

UTAH POSTAGE

This bogus stamp was first reported in England in 1864. It was advertised as a Mormon post established by Brigham Young from 1852 to 1853. This story contained a number of inaccuracies. It claimed that Young issued an octagonal gold coin in 1852 - while Young did establish a mint to process gold dust into more manageable coins, the first of these Mormon coins were minted in 1848 and were circular in design. The coins were minted with simple designs of Mormon iconography rather than portraits. The story also claims that no value was expressed on the stamps of the same shape, but almost every example of the Utah Postage stamps is labeled with a denomination in text.

While Brigham Young did help establish pioneer mail routes in the area, there is no historical record known of Young establishing an independent postal service. The Utah Territory was organized by the US government in 1850 and Young was appointed its first governor. By this time, the US mails were already established at Salt Lake City and had official routes throughout the territory. Young did argue in favor of a more independent Mormon state of Deseret, which ultimately resulted in the Utah War and his replacement as governor with Alfred Cumming.

packet.

An engraving of the repudiated stamp of Utah is subjoined. We suppose Brigham Young's authority for its non-existence may be accepted, notwithstanding the positive assurances of interested vendors.

A correspondent affords us the following



Nine months after publishing their story regarding the Mormon Stamp, Stamp-Collector's Magazine published another article declaring the stamps bogus, claiming it was repudiated by Young himself.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN
THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 1, 1864. LONDON

Despite this claim, dealers and collectors continued to argue the authenticity of the stamp for many years. Three distinct stamp designs are recorded, with the denominated octagonal design (type 2) being the most common.

The origin of the stamp is often attributed to S.A. Taylor, who defended the legitimacy of the stamps in his publication, *The Stamp Collector's Record*.

THE MORMON STAMP.

In the year 1852 Brigham Young issued an octagonal gold coin, and soon after a postage stamp of the same shape. No value was expressed on it, but its price was 5 cents. The execution is very rough, the impression apparently being taken from a wood-block. It seems to have been cut or punched out by an octagonal die. This stamp was intended for prepaying letters from one part of the Great Salt Lake Valley to another, or to or from the Salt Lake City, the capital. Some letters, however, with these stamps upon them, found their way to the United States, and were immediately repudiated by the postmaster at Washington. They at once fell into disuse; but at the present day a system of posting from one part of the Mormon colony to the other is still employed. This and some other attempts at independent government on the part of Brigham Young and his followers, caused the Washington authorities to despatch a military force to the Great Salt Lake, for the purpose of restoring order and allegiance. It met with but ill success, however.—*The Standard Guide to Postage-Stamp Collecting*.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN
THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE
FEBRUARY 1, 1864. LONDON

UTAH POSTAGE

The first type of Utah Postage stamp is the only rectangular design. The most intricately engraved of the three designs, it included a portrait of Young in a circular frame surrounded by the text "UTAH TERR." above and "POSTAGE / CENTS" below. Numeral 5s are placed in all four corners of the rectangle, which has a crosshatched background. This is the least common of the types, and is often considered the "original" design that inspired the others.



BOGUS 1
TYPE 1
5¢ BLACK
ON GREEN SC
TAYLOR - FORM M1



BOGUS 1
TYPE 1
5¢ BLACK
ON WHITE V. LAID
TAYLOR - FORM M1

The creator of this bogus is unknown, although it is possible that the stamps were printed by Taylor during his early forgery career in Montreal (1861-1864). This theory is proposed due to the known stamps matching the paper types used on other Taylor creations from the time period, and the fact that they are the least common. Stamps printed from this time were either not reprinted, or were printed from new dies, indicating that Taylor left the dies used in Montreal behind when he moved.

Modern fakes, made by photocopying the design of the Type 1 bogus stamps, are cruder in appearance and larger in size.




BOGUS 1
MODERN
5¢ BLACK
ON SCARLET SC



BOGUS 1
MODERN
5¢ RED
ON PINK

UTAH POSTAGE

The Type 2 design was probably created and by Taylor sometime around 1864. Taylor promoted this stamp with the same story recorded in *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. When the stamps were repudiated by Young, he published a defense of the stamps in his own magazine. Although Taylor attempted to imply that the stamps could be genuine, he continued to refer to them as "fac simile".



WE herewith present our readers with a *fac simile* of the Mormon Stamp, so called, concerning the authenticity of which there is considerable dispute; one postage stamp work of high authority, gives the date of its issue and a brief account of its history, while another gives a denial of its existence from the pen (as alleged) of Brigham Young himself. Whatever doubt there may be concerning the stamp, there is none regarding the gold coins, which he caused to be issued and which will be found described on Page 128 of *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins* by J. Ross Snowden, Director of the United States Mint, published by Lippincott & Graham, Philadelphia. The issue of a stamp is a much more trifling matter than the issue of a coin, according to our views of things in general.

Type 2 is most common of the three Utah Postage stamp designs. It featured a simple portrait of Young in an octagonal frame. There are no numerals, but the denomination is written out within the frame.

The "bogus 2" variety of the Type 2 stamps is the most finely engraved, although still less detailed than the Type 1 engraving.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN
THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S RECORD
DECEMBER 15, 1864



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ VIOLET (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ VIOLET (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR

UTAH POSTAGE



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)
ON WHITE
TAYLOR



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
5¢ OLIVE
ON WHITE
TAYLOR

Modern fakes, made by photocopying the design of the Type 2 bogus stamps, are cruder in appearance. This design has also been copied for use on 1938 commemorative seals for Utah stamp clubs.



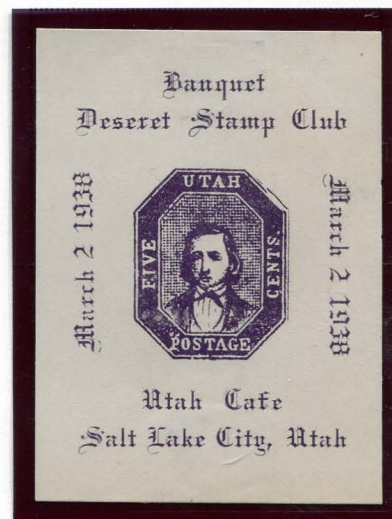
BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
MODERN
5¢ BLACK
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2
TYPE 2
MODERN
5¢ BLACK
ON WHITE

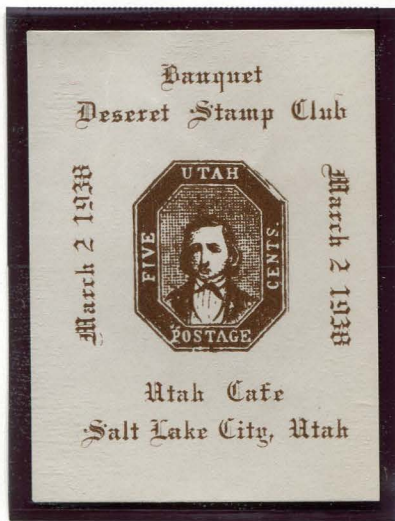


BOGUS 2 - TYPE 2
1938 SOUVENIR
RED ON WHITE

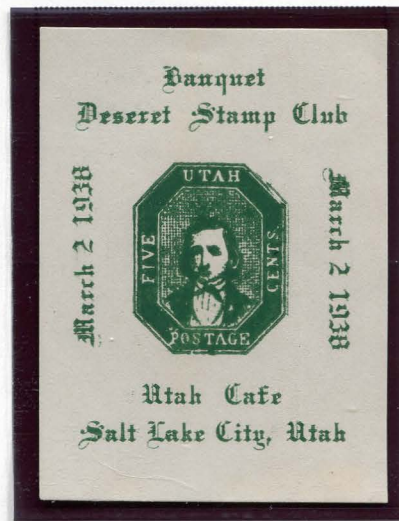


BOGUS 2 - TYPE 2
1938 SOUVENIR
PURPLE ON WHITE

UTAH POSTAGE



BOGUS 2 - TYPE 2
1938 SOUVENIR
BROWN ON WHITE



BOGUS 2 - TYPE 2
1938 SOUVENIR
GREEN ON WHITE

Bogus 3 is very similar, but even simpler in design. The portrait of Young has flatter hair, and the point where the sides of his waistcoat connect is visible, creating a "V" shape that touches the bottom border.



BOGUS 3
TYPE 2
5¢ RED
ON BLUE



BOGUS 3
TYPE 2
5¢ BROWN
ON CREAM

UTAH POSTAGE

In the bogus 4 design, Young's outfit does not include a waistcoat, but his overcoat closes near the bottom of the frame to create a "V" shape. His cravat is uncolored. This is the only of the Utah stamps that is known with multiple denominations: 2¢, 5¢, 8¢, and 12¢.



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
2¢ RED
ON WHITE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
2¢ RED
ON WHITE
MS CROSSHATCH



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
2¢ RED
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
2¢ RED
ON WHITE
OVAL HANDSTAMP
-PERFORATED-



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
5¢ GREEN
ON WHITE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
5¢ GREEN
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
5¢ YELLOW GREEN
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
8¢ DULL VIOLET
ON WHITE
MS CROSSHATCH



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
8¢ DULL VIOLET
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
8¢ DULL VIOLET
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE



BOGUS 4
TYPE 2
12¢ ORANGE
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE

UTAH POSTAGE

Bogus designs 5 and 6 are damaged versions of the bogus 4 design. The crosshatch background is broken and uneven, and the overall print quality is lower. These were probably printed from the same die as it wore out from use.



BOGUS 5
TYPE 2
5c DULL VIOLET
ON WHITE
BARRED ELLIPSE w/ #



BOGUS 5
TYPE 2
5c RED
ON WHITE
4-RING CIRCLE



BOGUS 6
TYPE 2
5c RED
ON WHITE



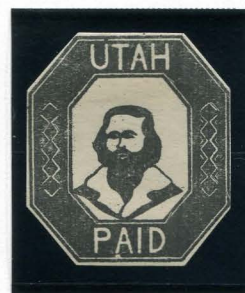
BOGUS 6
TYPE 2
5c RED
ON WHITE

The third type of Utah Postage stamps are very crude in appearance, and are identified by a bold, octagonal frame with no denomination - a pattern of diamonds is printed in the left and right sides of the frame. Bogus 7 consists only of this frame, with no portrait in the center.

Bogus 8 uses the same frame die, and includes a vignette. The illustration appears to depict an older portrait of Brigham Young with a beard.



BOGUS 7
TYPE 3
BROWN
ON WHITE



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK
ON WHITE

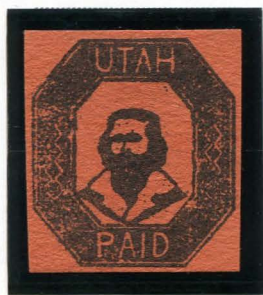
UTAH POSTAGE



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK
ON RED SC



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
LIGHT YELLOW



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK
ON RED



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
DUSTY GREEN



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
OLIVE BROWN



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
MINT GREEN



BOGUS 8
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
LIGHT BLUE LAID

UTAH POSTAGE

These unlisted stamps appear to use the same design as bogus 8, but smaller. They were probably produced from a reduced photocopy, and have very poor quality printing.



BOGUS
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
DUSTY GREEN



BOGUS
TYPE 3
BLACK ON
PALE BLUE