

**Counterfeits of Cuba 1898-1899 Issue.**

Among a number of Cuban stamps of the 1898-1899 issue recently acquired by our publishers from an export commission house, whose accumulation of cancelled stamps we purchase annually, we were greatly surprised at the unusual appearance of one specimen each of the 3 and 6 centavos stamps, and upon a careful examination of the stamps in question we came to the conclusion that the stamps were counterfeits, made with the intention to defraud the government. A native printing from the plates was out of the question, as will be seen later on from the variations in the designs, nor is there any good ground to consider the stamps a temporary issue made in Cuba by the authorities, in imitation of the original Spanish issue as there was evidently no dearth of these values at the time the two stamps in question were used. The cancellation on the 3 centavos stamp is merely a blotch, that on the 6 centavos stamp bears the cancellation—Habana—1 Nov. 1898.

The chief points of difference are: Printing—The genuine stamps are clearly printed (typographed), the counterfeits are very coarse, poorly printed lithographs. Perforation—The genuine stamps are perforated 14 more or less clear cut; the counterfeits are rough, pin-perforated, about 15, but really have no definite scale, as all four sides vary. Paper—Both the genuine stamps and the counterfeits are printed on wove paper, but the paper of the counterfeits is somewhat thicker and more opaque than that of the genuine. Design—Both counterfeit stamps are undoubtedly printed from plates made from one die or transfer, as the only difference is in the numerals of value, the rest of the design being identical in both stamps. The chief differences between the counterfeits and the genuine aside from the general appearance, are as follows... Size, genuine, 18x21 1-4mm; counterfeits, 18x21 3-4mm. In the top and bottom labels the fine lines of shading above the words CUBA—1898 Y 99 and CENTAVOS are entirely missing in the counterfeits, and both 9's. In the lower labels all the letters of the counterfeits are again different, especially the C, which is above the lines of the other letters, and the A. V. and S. The numerals of value, 3 and 6 respectively, are also quite different in the counterfeits, and much further removed from the line and of the label. The fine inner line of the circle which frames the head is very distinct and unbroken in the genuine stamps; in the counterfeits it is broken into a number of small dashes.

In addition to the differences mentioned above, numerous points of variance in the head and in the details of the frame could be pointed out, but the points mentioned are sufficient for the reader to recognize the counterfeit. We need only add, that in regard to there is also a difference—the genuine 3 centavos is a dark brown, the counterfeit a violet brown; the genuine 6

centavos is dark blue, the counterfeit a dark ultramarine. Although we have seen only the two values described above, we have no doubt that other values, perhaps the whole set have been counterfeited, and any of our readers finding specimens of other values would greatly oblige us by informing us of the fact.—Post Office.

**Clippings.**

(Tri-Monthly Collector.)  
A find of 500 of the 90c carmine Continental Bank Note Co.'s print, at the Washington postoffice recently, will reduce the price of said stamps very much. It catalogues now \$25.

There were 43,000 sets of newspaper stamps reprinted. All of the stamps returned to the department by the many postmasters were destroyed. None were used to make up the 50,000 sets sold to collectors. Of the 50,000 sets only about 7,000 are original.

Following is a list of the number (originals) on hand, when the department determined to sell them to collectors:—

- \$ 5.00 only 155.
- 10.00 only 11,000.
- 20.00 only 8,000.
- 50.00 only 16,000.
- 100 only 7,500.

From the above list, which is correct, it will be seen that those who are fortunate enough to be the owner of 1895 originals can count on having "good stuff."

**(The Perforator.)**

The postmaster at Hamilton recently ordered the mail clerks to keep a strict account of all uncancelled stamps on letters that arrived from other post-offices for delivery at Hamilton, and in about six weeks it totalled up to several hundred dollars. All of these stamps could be used again by unscrupulous people as they were never touched by the cancellation.

Complaints are being made against postal clerks removing stamps from packets, etc.

**Subscribe**

**Now**

**An Xmas Stamp,**

**unused, to**

**everyone sending**

**8 . . .**

**50c. Money Order.**

**A Column of Bargains**

I am a new man probably to most of you but it will be to your advantage to make my acquaintance by ordering some of these following snaps.

**WHOLESALE LOTS.**

**CANADA.**

- 02 \$.....0001 red 'w/leaf of 16-0781 20
- " 3c red per 1000... .. 15
- " 5 and 8 per 100... .. 35
- 1898 (Maple leaf) 1c green per 100 30
- " 3c red per 100... .. 15
- " 5c blue per 10... .. 15
- " 6c brown, per 10... .. 50
- " 8c. yellow, per 10... .. 30
- " 10c. violet, each... .. 09
- " numeral 1c green per 100... 15
- " numeral 2c purple per 100... 20
- " numeral 3c red per 100... .. 10
- " numeral 6c brown per 10... 25
- " numeral 8c yellow per 10... 20
- " Xmas stamps per 100... .. 75
- 1870 3c orange red, per 50... .. 25

**UNITED STATES.**

- 1878 2c brown per 100... .. 20
- " 2c green per 100... .. 20
- " 3c green per 100... .. 50
- " 1c blue per 100... .. 50

**COLUMBIAN ISSUE.**

- 1c blue per 100... .. 20
- 2c lilac per 100... .. 10

**OMAHA ISSUE.**

- 1c green per 100... .. 40
- 2c copper red per 100... .. 25

**SINGLE SNAPS.**

- 1851 3p red wove... .. 17
- 1858 3p red ribbed... .. 1 00
- 1859 5c vermilion... .. 03
- 1868 1-2c black... .. 10
- " 1c brown red... .. 15
- " 3c red... .. 02
- " 6 dark brown... .. 10
- " 12 1-2c blue... .. 15
- " 15 lilac... .. 10

**JUBILEE ISSUE.**

- \*1-2c black... .. 17
- 1c yellow... .. 01
- 2c. green... .. 02
- 5c blue... .. 04
- 8c violet... .. 10
- 50c ultramarine ... .. 40

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**

- 6 pence Lake unused... .. 40
- 1873 6c rose... .. 15
- 1876 5c blue roullitted... .. 35

**NEW BRUNSWICK.**

- Set 1c violet, 5 yellow, 10 red, 12 1-2c blue, 17c black unused 60

**UNITED STATES.**

- 1858 black, small grille... .. 30
- 1858 light brown... .. 2 00

\* Means unused.

Postage extra on orders under \$1. All ordering over \$1. get years subscription to S. R. free.

**WM. RIDDLE,**

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Ref. Publisher This Paper.