

AGENCIA DE ADUANA

The Agencia de Aduana was the Customs Agency under the Central Administration during the Spanish Regime. This Agency formed part of the Administracion Central de Aduana (Central Customs Administration) under the Aduana y Administracion de Hacienda Publica (Customs and Public Finance Administration). Stamps showing the 'Aduana' handstamps were typically used by the Customs House or agents of the Custom House on customs clearance documents or receipts.



The Aduana was built in Intramuros, with Tomas Cortes, a Spanish engineer, taking charge of the project in 1822. Construction of the building commenced in 1823. Despite objections due to insufficient space for warehousing and its distance from the port, the construction continued until its completion in 1829. However, the Aduana suffered damages from earthquakes in 1863 and 1869, which led to its demolition in 1872. Reconstruction of the building was later awarded to Luis Perez Yap-Sionjue, which began in 1874 and was completed in 1876. The rebuilding of the structure was based on the original design of Tomas Cortes but was expanded to house the Custom Offices, the Civil Administration Office (Intendencia General de Hacienda), the Treasury, and the Mint House (Casa de Moneda). It served as the main office of the Spanish Colonial Government and was known as the Intendencia (Public Administrative Office)

During World War II, the building once again suffered damages; first by the Japanese bombings in 1941 and later on by the American and Filipino military artillery during the Battle of Manila of 1945. It was repaired after the war and functioned as the Offices of the Central Bank of the Philippines, the National Treasury and eventually the Commission on Elections. Its eventual abandonment was in 1979 when the building was ravaged by fire. In 1997, the National Archives acquired the building to serve as their future office, with restoration efforts underway.

In addition to the generic handstamp canceller used at Agencia de Aduana, there are known cancellers used by some of the Custom House Agents who created personalised handstamps that incorporated their name. Examples of such Custom House Agents include Pedro Javier Rodriguez and Antonio Maria Barretto.

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BUSINESS HANDSTAMP

BH1: TWO STRAIGHT LINE HANDSTAMP

AGENCIA DE ADUANA

MANILA

AGENCIA DE ADUANA on Top
Dividing Line In Between
MANILA on Bottom

Stamps Issued in 1882



Scott #86



Scott #88



Scott #88



Scott #88