You would never guess it by looking at EBay listings, but genuine Woodstock posters are quite scarce. Every day, there are numerous EBay listings, with most claiming that the posters are original and/or have "letters of authenticity" but in 99% of these listings, the posters are fake. It is important to remember that genuine Woodstock posters from 1969 in nice condition are worth $4,500-$7,000 and a fake, even with a "letter of authenticity" is worthless.

This short guide will help you avoid the pitfalls and financial disappointment of buying a bogus poster.

Woodstock posters were printed in two sizes - 18" x 24" and 24" x 36". All were printed with a full bleed, meaning that they do not have white borders.

First, the 18" x 24" Woodstock posters in a plastic frame with a "vintage" photo and a "letter of authenticity" from John Roberts (and sometimes with tickets) were sold on one of the home shopping channels. Roberts was one of the producers of Woodstock and died in October 2001. These posters were sold after his death and are fake, as is the "letter of authenticity" on the back. No reputable dealer in vintage posters will buy or sell one of these as real.

Genuine 18" x 24" Woodstock posters all have a small black vertical stripping line in the upper left corner, about 1" from the edge that is the remnant of the printers "bullseye". In addition, there is no dot screen pattern in the orange areas while virtually every fake has a pronounced dot pattern in these areas. These posters were printed on fairly thick, glossy stock and are much scarcer than the larger version.

Genuine 24" x 36" Woodstock posters all have the following hallmarks:

1. On the inside edge of the right hand stem of the “M” in “MUSIC,” where the stem makes a 45-degree angle back to the left, there is a tiny dot just inside the white ink;

2. There is a white speck to the left of the finger closest to the left edge. This speck is one inch up from the bottom of the blue band, and is approximately ⅛″ from the left edge of the poster; and

3. There is a tiny white dot in the top stem of the “3.” It is roughly in the middle of the orange ink, and is ⅜ from the left edge of the “3.” This can be very difficult to see and may require magnification.

Hopefully, this will prevent EBay bidders from being taken by the overabundance of bogus posters out there.

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