

## C FRESSEL & COMPANY

Carl Victor Fressel was born on February 13, 1856 in Luneburg, Kingdom of Hannover. He married Elvira Motell Fressel (born: Barcelona, Spain, March 20, 1867 – died: Melle, Belgium, December 7, 1933) and they had nine children. It is assumed that Carl moved to Manila in the late 1870s, supported by records showing him working as a clerk for the merchants Prehn & Company in 1879, located at Calle Nueva 57, alongside Luis Otto Prehn (merchant), R Liebich (clerk), A. Wusinowski (clerk), and Jose Vizcoude (clerk).

Carl Fressel founded his own merchant business from as early as 1882, trading under C Fressel & Co. The company was initially located at Calle Nueva 35 (in the heart of Chinatown in Binondo), with the following staff: Carl Fressel (merchant), A. Wusinowski (merchant), and G Wieneke (clerk). In 1899, the company is listed as 'merchants and manufacturers of artificial stones', with the main office located at Calle Nueva 36 and the factory in Santa Mesa. C Fressel and Company was agents for the Fire Insurance Company of 1877, Hamburg, between 1888 and 1890.

In 1901, the company employed George Ludewick as an assistant, who remained with the company until it was disbanded around 1918. That same year, records show C Fressel & Co located at Calle Nueva 118-122 and Santa Mesa (factory). The factory was soon moved from the Santa Mesa site to a new location along the banks of the Pasig River still in Santa Mesa, providing easier access to water transportation for their goods. Carl Fressel continued as proprietor until his death in Manila on September 4, 1904. Soon after Carl's death, the company traded as Successors, status which remained until 1917. During this period, George Ludewick was manager of the Successor Company. From 1912, the company was located at Calle Nueva 446-456, Bonondo with the factory remaining at the banks of the Pasig River, Santa Mesa.

With the outbreak of World War I, C Fressel & Co was one of the German businesses seized under the 'Trading with the Enemy Act', which called for the sequestration of enemy property during hostilities. As a consequence, it appears that George Ludewig was retained as a prisoner and stationed in Russia. No further records have been found relating to C Fressel & Co after 1917.

It is worthy to note that Andres Bonifacio worked for an unconfirmed duration at Fressel and Company up to 1896. He started as a bodegero (warehouse worker) and supply clerk, later being promoted to Sales Agent in 1892. It has been stated that the warehouse served as his library and study room.

### Extract from the Far Eastern Review, May 1907

The first factory to be established in the Orient for the manufacture of cement tile and pipe was the one that to-day bears the name of the Santa Mesa Cement Tile and Pipe Factory, situated on the bank of the Pasig River at Santa Mesa, Manila. This institution was founded by Mr Carl Fressel, in 1886 [*records show this to be 1882*], and he continued as proprietor until his death, in 1904. When first opened it was situated on the Santa Mesa road, but was later transferred to its present site in order to have the benefit of water transportation, by Mr G Ludewig, the actual manager.

The site on which the present modern plant stands covers an area of 24,000 square meters, comprising in all 13 buildings sufficiently large to give plenty of space to the several departments into which the works are divided.

One building is set aside for cement colors, with a mixing room attached, where all the material is made available and the work in the department carried on with dispatch.

The carpenter shop, which occupies another building, is equipped with all the necessary modern machinery, so that all the construction work connected with the factory is greatly expedited.

Besides these two buildings there are three press shops, each with a large storeroom for tiles: one shop equipped with a motor press, together with a polisher utilized in finishing marble construction; a shop with a large hydraulic press for power and heat: one warehouse for moldings, four pipe camarines, where the finished product is stored: and besides all these buildings there are two large cement brick factories.

With this splendid equipment the works turn out daily 7,000 tiles, 6,000 bricks, and 1,000 meters of different sizes of pipe. In all the different classes of work this enterprising firm uses only the very best material and gives it the most careful supervision.

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The cement and color are all first class and imported direct from the German manufacturers, so that the output may be depended upon as being of first-class quality.

In addition to the manufacturing feature, contracts are undertaken by the Santa Mesa Cement Tile and Pipe Factory for all kinds of cement construction, one special feature of which is the supplying of imitation marble tiles and doorsteps and other ornamental construction in which cement is utilized.

This factory furnished the Philippine Telephone Company the cement conduits for the construction of the subways for the cables, a total of 50,000 cable feet. As an indication of the capacity and expedition with which this contract was handled, all the material was supplied in twenty days.

So effective has been the service of this well-established manufactory that its product is used exclusively for all public and private work in the Philippines. This is the best testimonial of the high standard of the product.

In addition to the general recognition given this factory, it was awarded the gold medal at the Philippine exhibition in 1895.

Cement bricks are not more expensive than other bricks and may be made in any colors. The hollow compressed are especially adapted to the Tropics, the air chamber keeping out all heat. For house building these bricks cannot be equalled for strength and durability, while coolness, which is so desirable in the Tropics, is ever assured.

One advantage of the cement brick that appeals to the householder is the tenacity with which it retains its color, and this does away with the necessity of painting a house in the construction of which this brick is used exclusively. The brick is carefully polished, so it may be easily washed and still retain its brightness.

The bricks turned out by this factory are of the American standard, viz: 8 by 3-1/8 by 2 inches.

## **Key Dates and Timelines**

**1882** : Earliest records referencing C Fressel & Co, located at Calle Nueva 35, with the following staff: Carl Fressel (merchant), A. Wusinowski (merchant), and G Wieneke (clerk).

**1888-1889** : C Fressel & Co located at Calle Nueva 36 with the following staff: Carl Fressel (merchant) and H Bollhorst (merchant), Ed Schoop (clerk) and P Stuhlmann (clerk).

**1890** : C Fressel & Co, merchants, Calle Nueva 36 with the following staff: Carl Fressel, H Bollhorst, P Stuhlmann, H Fincke, H von Blume.

**1894** : C Fressel & Co, merchants, Calle Nueva 36 with the following staff: Carl Fressel (merchant), H Bollhorst (merchant), G Wieneke (clerk).

**1898** : C Fressel & Co, merchants, Calle Nueva 36 with the following staff: Shows Carl Fressel, G Wieneke (clerk, signs per pro).

**1899-1900** : C Fressel & Co, Merchants and Manufacturers of artificial stones, Calle Nueva 36 and Santa Mesa. Carl Fressel (merchant), G Wieneke (clerk, signs per pro), A Aparicio (clerk).

**1901-1902** : C Fressel & Co, Merchants and Manufacturers of artificial stones and cement pipes, Calle Nueva 118-122 and Santa Mesa. Carl Fressel (merchant), G Wieneke (assistant, signs per pro), George Ludewig (assistant), A Aparicio (clerk).

**1903-1905** : C Fressel & Co, Merchants and Manufacturers of artificial stones and cement pipes, Calle Nueva 118-122 and Santa Mesa. Carl Fressel (merchant), George Ludewig (assistant), H Heidl (assistant), M Ripol (assistant).

**1904** : Carl Fressel dies on September 4th in Manila at the age of 48.

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**1906** : C Fressel & Co, Merchants and Manufacturers of artificial stones and cement pipes, Calle Nueva 118-122 and Santa Mesa. Carl Fressel (merchant), George Ludewig (assistant).

**1909** : C Fressel & Co, Succesors, Importers and Manufacturers of cement tiles, pipes etc, Calle Nueva 118-122 and Pasig River (factory). George Ludewig, E Nottebohm, W Fressel, C Martinez.

**1910** : C Fressel & Co, Succesors, Importers and Manufacturers of cement tiles, pipes etc, Calle Nueva 118-122 and Pasig River (factory). G Ludewig.

**1912** : C Fressel & Co, Succesors, Importers and Exporters, Manufacturers of cement tiles, pipes, etc. Calle Nueva 446-454, Binondo and Pasig River (factory). George Ludewig, G Brockmann (assistant, signs per pro), E Nottebohm, H Pantell, E Bong.

**1916** : C Fressel & Co, Successors, Importers and Exporters, Manufacturers of cement tiles, pipes, etc. Calle Nueva 446-456, Binondo and Pasig River (factory). George Ludewig, E Nottebohm (signs per pro), W Meyer, W Overbeck, M Henry.

**1917** : C Fressel & Co, Successors, Importers and Exporters, Manufacturers of cement tiles, pipes, etc. Calle Nueva 446-456, Binondo and Pasig River (factory). No staff listing.

## Supreme Court Hearing Extract

**G.R. No. L-12955      November 8, 1917**

**WALTER E. OLSEN and HARTFORD BEAUMONT**, petitioners, vs.  
**FRESSEL & CO. and SIMPLICIO DEL ROSARIO**, judge of First Instance of Manila, respondents.

This is an original action commenced in the Supreme Court. Its purpose was to obtain the writ of *mandamus* to require the said Simplicio del Rosario to proceed to the trial and determination of the case of Olsen vs. Fressel and Co. (No. 14354), pending in the Court of First Instance of the city of Manila, as soon as may be, and not later than a date to be fixed in the order of the Supreme Court.

It appears from the record that on or about the 21st day of August, 1916, the petitioners herein commenced an action against Fressel and Co. in the Court of First Instance of the city of Manila for the purpose of recovering the sum of P3,498.65, with interest and costs; that on the 11th day of September, 1916, the defendants filed a demurrer, alleging that the facts stated in the complaint did not constitute a cause of action; that said demurrer was overruled on the 27th day of September, 1916; that the defendants duly answered the complaint in said cause on the on the 14th day of November, 1916; that the cause was set down for hearing on the 8th day of February, 1917. ***On the 29th day of January, 1917, the defendants presented a motion praying that the trial of said cause be postponed "until a reasonable time after the conclusion of the present war." Said motion was based upon the affidavit of one E. Nottebohn. Said affidavit asserted that one George Ludewig was an indispensable witness for the defendants; that said witness had been the manager of the defendant company during all of the time mentioned in the complaint; that said witness was at present a prisoner in Russia; that he was a partner of the defendant company and would return to the Philippine Islands upon being released from imprisonment, or give his testimony by deposition, which testimony could not be taken while he was a prisoner.*** The motion to postpone the trial was finally brought on for hearing before the Honorable Simplicio del Rosario, judge, and was by him granted on the 8th day of February, 1917. The dispositive part of the order granting said motion is as follows:

The reasons given for the postponement of the trial in the present cause are fully supported by the affidavit presented in support of the said motion for postponement of the trial. The lower court, under the facts given, was fully satisfied in granting the said motion.

# C FRESSEL & COMPANY

## BUSINESS HANDSTAMPS

### BH1: TWO SINGLE LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



C. FRESSEL & Co on Top  
MANILA in Centre

CHINESE CHARACTERS on Bottom

(Phonetic and Actual Translation: Carl Fressel Company)



Scott #78  
(1882)



Scott #88  
(1882)

### BH2: TWO SINGLE LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



C FRESSEL & Co on Top  
Blank Centre

MANILA on Bottom with Emblem on Either Side



Warren W-164  
(1894)

## C FRESSEL & COMPANY

### BUSINESS HANDSTAMPS

#### BH1: TWO SINGLE LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



28 July 1881 – Cover from Manila to Hamburg, Germany

Two 8c Stamps Paying Double Weight Rate to Europe tied with Parrilla Cancel

'Manila - Star' Departure Circular Date Stamp

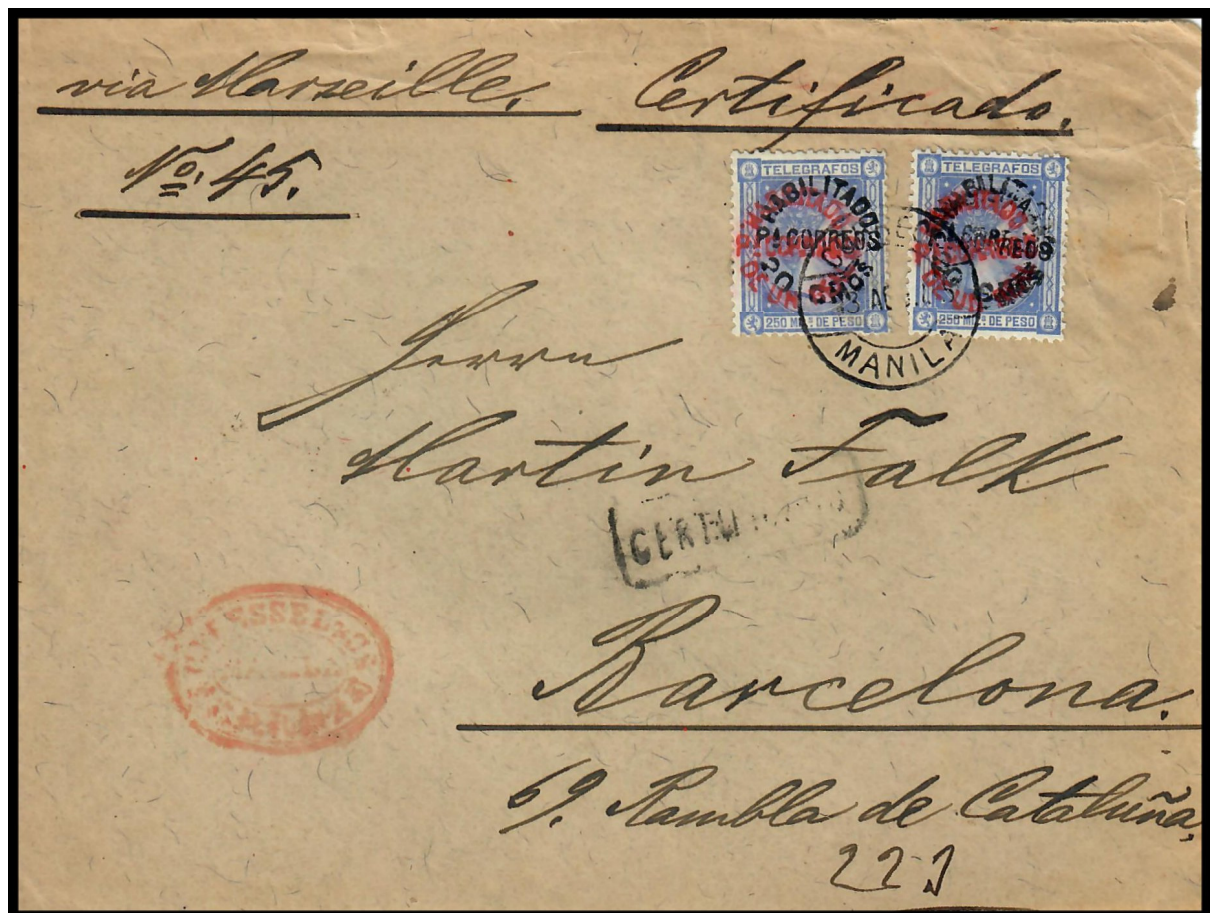
Red 'C Fressel & Co' Business Handstamp on Left Side (BH-1)

*InterAsia Auction - July 1, 2013*

# C FRESSEL & COMPANY

## BUSINESS HANDSTAMPS

### BH1: TWO SINGLE LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



13 August 1885 – Registered Cover Front from Manila to Barcelona, Spain, via Marseille

Stamps tied with 'Correos – Manila' Circular Date Stamp

Red 'C Fressel & Co' Business Handstamp on Left Side (BH-1)

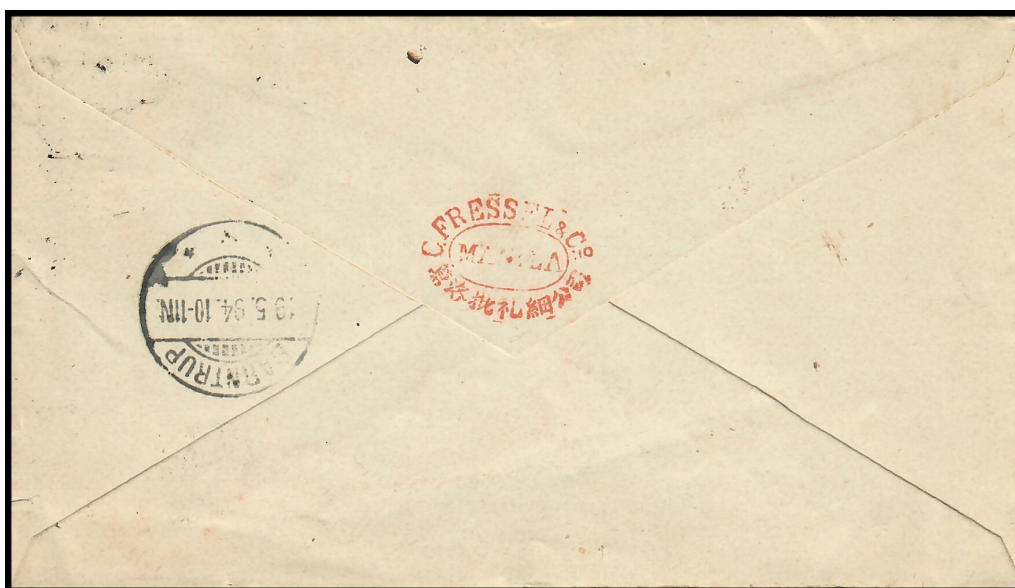
*Tampered Cover: Original Cover Front with Genuine 'CERTIFICADO' Cancel and Business Handstamp  
Both Stamps Affixed at a later date and tied with Bogus 'Correos – Manila' CDS*



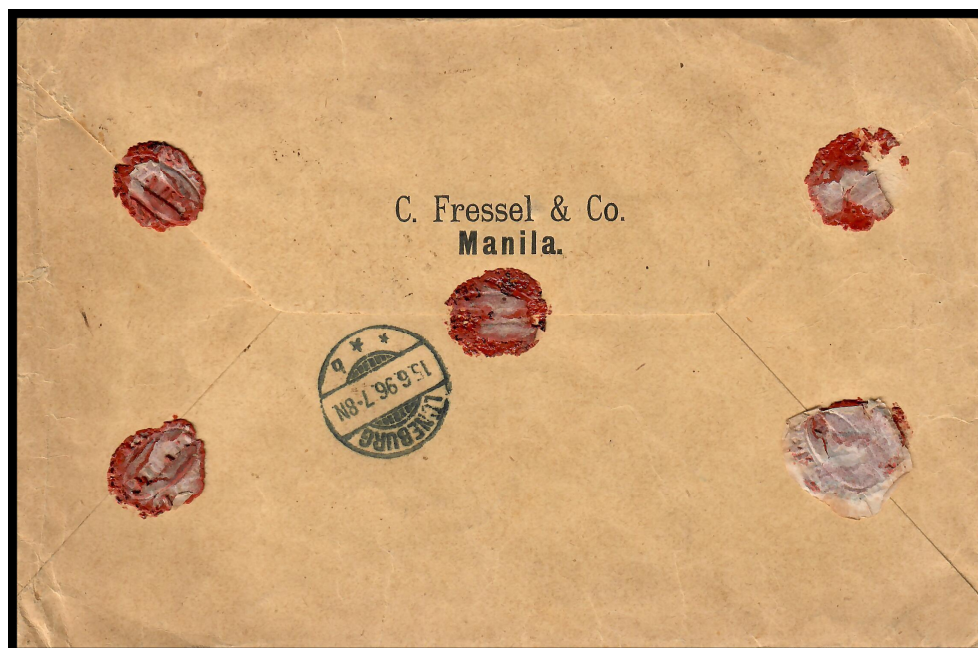
# C FRESSEL & COMPANY

## BUSINESS HANDSTAMPS

### BH1: TWO SINGLE LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



18 August 1894 – Cover from Manila to Barntrup, Germany, via Steamship 'Santo Domingo'  
 8c Stamp Paying Single Weight Rate to Europe tied with Correos - Manila Circular Date Stamp  
 Barntrup (19 May 1894) Receiving Circular Date Backstamp  
 Red 'C Fressel & Co' Business Handstamp on Reverse (BH-1)

**C FRESSSEL & COMPANY****RETURN ADDRESS ON BACK OF COVER****RA1: C. Fressel & Co, Manila.****C. Fressel & Co.  
Manila.**

12 May 1896 – Registered Cover from Manila to Lüneburg, Germany, via Barcelona  
32c Paying Triple Weight Registered Rate, Stamps tied with 'Correos - Manila' Circular Date Stamp  
Lüneburg (15 June 1896) Receiving Circular Date Stamp on Reverse



## C FRESSEL & COMPANY

### US OCCUPATION

### BUSINESS HANDSTAMPS

#### BH3: THREE STRAIGHT LINE HANDSTAMP

Succ. de C. FRESSEL & Co.  
G. LUDEWIG.  
S. O. C.



11 July 1908 – Postal Card from Manila to Hamburg, Germany, per SS Rubi

Cancelled with Manila Duplex Cancel

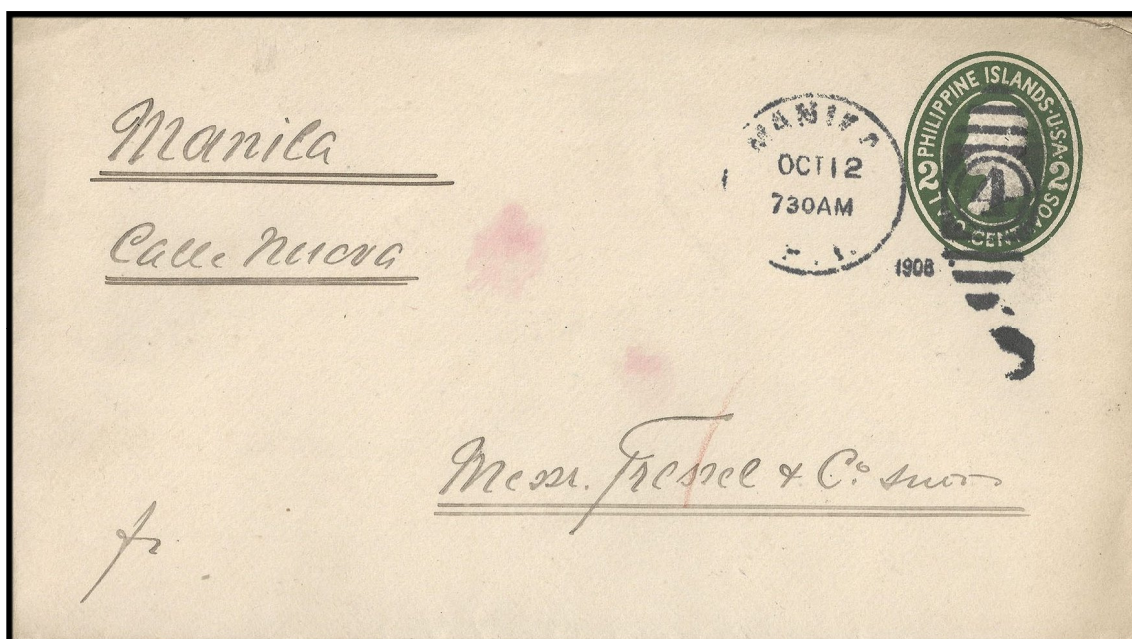
Blue Business Handstamp on Left Side (BH-3)

*Soon after Carl Fressels death in 1904, C Fressel & Company traded as Successors until 1917  
During this period, George Ludewig was manager of the Successor Company*

## C FRESSEL & COMPANY

### US OCCUPATION

PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO FRESSEL & Co SUCCESSORS  
CALLE NUEVA, MANILA



12 October 1908 – Cebu to Manila Envelope

Botica Antigua Business Handstamp (10 October 1908) on Reverse

Receiving (12 October 1908) Manila Duplex Cancel on Front

*From the Collection of Christian Preusse*