

## Analysis of Forgeries of Two Varieties of Scott 232 (Edifil 174)

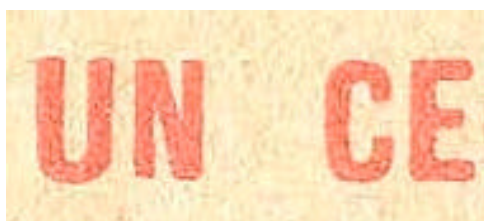
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The rare varieties of the Scott 232 (Edifil 174) stamp are extremely rare and most of the ones that one are offered for sale are forgeries. When buying one, make sure that it is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. Following, I analyze why a couple of examples that were sent to me for examination were determined to be forgeries.

The Scott 232a (Edifil 174hi) shown below is a rather crude forgery. Compare the formation of the letters in the surcharge with those in the genuine stamp to its left and you will see that the ones of the 232a are very roughly shaped. It is an easy forgery to identify as such.



Example of the genuine surcharge



Forgery of Scott 232a



The Scott 232c (Edifil 174hh) shown below is harder to identify as a forgery because the tone of the ink in the fake surcharge is lighter and the surcharge is faintly printed so that it is very hard to distinguish it against the violet background of the stamp. But the different tone of the ink in the surcharge immediately raises a red flag as an indication that there is a problem, since there is no reason for the color or tone of the ink to change during the same printing operation. The fact that the double surcharge is a forgery is confirmed if one closely compares the C in the word OCTUBRE of the two surcharges. The lower arm of the C in the genuine surcharge ends in a straight line perpendicular to the lines of the sides, but in the fake surcharge (the rightmost one) the end is rounded. If the double surcharge were genuine, the ends of the two letters would coincide.



Example of the genuine surcharge

Forgery of Scott 232c



**The method used to analyze these surcharges can be easily applied by anyone to analyze other stamps in trying to establish their authenticity. The basis of the method used is a simple visual comparison with a known genuine copy of the stamp being analyzed. Simply scan the item in question at 600 dpi resolution together with an example of the genuine stamp (in this case a genuine copy of the surcharge from the selvedge at the bottom of the sheet of stamps) and visually compare the details of each stamp against one another. Look for differences and similarities--the verdict usually jumps at you. But beware, there are excellent forgeries of most of the rare stamps around, so be extremely cautious in purchasing rare stamps and always demand a certificate of authenticity until you really know what you are buying.**