# UNITED STATES GRILLS (1867-1874)

By Teela "Pong" Pongpakdee Poway Stamp Club



# WHAT ARE GRILLS?

- Grills are a group of parallel rows embossed into the stamps, the intent being to allow canceling ink to absorb into the paper making the removal of the ink impossible or very difficult, thus preventing the re-use of the stamp
- Identifying the various grills is much easier than most collectors realize. Rather than struggling with exact measurements of the grills, all can be positively and quickly identified because each of them has one trait that is unique to only that one grill.

# GRILLED STAMPS A TIMELINE

#### Timeline of D, E, F and Z Grill Production—January to April 1868



Jan. 7—2c Z Grill production Scott 85B eku 1/17/68

21.5 days of grilling are required to produce the total number of 2c grilled stamps issued in 1st Q 1868 (Z, D, E, F Grills). 14,400,200 2c stamps=72,000 sheets, at 3,350 sheets per day



2

Jan. 15—3c grilling briefly on Device No. 1 (Z Grill) Scott 85C eku 1/25/68 (see lot 231)

64 days of grilling are required to produce the total number of 3c grilled stamps issued in 1st Q 1868 (Z, D, E Grills).
42,864,700 3c stamps=214,323 sheets, at 3,350 sheets per day

Feb. 5—The first 12c grilled stamps are produced on Device No. 1 (Z Grill) Scott 85E eku 2/15/68



1 day of grilling is required to produce the total number of 12c grilled stamps issued in 1st Q 1868 (Z and E Grills).

639,100 12c stamps=3,195 sheets, at 3,350 sheets per day

2.2 days of grilling are required to produce the total number of 1c grilled stamps (Z, E) issued in 1st Q 1868.

1,489,800 1c stamps, or 7,445 sheets, at 3,350 sheets per day

1 day of grilling is required to produce the total number of 10c grilled stamps (E, Z) issued in 1st Q 1868. 671,770 10c stamps, or 3,358 sheets, at 3,350 sheets per day



Between Feb. 19 and 28—Grilling of 1c, 10c and 15c on Device No. 1 (Z Grill), probably at the same time sheets are grilled on Device No. 2 (E Grill)



3/17/68 New F Grill Replaces Old Z Grill

Mar. 17—2c first stamp on Device No. 1 with new F Grill (approx. 8 days of production—5.36 million stamps, or 26,800 sheets—to Stamp Agent before end of 1st Q 1868) Scott 93 eku 3/27/68 (earliest use of any F Grill)

TOTAL GRILL PRODUCTION FOR 1ST Q 1868
Records show 300,327 grilled sheets of all values. With a capacity of 3,350 sheets per day/per machine, approx. 90 grilling days are required. Device No. 2 was available for 54 of the 68 grilling days (180,900 sheet capacity) during 1st Q 1868. Balance of production (119,427 sheets) would require approx. 36 grilling days on Device No. 1.





Jan. 23—3c grilling on new Device No. 2 with D Grill Scott 85 eku 2/2/68



Feb. 5—2c grilling on Device No. 2 stops after short run when D Grill is replaced with new E Grill Scott 84 eku 2/15/68

2/10/68
New E Grill
Replaces Old
D Grill



Feb. 10— 3c grilling with new E Grill begins Scott 88 eku 2/19/68 (eku for any E Grill)



Feb. 19—10c and 12c E. Grill production on Device No. 2 Scott 89 eku 2/29/68 Scott 90 eku 2/29/68

Feb. 28—1c and 2c E. Grill production on Device No. 2 Scott 86 eku 3/9/68 Scott 87 eku 3/11/68



Mar. 25—Last day that grilled sheets can be finished in time to reach Stamp Agent in time to be counted in 1st Q 1868 figures

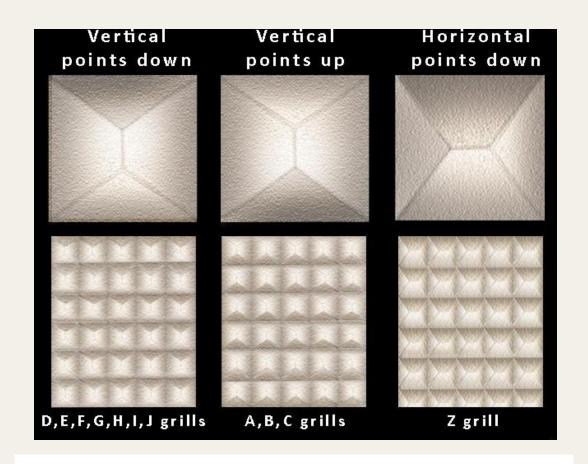
FTER 1ST O 1868

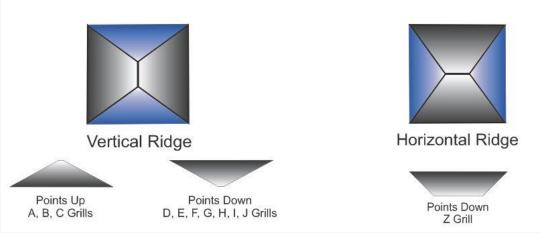
Regular 15c grilling begins in April with E and F Grills applied concurrently. Also in April Sc F Grill production begins, followed by 10c and 12c F Grills in May. 1c F Grill production does not occur until July, and the 5c, 24c, 30c and 90c low-volume production begins in November 1868, exclusively with F Grill.

NOTE: EKU dates based on census data. All other dates are conjectural, based on premise that earliest known use occurred ten days after grilling.



# WHAT DO THE GRILL POINTS LOOK LIKE?







# HOW YOU LOOK FOR GRILLS



GRAPHITE METHOD

- 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 keep in mind that 'less is more'. Do not over-apply the graphite, use only enough to highlight the grill. The graphite can be erased using a soft eraser but it is generally better to simply leave it in place.
- 5. While using graphite has been widely accepted over the years, there are some who feel this is not a good practice. They believe it alters the stamp and that grills can be viewed without graphite using methods such as watermark fluid.



## HOW YOU LOOK FOR GRILLS

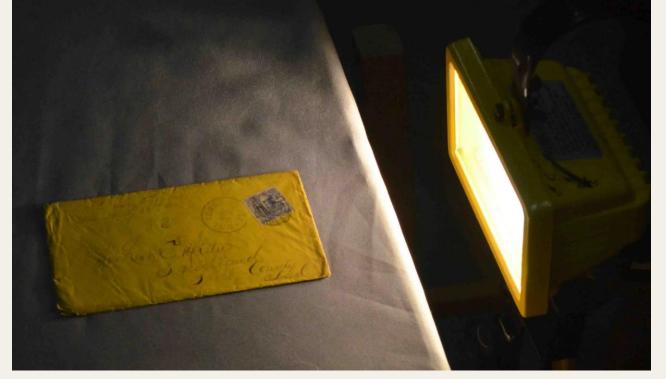
Watermark Method





## HOW YOU LOOK FOR GRILLS





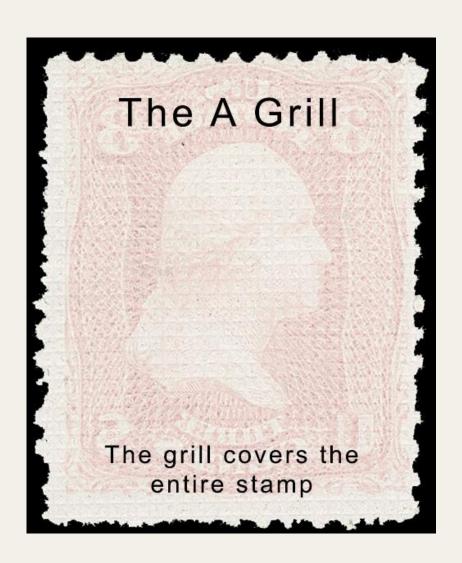
Side lighting at an extreme low angle



## TYPES OF GRILLS

EKU: AUG 13<sup>th</sup> 1867 LKU:~MID DEC 1867

Experimental Issue



- Easily identifiable due to grill covers the entire stamp
- Points face up and are vertical in orientation
- "A" grills are of substandard quality resulting in deteriorated perforations and fragile stamps

# FAKE "A" GRILLS



#### B GRILL

EKU: Feb 1868 Experimental (possible essay)



- Consisting of 18 points wide by 22 points tall
- Only 4 known



The four recorded examples of #82 originated on a February 1869 cover from Mason, Texas, to Germany

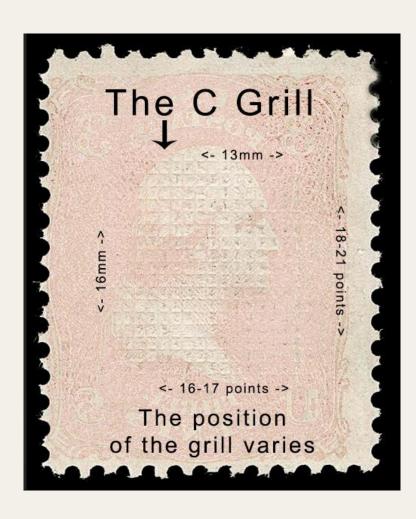


After it was found that the A grill mangled the perforations and margins of the stamp when separated it was decided to reduce the size of the grill. Hence the B grill. It must not have been enough of a reduction due to the limited number of survivors indicate it was a short-lived grill. These may have been essays delivered to the Post Office Department.



#### C GRILL

EKU: Nov 15th, 1867 Experimental



- Consisting of point 16-17 across and 18-21 high The grill points are facing down
- This was also the last issue to be produced with the grills pointing up, thereafter stamps were produced with the grills pointing down. It was considered unsatisfactory and was not used again.
- The C grill on #83 is not commonly counterfeited. It is far more likely that a stamp is submitted for certification claiming to be a C grill but was another grill, often the E grill of #88

#### D GRILL

Issued: February 8, 1868

Considered the 1st Issued Grill

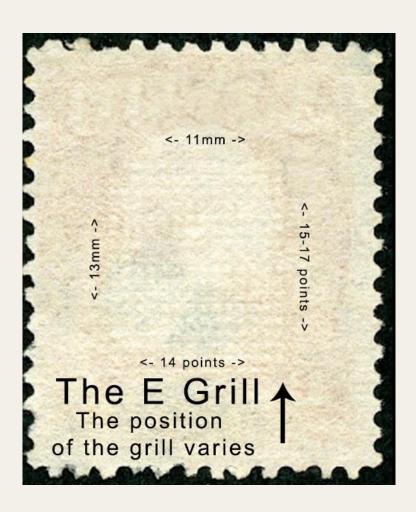


- Consisting of 15 points across an 17-18 points tall
- Points face Down



#### E GRILL

Issued: Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 1868

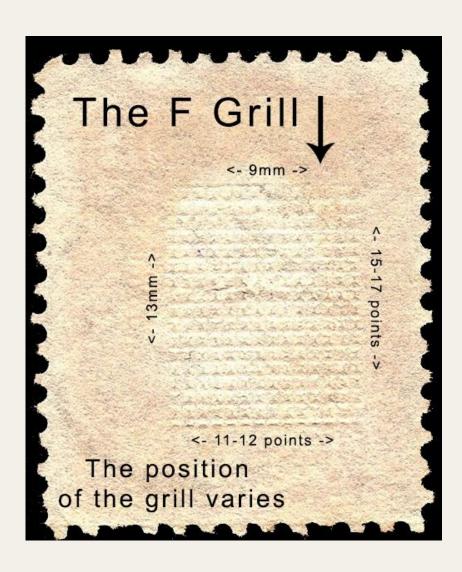


- Consists of 14 points across 15-17 points tall
- Points face down
- Comes in various values 1c, 2c, 3c,10c, 12c, 15c



#### FGRILL

Issued: Mar 27<sup>th</sup>, 1868



- Consists of 12 points across and 16-17 points tall
- Points face down
- Most common grill
- Exists in the following values 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 24c, 30c, 90c



#### H GRILL

Issued: Mar 27th , 1868



- Consists of 12 points across and 11 Points tall
- Points Face down
- Unique only to the 1869
   Pictorial issues



## H/I GRILL



- H-10 across I-8-9 across
- Notoriously faint
- Exists on Lrg Banknotes series

I GRILL

If the grill is too faint to count the points it will be considered an H grill, no matter what the size



J GRILL

Possibly early 1874

Experimental?

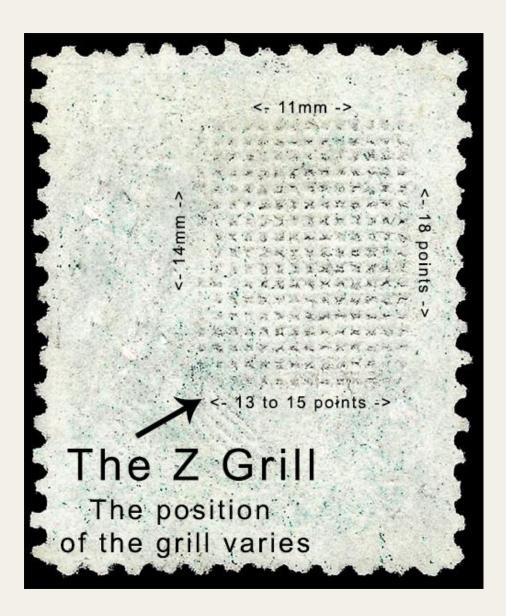


- Consists of 10 points across
   12 points vertically
- Most (but) not all impressions will puncture stamp
- Rare



#### ZGRILL

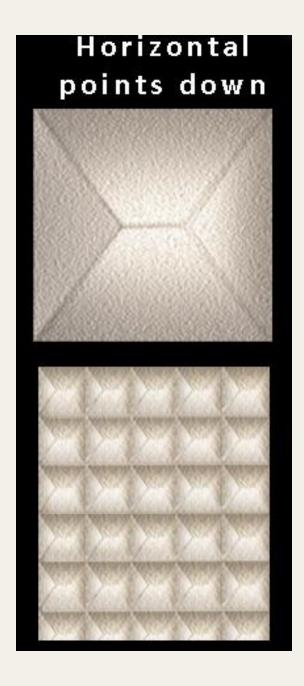
Issued: Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 1868



- Consists of 15 points across and 17-18 points tall
- Points face up
- Most famous /infamous of all US grills
- Commonly confused with "E" grill
- Only Identifiable difference is the ridge of the male biscuit is horizontal instead of vertical



# ZGRILL (cont.)



 The ONLY way to differentiate from and E grill and a Z grill is the ridge is HORIZONTAL

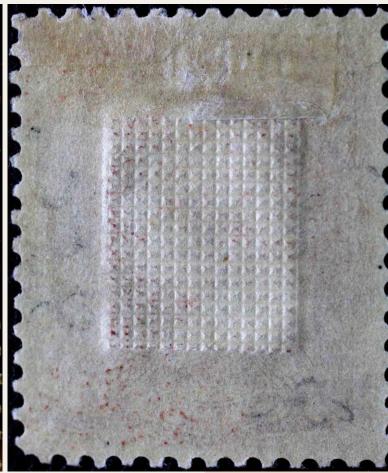


# ZGRILL (cont.)

 The ONLY way to differentiate from an E grill and a Z grill is if the ridge is HORIZONTAL







## QUESTIONS?

#### Acknowledgements:

Mr. Rex Dean Bishop "1868 Production Grills; Why grill size matters. Collectors Club Vol99 No4.

Mr. Ken Lawrence "The 1 cent Z grill mystery" The Congress Book 1995

Mr. William L. Stevenson "United states Grills" book series 16

- 1. <a href="https://siegelauctions.com/enc/pdf/1868Z.pdf">https://siegelauctions.com/enc/pdf/1868Z.pdf</a>
- 2. <a href="https://www.theswedishtiger.com/US-stamp-grills.html">https://www.theswedishtiger.com/US-stamp-grills.html</a>
- 3. United states Grills 1867-1863 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1085343698927397/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1085343698927397/</a>

