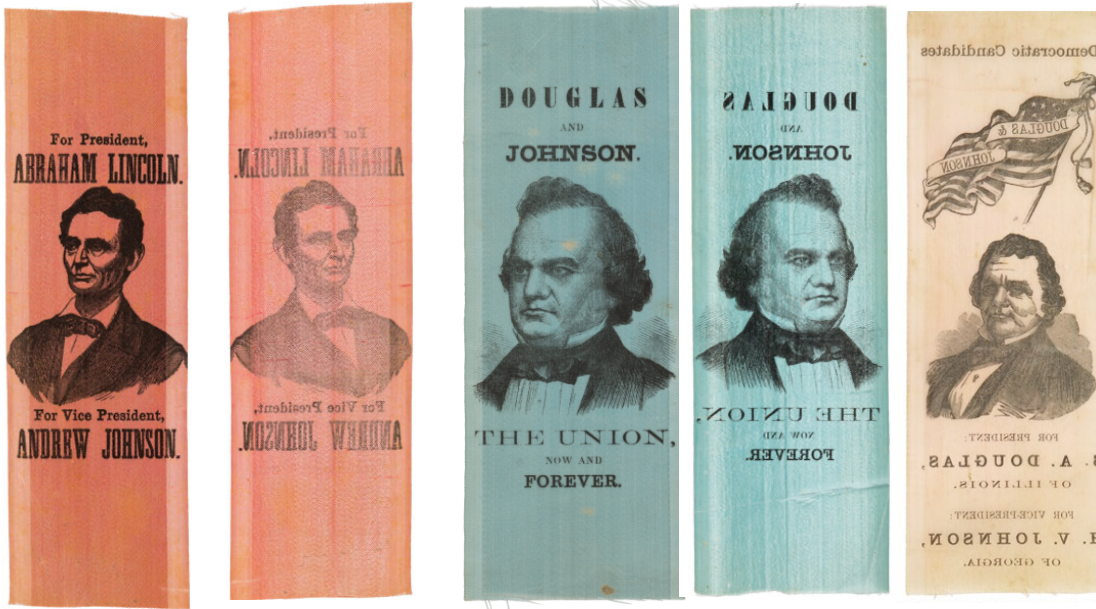
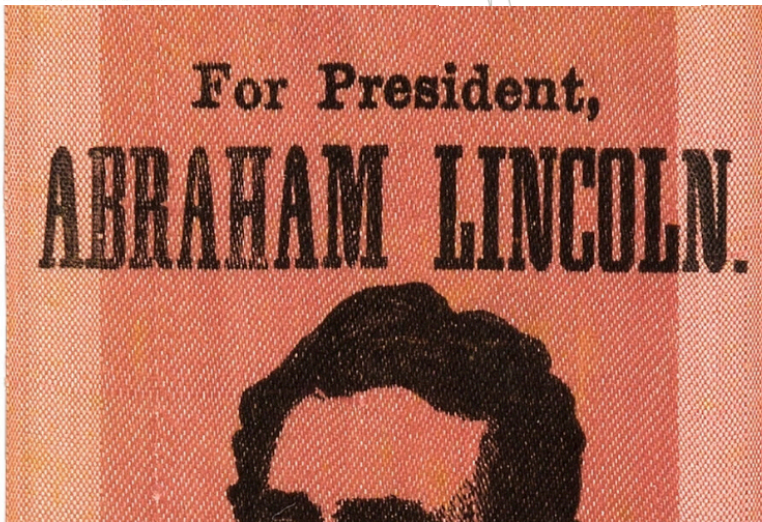


Are These Ribbons Real or Are They Memorex?



Here are fronts of two and the backs of three genuine silk ribbons. Note how the images show through in back and the selvage (special weave on the sides to reduce fraying).



An enlarged view of the Lincoln ribbon illustrates the fineness and evenness of the weave, the selvage, and the sharpness of the printing.



The photos show the front of one fake and the backs of two. The ribbons lack selvage. They have a peculiar orange color. The images are less sharp and show through on the back to a lesser degree. Sellers often claim the fabric is silk, but that's not the case.

Here are four more examples of genuine Lincoln ribbons.



Abraham Lincoln Authentic Silk Campaign Ribbon, Year 1860

tina.andre (1449)
99.2% positive · [Seller's other items](#) · [Contact seller](#)

US \$600.00

0 bids · Ends in 1d 17h · Friday, 02:52 AM

Condition: Used

Place bid

Watching

People want this. 12 people are watching this.

Given this background, what do you think about the item in the eBay listing on the left? This fake was the first reproduction of a Lincoln ribbon to be identified. It remains the most common.

On the right are two genuine silk ribbons and a fake. The fake lacks selvage and has a less refined image. Its zig-zag ends reflect the use of pinking shears unavailable until the 20th century.

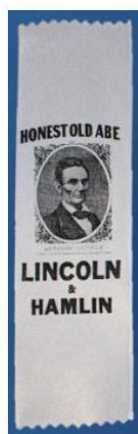
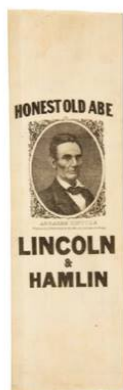
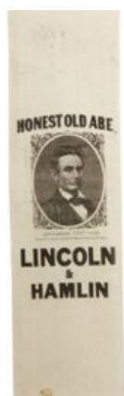


The enlargement on the left shows how scalloping on the sides of the genuine items reflects a different tack to thwart fraying.



genuine specimens
(2 1/2" x 7 1/4")

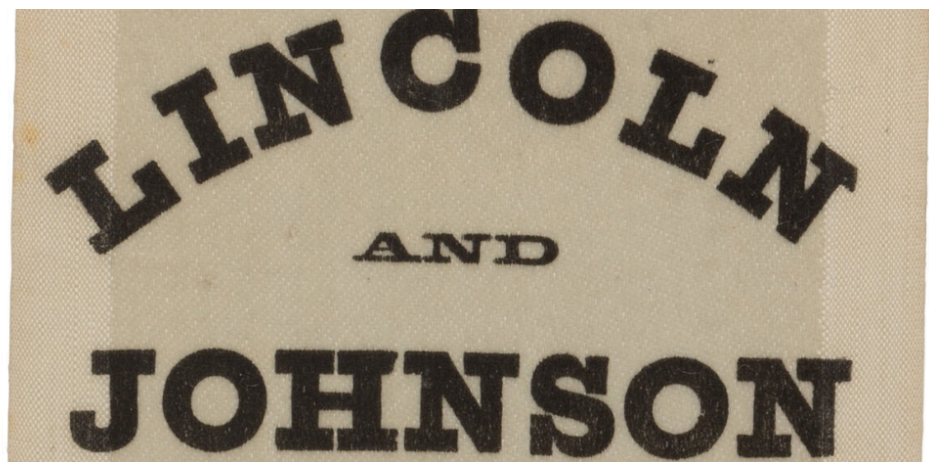
fake ("2x7")



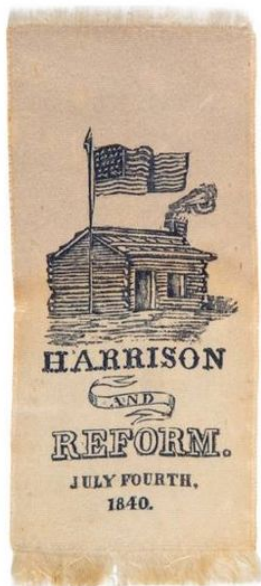
three genuine silk ribbons
(2" x 7") (2" x 4 1/2") (2" x 6 1/2")

copy
(2" x 7")

On the left are three more genuine Lincoln silk ribbons compared to a reproduction on the right, which, like the Breckenridge ribbon above on the right, displays tell-tale zig-zag ends.



The close-up illustrates the evenness of the weave, the selvage, and the sharpness of the printing of a genuine 1864 Lincoln-Johnson silk ribbon.



genuine
(2 1/2" x 6")



copy
(2" x 7")

The photo on the left compares a genuine 1840 silk ribbon to a fake with zig-zag ends.

The close-up on the right contrasts the printing and weave of a genuine silk ribbon on the top to a brummagem counterpart below.

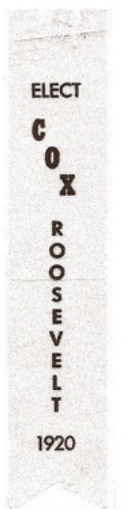
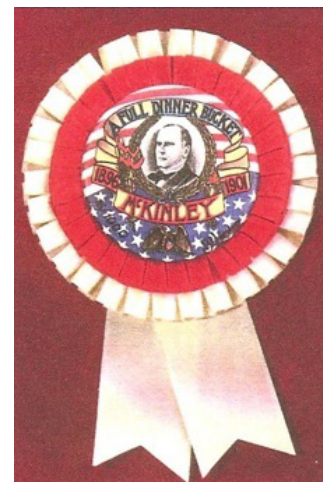


Genuine



Fake (5" tall)

One flag ribbon on the left has selvage, a scalloped edge, and finely woven silk fabric; the other doesn't. The McKinley item is a fantasy. The Cox-Roosevelt ribbon is acetate, which was not in use in 1920.



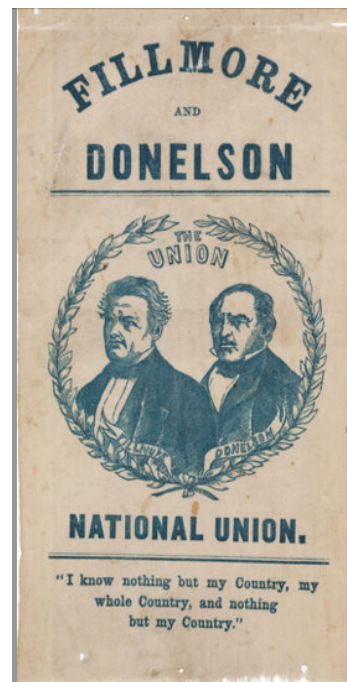


All five of the ribbons shown above are acetate; the images barely show through on the backs.

Certain genuine ribbons are cotton. The photos on the right show one example.

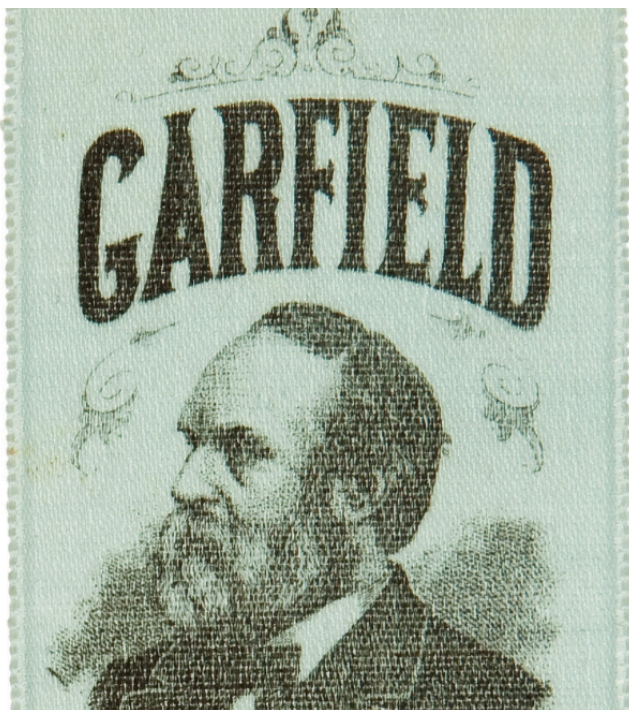


The seven ribbons on the left illustrate other reproductions. When carefully compared to the originals, however, as on the right—in width, edges, images, lettering, and material, for example—notable differences are usually quickly apparent.



Genuine (2 7/8"x 7")

2" x 5 1/2" or 2" x 6"



Satin has been around for ages. It figures that certain genuine political ribbons are satin. That is indeed the case, as the Garfield ribbon on the left illustrates.

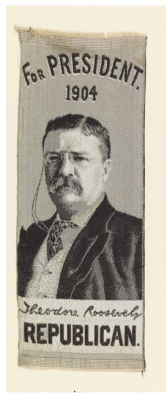
Replica makers went into high gear for the centennial celebration of the passage of the woman suffrage amendment in the U.S. The results include not only a myriad of reproduction buttons, but also a wide range of other items including ribbons, ribbon-badges, hatbands, sashes and cotton sateen fabric. With age, some of the items are apt to be mistaken for original.



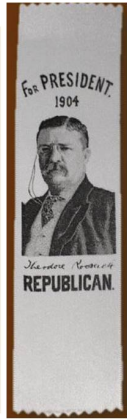
23" x 1 5/8"



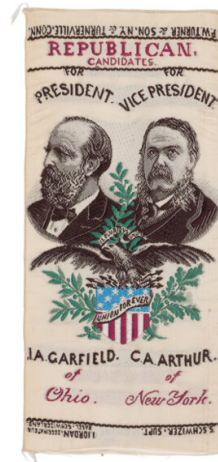
Thomas Stevens figured out how to use his Jacquard looms to produce multicolor woven silk bookmarks and other items. His designs (called Stevengraphs) included Lincoln pieces, mostly memorial. The closest folks attempting to reproduce such woven silk items have come to achieving success that I know of are copies that exhibit zigzag ends, as illustrated by the TR's on the left.



genuine
(2" x 5 1/8")



copy (2" x 7")



Collins's *Threads of History* and Sullivan and Fischer's *American Political Ribbons and Ribbon Badges* are excellent references. Collectors have every reason to relax, sit back and enjoy

political ribbons for the history they reflect and the artistic masterpieces they at times represent. The item on the left is a doll quilt composed of Polk-Dallas ribbons. That below is a "Streak of Lightning" quilt that contains 1,400 ribbons from the 1880 presidential contest.

