

STATE POLICE & STATE HIGHWAY PATROL BADGE UPDATES
Book Owner Updates - **September 11, 2007**

This information is copyrighted property of WMP, Inc. and may not be reproduced or distributed in any manner, print or electronic, without written permission from WMP, Inc. The information is posted for those who have purchased copies of the reference publication mentioned above.

**BULLETIN BOARD HOT SHEET UPDATES for this issue:
LATEST FAKES & REPRODUCTIONS:**

Alaska State Troopers

Reproductions with the Metal Crafts hallmark are not valid issues. These are reproductions.

California Highway Patrol

Beware of CHP KAAG hallmarked badges with rivets but no GF markings. These are imported fakes. Remember, ALL CHP badges have three things: a number on the front, rank panel rivets, and are marked GF for gold filled.

Iowa State Patrol

A recent rank set of Iowa State Patrol badges was sold into the collectors market. These badges are all imported fakes.

North Carolina State Highway Patrol

A series of imported NCSHP badges is seen frequently on the auction sites. These badges have poor workmanship, especially in the word panels, and can be easily detected with close inspection. They are showing up with a fake Blackinton hallmark.

Texas Department of Public Safety

The Texas DPS announces a new badge for the Highway Patrol. It is pictured on the next page!

Virginia State Police

As always, the fake and repro sellers go where the money is. Virginia fakes continue to be the number one problem for collectors. They are showing up with fake number tabs, oval and round "O" in STATE POLICE. If you have questions about any of these, send us a photo, front and back, and we will give you an opinion. **The department issue 75th badge is pictured on the next page!**

BG relates to the old Badge Guide. SToA relates to STATE TROOPERS of AMERICA.

States Update Recently

Alaska State Troopers
Arizona Department of Public Safety
Montana Highway Patrol
New Mexico State Police
Tennessee Highway Patrol
Texas Department of Public Safety
Virginia State Police

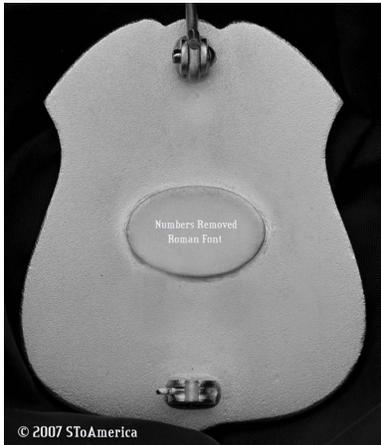
NEW PICTURES - and comments:



Virginia State Police 75th

This is the official department issue Virginia State Police 75th Anniversary badge. The Blackinton made badge is solid back and is hallmarked. It is authorized for wear by department personnel until the end of the year.

The rhodium badge is a copy of the very early Virginia State Police badge, and is lettered in black soft enamel. This is not the same badge that is being sold by the VSP Trooper Association.



Virginia State Police - Hahn

This is a photograph of the back of the new Hahn made Virginia State Police uniform badge. The badges of the past have been shell back. The new issues are solid back and come without a hallmark.

The trooper number tabs are NOT part of the solid back. They are FIRMLY attached tabs as they have always been. The tab does not pop off under pressure. As noted in the book, each member of the VSP gets one badge for wear on the uniform.

These tabs display the ID number of the member in Roman font. The number is stamped into the tab.



New Texas DPS Highway Patrol badge!

This is the new Texas DPS Highway Patrol badge. The badge has concave solid back. No confirmed information on the maker as this photo is posted, but we should have some maker information soon. Sun, Blackinton, and Nielsen were being considered.

The badge comes in both silver and gold versions, depending on the rank of the member.

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 5th 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.

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.

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 75th 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 GF markings, have rivets on the back of the rank panel, and 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'ed 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.

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 2nd 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. There is no such thing as a MSP wallet badge.

Massachusetts State Police

Current manufacturer is Blackinton. This badge is repro'd 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 badge shows both the Department of Public Safety and Highway Patrol wording. 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. If you have a 5075 badge or hat badge, it is probably not a valid badge!

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 75th Anniversary badge. Personnel are allowed to buy one. The Blackinton badge is of the same design as the regular issue with a 75th 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!

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

This is another department that uses a standard, stock die badge. The sunburst badge is eagle top and can be either shell back (older issue) or solid back for the recent issue. Values range from \$175 to \$250 depending on condition.

Tennessee has delayed this change to their new custom badge and hat pin because of economics. The department found that their protective vests needed replacing, and there was just not enough money for vests and badges too, so the badge change, although approved, has been put on hold until the funds become available. We do have photos of the new badge and will post it as soon as the change-over program is in progress.

Texas Department of Public Safety

Blackinton and Nielsen are the current manufacturers of the new "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.

Texas is no longer issuing the "star hole" badge. Word at the DPS is they have a new badge designed on the Texas ABC badge pattern. We should have a photo of this new issue soon, and will post it here when it becomes available.

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'ed 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!**

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. The 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!

The VSP is 75 years old in 2007. To celebrate this anniversary there are two badges being offered for sale to the members by the Virginia Troopers Association. One is a copy of the current issue badge and the other is a copy of the first issue. The current issue style has 75th Anniversary in the rank panel. The older issue copy has the years in the rank panel. These sets are numbered on the back and are sold by a private vendor under the authority of the Association.

The Association badges are not issue, but items of celebration for the 75th Anniversary. They should be valued at around \$100, and probably will not increase in value with time. Badges of this nature normally do not have a marked increase in value as a collectible. Don't confuse the Association badge with the department 75th badge. These badge sets are already on the collectors market. Except for support of the Association, these badges have little value as collectibles.

The OFFICIAL department issue 75th Anniversary badge is actually is sold to active, sworn department members for \$27. They can order ONE each, and the badge displays their official badge number on the front. The badge is a copy of the first issue and is exceptionally well made. Members are allowed to wear the “department issue 75th” badge during 2007. We will have a picture of this badge and the Association on the badgeguide.com website very soon.

Initially, retired personnel were told they could not obtain one of the department sold badges, however, the department has reconsidered this ruling, and retired members will be allowed to buy a badge with their last ID number on the badge in 2008. This will certainly cause more of these badges to be released into the collector market. At this time, the market has not established a value for the VSP Blackinton made 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 change. 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.

Here are some things you should keep in mind as a collector.

1. Each state has an established value on the collectors market. IF you see a badge offered for less, ask yourself what's wrong with this picture? Why would a seller offer you a Maryland State Police badge, for example, for \$300 when a true "department issue" sells for three to four times that amount?
2. Get pictures of the front and back before you buy, and get the understood right of return within a reasonable period of time, if you don't know the badge. Ask questions, and never believe the story about the seller knowing the man who wore the badge.
3. The best rule of all is... "Never pay more for a badge than you can sell it for!"
4. Know your specifications, back and front. Check pin attachments, designs, and most of all, hallmarks. Know the import sellers are now reproducing hallmarks too. Sellers will often do anything to fool an unsuspecting buyer. WEAR is the best insurance of a valid badge.
5. IF you still have questions, send us a photo of the badge, back and front. This site has a panel of educated, honest collectors who will give you an opinion as to what the badge is worth. You don't have to name the seller. We will give you an opinion from what we see and know about the badge and the state. This is a free service for Badge Guide owners! We are not always 100% right, especially on the older state police and highway patrol issues, but we don't miss many.
6. Do NOT think that ANY badge offered to you in the manufacturers bag is true department issue. Sellers are mass producing new badges as "department issue". These badges have NO wear, and they are clearly reproductions. Why pay collectors prices for a new Florida Highway Patrol badge in the bag, for example? It cost the seller \$35 to make it.
7. If you have questions about a state police or highway patrol badge you are considering, send me a link or a photo of the badge, front and back, and I will give you an opinion and an estimated value. (bill@mauldin.net) This is a free service for book owners.

We do not sell badges!