

Identifying Fake 'Frank Sinatra' Cal-Neva Lodge Ashtrays

by
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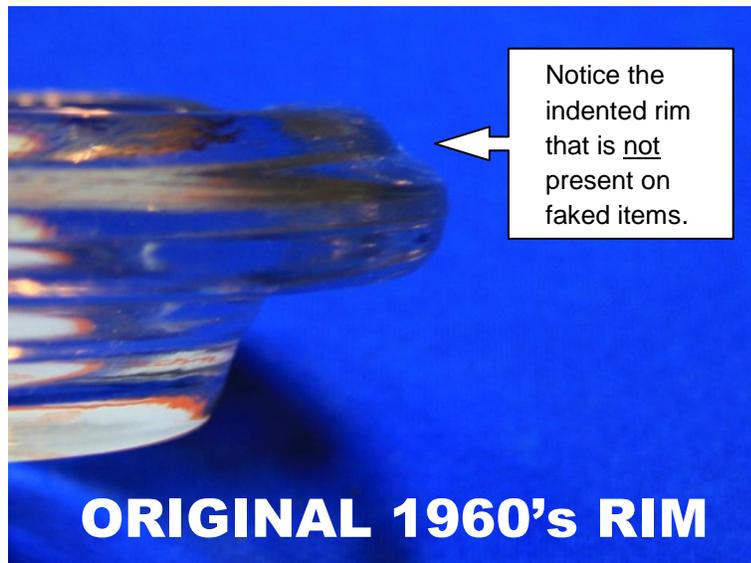
Caveat Emptor! It has come to light that fake Frank Sinatra logo ashtrays are being peddled on e-Bay and at some antique shows as originals from the 1960-1963 Cal-Neva Lodge (CNL) ownership years. The fakes are easily identified by turning the ashtray upside down and examining the silk-screened logo printing. On fake Frank Sinatra CNL ashtrays, the logo will be completely white as compared to a real Frank Sinatra logo ashtray from the 1960's which shows brown lettering interlaid with the white background. But there are other significant differences as well.



Further verification of fakes can be made with a 10x loupe where the actual silk pattern can be seen (see the photo below). The originals do not have this checkerboard-type impression and appear completely smooth.



Another major identification characteristic is the ashtray rim whose original style was very unique and no longer available on modern cheap and generic imports. The genuine <older> ashtray edge is actually composed of a distinctive lipped or indented curve, as shown in the picture below. The fakes will have a completely rounded rim with no lip or indentation.



Additionally, it appears that only circular three-rest ashtrays were ever used at the Lodge between 1960 and 1963. Apparently, four-rest circular trays and clear-brown circular four-rests have been utilized to create the recent copies. It is also possible that new square four-rests may have been included as part of this overall deception, but ultimately the bottom paint application style is the definitive differentiator. In other words, there exists the possibility that original square four-rests may

exist, but all trays need to be checked for their authenticity.



Two different types of verified fakes, a brown circular 4-rest and a clear round 4-rest.

As the tray sits upright on a table, from the top (looking down through the glass) the fake designs look almost identical to the originals. Apparently back in the late 1990's someone discovered the silk screens that had been used to manufacture the original Cal-Neva Lodge ashtrays. This reliable information comes from some long-time ashtray collectors who have been attending trade shows for more than 25 years. Since the original logo screens were used to produce these recent ashtrays, it is not possible to differentiate the two based on top-down design analysis alone.

Other minor distinguishing characteristics have been observed though. For example, feint rainbow staining has also been observed on some of the genuine 1960 paint glaze bottom designs. This discoloration is slightly visible on some specimens appearing like a thin oil-slick on water, a feature that was common for glazes used during the early '60's. The new faked copies will usually be dirt free and exhibit a shiny pure-white sheen (no discoloration). Verification of some originals can also be accomplished by examining wear patterns and scuffing of the design as the recent fakes have no scratching or paint loss at all.

If you have verifiable and photographic evidence of other **genuine** Frank Sinatra era ashtrays from Cal-Neva Lodge that are different in shape and color (namely number of rests, square versus round, colored glass, etc.) from the genuine ashtray shown below, then please submit your artifact information to phil.weiss@calneverevealed.com.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous dealers have chosen to withhold information about the reproduction status of these types of memorabilia items thereby permitting unwitting collectors to become victims of fraud. Do not buy these items for anything other than a reproduction conversation piece! These faked items are valued at no more than \$10-15 versus \$150-200 for legitimate originals.



Original 1960's Frank Sinatra owned Cal-Neva Lodge Ashtray

Thank you to the Jim and Jenn Tilton who helped launch this important fraud investigation. Three original FS CNL ashtrays and three modern fakes were used for this comparative analysis.