

1867-1868 GRILLS – Easy Identification

After developing the skill necessary to easily identify each grill by type, we now present an arrangement by denomination, arranged in the order you are most likely to encounter them, from the most common to the rarest (by Scott Specialized Catalog value of the USED stamp);

WARNING – Counterfeit grills are fairly common, even the more common grills are sometimes faked, so it is important to be able to identify a genuine grill. Owning certified reference copies of the better grills is good but the cheaper can be acquired easily to use as your template. Choose a Scott #94 used for your “F” grill reference copy and Scott #88 for your “E” grill reference, then buy certified copies of the others. Those with small faults can usually be picked up at 20-30% of Scott value. A complete set of reference grills (based on the lowest-priced copies (minus the rare “B” grill) of each would be;

#79(“A”), #83(“C”), #85(“D”), #85B(“Z”), #88(“E”) and #94(“F”).

THE LISTING BY DENOMINATION

1c – The “E” grill (#86) and “F” grill (#92) are of equal value used;

“Z” Grill (#85A);

(Tip – The 1c “Z” grill is considered the rarest United States stamp, with only two copies recorded, only one being in public hands. Currently priced at \$3,000,000. It is highly unlikely that anyone will ever encounter a copy, except on the rare occasions that one of them is exhibited.)

2c - #93 (“F”), #87 (“E”), #85B (“Z”), #84 (“D”);

3c - #94 (“F”), #88 (“E”), #85(“Z”), #83 (“C”), #79(“A”), #85C(“Z”), #82(“B”);

(Tip – Since only four copies of the “B” grill 3c exist, it is again unlikely that you will ever encounter this stamp. A partially erased “C” grill can be confused with a “B” grill, but that variety is rare as well, with a current Scott price (used) in 2013 of \$2,750.00.)

5c - #95 (“F”) and #80 (“A”);

(Tip – Only four examples of the 5c “A” grill exist)

10c - #96(“F”), #89(“E”), #85D(“Z”);

(Tip- Only six examples of the 10c “Z” grill exist);

12c - #97 (“F”), #90(“E”), #85E(“Z”);

15c - #98 (“F”), #91(“E”), #85F(“Z”);

(Tip – Only two examples of the 15c “Z” grill are recorded (2013 Scott \$2,000,000.)

24c - #99(“F”)

30c - #100(“F”) and #81(“A”);

(Tip – Only eight examples of the 30c “A” grill are reported.)

90c - #101

End notes – For practical purposes, the rarest grills you will ever encounter will be the “A”, “C”, “D” and “Z”. Using the process of elimination explained in our first article, correctly identifying your grilled 1867-68 issues will be rather easy, especially if you build a basic reference group as suggested here.

Using Graphite to study grill points

Here is a handy tip which can be used to detect or study grill points by transferring graphite from a pencil onto the grilled area. The graphite/lead adheres to whatever points protrude enough to allow some to stick to them, making them easier to observe.

1. Take a pencil which contains softer lead and deposit graphite from the point onto a piece of paper by rubbing back and forth until you have plenty on the paper;
2. Use your finger tip to transfer some graphite from the paper onto your finger tip by rubbing your finger over the grill area;
3. Now rub your fingertip gently over the grill area. You should now be able to see grill points much more clearly than without the graphite enabling you to study the points and count them if you wish;
4. The graphite will NOT harm the paper, but if it bothers you, it is easy to erase using a soft eraser.

Detecting Fake Grills

Grills must have the correct number of rows as listed here AND the grill rows must be perfectly straight in alignment, unless some natural deviation is caused by a paper fold, for example. Otherwise this is the most important factor for you to observe.

