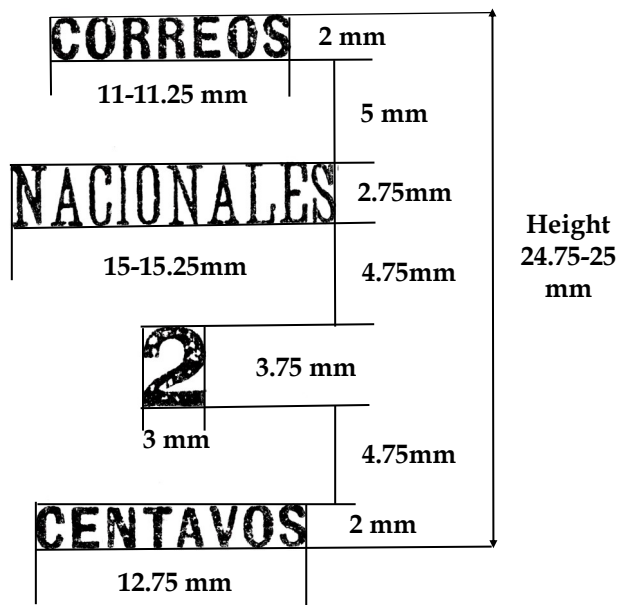


# GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1898 SCOTT 88-96

By David Reitsema ISGC No. 803

The 1898 provisional issue surcharged on engraved revenue stamps was printed in quantities of from 10,000 to 103,000 stamps. This issue has been extensively forged, most forgeries being attributed to Federico Saureck of Guatemala City. He did excellent work and indications are that he used the same type as that used for the genuine surcharges. These forgeries were so common that many collectors were disgusted with the stamps of Guatemala, and with this issue in particular. *Guatemala 1* contains detailed descriptions of the



genuine surcharges for each position on a sheet of 50 stamps, as well as images of a complete sheet which is somewhat helpful.<sup>1</sup> This article will help in cutting through this seemingly complex issue and help to quickly identify genuine surcharges.

As with all surcharge overprints, the quickest way to determine if the surcharges are genuine is to measure them. This will eliminate many fakes. However, this issue is characterized by fakes which are so similar to the originals that it is necessary to also compare printing flaws in the fakes after measuring. See Type A illustration and discussion below. There are only 3 genuine varieties, these are Scott 88a, "ENTAVO" for "CENTAVO", Scott 90, red and black double surcharge 2c on 10c, and Scott 91, red and black double surcharge 2c on 50c. Note that the International Society of Guatemala Collectors does

not recognize any varieties other than these three, despite any others which may be listed in any other catalogues.

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.

Most fakes of the 6c surcharges are stamps with addition of forgeries used to create double surcharges and all normal and 'errors' are identifiable as described above.<sup>2</sup>

The 2c fake varieties on the 1c stamp exceed 25 in number of which 18 are listed in G1. G1 has an extensive list with identifying characteristics of most of the fakes. The type A fakes were printed in a horizontal setting of 10 'cliches', each one of the ten being identifiable. It is important to check that stamps with genuine measurements do not have the flaws in types A1-10. An example as illustrated below is a strip of 4 showing the key identifiers of types A7-10.

Shortly after G1 was published a detailed study was made of this issue by Roger K. Frigstad, one of the foremost Guatemalan philatelists of the twentieth century. His work verified that there were only three genuine varieties of this issue, as mentioned above. One result of his study was that ISGC #100, the red surcharged 2c on 1c lilac rose, was shown to be a fake. His subsequent efforts resulted in Scott removing many error varieties and ISGC #100 is no longer listed.

The most common bogus item is the 1c carmine 1898 revenue stamp overprinted 'Correos Nacionales' and exists in two font types.



Fake Type A7

Fake Type A8

Fake Type A9

Fake Type A10

- A7 (1) First 'O' irregular at L.  
(2) "C" broken UR. "L" nicked UR.
- A8 (2) "C" broken LL. "I" lacks serif UL.  
"O" nicked UL. Second "A" nicked UR.
- A9 (1) "S" cut off at bottom.  
(2) Second "A" shorter. "L" broken at center.
- A10 (1) "C" broken UL.  
(2) "S" bottom jagged, sawtoothed.

(1) CORREOS (2) NACIONALES



ISGC No. 100

Fake F



Bogus

Correos Nacionales

Footnotes

1. Goodman, Roland A., *Guatemala 1*, pp. 173-81, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, 1969.
2. Roger K. Frigstad, "The Surcharged Tall Fiscal Stamps of 1898...A Corrected Listing", *El Quetzal*, Vol. 21, No. 180-1, pp. 24-6, International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 1970.

*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](http://www.GuatemalaStamps.com)

