

ISSUES OF THE REPUBLIC

Issue of September 30, 1902 - Scott 232:

It appears that the original printing plate used by the printer was stolen and used in Havana immediately to make all kinds of errors. Faked overprints were printed over the genuine to create inverts and doubles. It is alleged that some of the most prominent philatelists of the time were involved. Owing to their early appearance, some forgeries were actually used in the mails.

The major difference between the forgeries and the genuine is that different colored inks were used. The genuine were overprinted with a carmine ink and the forgeries with an orange red. Since these colors are so similar in many respects, it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between them owing to the effect of aging on the paper and ink. The only way to accurately distinguish the inks today is through spectrographic analysis. These forgeries are very dangerous and difficult to identify, and any of the expensive errors should be expertised before purchase.

There are also many cruder forgeries with thinner numerals, defective type, and poor type arrangement, which can be readily identified by comparison with a genuine copy.



232

Example of
Genuine



232

Inverted
Surcharge
Forgery



232

"habilitado"
at bottom



232



Vertical Pair
with Tab



Inverted
Type 2



Horiz. Pair



dbl Top only



Double OP

Issue of February 1, 1910 - Scott 244 only:

It is reported that the 10c value was forged in Cienfuegos in 1913. Details are lacking.



244

Example of
Genuine



FORGERY

Issue of February 24, 1914 (Mapita) - Scott 253 and 262:

The 1c value (Scott 253) has appeared in blue as the result of experiments with chemicals by forgers trying to create rarities. All genuine varieties of this value are in shades of green.

The 1 Peso value (Scott 262) is known to have been forged. In the original designs, secret identification marks were included. On the 1\$ these were: a small dash between the letters "R" and "A" of "NICARAGUA;" a small triangle in the ocean just under the "B" of "CUBA;" a small dot on the extreme eastern end of the island of Cuba; a lower case letter "i" instead of a capital letter "I" in HAITI;" and small diagonal lines beginning at the upper left of the first and last "Os" of the legend "OCEANO PACIFICO." The forgery, which appeared in the mid 1920s, lacks these marks and, fortunately, is very rare.

On August 20, 1917, the "Mapita" issue was demonetized for postage. Subsequent printing were overprinted in black "TIMBRE NACIONAL" and rouletted for use as revenue stamps. The black overprint on the 1\$ black issue is barely noticeable. In an attempt to defraud collectors, the overprint has been obliterated by a heavy black cancel and the stamps reperfected. There were also attempts in some cases to erase the overprint prior to its obliteration with a cancel, but these were crudely done. These alterations are easily seen with a careful examination of the stamp.

(See next page for examples)

CUBA

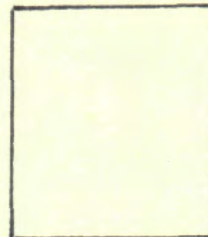
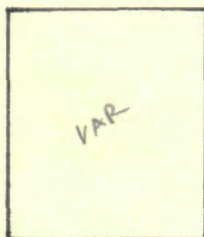
Issue of Feb. 24, 1914 (Mapita) - Scott 253 & 262 Continued:



Example of
Genuine 253



Forgery
of 253



Forgery
of 262

Issue of February 8, 1928 - Scott C2:

Scarcely had the genuine Lindbergh overprints been released when forged double overprints (one genuine and one forged) appeared in Havana and were submitted to stamp dealers worldwide. These can be readily identified by an examination of the type faces used as the forger used type from a different font. The major difference in the overprint is in the "B" of "Lindbergh," but in some there are differences in the letters R, G and H. In the genuine, the top and bottom halves extend equally to the right. In the forgery, the bottom half extends farther to the right than the top. Inverted overprints from the same type font used for the forged double overprint also appeared.



C2

Example of
Genuine



C2 / C1 FORGERY

Forgeries

Issue of December 23, 1933 - Scott 317:

The forgers lost no time in coming out with forged overprints, double overprints, and examples in which one or more words or numbers of the overprint were missing. The ink used by the forgers was a brilliant red while that of the genuine is a flat red without luster. On most of the forgeries the word "Revolucionario" is 20.5 mm in length, while on the genuine it is 20.25 mm. The "G" of "Gobierno" on the forgeries has a short cross bar while on the genuine it is longer. In the date on the forgeries, the tail of the "9" points downwards, while on the genuine it curves upwards. Some postal use of the forgeries occurred, so examples with a postal cancel are not proof of genuineness.



Example of
Genuine



FORGERY

Issue of May 18, 1950 - Scott 449-451:

In 1953 stamps of this issue with a forged double overprint appeared in Havana. At first appearance they seem genuine, but upon close examination with a magnifying glass and strong light, the added overprint is seen to be in a different shade of ink. Since then, other cruder attempts to forge these overprints have been made but they are readily detected.



Examples of
Genuine