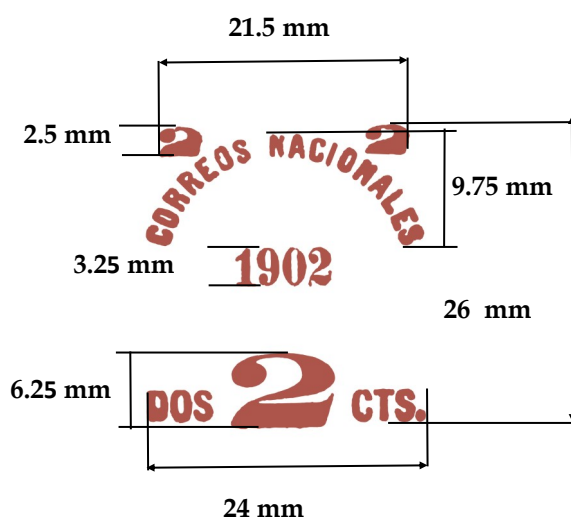
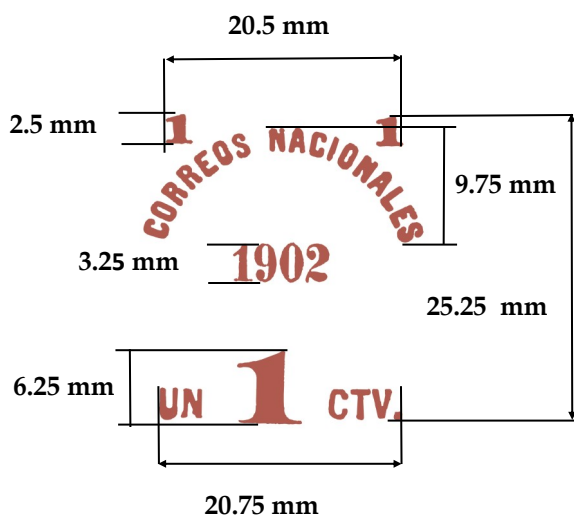


# GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1902 SCOTT 111-112

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These provisionals issued in 1902 were surcharged in red on 1895 1c revenue stamps by Tipografia Nacional in Guatemala City. This fifth provisional issue in a period of four years continued the dismal effort of the postal administration to provide adequate supplies of stamps for postal use and proved to be fertile ground for forgers.

It may help collectors to note that these stamps are plentiful and cheap, and the only time it is practical to check the authenticity of the stamps is when working with the errors which have a significant catalogue value.

The first and easiest key to identifying forgeries is the ink color, which is red in the genuine but orange-red or rose on fakes.<sup>1</sup> The ink on the genuine surcharge was sometimes watery resulting in blurred letters, visible on the color separations here.<sup>2</sup>

Dimensions of the genuine surcharges are shown in the illustrations here.<sup>3</sup> There are other differences, one being the lack of a ball on the tip of the '2' in 1902, shown below. The genuine errors on both stamps are inverted, double plus on the 2c there is a double surcharge, one diagonal. These vary with the stamp perforation varieties (see *Guatemala I*). Scott 113 is known with faked double overprint.

## Footnotes

1. Goodman, Roland A., ed., *Guatemala 1*, p. 189, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London (1969).
2. The color separations in these illustrations were provided by Eric Dyck.
3. The measurements are taken from Goodman, *ibid.*



Genuine Surcharges with Red Ink



Fake Surcharge with Orange-Red Ink

*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:*

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