of that stamp although many collectors have the same graded stamp in their collection but cannot afford to have it graded. It should also be noted that PSE certificates are valid and respected in the philatelic community and their error rate seems to be no better or worse than other services according to the scattering of information in various online forums. PSE also will not grade, much to their credit, any stamp that has been altered.

AN EXAMPLE

For the Scott #2 from Heligoland, mint with tear, dirty, Reprint, rouletted with the head embossed:
Scott 2006 catalog value = $165 for mint (tear is not considered in expertizing but only for final market value of stamp)
Expertizing fee estimates:

APEX	$25 plus $3 postage for the letter up to APS and SASE return = $28
PF	$25 plus $2 handling plus $12.50 shipping = $39.50
PSE	$25 plus $13.50 handling and shipping estimate = $38.50 if they graded foreign stamps