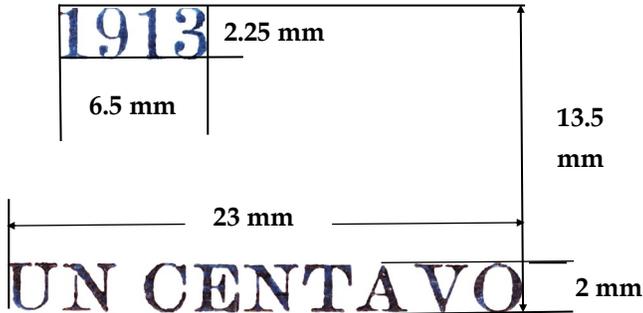


GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1913 SCOTT 151-3

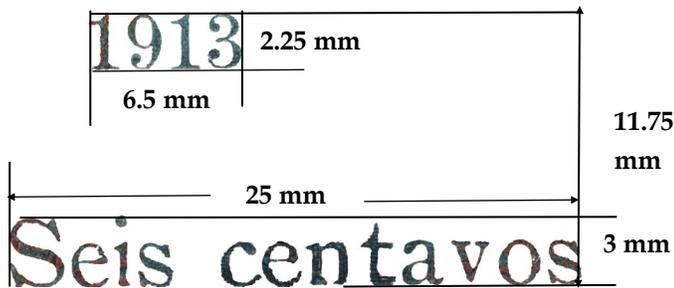
By David Reitsema ISGC No. 803

Scott 147-9 were required to meet shortages of much-used denominations which had become the Guatemalan stamp issuing norm for a number of preceding years.. As with those issues, the fakers were busy but the only significant number of fakes were on the 1c on 50c stamp.

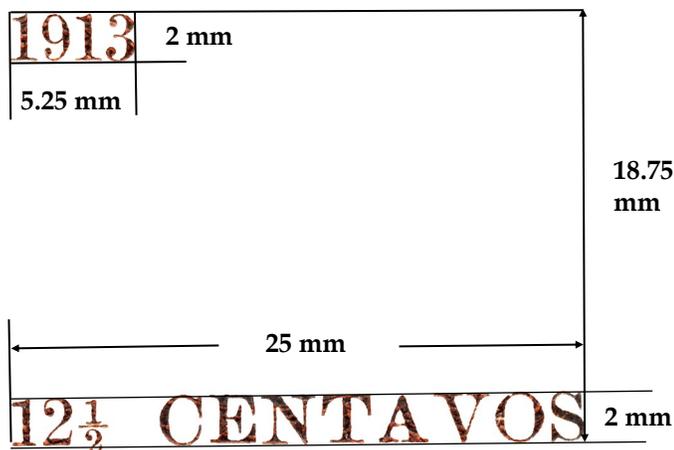


As with all surcharge overprints, the quickest way to determine if the surcharges are genuine is to measure them. This will eliminate almost all fakes. The second way is to compare the stamp with the listings in *Guatemala 2* ("G2"); any variety not listed there is a fake.¹

The measurements of the genuine surcharges are illustrated here. The surcharge images were produced by Eric Dyck using color separation technology, but have been enhanced due to the difficulties inherent in this process, and therefore the individual letters may not be 100% accurate.



The genuine surcharges exist with a variety of errors including inverted and double. Fakes of the 1c on 50c include normal, double, inverted and double inverted. The most common fake of the 12.5c on 2p is the inverted surcharge.



This issue also has a number of so-called essays which appear as unlisted varieties. These are 1c on 50c red surcharge, 1c on 50c double black surcharge, 1c on 50c double surcharge red and blue with 'ENSAYO' handstamped in red, 6c on 1p lilac surcharge, 6c on 1p double surcharge in red and blue, and 12.5c on 2p red surcharge with 'ENSAYO' handstamped in black. G2 notes that there is no official documentation regarding the origin of these. A detailed study of these was published in *El Quetzal* which was unable to verify their status as contemporary essays.² While the editor of G2 unfortunately chose to mention these because he could not *disprove* their status, the burden is on one asserting their genuine status as much as any other unreported 'stamp' put forward as genuine which lacks any official documentation. See examples of the 'essays' on following page.



"Essay" E191A
Lilac-Carmine Surcharge



"Essay" E190A
Red Surcharge

FAKES LISTED IN GUATEMALA 2

1c on 50c

Fake 1
2nd Line—23.75
Known normal, inverted
and double

12.5c on 2pc

Fake 1
1st Line—5.5 mm
2nd Line—25.5x 2.25 mm
Height—20 mm

Known inverted and triple one
inverted

Footnotes

1. Goodman, Roland A., ed., *Guatemala 2*, pp. 378-9, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, 1971.
2. Kearton-Gee, Kerry, "The 1913 Waterlow 6c on 1p Surcharges and Essays", *El Quetzal*, Vol. 66, No. 367, pp. 4-7, International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 2016.

The International Society of Guatemala Collectors was formed in 1948 and is Affiliate No. 38 of the American Philatelic Society. The Society is committed to assisting everyone interested in collecting Guatemala. Its award winning journal El Quetzal is published quarterly. Membership levels include a US\$10 online membership which includes access to most society publications including its two award winning handbooks, and the electronic version of the journal. If you collect Guatemala you will find much more information available on the society website:

www.GuatemalaStamps.com

