

## Authentic 1960 Cuban CIA “Counterfeit” Notes

What could possibly make fake notes, especially fake Cuban notes, so valuable? Well, not only were these notes printed in 1961 during the same year President John F. Kennedy authorized the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion to overthrow Fidel Castro’s Cuban Revolution, but they were actually given to the 1,400 Cubans exiles who the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had trained and equipped for the invasion!

These soldiers were undertaking a covert mission — and so flashing gold or foreign currency could have spelled disaster. Instead, they took with them these counterfeit notes. According to one expert, each soldier was issued 20 of these notes. On the front of the note is Camilo Cienfuegos, a Cuban Revolutionary who some suspect was killed by either the CIA or Castro. On the back is a depiction of Cuban troops in the jungle.

Were these notes intended to disrupt the Cuban economy? Fool Castro’s troops? Add credibility to cover stories used by the Cuban exiles? Did this note come from one of the invaders who escaped capture? Who knows because when the invasion was launched on April 17, 1961 Castro had been tipped off and had his troops lying in wait. Badly outnumbered, the invasion forced surrendered within 24 hours with 114 killed and more than 1,100 taken prisoner.

According to Paper Money Guaranty (PMG), only 104 of these notes have ever been graded.

All CIA notes carry the “69” or “70” series number and some have serial numbers and some don’t. They look JUST like the real ones. Did the Bureau of Engraving and printing print these, we do not know.

