

## GUATEMALA FORGERIES AND FAKES 1875 SCOTT 7-10

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The 1875 Liberty Head issues were engraved and perforated 12. There are several things which distinguish the genuine from the forged in addition to the perforation. The most significant of these is that the 'A's in "GUATEMALA" are inverted 'V's in the forgeries and the fonts are all significantly different.

The forgeries are all rather crude lithographic printings and like the forgeries of the first issue these are readily identified in comparison with the genuine once a collector is aware of them. They are printed in color shades differing from the originals. The early forgeries by the Spiro brothers of Hamburg are pin perforated 13 and they usually appear to be rough, as if re-perforated. These are often seen with a fake dark circular cancel consisting of numerous equally spaced square shaped dots.



Genuine



A second group of forgeries was done by Fournier. Curiously these also have the inverted 'V's of the Spiro forgeries. They are perforated 12.5. It is very common to see these with a fake dark circular Guatemala/11 Ag. 78 datestamp which is a fast way to identify one of these forgeries.



Forgery

Genuinely used examples are uncommon. This was due primarily to the gum used by the printer, which when subjected to Guatemala's climate caused the sheets to stick together. The sheets were subsequently soaked to separate the sheets, and as a result they were inconvenient to use. During this period use of postal stationery was far more common. In 1880 the issue was demonetized and the unsold stock sold to a New York stamp dealer.



Fournier Forgery



Spiro Forgery

### References:

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*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:*

<https://guatemalastamps.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?sl=197696320>