

GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1912 SCOTT 147-9

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Scott 147-9 were required to meet shortages of much-used denominations. Genuine surcharged stamps were printed in larger quantities than the 1911 issues and genuine stamps are easier to find. Also unlike the 1911 issues, there are more genuine errors. The fakers were busy with these issues and there are many fakes and bogus items.

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 If any question remains it is possible to verify that the stamp corresponds with the particular printing of the basic Waterlow stamp used in the production of these 1912 surcharges, a task far beyond almost all collectors.²

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.

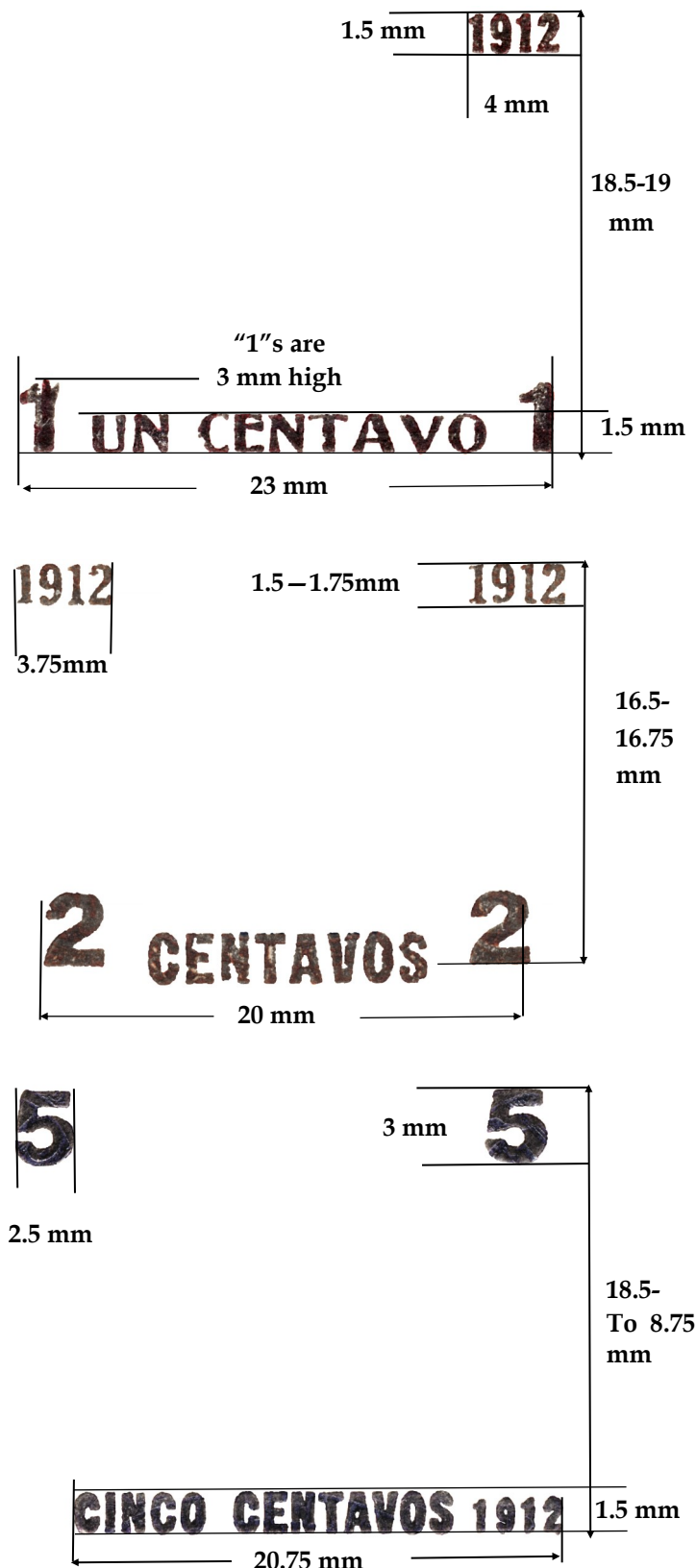
As described in G2 the genuine 1c surcharges have faulty '1's which are shortened or have faulty top serifs, the numerals of the '1's in the date have serifs with strokes of fairly even thickness, and the '2's have a flat, not curved bottom.

G2 makes some effort to distinguish the genuine printings from the fakes based on inks, but the inks varied from light to dark and this is not determinative. Unlike most faked surcharged issues which are not level, the 1912 issues often are not perfectly level.

The genuine surcharges exist with a variety of errors including inverted and double. A printing error of the 5c surcharge exists with '191' for '1912' which is always accompanied by a 'C' in 'CINCO' with a flattened top (see illustration on following page).

Fakes of the 2c on 5c include normal, double, double inverted, double with one inverted, one line missing and various sorts of se-tenant pairs. They are known in red, black and red plus

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black. Fakes of the 6c on 10c are found with normal surcharge position, and also inverted, double, and pair, one without surcharge.

All red 1c and 5c surcharges are bogus, including all 'ENSAYOS' overprints. The 5c surcharge with the '191' error was extensively faked but none have the flat topped 'C'.



'191' Variety Scott 149a

Genuine have flat topped 'C' in 'Cinco' and vertical line to right of '191' (present but not visible in this image)



Bogus BFH 5c on 75c
Red Surcharge



Bogus BFF 'ENSAYOS' and
Red Surcharge



Similar Bogus 1908 'ENSAYOS'
and Red Surcharge

Footnotes

1. Goodman, Roland A., ed., *Guatemala 2*, pp. 375-8, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, 1971.
2. Kearton-Gee, Kerry, "The 1912 Fake Surcharges Found on the 1902 20c Waterlow", *El Quetzal*, Vol. 69, No. 380, pp. 18-22, International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 2019. This technique requires full sheets of the particular Waterlow printings used for the surcharged issues and then a determination of whether the surcharge example matches one of the positions on the sheet. If it does, it is then possible to compare the surcharge itself with known genuine examples.

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

