

**Response to the 2004
Royal Philatelic Society Opinion
On the Grinnell Missionary Stamps**



Appendix to The Case for the Grinnell Missionary Stamps

The Response to the 2004 Findings

by Patrick Culhane
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In May 2004 the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London provided to me and Vincent and Carol Arrigo a summary of the rationale for its findings associated with the Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps. I developed, with input from Vince and Carol, a response addressing points made in the Committee's communication. In deference to the Committee's stated intent to publish its complete findings in detail, this work has not before been made public.

Some of the Grinnells are being exhibited by Mystic Stamp Company at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. There will be considerable interest in the conclusions of the Expert Committee. It has been nearly two years since the Committee's opinion was provided, and the final publication of the findings will reportedly coincide with the Washington event. The owners have not yet seen the Committee's detailed work. However, in light of the upcoming exhibition it is now appropriate to publish the response made to those key points raised in 2004 by the Committee. The following is adapted from that response.

Edits have been made in tone, formatting, and in some cases images used. Citations have also been added. No doubt the analyses provided will be improved on by further work in each area over time with the participation of interested experts.

My intent – and difficult task – is to provide the relevant response content without assuming the responsibility of presenting the Committee's views. I have stated since the opinion was rendered that the Committee should fully voice its own rationale. I quite reluctantly summarize what has been heard only so that the reaction of the owners can be recorded and understood.

My hope is that this both informs and encourages future study by interested philatelists and technical specialists.

Printing

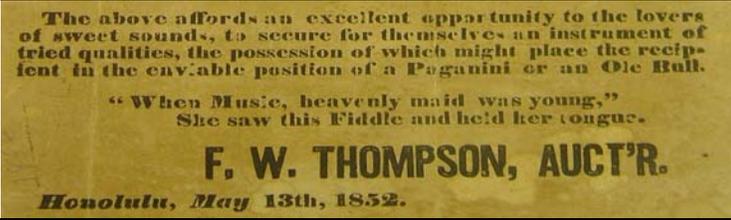
Finding: That the Grinnells were set from loose type and the methodology was the same as for the Honolulu Postage issue, with one value being printed and the form being loosened to insert the next value.

Response: We are pleased by the finding that the Grinnells were set from loose type, with methodology the same as used for the Honolulu Postage issue. This is of course consistent with authenticity.

Typeface

Issue: That the Grinnell typeface is similar to that of the Honolulu Postage issue but not the same. No elements of the lettering could definitely be found in type used in contemporary Hawaiian publications printed either by the Government Printing Press or the Catholic Mission Press.

Response: Three Honolulu broadsides recently submitted show typeface similar to that used in the Grinnells as well as the Honolulu Postage issue. One broadside of an 1843 article shows the form of the numeral “3” of the Grinnell 13¢ value. An 1852 broadside shows several letters (e, t, a for example) that match those used for the Grinnells, and displays a wide range of wear and the resulting impact on the letters. The letter “s” appears in the broadside in two variants (large and small serifs with small and large central downstrokes) used interchangeably in the same document.

Letter Variations – Honolulu Broadside Dated May 13, 1852 Hawaii State Archives Identified in archives January 2004, P. Culhane (Source word for each letter example is noted)				
				
saw	paganini	an excellent	enviable	maid
				
themselves	themselves	position	affords	this
				
excellent	to the	the lovers	opportunity	might
				
excellent	themselves	themselves	themselves	in the
				

An 1854 broadside displays two forms for each of “a”, “e” and “o” and a mix of typeface. One form of the letters appears early in the document

and another later. The broadside demonstrates the use of multiple versions of the same letters, and like the 1852 broadside, shows the apparent effect of varying levels of wear on the letters.

Two forms of “e” are apparent on the Grinnells – one with a strong vertical orientation to the right side of the left curved downstroke, and one with a more curved vertical orientation to the right side of the left curved downstroke. Both of these forms are represented in the 1852 broadside.

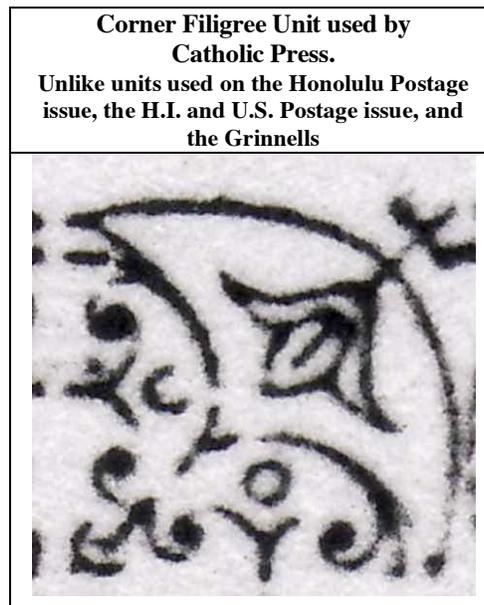
Paragraph headings from *The Friend*, February 1851, were also recently provided. Included are examples of typeface used in both the Hawaiian Postage issue and the Grinnells. In many cases it appears that the typeface used in the Grinnells is a worn version of the Hawaiian Postage issue typeface. The effects of wear can be readily observed on the period broadside material. In other cases it appears typeface of more than one type founder’s matrix was used for the Grinnells.

Comparison of letters from paragraph headings of <i>The Seaman’s Friend</i>, February 1851, to letters of the Grinnells Samples identified 2004 by Vincent and Carol Arrigo				
<p>THE FRIEND, FEBRUARY, 1851.</p> <p>Imports and Exports, at the Sandwich Islands.</p>				
<p>English School.</p>				
<p>Report upon Stranger’s Aid Fund.</p>				
<p>The Friend, Bound.</p>				
The Friend				
Grinnell				
The Friend				
Grinnell				

Issue: That the filigree ornaments used in the Grinnells are different from those used on the Honolulu Postage issue, which was printed by the

Government Press. Both are different from those used in the Catholic Missionary Societies *O Crux Ave* and *Te Aniani*. The H.I. and U.S. Postage issue used completely different type for the figures and words and new filigree units. The latter are considered to be new units from the same supplier as the Honolulu Postage issue.

Response: There are indeed differences between the filigree units of the Grinnells and those of the Hawaiian Postage issue. There are also clear differences between the corner units of the Hawaiian Postage issue and those used in the Catholic Missionary Societies *O Crux Ave* and *Te Aniani*, and still other differences relative to the H.I. and U.S. Postage issue. Claims have been made that the Grinnell units do not appear in period Honolulu publications. As far as we are aware the same is true of the corner units used on the Hawaiian Postage and the H.I. and U.S. Postage issues. The only period use of these units that has been found is on the stamps themselves, since the Catholic Press units are clearly different.



Issue: That the filigree units had to be filed down in a number of places so that they would fit together into the space provided within the outer frame. It is significant that the Honolulu Postage issue and the Grinnells are filed down in the same areas.

Response: There is no design change between the Grinnell and Honolulu Postage settings (unlike the Honolulu Postage and H.I. and U.S. issue designs). The interior filigree units just above the lower-left and

lower-right corner units, in each setting (Grinnell, Honolulu Postage, H.I. and U.S. Postage) are shaved on their lower portions to enhance the fit.

Printing experts have advised that impression bear-off yields the appearance of a break in the typeface when in fact the true cause may be adjacent pieces of type having varying heights-to-paper. Bear-off results in portions of the filigree being starved for ink. The positions of bear-off are obviously influenced by the design, since the design dictates the general position of letters, numerals, frame lines and spacing elements.

We suggest that in some cases the breaks may be attributed to the units being filed down when what appears to be a break may be the result of bear-off.

The Grinnells display a greater degree of either shaving or impression bear-off (or both) on the Type I stamp relative to the Type I Honolulu Postage issue. The entire right side of the Type I interior design has a truncated appearance top to bottom. In general, the Grinnell filigree units show a greater degree of wear than the Honolulu Postage filigree units, evidenced by the integrity of the curls and the number of interior breaks on all values. It may be that the Grinnells were printed first – the typeface retired – and the filigree units of the Honolulu Postage issue were then assembled for the new version. This coincides with the view that the H.I. and U.S. Postage filigree units were new units from the supplier of the units for the Honolulu Postage issue.

It should not be considered suspicious that some shaving would be in coincident locations in the Grinnells and the Honolulu Postage issue. This is because the basic design is consistent between the printings, and the same methodology was used. The compositor may have been the same individual, or at least was under the same overall supervision – that of Mr. Whitney.

Issue: That the Grinnells show several significant breaks or missing portions of the filigree units in the same positions as for the Honolulu Postage issue, despite being from different type. There are too many of these to be a matter of chance, and it is believed they were deliberately introduced by the creator and copied from genuine Missionaries.

Response: We do not believe that nearly coincident breaks are the result of copying but rather of impression bear-off, which as noted above is influenced by the consistent design. The forms of the corner filigree units of the Grinnells and Honolulu Postage issue are very similar on the outer arc of each, and the juxtaposition relative to adjacent frame lines and letters is very similar between the Honolulu Postage issue and the Grinnells.

There are examples of Honolulu Postage issue breaks that are coincident with those in the H.I. and U.S. Postage issue, as well in locations of relative design consistency with the earlier issue. This will be illustrated in detail below under “Addressing the Deception Theory”.

Paper

Finding: That the paper used for both the Missionaries and the Grinnells is similar to that known since the 18th Century as “pottery tissue”, a very thin lightweight paper. The paper used for the Grinnells is slightly thicker and the mesh coarser than the Honolulu Postage issue. The mesh and thickness of the paper used for the H.I. & U.S. Postage issue is closer in character to the Grinnells.

Issue: Lazurite crystals were used for brightening the paper. Under high magnification those in the Grinnells tested ranged between 15 and 25 microns and those in the Honolulu Postage issue between 4 and 30 microns. One of the Grinnells did not have any brightener in the paper, suggesting that a different paper stock had been used.

Response: Of sixteen Grinnells tested explicitly for the lazurite crystals, only one did not have the brightener. Several of the Tapling Collection Missionaries were tested in July 2001, and one of those was also shown not to have the brightener (a Honolulu Postage issue). Dr. Robin Clarke, University College London, reported on the Tapling examinations¹, *“Only one stamp, an 1851 13¢ issue, appears from visual inspection to contain no blue particles within the paper fibres. It may be that this stamp was cut from an area of paper which was devoid of blue particles if these had not been uniformly distributed throughout the paper, or that the particles were deliberately or in ignorance omitted during the paper manufacturing process”*.

In 1948, Frederic R. Harris² wrote of the paper used in the printing of the Missionaries, *“the paper was obtained as available, probably from Mr. Whitney’s stationery store”*.

It should be viewed as significant and positive that the presence of the lazurite crystals in the paper of the stamps is a common – yet not universal – attribute of both the Grinnells and of the Honolulu Postage issue.

This finding is not consistent with a forgery conclusion. Other than by pure coincidence, how could a forger prior to 1919 arrive at a distribution of lazurite crystals (i.e. their presence and absence) similar to that evidenced in the Honolulu Postage issue?

Ink

Issue: That the blue ink used for the two Missionary issues comprises iron blue with linseed oil, while the blue ink of the Grinnells contained other chemicals in addition suggesting that they were not printed at the same time or place.

Finding: The red obliterations are a compound of vermilion.

Finding: So far as it had been able to establish, all components of the inks match those available before 1850.

Response: The findings do not fully reflect the state of knowledge regarding the blue ink of the Grinnells at this time, as developed by the Raman Spectroscopy and X-Ray Fluorescence examinations of Dr. Gene Hall of Rutgers University. As with the two accepted Missionary issues, the ink of the Grinnells contains iron (Prussian) blue with linseed oil. The only additional chemical that has been shown to be common to all the Grinnells examined is red lead, a dryer. While dryers have not been found in the ink of some accepted stamps tested, an example from the Tapling Collection³ also contains an additional dryer. These dryers consist of litharge and red lead. The presence of both dryers in Honolulu in the period has been confirmed by writings of *The Polynesian*, supplied to the Committee.

The blue ink of some – but not all according to Dr. Hall – of the Grinnells also contains the extender barium sulfate, and the white pigment zinc oxide. This information has been provided.

The presence of the additional chemicals does not necessarily indicate a printing at a different time and place. Indeed the evidence is to the contrary, since we must assume the Grinnells themselves were printed at one time and place – yet they show both the presence and absence of the additional chemicals. The H.I. and U.S. Postage issue examples tested vary with respect to presence of dryers, yet they are held to be of a single printing. Use of additional chemicals (e.g. extenders) could simply signify a low supply of ink for the job, variation in what was available at the time of printing, or some experimentation. The findings to date suggest that the 2¢ and 5¢ values of the Grinnells vary with respect to the addition of these two compounds, while the 13¢ values uniformly reflect the additions.

It is our understanding that the Tapling Collection Missionaries have not been tested for the additional chemicals – other than dryers that are detectable by Raman Spectroscopy. The additional components are only detected by X-Ray Fluorescence – a different technology. In fact, any inference regarding the additional chemicals' presence or absence in the Honolulu Postage issue is, to our knowledge,

based solely on the examination of approximately eight National Postal Museum items, and not any census as large as that represented by the tests performed on the Grinnells.

Obliterations

Issue: That the distribution of obliterations on the Grinnells is markedly different from those on the two Missionary issues. In particular there are no manuscript obliterations, which would be expected if the Grinnells were available for use in 1851. Dated markings do not appear to have been widely used as obliterations until 1853 or 1854. The datestamps themselves could not have arrived in Hawaii until December 1851.

Response: We believe the dated markings would be put into use very soon after their arrival, given the need to clarify full payment especially for foreign (U.S.) mail. Henry Whitney's order of May 22, 1851, indicated urgency – stating, “*I am in immediate want of the above apparatus & would regret any delay in procuring them.*”⁴ The accepted surviving examples of the datestamp use date from February 1852.

We believe two datestamps (one each of MH 236.05 and MH 236.11) could have been supplied to William Emerson (apprentice to Henry Whitney and Post Office/Printing Office employee from December, 1850, to approximately June 1851) for use in Waialua, Oahu. William Emerson left Waialua on Monday, March 15, 1852⁵, and died five weeks later on the whaler *Arctic*. The last distinctly dated Grinnell postmark is March 15 (G-23, now lost but photographed).

Issue: That there is evidence that the method of changing the date slugs on the Grinnells is different from that of the datestamps on the Missionary issues.

Response: The issue relates to the variation in angle at which different month indications (JAN, FEB, MAR) are placed relative to the fixed portion of the datestamps.

Henry Whitney's May 22, 1851, order for the datestamps requested: “4 stamps similar to No. 1 enclosure, with the words Honolulu Hawaiian Islands and places for the date to be inserted and 4 stamps similar to No. 2 differing from No. 1 by having U.S. Postage Paid in place of Hawaiian Islands”.

Referring to examples of accepted postmarks, it appears that a sizable recessed area was used for the placement of the month and date, and that the letters of both the month and date numerals were supplied from loose type of varying sizes. Reference is made to examples from the Honolulu Advertiser auction catalog⁶, lots 91 and 2150 as illustrations. Both are examples of MH 236.05 strikes, of Type 2 as classified by Shaffer. Lot 91,

for example, illustrates a large area encompassed by the letters APR; lot 2150 illustrates the slippage downward of the letter “S” of “SEP”.

There are numerous examples of the use of varying type among accepted strikes. Reference is made to Honolulu Advertiser Lots 80, 84, 2134, 2147 for irregularities in letters. The distance between the month and date numerals also varies within the same canceller type – reference is made to Honolulu Advertiser lots 3 and 4 – displaying the same canceller, but closer spacing is apparent in Lot 4.

The slugs may have been held in place by a set screw, adjustable bracing or packing material that, for the accepted strikes, may have been adjusted on occasion (as is evidenced in the above examples).

We believe the recessed void area left enough room and “play” for varying alignments relative to the outer fixed elements.

Regardless of the cause, varying alignment is observed in accepted strikes as well as the Grinnells. Reference is made to Honolulu Advertiser Lots 86 and 2143. Both are examples of MH 236.05 strikes of Type 1, as classified by Shaffer. A reference line connecting the center points of the “stars” in the date stamp design serves to demonstrate that the letters of JUL (Lot 86) are placed higher and tilted relative to the letters “FEB” (Lot 2143). Further the date 11 (Lot 86) falls lower than the date 25 (Lot 2143) even though the letters JUL (Lot 86) are placed higher. These clearly show that varying alignments and shifts – for whatever reason – were possible and occurred in accepted strikes.

We believe the datestamps associated with the Grinnells may have been used only in Waialua for less than three months in early 1852 – and if so were set by William Emerson. Their use would be new to him and he may not have yet become efficient or proficient with making the required changes. We believe the other obliterations on the Grinnells were used in Waialua as well.

Issue: That there are five different types of dumb (mute) obliterating marks on the Grinnells. Three seven-bar circles and two grids are of designs that are similar but not identical to those used on the two Missionary issues. These were copied from those recorded on the Missionary issues.

Response: See below under “Addressing the Deception Theory”.

Provenance

Issue: That the link between the families and Honolulu and the suggested provenance of the Grinnells was read and taken into account at all stages of the investigation. Other documentation, including the transcript

of the original trial, was also fully considered in coming to the Committee's conclusion. Where the Grinnells are attached to paper, this could have been done otherwise than for a contemporary postal purpose. That it was common practice at the turn of the 19th Century to add forged stamps to contemporary material.

Response: Irrefutable proof exists of the simple connection between Ursula Newell Emerson and Hannah Child Shattuck. The two were both born in 1806 in Nelson, NH, and went to school together. Correspondence exists between the two and there are references to each other in that correspondence.

The two women each had sons. Mrs. Emerson's son William worked as an apprentice printer in the Post Office of 1851 Honolulu, and died in April 1852. George Grinnell cited Mrs. Shattuck's son Charles as the man who gave Grinnell the Missionary stamps in 1918.

The timeline supported by this evidence ties precisely to the dated usage of the Grinnells and to the absence of H.I. and U.S. Postage issue examples among the Grinnells. Forgery does not explain these.

If this historical connection is not reconciled with the forgery theory, then it is necessarily relegated to the status of most outstanding philatelic coincidence of all time.

We do not assert that there is any particular importance to the fact that the Grinnells are attached to paper, and understand that there is a range of possible explanations for such attachment.

The compelling evidence is provided by the historic facts. Those facts stand on their own, independent of handwriting, paper and other clues. The practice of adding forged stamps to paper or letters, common late in the 19th Century, may have been successful at deceiving collectors. But it was never capable of refashioning history by creating connections – documented through other means from varying sources – that never really existed.

The trial evidence clearly shows that neither the Shattucks nor Grinnell, nor anyone else associated with the stamps, was aware of any of the facts described above. That argues against forgery, since any forger or anyone involved with a forger who knew of the remarkable circumstances would surely use them to his advantage at such a critical moment.

We think the Committee should be very concerned with how the documented historical evidence, concisely summarized above, is reconciled with its finding of forgery.

Addressing the Deception Theory

Two issues raised are interpreted as suggesting that the creator of the Grinnells was copying the Honolulu Postage issue – and attempting to deceive in doing so. These appear to comprise the foundation for the view that the Grinnells are forgeries.

Reference is made to breaks or missing portions of the filigree units in the Grinnells and comparing them to those of the Honolulu Postage issue. This has led to the view that there are too many of these missing portions to be a matter of chance. The question is whether or not they were introduced deliberately by the creator and copied from genuine Missionaries. Such copying would require models. Reference has been made to the existence of photographic records made as early as 1890, and the publication of Brewster Cox Kenyon in 1895 depicting six Missionaries, as possible source material for the forgery.

With regard to obliterations, the view is expressed that the three seven-bar cancels and two grids that are of designs similar to but not identical to those used on the Missionaries. The suggestion is that these were copied from those recorded on the Missionary issues – another example of deception.

The obliterations are addressed first.

Obliterations

The view that the two grid obliterations are of designs similar but not identical to those used on the Missionaries is incorrect.

One of the two grid designs present in the Grinnells is not known on any other Missionary (present on G-61, illustrated below). Clearly the creator was *not* replicating the design of any accepted Missionary, since the model simply did not exist.



It is unlikely that a forger, presumably attempting to replicate accepted

designs, would also be the same person who would create a unique design for his forgeries.

The two remaining examples of grid obliterations are G-12 and G-48. The latter has been lost, and G-12 was submitted to the Committee. Photographs of G-48 clearly show discrete squares and rectangles with no connecting inking between impressions.

Considering images of all 21 known recorded Missionary examples of this obliteration, it appears all but two are highly unlikely as models – they are inked too heavily. The heavy inking produced rectangles, especially on outer edges, unlike the Grinnells. Any replication of these examples would entail the production of rectangles, since that would be the apparent image of the model.

There are only two examples – among all Missionary examples of both issues – that could reasonably have been used, given the inking. One is Siegel census 4-II-CAN-182 (because of its discrete squares) – however, the pattern bears no resemblance to the Grinnells.

The other is an H.I. and U.S. Postage issue example held in the British Library's Tapling Collection (Siegel 4-II-CAN-181). This too has many differences relative to the Grinnells, notably in the angle of the cuts. It also seems an unlikely choice for another reason – it is an H.I. and U.S. Postage issue stamp. If the forger had this stamp among his models, why is there not also a single example of the H.I. and U.S. Postage issue design among the Grinnells?

These observations raise the question of what known obliteration present on a Missionary would have been the model for the Grinnell “grid of squares” obliteration, as evidenced in G-12 and G-48.

There are fourteen examples of the seven-bar obliterations among the 71 Grinnells. If they are meant to be deceptive renditions of the versions used on accepted stamps, they did not make that impression on Henry A. Meyer. In his report of July 20, 1954, he wrote “*The black cancellations are thickly applied, too intense, and shiny*”. Why would the creator of the Grinnells go to the trouble of replicating multiple devices, acquire the proper inks for the obliterations, copy the patterns of the obliterations, and then not ensure that the end product (the inked impression) was at least somewhat convincing?

Reference has been made to three forms of the seven-bar obliterations among the Grinnells. The version with an asymmetric form, typified by G-38, has significantly smaller voids than the most similar form among those found on the accepted Missionaries (e.g. Siegel 4-I-CAN-177).

Given the difficulty of acquiring any models for these cancels in the 1890-1918 time frame, we question why multiple forms would be sought and replicated when only a single form was needed.

There is not a single example of a seven-bar obliteration in the Brewster Kenyon publication. The grid obliteration that is illustrated in that publication is obviously not replicated in the Grinnells.

Today it is recognized that similar but not identical seven-bar obliterations were in use in the period. Jim Shaffer, in www.hawaiianstamps.com has observed "*Some circular grids were impressions from cork devices and their shape and appearance changed remarkably with use, making it difficult at times to determine whether a different device was used or whether one device took on several appearances over time*". He further describes the "even" version as "*Two or more similar cancels, one with bars farther apart*". These multiple, similar cancels are nonetheless all thought to be genuine.

On its own, the very existence of G-61 should demonstrate that the Grinnell obliterations were not created as copies from those recorded on the Missionary issues. Further, any notion that a forger was replicating the dumb obliterations is contradicted by the evidence afforded by the circular datestamps, each of which varies typographically from each of its three siblings. In keeping with the deception theory it would seem the forger, working from the datestamp models, modified or ignored the details of the datestamps while trying to copy the patterns of the dumb obliterations.

We believe there is a simpler explanation. The obliterations were made by hand from cork in the variety observed on the Grinnells, probably in Waialua. There is very limited amount of design complexity to the six more or less even cuts on a piece of cork, and among any small number of examples a couple are going to look alike. The most obvious difference is the void area, which is much smaller on the Grinnells.

We believe also that they may have been used in Waialua, in keeping with the historical facts that have already been provided to the Committee.

Filigree and Lettering

The findings suggest that significant breaks in the filigree units of the Honolulu Postage issue are replicated deliberately in the Grinnells. Replications of breaks in lettering and frame lines are also suggested.

We are concerned that there may be various contributors leading to the breaks, and this may not be recognized.

There are indeed some breaks in the images of the filigree of the Honolulu Postage issue that appear in the same general locations in the

Grinnells. There are also many such breaks – some very prominent – in the Grinnells that are not evidenced in the Honolulu Postage issue. This argues against copying as the source of the breaks.

The central question is how the breaks arose. The possibilities include:

- Impression bear-off related to positioning of typeface or spacing units in a particular design, and causing the starving for ink
- Wear/damage to the typeface over course of printing
- Shaving
- Consistent pieces of typeface (we believe this may be the case for certain frame lines)
- Combinations of the above, perhaps a combination for any given example (e.g. a portion of type subjected to bear-off, another portion worn)
- Deceptive copying – replication of such breaks
- Coincidence

The opinion, not accepting coincidence as the choice given the number of such cases counted, concludes the breaks were replicated to enhance the appearance of the stamps. The question is whether the other potential causes have been eliminated.

Reference to the contribution of bear-off to apparent breaks in filigree is made in Keith Cordrey’s report entitled *Typographic and Printing Comparison Between Five Type I, Hawaii No. 1 (2¢) Stamps of The Grinnell Collection*, page 15. This report has been provided to the Committee.

Jeffrey Weiss, FRPSL also wrote of the phenomenon in 2002⁷. Mr. Weiss describes an example of bear-off observed in a Hawaiian Postage issue example as follows: “*The break is **not** caused by a flaw in the type matrix, it is the result of a make-ready problem. That is, when the type form was prepared for the press, something in the process of locking up the type caused a slight difference in type height at these points so that during printing the paper did not make proper contact with the inked type at a few points. The points would naturally vary each time the type was made ready for the press – at least once in each day of the printing – and they can easily show exactly the variations we see in the Certified*”.

Since there is no design difference between the Grinnells and the Hawaiian Postage issue, it should not be surprising that impression bear-off would occur with some degree of consistency, even with slightly different filigree units. We believe this may be due to the letter and spacing units being of a consistent design and roughly in the same locations across printings.

On the accepted stamps there are gaps resulting from bear-off relationships that persist with different settings.

The design change from the Hawaiian Postage issue to the H.I. and U.S. issue resulted in obvious changes in letters used in the word “Postage” and change to the ornamental units. Yet a portion of the design remains relatively consistent. The “P” of “Postage” in the Type II version remains under the “H” – a characteristic of the Hawaiian Postage Type II setting as well. The following table illustrates that an apparent break in the upper-left corner filigree unit of the Honolulu Postage issue is seen as well in the H.I. and U.S. issue. An example illustrated in the Honolulu Advertiser⁸ auction catalog (Lot 25) clearly shows this break as well.

Comparison of Upper-Left Corner Areas – 13¢ Type II		
Grinnell	Honolulu Postage Issue (Scott 3)	H.I. and U. S. Postage Issue (Scott 4)
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three upper-left corner ornaments display break at upper arc, even though all three are of distinct typeface. 		

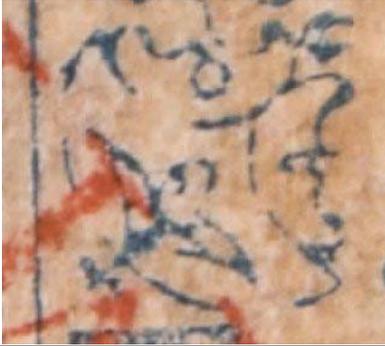
Many of the breaks suspected of having been copied occur on the edges of ornamental filigree units, at points where the units abut spacing elements, other letters, or frame lines.

We assert that if this copying did occur, it was apparently very inconsistent.

There are numerous breaks unique to the Grinnells, some in close proximity to the breaks found in the Honolulu Postage issue. For example, the Type II 2¢ Grinnell has two sizable breaks on the lower-right inner frame line. The upper portion is suspected of being a break copied from the Honolulu Postage issue, yet there is a much more sizable break on the Grinnell just below. That break replicates nothing of the accepted Type II stamp.

In examples of accepted Missionaries, one could suspect the copying of the lower-left corner element of the Type I 13¢ value to replicate breaks present in the accepted stamps. Yet similar apparent

flaws carrying over to the 2¢ lower-left corner ornamental unit of the Grinnell apparently replicate nothing and only call attention as anomalous. Only a very minor break exists on the Type I 2¢ accepted stamp. The following table illustrates:

The Model – 2¢ Type I	Grinnell 2¢ Type I
	
Prominent Grinnell breaks replicating nothing – 2¢ Type I	

Similar breaks are evident in the lower-left corner filigree unit of the Grinnell Type I 5¢ value (prominent on left side, but not on the lower arc). No such breaks are evident in the analogous accepted Missionary.

On the other hand, a notable break in the accepted Type II 2¢ Missionary (upper-right corner filigree unit – right lower side of arc) is not replicated in the Type II Grinnell. The following table illustrates:

The Model – 2¢ Type II	Grinnell – G1 - 2¢ Type II
	
Example of no replication of break – 2¢ Type II	

Again – assuming the copying took place – the creator missed key opportunities. The “n” of “Cents” of the Type I Grinnell has prominent “feet” to the left of each downstroke, not evident in the Honolulu Postage accepted stamps. If the creator were making nicks in the Grinnell filigree

units, letters, and frame lines, would he not be expected to touch up such obvious flaws to better match the accepted stamps?

Grinnell “n” of “Cents” (G-5, below right) shows noticeable ‘feet’ that could have been removed, if deception was the goal.	
Model	Grinnell
	

The creator did not copy the most well-known typographic anomaly of the Honolulu Postage issue, that of the small “n” of the Type II 5¢ value. Instead, in the Grinnell, a normal-sized “n” is used. The result is a wider “Five Cents”, apparently resulting in poorer alignment of the frame lines in the lower-right corner. The following table illustrates:

Model – 5¢ Type II

Grinnell – G54 5¢ Type II


As has been pointed out elsewhere, the very prominent central numerals of value were not copied.

If the creator attempted to replicate breaks, he oddly chose not to fill breaks on his creations where they would be inappropriate relative to his models. For example, all Type II Grinnells display a prominent break in arc of the upper-left interior filigree unit, not apparent on the accepted Missionary. Being so close to the suggested copied break of the upper-left corner unit, it would make sense for the meticulous creator to correct this.

Another obvious case, easy to rectify, would be the much larger frame line gaps on the lower-right inner frame line of the Type II Grinnells (2¢ and 13¢ values) – to the right and down from the lower-right corner filigree unit. If matching breaks was an issue to the creator, why do these obvious breaks persist in his work when they did not show up in his models? These are not pictured here, but their presence can be confirmed. There are numerous such examples.

There is also fundamental evidence that replication was not at play – present on the stamps themselves.

Central to the theory of deceptive copying of the breaks and flaws is the notion of reducing variation in the work relative to an accepted model. However, the Grinnells clearly demonstrate that the creator instilled greater, not lesser, variation relative to the “model”. This is evident in the compositor’s choice of letter type.

The following table illustrates the variations in the letter “o” of the 2¢ Grinnell and Honolulu Postage issue stamps:

Model – 2¢ Missionary			
Type I		Type II	
Postage	Two	Postage	Two
			
Grinnell – 2¢ Missionary			
			

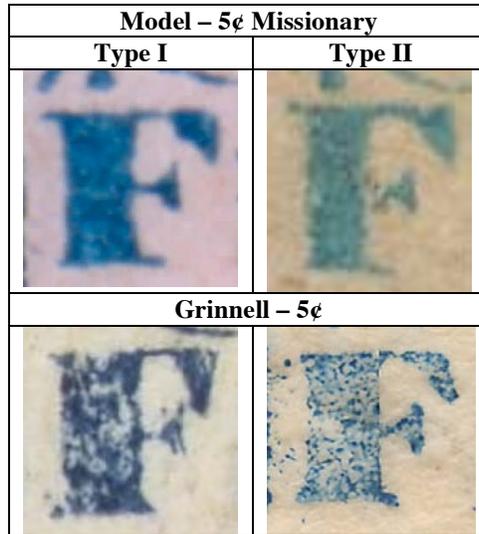
A forger would have had the opportunity to match the character “o” with the best version at his disposal. The upper row shows a fairly uniform set of “o”s, all with narrow interior void areas. The closest “o” in his arsenal is the “o” used in the Type II Grinnell stamp, in “Postage”.

The Committee’s finding would suggest that the individual who had acquired models of such rarities, as well as the requisite examples of cancels, postmarks, and raw materials had only one “good” “o” for his copies – the third in the lower row above.

Having that character, and wanting to copy the model, why did he choose three very different “o”s to use for the other words? The model calls for the use of very similar letters, with slight variation (strong verti-

cal edges, with narrow void) in the “o” of the Type II “Two”. Instead, this character is only used once in the Grinnell. Three examples of two significant variants are introduced for the other “o”s.

Other examples include the two distinct forms (shown below) of the “F” of “Five” – when one form more or less matching the model – used twice – would do. The Type II version of the Grinnell “F” is clearly within the range of the model examples, and would be the logical choice for Type I, with or without a model to work from. Instead, the creator of the Grinnell used an entirely different form of “F” for the Type I stamp.



The creator of the Grinnells, whether by intention or necessity, clearly ended up amplifying variance relative to any “model” – he did not reduce it. The notion of a forger with choices obsessively copying minute details (breaks) while simultaneously creating unneeded variation simply does not appear to hold together.

We suggest that the creator had a very limited supply of consistent typeface at the time of production, and did what he could with what he had, without necessarily conforming to any model whatsoever. The fact that some apparent breaks in the filigree units as evidenced in the Honolulu Postage issue are in the same general locations as their Grinnell counterparts can be attributed to:

- Consistency of the design yielding similar bear-off relationships. Even with a consistent overall design, there are letter-spacing and typeface matrix differences between the Grinnells and Hawaiian Postage issue that necessarily shift the bear-off relationships.

Bear-off patterns would vary most significantly in the lower-left corner filigree unit area, since this is where with a change in value the most significant change in juxtaposition occurs.

- Printing method consistency. It is possible the same compositor worked on both printings, or that if more than one compositor was at work, they were both under the guidance of Mr. Whitney. This would include the use of shaving.
- Overall greater degree of wear in normal areas of the filigree units of the Grinnells, such that any normal – if lesser – wear in the Honolulu Postage issue units can appear to be replicated.

Summary

In reviewing the evidence on the stamps and the conclusion of the Committee regarding the breaks and flaws, we are reminded of the review of Grinnell typography in www.hawaiianstamps.com. There, similarities are attributed to deception – even to the point of assigning motives to type-face (e.g. *“In the third ‘a’ the Type I Grinnells copy the open top”*). Yet also the clear differences, which are evident, are pointed out without any apology for their failure to be good copies (e.g. *“Type II of the genuine has a neatly curled serif but the Grinnell has a short, stubby serif”*). We disagree with this line of reasoning – that differences indicate forgery and similarities indicate forgery. What typifies that interpretation is that contradictory interpretations and observations point nonetheless consistently to forgery, while historical connections are left unstated or downplayed.

We believe the finding of the Grinnells as forgeries is supported more by suspicion than proven fact. The typographic foundation for it has yet to be established. The evidence regarding printing method, materials and history is overwhelmingly positive.

We respectfully ask that after these many months you send the patients home in no worse condition of reputation than when they arrived on your doorstep. In that case, the Committee can outline its concerns publicly in both the positive and negative directions, and suggest further findings that would provide conclusive proof.

An Update – May 2006

In July 2004 the Committee responded to above points, and held to its opinion. Its point of view we can assume will be provided in its published findings. Certificates were issued in late 2004, and the stamps were returned to the owners.

Over the last two years, research has continued regarding the Grinnells – in particular in those areas raised as concerns by the Committee.

More findings will be published after the Committee's detailed report is made available.

In the summer of 2005 – over a year after the Committee had provided its opinion – the owners were advised that the Committee had determined that the paper of the Grinnells was created from a sulphate wood process – a process it claimed was introduced in the UK in 1884, and in the USA in 1907. Since the stamps were returned to the owners in late 2004, this news was quite unexpected.

In researching this question I was quickly advised by paper experts that absent a destructive test to analyze the fibers of the paper itself, such a conclusion could not be reached. Fibers sampled from two Grinnells – examples I chose because they were already damaged – were analyzed by paper fiber specialist Debora Mayer of Mayer Conservation Studio of Portsmouth, NH. All of the sampled fibers that could be identified (90%) were bast fibers – hemp and cotton – and no wood fibers were found. The conclusions of the Committee could not be confirmed with the destructive testing. Vince and Carol Arrigo independently commissioned a similar test, yielding the same conclusion. Mayer's full report and images were provided to the Committee in early 2006.

I anxiously await the detailed writing of the Expert Committee. If the rationale for the Committee's finding were simple, it would not require the time it has taken to produce, nor would it be of its purported length. Therefore, it should provide us all with significant material to consider. We should acknowledge the learning that has taken place and trust that the range of disputed issues has significantly narrowed as a result of the Committee's long effort.

Not having seen that document, I believe there is still much to learn regarding the accepted Missionaries – their physical constitution and use. More knowledge, I hope, will inform the interpretation of the Grinnells.

With all that has been provided, my attitude regarding these perplexing stamps found in 1918 in Los Angeles has not changed with the findings and events of 2004: The work to find and demonstrate the full truth will continue.

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About The Author

Patrick Culhane is the great-great-grandson of Charles B. Shattuck, the man who in 1918 gave the Hawaiian Missionary stamps to George Grinnell. He represents the Shattuck family's interests with respect to the Grinnell Missionaries. He is considered a pioneer of modern customer analytics, having led the development, distribution and marketing of Fair Isaac Company's industry standard measure of credit evaluation, the FICO® score. Mr. Culhane holds a Master's degree in Statistics from Stanford University. Today, he provides consumer credit marketing advisory services to a leading financial services institution and serves on the advisory boards of analytic technology firms.

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¹ Tracy D. Chaplin, Robin J. H. Clark, Christopher Ingold Laboratories, Department of Chemistry, University College London, "Hawaii 1851-52 Missionary issue. Comparison of Genuine and Forged or Reproduction Stamps Using Raman Microscopy", *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy*, 2002.

² Henry A. Meyer, et al., *Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History*, (New York: The Philatelic Foundation: 1948), Some Puzzling Points about the Missionaries, p. 111.

³ Chaplin, et. al.

⁴ Frederic A. Wheeler, "The Honolulu Straightline and Its Historical Background", *The American Philatelist*, January 1985, p. 28.

⁵ Patrick Culhane, "Trail of the Grinnells", Part 1 of 2, *Po'oleka o Hawaii, The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society*, January 2004, p. 12.

⁶ Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., *The Honolulu Advertiser Collection – The Stamps and Postal History of Hawaii*, Sale 769, November 1995, p. 94.

⁷ Jeffrey K. Weiss, "The Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps – An Expertizing Exercise", *Po'oleka o Hawaii, The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society*, October 2002.

⁸ Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., p. 63

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