

## **STATE POLICE & STATE HIGHWAY PATROL BADGE UPDATES**

### **Book Owner Updates - January 1, 2011**

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The webmaster is making older issues of these bulletins available. As I write this edition, I am uncertain as to just how he is doing this, but if you search around within the site, I'm sure you'll find out how to download an older issues that perhaps you've missed. This comes in response to your input and requests.

Once you have entered your e-mail address for notification of these postings, you need not enter the address again... unless you change your address.

There is a section on the badgeguide.com website where you can see some photos of reproduction and fake badges. These things are coming around so frequently that it is nearly impossible to keep the photos updated, but if you visit the site, clicking on the state of interest, you'll see some of the junk being offered these days. Just be aware there is always somebody waiting to take your money.

**\*\*\* NEW FOR THIS ALERT \*\*\***

#### **PRICE OF GOLD**

The increasing price of gold is starting to increase the value of gold plated and gold filled badges, as you might imagine. The CHP is now doing their badges in 1/10th GF to save money. The department is now paying close to \$280 per badge because of the increase in gold. I had a collector tell me he was quoted a price of \$1200 for a Connecticut State Police badge because of the gold involved. That is high, but you get the picture.

#### **FAKES AND REPRODUCTIONS YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF**

First, when someone makes a fake or reproduction badge, they are doing it to fool you and to take your money. Regardless of what story they tell, the badge, if a fake or a reproduction, will always be just that. There are NO perfect fakes and reproductions. There is always several things wrong with these worthless items. I can't always tell you exactly what is wrong because if I did, the repro maker would just go back and correct the mistake and an even better copy would be made. But, I can tell you what to generally watch out for so you will not be taken. Education can save you lots of money!

#### **ALASKA**

There are a number of Alaska State Trooper USS hallmarked badges showing up on the collectors market. From what we can tell, these badges are mostly numbered in the 700 series, however, one badge in the 400 series has been reported. The badge is being made from a COPY of the Entenmann Rovin die... NOT from the Entenmann Rovin die. This is a non-issue badge and should be valued as such! The value of this badge is around \$150 or less, as it is a reproduction.

Also, the K-9 dog tag badges that are all over the place aren't worth much. If you pay more than \$50 for one of these, shame on you.

## **CALIFORNIA**

A whole series of fake CHP badges, all imported reproductions complete with hallmarks from KAAG and Irvine & Jachins has entered the collectors' market. The KAAG badges show the KAAG hallmark and the badges have rivets. The Irvine & Jachens badges display the older hallmark but the badges are both thicker and weigh more than the issued badges.

There is also a series of fake CHP badges being sold without ANY number on the front. Remember, ALL issued CHP badges have a number on the front, even the badge of the Commissioner. You also need a GF markings and rivets on the rank panel.

## **COLORADO**

The repro April made badges with the Sachs Lawlor circle on the back seem to be back again. Remember when dealing with a CSP badge, the rank lettering is the same size font as the COLORADO STATE PATROL font! The April badges have a smaller font on the rank panel. This is not an issue badge!

## **INDIANA**

There is a series of imported Indiana State Police in the hobby. They appear to have a "soft" look, as if they have been replated. I saw one displaying 236 and there are others. If you have doubts, send me a picture of yours and I'll tell you if you have been taken on this one. They are often seen on epier.com, another auction site that allows badges.

## **IOWA**

A rank set of Iowa State Patrol badges is out there somewhere. These badges have a poorly made state seal and NO Entenmann Rovin hallmark. They are fantasy badges and generally worthless as a collectible. ALL Iowa State Patrol badges of the current issue design have Entenmann Rovin hallmarks. There are no exceptions!

## **NEW YORK**

A reproduction with the number 2445 is still making the rounds. The badge reportedly has no pin. It is a bad badge. This is not an issued item.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

The NCSHP has never issued an "Honorary" badge. In looking at the badge closely, you can tell it is a copy of the basic Blackinton die for North Carolina, but with a closer look at the letters in both the rank panel and in the department name, you can easily detect this is an imported fake. Note how the letters in the department name are not crisp and well done. Spacing is poor and over all the badge is just not well made.

## **TEXAS**

There is a series of Texas Highway Patrol badges being offered. Ebay is the primary sales site as this note is being entered. The offerings include a 2nd issue Texas Highway Patrol wreath badges with the rank of Sergeant, a Diamond Texas Highway Patrol badge, a first issue Texas Highway Patrol hat badge, quite a few different Texas Ranger badges with the Star Engraving hallmark on the back. (ranger and captain ranks), a first issue THP patch, a 2nd issue THP jacket patch with gold bullion on it. These patches were repro'ed back in the 80's.

As you know, you can get taken very easily on these older fakes. If you have any questions, send me a picture, back and front if you can get it, before you buy and I'll at least give you a good educated guess on how valid the badge is. Be careful with this one!

## **VIRGINIA**

Virginia State Police hat emblems with Blackinton hallmarks are starting to show up on the collectors market. These are being made by the same dealer that is also making the Washington State Patrol repros. Remember, the "department issue" VSP hat badges do NOT have a hallmark and have a smooth chrome-like back! This hallmarked hat emblem is a reproduction! These hallmarked hat emblems are not valid collectibles and should be valued at \$35, NO MORE! They are just being made to get in your pocket book! Don't buy them without being aware they are a repro!

## **WASHINGTON**

There is a new reproduction of the Washington State Patrol badge that has surfaced on the collectors market. This badge displays the Blackinton hallmark, and is reportedly a copy of the current issue Washington State Patrol badge. Who knows if this is an import or a real Blackinton badge in this day and time as imports and fakes continue to show up on the collector market.

Blackinton has never been a contract holder for the Washington State Patrol badge. This "Blackinton hallmarked" WSP badge is worthless as a collectible, and should be valued at only the time and materials price of around \$45.00, which is the basic price of a rhodium badge from a maker. Beware of this reproduction!

This badge is being ordered and filtered into the collector market by a dealer in the northeast. More than just one or two have made it into the hands of collectors.

## **MAKER AND PRICE INFORMATION**

### **Alabama Department of Public Safety**

New adjusted value is now \$125 to \$150. Copies of the custom die department badge are showing up frequently on the badge auction sites.

There is a new ranked series of this badge shown in your book. AL DPS badges displaying the ranks of CORPORAL and above are valued slightly higher than the figures shown. New details on the badge are now available in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Badges from what appears to be the DPS custom die are showing up in considerable numbers on the auction websites. Look for clear, clean detail front and back.

### **Alaska State Troopers**

Symbol Arts now holding the current contract, with a collectors value of between \$700 to \$900 for badges displaying the correct hallmark; details in your book. The older Entenmann Rovin hallmarked badges are going for between \$900 and \$1200, with some selected higher ranks going for slightly over \$1200. Alaska continues to order new replacement badges from Entenmann Rovin. The gold badges with brown lettering Fish and Game badges have been discontinued.

### **Arizona Department of Public Safety**

Collectors note... There are two AZ badges, the Highway Patrol and Department of Public Safety. The DPS badges are ranked OFFICER. The current maker is Entenmann Rovin. There is also a smaller issue of the DPS badge. Current values are \$450 to \$750 depending on the badge. The special issue 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badges are out, but have not been valued yet.

### **Arkansas State Police**

This badge is added to the "WATCH LIST" because of increasing numbers of reproductions and fakes appearing on the collectors auction sites. This badge is updated and detailed in State Troopers of America. Badges are different for trooper and corporal. Values are between \$80 and \$130.

### **California Highway Patrol**

Collectors should be aware there are fake imports showing up on the market in increasing numbers. Many of these badges are in the higher ranks or retired badges. Some display a fake KAAG hallmark with rivets. Remember ALL CHP badges are numbered on the front and have rivets and are 1/10th 10K or 14K GF and show this marking. Without the GF marking, the badge is a fake. Value \$600 to \$800. There is NO TROOPER rank in the old State Police! Remember, to be considered department issue, all CHP badges must have 1). GF markings, 2). have rivets on the back of the rank panel, and 3). must be numbered on the front!

### **Colorado State Patrol**

The current contract holder for the CSP is Sun. This badge is rare on the collectors market. Older Sachs-Lawlor badges are sometimes found. Beware of any Colorado badge that does not have the stars in the circle between the rank and the department name, and

the font used MUST be the same size and style for the department name and the rank. Fakes have smaller letters for the rank. The value range is \$400 to \$750, higher for Sun issues.

### **Connecticut State Police**

The badge shown is the design used by sergeant and higher. The trooper badge is not shown. Both badges are being faked and repro'd in increasing numbers.

To be considered a valued collectible the badge should have 1/10K GF markings with soft enamel lettering. You can be taken on this one if you are not careful. Without giving away the secrets of the department issue, you should send us an e-mail with a photo if you have any reservations about the badge. Values are \$300 to \$500.

### **Delaware State Police**

Hahn continues to make the Delaware State Police badge. Hahn does not hallmark, but the "Hahn" pin is a clear indication they made the badge. Blackinton makes "officer second" badges. These are not issue. A Hahn DSP badge is valued from \$150 to \$200.

### **Florida Highway Patrol**

Reproduction TROOPER badges are frequently seen offered on the auction sites, in Blackinton bags. These are NOT department issue, and are worth about \$35, the basic value of parts and materials. Except for very early FHP badges, ALL badges are SOLID back, and gold badges are Karat Clad™. Trooper thru First Sergeant are a rhodium silver and are numbered. Values \$85 to \$250 maximum.

I am also starting to see some Nielsen FHP badges with the tab as part of the die. These are to be considered reproductions.

### **Georgia State Patrol**

Note in your copy of the book that Georgia does issue a Hi-Glo Blackinton wallet badge to those who are in ranks of Lieutenant and higher. These badges are NOT available to ranks of SERGEANT and below.

**Special ALERT note.** Watch for bait and switch GSP badges on the auction sites. One of the worst offenders is a repro GSP badge displaying the number 341. Other 3XX numbers are also highly suspect. Also, watch for a bait and switch on badge 477.

ALL GSP breast badges are numbered on the front. **Only LIEUTENANT and higher have wallet badges with the rank on the number panel instead of a number, and these are HI-GLO badges with a wallet clip.** There are **NO PIN & SAFETY CATCHES on Georgia badges that have the rank on the "number" panel!** Fake and repro Georgia State Patrol badges are flooding the collectors market by way of the web auction sites. BEWARE of any GSP badge without a clear hallmark. Values are \$250 to \$300 maximum.

### **Hawaii Public Safety Department**

This is a stock die seven point star, as pictured as described in your book. Values range from \$150 to \$200 if properly marked as described in the book. Check for the correct state seal!

### **Idaho State Police**

Add Sun Badge Company to the state authorized manufacturer list, with a new value of between \$300 and \$400. Also, note Ed Jones as a valid state contract holder.

### **Illinois State Police**

Note Nielsen as the latest authorized contract manufacturer with a new value of between \$250 and \$300. Unconfirmed information: Nielsen has sub-contracted with a company going by the name of DWD Enterprises to make the badges.

The ISP changed their policy, noting that all badges should now display an ID number. If you encounter a badge without a manufacturer entered ID number, it could be an older issue, so confirm this by watching for wear signs. This badge is being reproduced in considerable numbers by repro sellers. BEWARE of ISP badges with ranks or positions that appear to be engraved.

### **Indiana State Police**

Mayer and Dyer are valid makers. Some later issues are solid back. Most Mayer badges are hallmarked. This is a total custom die. There are some poor reproductions. Values of issued badges range from \$300 to \$450.

### **Iowa State Patrol**

This badge has always been a very difficult badge for collectors. Reproductions are now often seen and offered for sale as “department issue” on the auction sites. An actual “department issue”, properly hallmarked as is noted in the book, is now worth between \$500 and \$600. Beware of the reproductions! You can be taken on this one if you don’t know what you are dealing with! Check for a valid Entenmann Rovin hallmark!

### **Kansas Highway Patrol**

The current official contract holder is Blackinton. The badges are described and pictured in the BG. The older Entenmann Rovin issues are now valued between \$200 and \$250 on the collectors market. Blackinton issues are valued between \$90 and \$150. The rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant has been discontinued. This rank was only made by Blackinton. Ranking officer badges are Karat Clad™.

Kansas does issue retirement badges to the retired members. These badges have the members name and retired rank on the badge along with the RETIRED panel. The badge is of the same design as the issue badge and should be valued around \$60 when found.

### **Kentucky State Police**

The current contract holder is Entenmann Rovin. The badge is a stock die with custom panels. The current values for a properly marked badge is \$300 to \$450.

### **Louisiana State Police**

The current contract holder is now Blackinton. The previous maker was Nielsen, and the latest issues are solid back. Check for valid hallmarks. Values range between \$75 to \$125.

### **Maine State Police**

The badge is a stock, common sunburst die. Trooper badges do not have the eagle top. The higher ranks do. The badge is rhodium silver, and shell back. Recent issues have lettering around the plain metal state seal. This is a change. Blackinton is the current maker. Values range between \$90 and \$175.

### **Maryland State Police**

There are several sets of reproduction Maryland badges on the collectors market. These badges are also being offered as an entire rank set. They are very close to the Hahn die, but are reproductions. If you have questions, send us a picture or check the ALERTS pages at badgeguide.com for details. The tab must NOT pop off under pressure! These badges are NOT department issue. Hahn is the current maker. Values range between \$800 and \$1200 depending on condition and era made. Maryland does have a pocket badge. Although it is a personally purchased item, it becomes department property.

### **Massachusetts State Police**

Current manufacturer is Blackinton. This badge is repro'ed in huge numbers. The value of a department issue WITH WEAR is between \$200 to \$300 for a TROOPER badge with a front ID number or a higher rank with a STAMPED ID number on the back. Anything else should be considered a reproduction or a fake and worthless as a serious collectible.

### **Michigan State Police**

New adjusted value of between \$500 and \$700, IF the badge has the right hallmark. Anything else should be considered as a fake and worthless to collectors. A fair price for a properly hallmarked breast and hat badge set is \$750. Poorly made fakes that don't meet the description in the book are showing up on the collectors market recently.

### **Minnesota State Patrol**

Although the badge is a custom die, it is often found. Those with wear on the soft silver seal are the most valued. Values range \$110 to \$200.

### **Mississippi Highway Patrol**

Soft dark **blue** lettering is now the current issue specification. Gode has recently issued a reproduction of this once hard to find badge. Revalued older issues are now selling for between \$350 and \$400. Both TROOPER and PATROLMAN are now valid ranks.

### **Missouri State Highway Patrol**

This is a department that does not wear a breast badge. The pocket badge is pictured in SToA. It is valued \$150 to \$200. Higher value comes with matching numbered

hat badge or collar emblem.

### **Montana Highway Patrol**

The current **contract holder is Irvine Jachens**. Gold filled Irvine Jachens badges are considered the most valued to serious collectors. **Remove any note in earlier editions of the BG relating to Entenmann Rovin being the contract holder for Montana.** The only MHP E/R has ever made is an “authorized” jacket badge, also considered as an “officer’s second”. The average IJ badge is worth \$500 to \$600. The GF issue can be valued higher, as much as \$600 to \$750 when in good condition. **Irvine Jachens is the only “department issue” contract maker!**

### **Nebraska State Patrol**

The badge has two makers, Everson Ross and Smith Warren. When Everson Ross closed, the EXACT SAME DIE became property of Smith & Warren and that is the die used to make the badge today. The uniform badge is numbered. The coat badge is not. The uniform shirt badge is the most highly valued. Each member gets one numbered badge. The values range \$250 to \$400 for a numbered badge. Coat badges are worth \$100 to \$150 max.

### **Nevada Highway Patrol**

The Nevada Highway Patrol is now a part of the Nevada Department of Public Safety. Vehicle logos, uniform shoulder patches, and other department identification have been changed to show the name of the Nevada DPS.

Entenmann Rovin is the manufacturer for the new DPS badge. The new, hallmarked badge shows both the Department of Public Safety and Highway Patrol wording. The letter “D” on the back of the two tone badge indicates “department order.” The letter “P” indicates an “authorized personal order.” The “P” noted badges, although authorized, are not as highly valued as the “D” noted department issued badges. Values run from \$550 to \$700.

### **New Hampshire State Police**

This badge is a total custom die. Blackinton is the current maker. Each member is issued two badges. Values are \$350 to \$500 depending on condition. **There are reproductions.** Check hallmark and for Hi-Glo™ marking on the solid back.

### **New Jersey State Police**

New Jersey is one of the five states that does not wear a breast badge. The eagle top pocket badge is highly valued and hard to find. Some issue badges have been made in Taiwan. These are the least valued. The most highly valued badges were made by Whitehead Hoag, and hallmarked. The badge is solid badge and individually numbered. The hat badge is the actual badge of authority. It is a copper colored numbered triangle. Each item can be valued between \$500 and \$700. There are reproductions of both items. Be careful with this one!!! The book gives details.

**BEWARE of badge number 5075! There is a valid 5075, but there are many repros using this number.**

### **New Mexico State Police**

New adjusted value is between \$425 and \$475 for properly hallmarked "department issue" badges. A smaller, same design badge is also issued. It is harder to find on the collectors market, and sometimes sells for slightly more. This badge is being made for NMSP sworn administrative personnel and is being worn on white shirts. The new, smaller badge is also being made for all sworn ranks. Be careful of older issues. There are many "parts badges." Beware of and look closely at any NMSP badge with the LASSCO hallmark. LA Stamp has not made any NMSP badges since the 1960s. ***The current maker of New Mexico is Sun Badge.***

### **New York State Police**

The collectors market has been flooded with fakes and reproduction NYSP badges. Lettering on the "department issue" badge is actually dark purple and NOT black or blue. The current badge should be solid back, made by Blackinton, and properly hallmarked. This is one of the highest priced badges on the collectors market because to find a "department issue", you normally have to wade through a river of fakes and reproductions before you find one. A valid NYSP "department issue" is valued between \$1200 and \$1900! Be VERY careful with this one, as you can easily be taken! **Beware of a repro making the rounds with number 2445.**

### **North Carolina State Highway Patrol**

The NCSHP has a new 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badge. Personnel are allowed to buy one. The Blackinton badge is of the same design as the regular issue with a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner. The badge is exceptionally well done, with some ranks made in Karat Clad gold. No market value has been established as of this update.

North Carolina Trooper Association badges are appearing on the collectors market. The NCSHP and the Trooper Association have both said this is a non-issue badge. These hallmarked badges are being made up just to sell to collectors at inflated prices. Check the ALERTS page!

**Reproduction NCSHP badges displaying the Blackinton hallmark are showing up in increasing numbers. The lettering is "muddy" and unclear. If you have questions about a NCSHP badge, send us a photo and we can tell you if it is valid or not!** The valid badge value is from \$175 to \$350 depending on rank and gold or rhodium.

### **North Dakota Highway Patrol**

This badge is a simple stock die, eagle top shield. It can be one of the most difficult to find. The badge has a solid white ring of hard enamel around the metal state seal. The hat badge is a smaller version of the breast badge. Entenmann Rovin is the maker, and badges are hallmarked. The value of this illusive little badge is \$700 to \$900! Be careful and check for a valid hallmark.

### **Ohio State Highway Patrol**

The current contract holder is the Sun Badge Company. BEWARE of any OHP badge with the number 757! This is a fake. The values of the custom die run between \$550 and \$800. Smurr made most of the older badges. The way the number is added to this badge makes it the most difficult to reproduce. Check for well placed numbers, and remember 757 badges are fakes. The ranks above LT are not numbered. Smaller pocket badges with names are retired badges in most cases. These are worth around \$300.

### **Oklahoma Highway Patrol**

New badges are hallmarked "Lawman" and are actually made by V&V. Many older issues are not hallmarked, but all are solid back. Beware of any badge with the number 315. These are not issue. Badges with holes in the badge are often maker samples. This custom die is worth between \$150 and \$250. They are not hard to find.

### **Oregon State Police**

Add Blackinton and V&V as valid contract holders, with V&V currently holding the latest contract. This five point star is valued between \$300 and \$550 with the Sun badge being the most desired.

### **Pennsylvania State Police**

Pennsylvania is one of the five states that does not have a breast badge. The pocket badge is a custom eagle top shield with the state seal being part of the die. Lettering is soft enamel. Trooper badges are numbered. Samples are pictured in the book. Values run \$200 to \$300 depending on wear and condition.

### **Rhode Island State Police**

Rhode Island does not wear a breast uniform badge. Current maker of the pocket badge is Blackinton. The badge is a stock eagle top shield. All but the first issue are gold. First issues were silver. This is a highly reproduced item, so you need to be careful. Values range between \$200 and \$300. You'll see many repros of this one on the badge auction sites.

### **South Carolina Highway Patrol**

This is a Blackinton made custom die gold badge, with an eagle top. The hat badge has no eagle on the top, but matches the breast badge. All are numbered. Values range from \$150 to \$300 depending on condition. There are department provided pictures in the book.

### **South Dakota Highway Patrol**

There are many different versions of the SD seven point star. You'll need the book for this one. There are just too many to describe. The badge and the hat badge do not have the same color lettering. The Entenmann Rovin badges are the most highly valued. Values run \$250 and \$300.

### **Tennessee Highway Patrol**

The Tennessee Highway Patrol has approved their new custom die badge which is made along the lines of the current stock die, but impressively different. ELHN has been selected as the maker. The hat badge has also been completely redesigned.

If you checked the last PDF we posted, you were able to get a peek at the new badge and hat badge. The THP is just about ready to make a formal announcement on the new badge, and asked that we withhold the pictures until they are able to make their format in-house announcement and presentation. So, if you missed the early peek, you'll have to wait a few more weeks to see the new and exciting badge and hat badge.

A little additional information on the badge: Department personnel will soon have ONE ID number for their entire career. This new badge and the assigned ID will not change for the life of the trooper's career, however ranking officers of lieutenant and above will also have a star on their badge. All badges will display the rank of STATE TROOPER. For personnel above TROOPER, the rank will be displayed on a collar emblem.

The new badge is going to be carefully controlled. In addition to a copyright on the new design, all badges will be numbered as noted, and there will be other control items inserted into the actual badge for careful and details tracking and controlling.

Older issues of the Tennessee Highway Patrol badge, made by Everson Ross, and current Blackinton badges are valued at between \$175 and \$250. Older issues are shell back while later issues of this old, stock die badge are solid back.

### **Texas Department of Public Safety**

Blackinton and Nielsen are the current manufacturers of the "Austin Star" DPS badge. This badge, and the older issues without the cut-out star are easy to find. The book has detailed information and photos of the current and past issues. Values range from \$100 to \$225 depending on the issue and era, and the condition of the badge. We have no new information on the new DPS badge change. It is still on hold.

### **Utah Highway Patrol**

New adjusted value to between \$300 and \$350, with the latest manufacturer Symbol Arts added to the official contract list. The Sun badge and some very old gold filled issues are the most highly valued, with the imported Symbol Arts badges at the bottom of the collectors' value scale.

### **Vermont State Police**

The latest contract awarded to Elhn Badge Company, with a new design. Elhn is also the maker of the latest Vermont hat emblem and uniform insignia. This badge carries a defined Elhn hallmark. All badges are gold color with the exception of the Auxiliary badge, which is silver. The Vermont issues, and there are many, range between \$100 and \$350 depending on the maker. You'll need the book for this one.

### **Virginia State Police - The most deceptive state!**

The VSP badge is being repro'd to death. You see reproductions everywhere, even imports of the latest pocket badge and the newly introduced hat emblems. Hahn is making the "issue" breast badge. Blackinton is making the pocket ID badge and the hat

emblem. BE VERY CAREFUL with this one!

REPRODUCTIONS of the Hahn breast badge are being stamped out by a maker in the northeast in increasing numbers. Badges of the VSP Special Agent will soon join the Hahn reproductions. Please send us photos, back and front, if you have questions!

Do **NOT** consider a Virginia State Police breast badge without a **firmly attached oval ID number tab regardless of the story! This applies to the old shell and new solid backs! The latest Hahn solid back badges have a new spring pin with a Burgess catch.**

Do NOT consider any VSP pocket ID badge without a CLEAR Blackinton hallmark and without a CLEARLY STAMPED ID number. You can be easily taken with this one. There is NO ID tab on the pocket badge. The number is **deeply stamped** in the solid back of the badge. No engraved numbers!

**There are people who will tell you any story you can imagine to get you to buy a Virginia badge.** The values of a VSP badge run between \$900 and \$1200.

There are many VSP reproductions offered for sale, and there are actually websites that have been created to make bad information look good. You can be taken on this one! Beware!!! You need the book for pictures, facts, and details.

Do NOT consider any VSP hat emblem without a CLEAR Blackinton hallmark. Reproduction hat emblems with hallmarks are flooding the collectors market. Most, if not all of these hat emblems are imports. Some screw posts break off easily. Many import hat emblems may come enclosed in a Blackinton bags. The imports are made to fool you, and are valued at around \$7.00. Check the ALERTS section for more detailed information. Bagged hat emblems are NOT "department issue" and should be checked closely.

**WARNING!** VSP Special Agent poorly made reproductions are appearing on the collectors market in interesting quantity. The "department issue" VSP Special Agent badge is a carefully controlled item by the department. Should you encounter one of these offerings, please send us a photo of the front and back. The people making these repros have an almost exact die. DO NOT be taken by this one and pay more than "movie prop" prices for the badge. This reproduction is not a collectible. It is valued for manufacture material only. We need photos to increase collector knowledge of this reproduction.

We have the ID number key, and can offer you insight on whether the badge you are considering is valid or not. A photo of the front and back of the badge is required for this check. Your inquiry will be kept confidential. WEAR is important on ANY VSP badge!

### **Washington State Patrol**

Note Nielsen as the current state contract holder. There are some close fakes showing up of this custom die. Know what to look for! The department issue badges have a stamped control number in the back. This is a custom die badge. All Nielsen made WSP badges come with a stamped ID number on the back. Badges with CWN are personal badges that made been made with the authorization of the Washington State Patrol. Issued badges display a stamped number following the letters WSP, not CWN. Values range between \$300 to \$500 depending on whether the badge is chrome or gold, and who

made it.

### **West Virginia State Police**

Watch for the tiny stars that are inside the larger stars. There is a photo of a department issue on the website. Make the needed correction to your BG, if you have an older edition. All 5 issues of the WVSP badge are pictured in the book. The WVSP badge is actually a custom die, slightly larger than the stock "acorn" badge often made up to look like West Virginia. Blackinton has made the past three issues. You need the book for this one! A valid WVSP is valued between \$125 and \$175 depending on the issue and condition. The badge uses special colors in the state deal, as is noted in the book.

### **Wisconsin State Patrol**

This state uses a standard, stock eagle top sunburst badge. The only thing that is constant about the WI badge is they change constantly. They have issued plain seals and full color seals, and black and blue lettering. This is not a very hard badge to find. It is valued as such - between \$50 and \$150 max.

### **Wyoming Highway Patrol**

Note V&V as the current contract manufacturer. The badge now has a full color seal. Older issues are Entenmann Rovin and Irvine Jachens. The most highly valued badge is the older IJ issue with the 24K gold state seal. Values range between \$350 and \$500 depending on the maker and condition of the badge.

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