

**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.

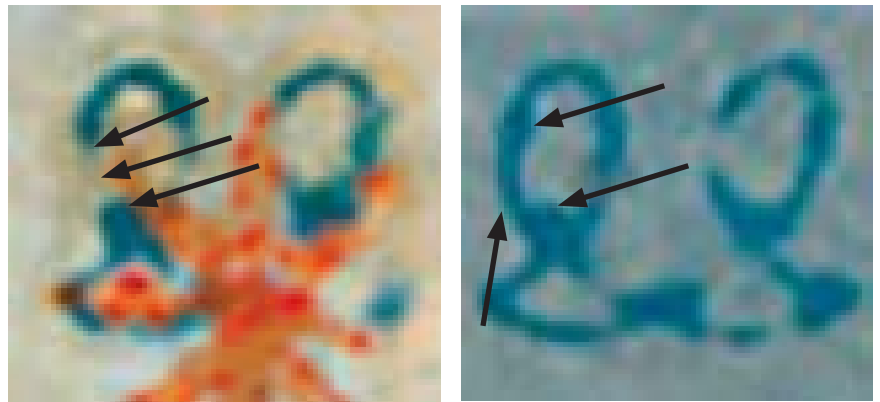
Proponents will argue that a different ornament was used. Implausible as the two breaks still show.

They could also argue that the same ornament was used but repaired, a highly convenient argument to cover evidence of a forger’s redrawing 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			