

The “88” Flaw - Further Proof that the “Grinnell Missionaries” are Forgeries.
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The ornament or figure separating the number “13” and the word “Cents” in the bottom portion of the Missionary stamp, hereafter referred to as the “88” figure shows a characteristic that may prove the “Grinnell Missionaries” are forgeries and that the genuine Missionary stamp in Grinnell’s possession (#G81) was used as a model.

Photography and/or tracing have been suggested as one of the methods employed by a forger to manufacture the “Grinnell Missionaries”.

The genuine missionary, a 13¢ Type I shows a weakly printed area in the left portion of the top loop of the left “8” in the “88” ornament. It appears as being a break but a thin blue line can be seen where the ornament is indeed intact. Other genuine missionaries show this too.

Examining Grinnell #G31, the two apparent end points are still visible. But now the loop appears to be redrawn with the loop bulging to the left and rejoining at the mid-point at a lower position. The loop now appears to be an oval shape rather than an inverted “rain drop” shape.

All of the Type I “Grinnells” show this redrawn loop. Table 1 shows the results of the study. Once again, my observations are limited to the scans available but I fully expect other Type I “Grinnells” examined will show the same result.

How can this feature exist? It is believed that the forger used photography and/or traced the genuine stamp when producing the forgeries. Faced with what he saw as a broken line, he simply drew it in, incorrectly, leaving the two “end points” as part of his new design.

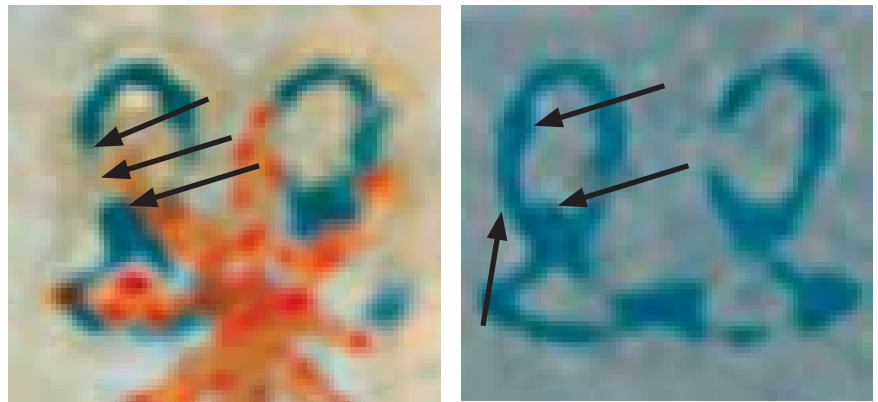
Proponents will argue that a different ornament was used. Implausible as the two breaks still show.

They could also argue that the same ornament was used but repaired, a highly convenient argument to cover evidence of a forger’s redrawn error, but what about all of the other breaks that were left untouched. Further, if this is a repaired break that would mean the Grinnells were printed after the genuine stamps and how could late printing “Grinnells” have early period postmarks on them? An impossible scenario.

The “88” feature was only used on the 13¢ Missionary. ALL of the 13¢ Type I Grinnells show the redrawn loop and the original break points (6 stamps). The genuine stamps DO NOT show these features (10 stamps). This “88” flaw is a very important observation as it shows an original flaw, on the genuine missionary used as a model, and leaves the original features intact (two dark endpoints) while incorrectly drawing in the loop.



Figure 1. Genuine Missionary and “Grinnell Missionary”.
 Photo Credit: Arrigo G81, G31.



G81 Genuine 13¢
 Type I

G31 Grinnell 13c
 Type I

Figure 2. Comparison of “88” Features. Photo Credit : Arrigo G81, G31

13¢ Genuine	Redrawn Loop?		13¢ Grinnell	Redrawn Loop?
(G81)	No		G29	Yes
#86	No		G31	Yes
#89	No		G34	Yes
#114	No		G36	Yes
#119	No		G37	Yes
#137	N/A, repaired Dawson item		G66	Yes
#139	No		G69	Yes
#141	No			
#143	No			
#149	No			

G81 - A Broken Heart. Another Reason the “Grinnell Missionaries” are Forgeries.
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“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”
Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900 - 1944).

Further evidence that the genuine 13¢ Type I Missionary in Grinnell’s possession was used as a model to create the “Grinnell Missionaries” comes from an examination of the central heart in the left side ornaments as shown in Figure 1.

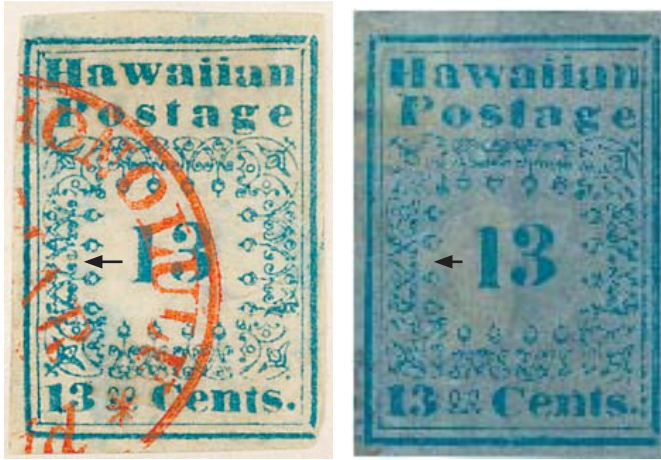


Figure 1. Genuine Missionary and “Grinnell Missionary”.
Photo Credit: Arrigo G81, G31.

Two genuine missionary stamps were recently discovered on the “Grinnell Card of 10” and some people believe these were used as the models for creating the “Grinnell Missionaries”. While the exact method of forgery has not been confirmed, it has been suggested that photography and/or tracing of the design was employed to make the “Grinnells”.

The goal of this project was to identify a feature or features on the genuine Type I stamp that were misinterpreted by the forger and transferred to ALL of the “Grinnells” of every denomination AND not present on any of the other genuine stamps.

This article will focus only on the left central heart in the side ornaments. The three features are the misjoined heart curl, the tight ball curl and the “seed pod”.

The genuine stamp in Grinnell’s possession (#G81) shows a break on the lower heart arc. This same break also appears on other genuine stamps (#7, #35, #114, #149). While the heart arc break is NOT a unique feature to genuine missionary stamps, it is what the forger presumably did in interpreting this area that makes for an interesting study.

First, examining a black and white scan of the heart break on #G81, the direction of the heart arc from the lower curl is unclear because of the break. The forger thought the curl came straight down and attached to the flower feature so he drew it as such.

Secondly, #G81 also shows the lower heart curl is slightly overinked causing the curl to appear as a blob. The forger, not knowing what to do drew it as a tightly curled ball with fine details.

Thirdly, the top heart curl has a central dot or smudge between the final terminal point of the curl and the outer (or rightmost appearing) curl arc. This makes it appear as a closed loop or “seed pod” on the genuine stamp. Again, the forger misinterpreted the design and changed the curl into a “seed pod”. These features are shown in Figure 2 below.

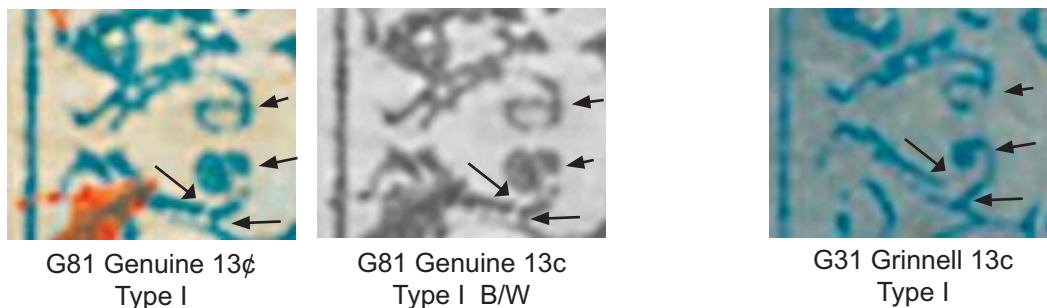


Figure 2. Comparison of Heart Features. Photo Credit : Arrigo G81, G31

I believe the forger may have used an enlarged, possibly black and white photograph of the original as a guide. Areas of natural printing features with smudges and ink dots become fine line details that are incorrect. How can this be? How can a smudged feature suddenly become a fine-lined, completely different feature? This is indicative of having been drawn or traced incorrectly.

Table 1 answers the questions “Do Type I ‘Grinnell Missionaries’ show evidence of incorrect drawing in of design based on misinterpretation of three design elements of the left central heart feature?” and “Do genuine Type I Missionaries show the same three design elements?”. Several stamps could not be examined due to cancels obscuring the heart, or being heavily repaired stamps. My observations are limited to the scans of stamps available but I am confident that other examples will show the same pattern.

ALL of the Type I Grinnells, for ALL denominations (18 examples), show the heart arc directly attached to the flower base, the tight ball curl and the "seed pod". The genuine stamps DO NOT show these features (17 examples).

Proponents will claim the broken heart feature is due to a break in the ornament and the piece working itself into a different position, resulting in the attached heart arc. If this is the case, the Grinnells would have to be printed after the genuine stamps, AFTER THE BREAK occurred. But how could the Grinnells be both a late printing and exist with early period postmarks?

The other argument will be different ornaments were employed. How is it that these three features appear on ALL of the Grinnells, yet match the misinterpretation of a break and overinking of the genuine example in Grinnell's possession? And how do otherwise smudges features become fine-line details on the Grinnells? Again, impossible.

I believe this research supports the theory that the genuine Missionary in Grinnell's possession (G81) was used as a model for making the "Grinnell" forgeries.

	Broken Heart arc joined,			Broken Heart arc joined,
2¢ Genuine	Seed Pod and Tight Curl?		2¢ Grinnell	Seed Pod and Tight Curl?
#2	No		G2	Yes
#4	No		G10	Yes
#7	No		G47	Yes
			G51	Yes
			G57	Yes
			G58	Yes
			G59	Yes
5¢ Genuine			5¢ Grinnell	
New #10	No		G20	Yes
#35	No		G62	Yes
#41	No		GC5*	Yes
#60	No		GC6*	Yes
#61	No			
#65	No			
#67	No			
#70	Unsure, cancel obscures			
#YA1	Unsure, cancel obscures			
13¢ Genuine			13¢ Grinnell	
(G81)	YES!, Appears as such and is THE MODEL for Grinnells.		G29	Yes
#86	No		G31	Yes
#89	No		G34	Yes
#114	No		G37	Yes
#119	Unsure, cancel obscures		G66	Yes
#137	N/A, repaired Dawson item		G69	Yes
#139	No		G69	Yes
#141	No			
#143	No			
#149	No			

* GC : Refers to Grinnell card of 10, GC5 is fifth on the card, GC6 is sixth.

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