

## GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1900 SCOTT 98

By David Reitsema ISGC No. 803

The 1900 provisional issue was printed on the 10c engraved stamps and issued in late January. As was typical after the first of the year when the supply of 1c stamps was depleted because of their use on New Year's greeting cards, the need was met by surcharging existing stamp stock. There were two surcharge settings of 50, and thus a total of 100 surcharge positions and it is possible to plate this issue. Roger Frigstad identified six fakes and one bogus item has been reported.

As with all surcharge overprints, the quickest way to determine if the surcharges are genuine is to measure them. The measurements of the genuine surcharges are illustrated here. The surcharge image was produced by Eric Dyck using color separation technology.

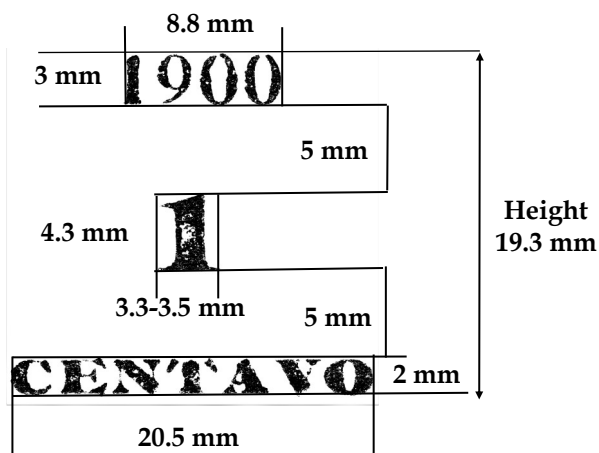
The measurements of the genuine surcharges as well as six fakes are shown on the table on the following page.<sup>1</sup> The bogus stamp (ISGC BEO) is a 1c surcharge on the 1895 engraved 25c red orange stamp.<sup>2</sup>

There are two errors of this issue. The inverted surcharge is relatively common as reflected by its low catalogue value. The double surcharge is rare, and Frigstad stated that there may be as few as 10 in existence and all examples he had seen were used.

The variety of this issue is a vertical pair, one with an inverted surcharge (tête bêche) which occurred when a sheet having received a 50 cliche impression on one half was reversed for the second impression. Frigstad states that there are at least 10 of these in existence. It is listed in the ISGC handbook but not in the Scott catalogue.

### Footnotes

1. Roger K. Frigstad, "The Provisional Issue of 1900", *El Quetzal*, Vol. 22, No. 184, pp. 3-8, International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 1971.
2. Goodman, Roland A., *Guatemala 1*, pp. 183-5, Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, 1969.



Scott 98a - Inverted Surcharge



ISGC 109c—Tête bêche pair



Bogus Surcharge

Continued on following page

Surcharge Measurements (millimeters  $\pm 0.05$ ) and Characteristics

	HORIZONTAL MEASUREMENTS			VERTICAL MEASUREMENTS						CHARACTERISTICS
	1900	1 (base)	Centavo	1900	Between 1900-1	1	Between 1-Centavo	Centavo	Total Height	
Genuine	8.8	3.3-3.5	20.5	3.0	5.0	4.3	5.0	2.0	19.3	a. Jet black ink b. Front edge of 9, 1, T aligned
Forgery I	9.1	3.5	20.5	3.0	5.3	4.3	5.2	2.0	19.8	a. Deformed "A" b. Large "1" to left c. Inverted on 25¢ stamp
Forgery II	9.3	2.8	20.5	3.0	5.3	4.6	5.1	2.0	19.9	a. Short "9" b. Short L serif on large "1" c. Watery ink. "d" inverted
Forgery III	9.3	3.3	20.6	2.9	5.5	3.2	4.9	2.02	19.5	a. Defective large "1" b. Sloppy print c. Inverted
Forgery IV	9.1	3.5	21.0	3.1	5.3	4.3	5.1	2.0	19.6	a. Deformed "A" b. Light ink c. Double surcharge
Forgery V	9.0	3.5	20.5	3.0	5.1	4.3	5.0	2.0	19.4	a. Deformed "A" b. Dull ink c. Added to genuine
Forgery VI	9.0	3.5	20.6	3.0	5.2	4.4	5.1	2.0	19.7	a. Excellent forgery b. Good ink c. Large "1" stem is thinner d. Large "1" a bit to the right

TABLE I

This table is reproduced from *El Quetzal* No. 184. See Footnote 1.

*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)

