

# BROKEN SIGNATURE VARIETIES

by Roger Fox

For all you VARIETY fans and coupon detectives, here is a group of at least 10 notes, in 3 denominations, covering 2 series, all printed by the British American Banknote Company, that can keep you busy and offer a real challenge!

I have been studying this group since the spring when I came across a new bundle of CTC-S20B 5¢ coupons in which the signature of Stanley Pasternak was obviously 'broken' with parts of the 'Y' in 'Stanley' missing and a split between the 'A' and 'S' in 'Pasternak'.

Subsequently, while going through used coupons, I started finding partial breaks in the Pasternak signature, and when I expanded this research to other denominations, I discovered other combinations of the same problem.

So far, I have been able to isolate at least 9 different related varieties in the 5¢, 25¢ and 50¢ of the CTC-S20 series. A 10th similar error was found in the CTC-S18B 5¢ 75th Anniversary series. Since the CTC-S20 series was actually printed before the CTC-S18, it makes sense that the majority of problems were discovered and corrected before the S-18 series was printed, however at least one variety survived and can be found in the CTC-S18B 5¢ coupons.

Lets start with that coupon and go forward chronologically as CTC issued these notes from early 1997 to date. The list below is based on error type or description, and what denominations are common to that type or description.

- ◆ CTC S18-B1 5¢: - Break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley OK.
- ◆ CTC S20-B1 5¢: - Break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley OK.
- ◆ CTC S20-E1 50¢: - Break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley OK.
- ◆ CTC S20-B2 5¢: - Break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley broken in 2 places.  
- Seems to be the most fragmented error.  
- Small piece of 'Y' larger than CTC-S20D1 25¢ error.
- ◆ CTC S20-D1 25¢: - No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley broken in 2 places.  
- Similar to CTC-S20B2 5¢, but no break in Pasternak.  
- Small piece of 'Y' smaller than CTC-S20B2 5¢ error.

- ◆ CTC S20-B3 5¢: - No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley broken once at top-left of 'Y' curve.  
- Similar to CTC-S20D2 25¢.  
- Also contains the 'Missing 'A' variety
- ◆ CTC S20-D2 25¢: - No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley broken once at top-left of 'Y' curve.  
- Similar to CTC-S20B3 5¢.  
- Also contains the '1' prefix 25¢ replacements.
- ◆ CTC S20-B4 5¢: - No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley broken once at bottom of 'Y' curve.  
- Similar to CTC-S20D3 25¢.  
- Also contains the '1' prefix 5¢ replacements.
- ◆ CTC S20-D3 25¢: - No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley broken once at bottom of 'Y' curve.  
- Similar to CTC-S20B4 5¢.
- ◆ CTC S20-E2 50¢: - No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
- 'Y' in Stanley normal, - 'P' in Pasternak cut off short, below loop in 'P'. This error not found in any other denomination or combination so far.

It appears that the Broken Signature varieties (all types) were either not discovered, or deemed important enough to fix, as they appear in 'pockets' or 'groupings' throughout millions of numbers in the 5¢, 25¢ and 50¢ denominations. The lowest I have found so far is in the type 3 of the 25¢ error at 0000267629 and the highest in type 2 of the 25¢ error at 0013458543. All the other denomination errors fit in between, and seem to be well distributed throughout.

When flipping through new bundles containing an error, the error was random. i. e. maybe 10 errors in a row, some normal notes, 2 or 3 errors, more normal, and maybe more errors etc. Some bundles contained all errors, some completely normal. As errors not consistent, while the serial numbers are sequential, some runs of 100 coupons, for instance, could have a random mix of error and normal notes.

Some types of errors are more common than others, but I believe that could depend on where you are in relation to where the particular error was issued.

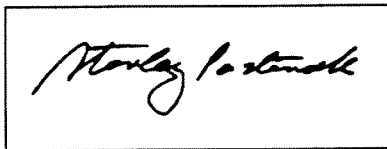
## BROKEN SIGNATURE VARIETIES cont'd

It is interesting that so far I have only found these errors on the 5¢, 25¢ and the 50¢ coupons. I know that in some production runs of coupons, B. A. Banknote prints the 50 note sheets in 2 denominations. The 5¢ and 25¢ can be on the same sheet, as well as the 50¢ and \$1.00. (I believe the 10¢ coupons are all printed on sheets of 50, with no other denomination, as is the \$2.00 note.) Therefore, if only certain plates are 'broken', they would likely remain in their place creating the error on the same denomination. If this is true, there must be several individual plates that contain these various errors, rather than one plate slowly breaking down.

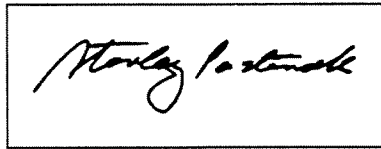
Now add in other discovered varieties such as the 'Missing 'A'', and replacements, and we have the possibility of

compounding the result, and this has indeed happened! Refer to the chart and both the 'Missing 'A'', and some replacements exist with some form of a Broken Signature!

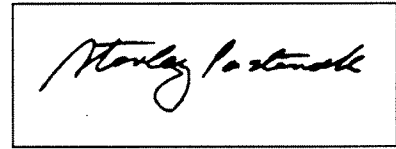
As mentioned earlier, no 10¢ or \$1.00 coupons have been found as yet containing a Broken Signature, but they could exist. Plus, there could be other errors not listed here, or other combinations of these listed errors! So far we know of at least 10 different. How many more are out there? Take up the challenge. Check your current collection, spares, stock, known varieties and replacements to see just what you have, and if you find something not listed in the chart, let me know, and I will report your discoveries in a later issue. In the meantime, good hunting and good luck!



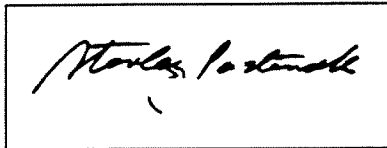
**Type 1 - CTC S18-B1 5¢**  
Break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley OK.



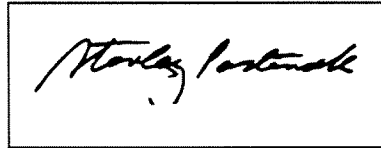
**Type 2 - CTC S20-B1 5¢**  
Break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley OK.



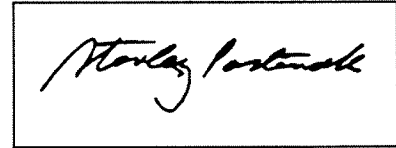
**Type 3 - CTC S20-E1 50¢**  
Break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley OK.



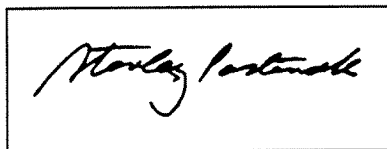
**Type 4 - CTC S20-B2 5¢**  
Break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley broken  
in 2 places. Seems to be the  
most fragmented error. Small  
piece of 'Y' larger than  
CTC S20-D1 25¢ error.



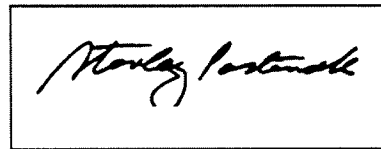
**Type 5 - CTC S20-D1 25¢**  
No break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley broken  
in 2 places. Similar to  
CTC S20-B2 5¢, but no break  
in Pasternak. Small piece of 'Y'  
smaller than CTC S20-B2 5¢ error.



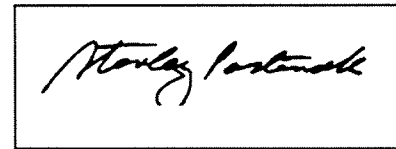
**Type 6 - CTC S20-B3 5¢**  
No break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley broken  
once at top-left of 'Y' curve.  
Similar to CTC S20-D2 25¢. Also  
contains the 'Missing 'A'' variety



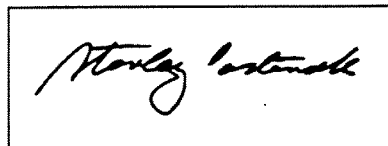
**Type 7 - CTC S20-D2 25¢**  
No break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley broken  
once at top-left of 'Y' curve.  
Similar to CTC S20-B3 5¢.  
Also contains the '1' prefix  
25¢ replacements.



**Type 8 - CTC S20-B4 5¢:**  
No break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley broken  
once at bottom of 'Y' curve.  
Similar to CTC S20-D3 25¢.  
Also contains the '1' prefix  
5¢ replacements.



**Type 9 - CTC S20-D3 25¢:**  
No break between 'A' & 'S' in  
Pasternak, 'Y' in Stanley broken  
once at bottom of 'Y' curve.  
Similar to CTC S20-B4 5¢.



**Type 10 - CTC S20-E2 50¢**  
No break between 'A' & 'S' in Pasternak,  
'Y' in Stanley normal, 'P' in Pasternak cut  
off short, below loop in 'P'.  
This error not found in any other  
denomination or combination so far.