

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas S.A., also known as the Campania de Filipinas (CdF), or by its more popular nickname “La Tabacalera”, was founded on November 26, 1881 in Barcelona by Antonio Lopez y Lopez, the first Marques of Comillas (near Santander, Spain). He was a financial genius who parlayed his work adventures in Cuba and Latin America into steamship companies and trading businesses. He was the most influential Spanish businessman of his generation and counted King Alfonso XII and Prime Minister Antonio Canovas as his personal friends.



López created the Tabacalera as a private company designed to acquire the tobacco monopoly's assets from the Spanish colonial government. The Tabacalera's Incorporators, along with López, were the Sociedad General de Credito Inmobiliario Español, Banque de Paris and the Bank of the Netherlands. The Spanish crown remained the majority shareholder, and the company was also listed on the Madrid and Barcelona stock exchanges. The Tabacalera took over the five existing government factories in the Philippines, and the associated logistics and trading network, even as the tobacco monopoly officially came to an end on December 3, 1882.



La Flor de la Isabela Factory

Tabacalera dedicated itself to exporting tobacco from the Philippines to the Spanish Tobacco Monopoly. During its heyday, Tabacalera exercised an almost monopolistic control on the whole Philippine tobacco leaf industry. The company established “La Flor de la Isabela” (the Flower of Isabela) in 1887, as the largest and most sophisticated tobacco and cigar factory in the world at the time. It was the first Philippine cigar factory capable of volume production for export. By the late 19th century, primarily through the export of La Flor de la Isabela, the Manila Cigar became every bit as celebrated throughout the world as the Havana Cigar.

It opened distribution and logistics operations to sort, trade and sell tobacco and acquired properties in San Antonio, Santa Isabel and San Luis in Cagayan Valley. It also established a shipping company, Compañia Transatlantica, as well as the Tabacalera Insurance Co.

It expanded into many non-tobacco activities and grew rapidly until the Philippine Revolution of 1898. With the American colonial government as a new master in the Philippines, Tabacalera lost its special status in the island and had to adjust to the competitive pressures of the world market.



Nevertheless it expanded into abaca (hemp), copra (coconut oil), sugar, inter-island shipping and liquor trading. In 1885 Tabacalera purchased 12,000 hectares of forestland and established “Hacienda Luisita”, a sugar plantation located in the province of Tarlac. After World War I, it ploughed its investments into sugar milling and rice trading. It enjoyed a boom in revenues and profits even as its tobacco exports declined which its sugar and copra businesses more than made up for. It became the Philippines' largest sugar and coconut exporter. At its peak it was the largest company and employer in the Philippines. Hacienda Luisita alone employed more than 6,000 Filipino and 200 Spanish nationals.

From 1900 to 1940 Tabacalera's fortunes went boom and bust with the Philippine economy and was subjected to the many sugar quotas imposed by the US Congress. In addition, the introduction and widespread popularity of cigarettes eventually displaced cigars in the market. During World War II, many of the Tabacalera's facilities were destroyed. The company rebuilt after the war, but by the late 1980s, its operations were a faint echo of what it had once been a hundred years before. After a century, CdF sold the entire Tabacalera tobacco business, including the name, to a Filipino group. This group rejuvenated the factory, adding modern equipment and storage facilities and a vacuum chamber, and rebranded the business "La Flor de la Isabela," with new packaging for all lines. One thing didn't change: the factory continued to make cigars the same way they made them in 1881, "*totalmente hecho a mano*" (totally handmade).

Today, the company has reverted back to its old name "Tabacalera Incorporada". Its tradition is more than a name. Each cigar made is a work of art, and a product of impeccable quality. Their cigars undergo strict quality measures to ensure consistency in appearance, fermentation, draw, smell, and taste. Tabacalera's goal remains to deliver the best smoking experience you will ever have.

Tabacalera's Cigar Lines:

Tabacalera: Tabacalera's flagship brand.

1881: Well-balanced and medium bodied, 1881 is a blend featuring the finest Philippine filler aged to perfection.

1881 Perique: One of Tabacalera's favourite premium cigars which represents the foundation of the company. When launched a few years ago, Tabacalera entered a bold new phase in world-class cigar making tradition with this blend. A must try.

Don Juan Urquijo: Tabacalera's top of the line cigar brand encompasses complex flavours to produce a medium to full-bodied cigar. It is described by many as the perfect morning cigar.

Alhambra: Tabacalera's everyday brand that is known to many in Europe.



COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

SINGLE OUTER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



COMPANIA GENERAL / DE (TWO LINES) ON TOP
TABACOS DE FILIPINAS IN CENTRE
MANILA ON BOTTOM WITH EMBLEM ON EITHER SIDE



Scott #85
(1882)

SINGLE OUTER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



COMPANIA GENERAL / DE (TWO LINES) ON TOP
TABACOS DE FILIPINAS IN CENTRE
INCOMPLETE DESCRIPTION ON BOTTOM



Scott #88
(1882)

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

SPANISH TIMBRE MOVIL DOCUMENT



7 March 1882 – Timbre Movil Fiscal Document issued in Barcelona, Spain

Value of 10-centimos de peseta, based on Article 133 of the Law (Royal Order) dated 31 December 1881

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

SPANISH TIMBRE MOVIL DOCUMENT

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

SOCIÉTÉ ANONIME DE CRÉDIT
 Constituída par-Acte authentiqué devant Mr. D. Luis Gonzaga Soler y Pla, Notaire le 26 Novembre 1881.

SOCIÉTAD ANÓNIMA DE CRÉDITO
 Constituída por escritura pública ante el Notario D. Luis Gonzaga Soler y Pla, en 26 Noviembre de 1881.

CAPITAL SOCIAL 75000000 DE PIÉCETTES
 DOMICILE SOCIAL - BARCELONE.

CAPITAL SOCIAL 75000000 DE PESETAS
 DOMICILIO SOCIAL - BARCELONA.

PART DE FONDATEUR

CÉDULA DE FUNDADOR

N.º 012688

La Société en exécution des articles 5, 13 b. et des Statuts transcrits au verso reconnaît au porteur au présent titre la propriété d'une PART DE FONDATEUR avec les droits indiqués aux articles précités.

La Sociedad en cumplimiento de lo establecido en los artículos 5º, 13 y 14 de los estatutos que se insertan al respaldo reconoce al portador del presente título la propiedad de una CÉDULA DE FUNDADOR con los derechos que señalan los citados artículos.

El Director interino
El Secretario general interino
Don Juan Ayllón de Arriano

Barcelona 2 de Enero de 1882.

Emitted with sole stamp worth of 10 centimos de peseta. Según Real orden de 10 de Octubre de 1882.

EST. SUPERIOR NAVARREZ - CI. BARCELONA

10 October 1882 – Timbre Movil Fiscal Document issued in Barcelona, Spain

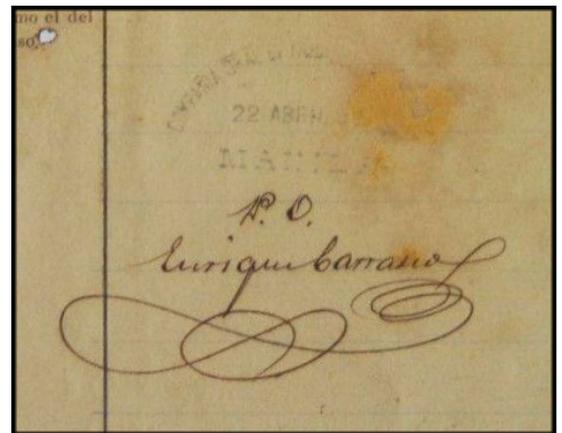
Value of 10-centimos de peseta, based on the Royal Order dated 10 October 1882

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

THREE LINED HANDSTAMP

COMPANIA GRAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS
 22 ABRIL 90
 MANILA

COMPANIA GRAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS (CURVED) ON TOP
 DATE IN CENTRE
 MANILA ON BOTTOM



22 April 1890 – Telegram from Manila to Barcelona, Spain, via Suez
 Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas Business Handstamp applied on document and signed

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

SINGLE LINED RECTANGULAR HANDSTAMP



COMPANIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS ON TOP
NUMBERS IN CENTRE
MANILA ON BOTTOM



Scott #155
(1896)



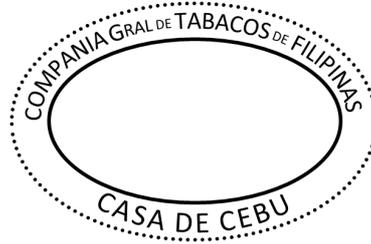
Warren W-153
(1891)



Warren W-210
(1896)

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

SINGLE OUTER DOTTED AND SINGLE INNER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



COMPANIA GRAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS ON TOP
BLANK CENTRE
CASA DE CEBU ON BOTTOM



Warren W-260
(1893)

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

PRIVATELY PRINTED COVER



7 January 1899 – Cover from Manila to Samarang (Semarang), Java (Indonesia)

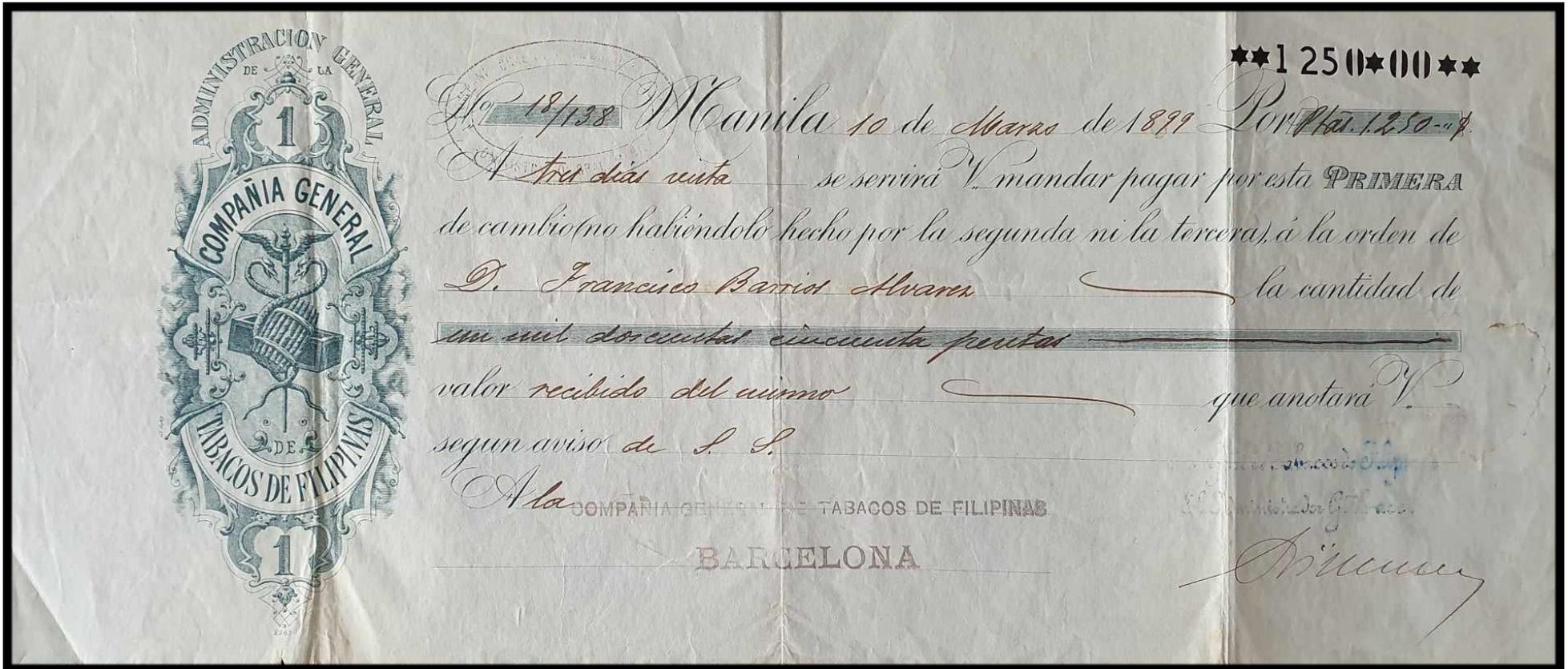
5c US Forerunner stamp tied with Manila Military Station, San Francisco Duplex Cancellation

Samarang (25 January 1899) Receiving Circular Date Backstamp

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

SINGLE OUTER AND INNER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



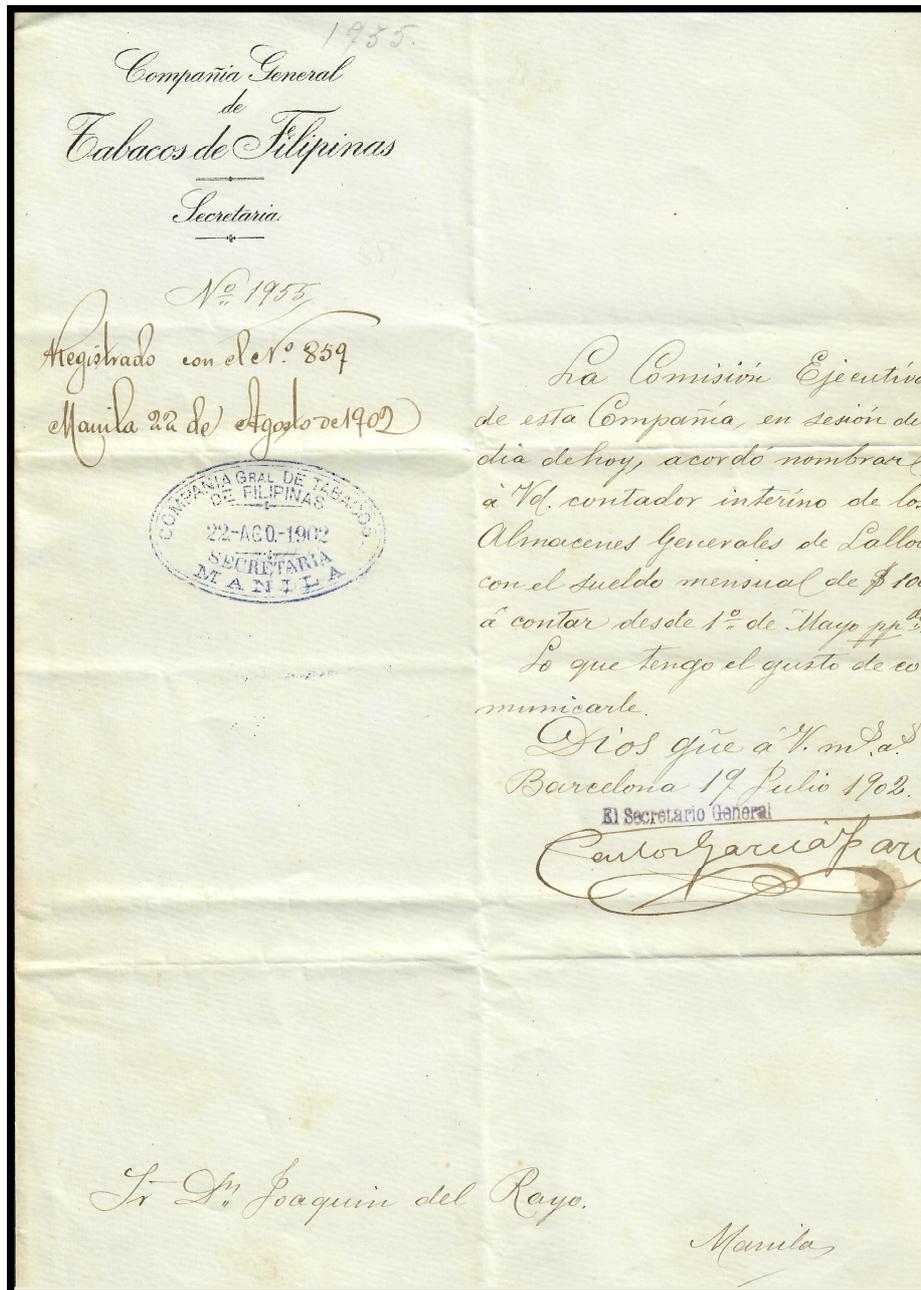
10 March 1899 – Receipt from Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas

Business Handstamp applied on top left of document

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

DOUBLE OUTER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP

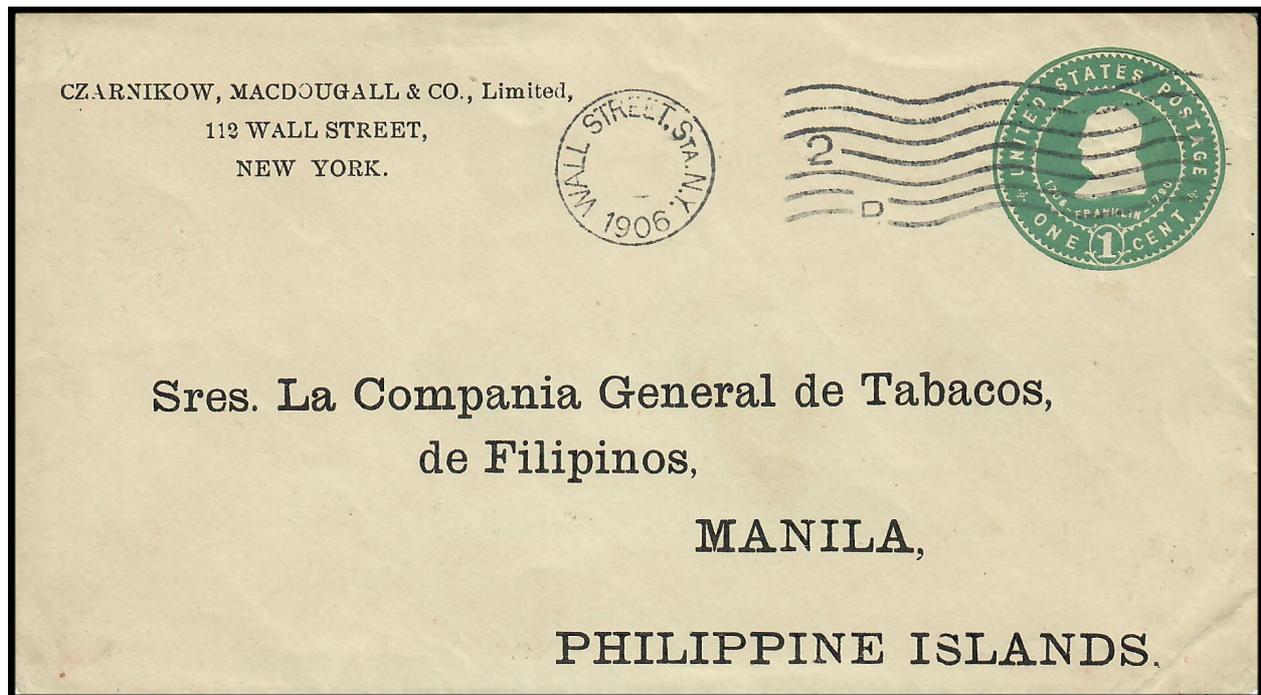


22 August 1902 – Official Pre-Printed Document signed by the Secretary General Compañia Gral de Tabacos de Filipinas 'Secretaria' Handstamp on front page

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

INBOUND PRE-PRINTED COVER FROM USA



1906 – Pre-Printed Pre-Stamped Cover from New York, USA to Manila

Wall Street Station, New York 1906 (not day or month) machine cancel

Addressed to Sres. La Compania General de Tabacos, de Filipinos (instead of Filipinas)

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

PRIVATE MAILING CARD FROM MANILA TO HANOI, CHINA



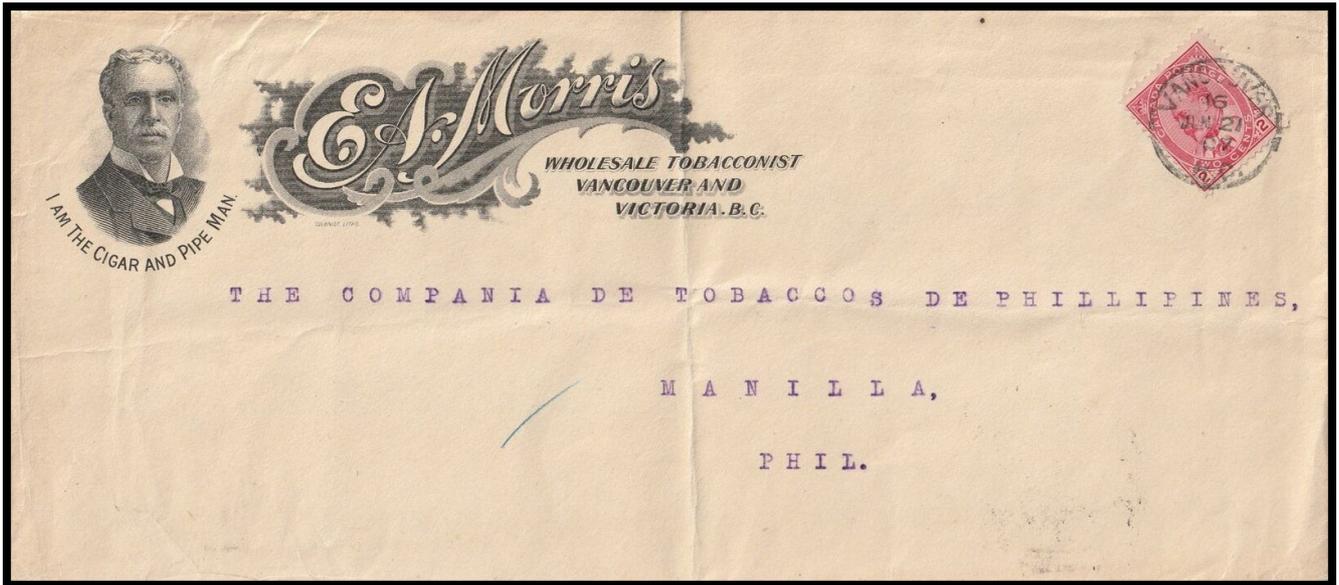
28 November 1906 – Private Mailing Card from Manila to Hanoi, Tonkin, China
Stamps Removed from Front with Manila Duplex Departure Cancellation
Victoria, HongKong (8 December 1906) Transit Cancellations

Card features the Iron Skeleton Building, new offices of Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas located in San Marcelino, Manila

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

INBOUND COVER FROM CANADA

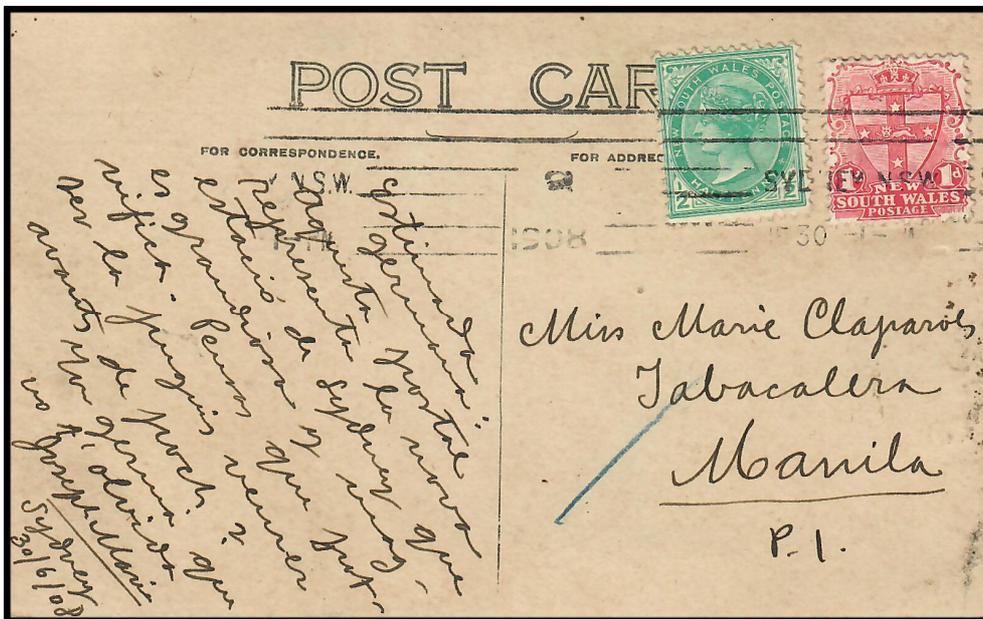
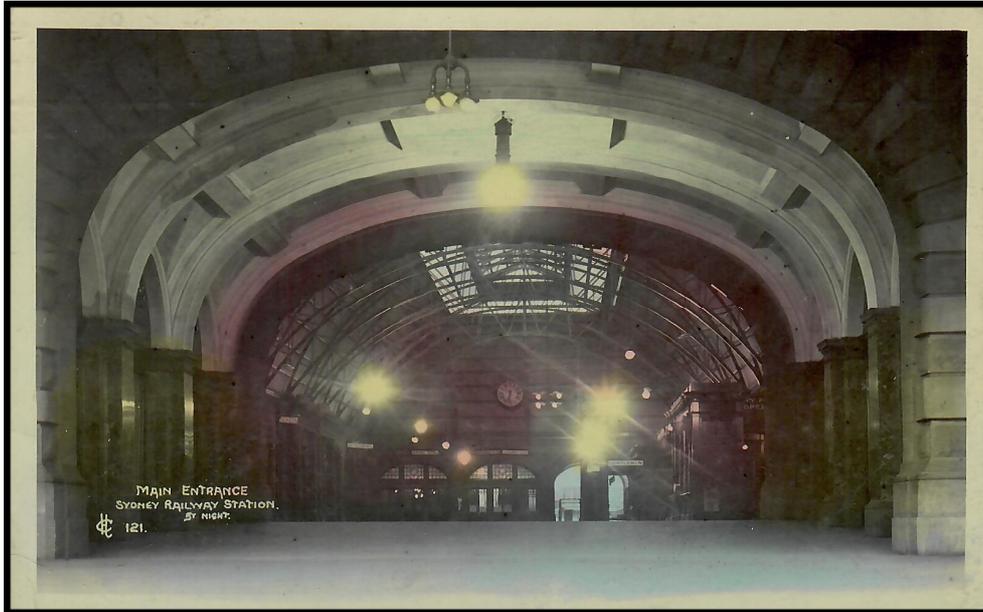


21 June 1907 – Cover from Vancouver, Canada to Manila
Addressed to The Compania de Tabacos de Phillipines (misspelt), Manila

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

INBOUND POST CARD FROM AUSTRALIA

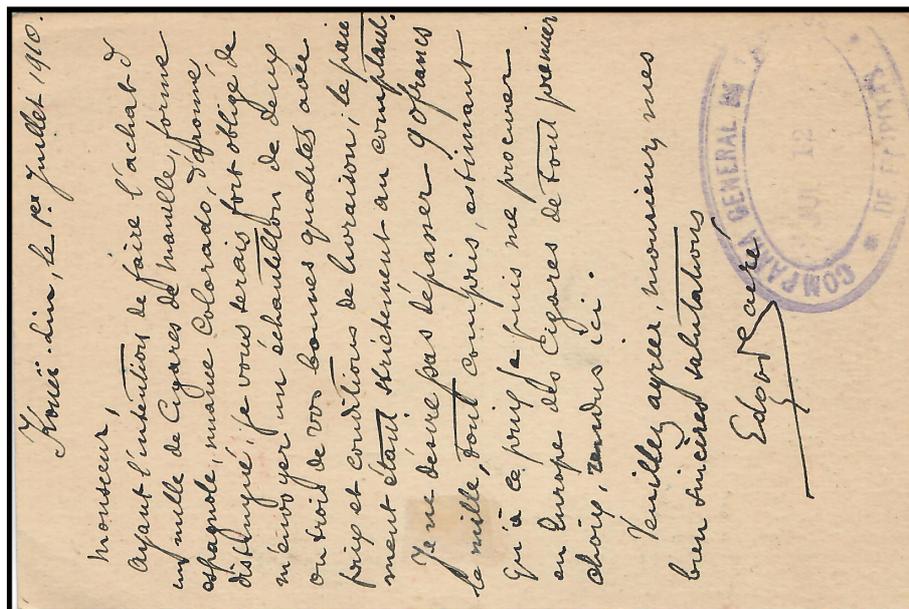
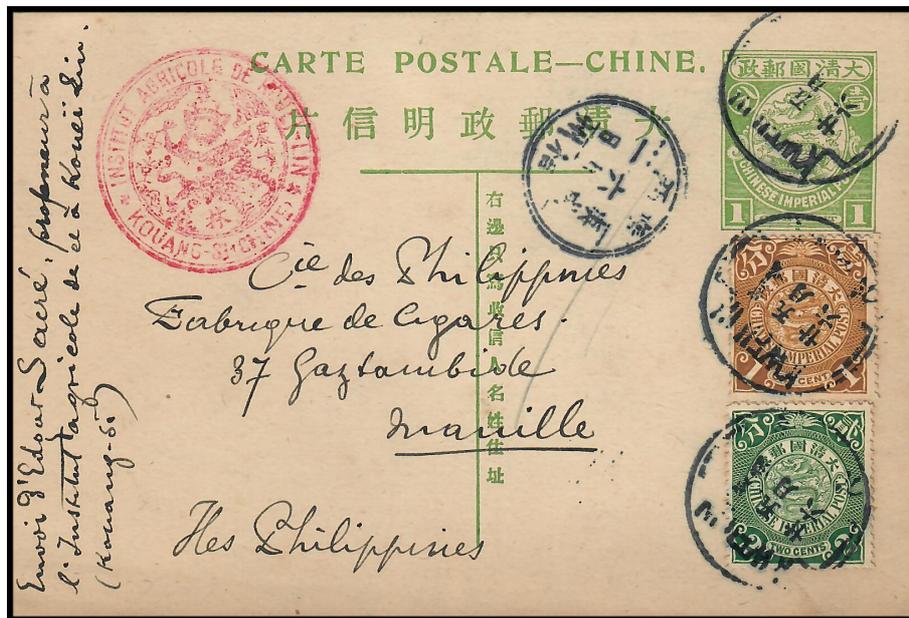


Manuscript: 30 June 1908 – Post Card from New South Wales, Australia to Manila
Addressed to Tabacalera, the flagship product of Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas
1908 Machine Departure Cancellation

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

DOUBLE OUTER AND SINGLE INNER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



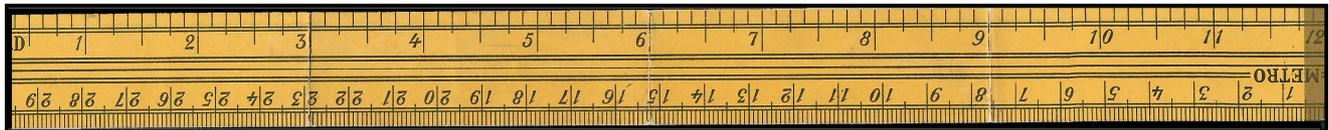
Manuscript: 1 July 1910 – Postal Card from China to Manila
 Addressed to Fabrique de Cigares (Fabrica de Tabacos), Manila
 Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas receiving dated handstamp on reverse

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

LA FLOR DE LA LISABELLA PROMOTIONAL TAPE MEASURE

Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas LA FLOR DE LA ISABELA FÁBRICA DE TABACOS MANILA	1911	Enero	Febrero	Marzo	Abril	Mayo	Junio	Julio	Agosto	Septiembre	Octubre	Noviembre	Diciembre		
	T.	3 9 10 20 30	L.	6 13 20 27	T.	8 10 17 24	L.	9 13 20 28	T.	11 18 25	T.	2 9 16 23 30	T.	4 11 18 25	
	M.	3 10 17 24 31	M.	7 14 21 28	M.	4 11 18 25	M.	2 9 16 23 30	M.	11 18 25	M.	3 10 17 24 31	M.	7 14 21 28	
	M.	4 11 18 25	M.	1 8 15 22 29	M.	5 12 19 26	M.	10 17 24 31	M.	7 14 21 28	M.	5 12 19 26	M.	1 8 15 22 29	
	T.	5 12 19 26	T.	2 9 16 23 30	T.	6 13 20 27	T.	4 11 18 25	T.	12 19 26	T.	3 10 17 24 31	T.	6 13 20 27	
V.	6 13 20 27	V.	3 10 17 24 31	V.	7 14 21 28	V.	12 19 26	V.	3 9 16 23 30	V.	1 8 15 22 29	V.	8 15 22 29	V.	8 15 22 29
S.	7 14 21 28	S.	4 11 18 25	S.	8 15 22 29	S.	6 13 20 27	S.	13 20 27	S.	2 9 16 23 30	S.	7 14 21 28	S.	4 11 18 25
D.	8 15 22 29	D.	5 12 19 26	D.	9 16 23 30	D.	2 9 16 23 30	D.	4 11 18 25	D.	8 15 22 29	D.	1 8 15 22 29	D.	5 12 19 26



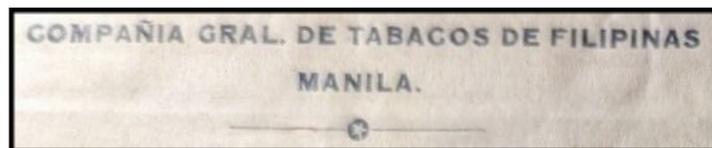
1911 – 12 Inch paper tape measure with calendar on reverse side

Promotional Item from Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas / La Flor de la Isabela

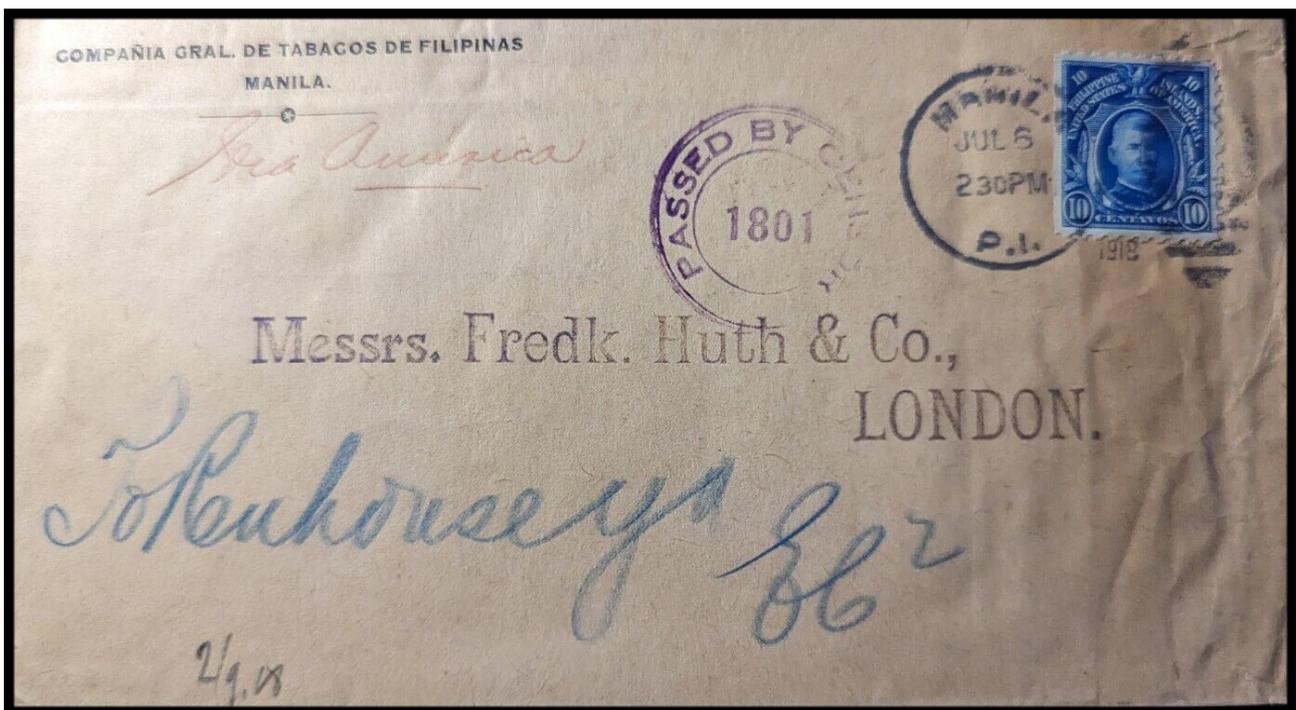
COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

COMPANIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS / MANILA CORNER CARD



COVER FRONT



6 July 1918 – Censor Cover from Manila to London, England

10c Stamp tied with Manila Duplex Departure Cancellation

Censor (1801) Circular Handstamp applied in England

Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas 'Contaduria' (Accountancy) Handstamp applied on Reverse

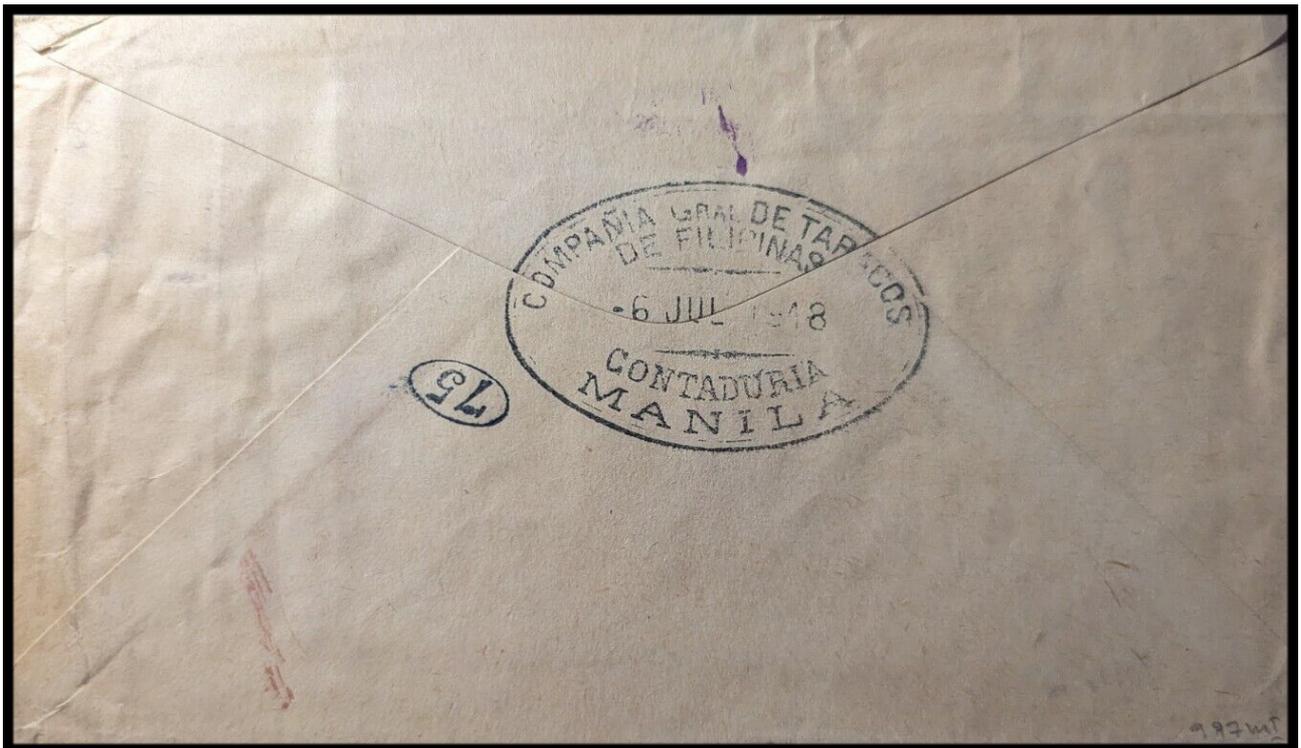
COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

DOUBLE OUTER AND SINGLE INNER LINED OVAL HANDSTAMP



REVERSE SIDE OF COVER



6 July 1918 – Censor Cover from Manila to London, England

10c Stamp tied with Manila Duplex Departure Cancellation

Censor (1801) Circular Handstamp applied in England

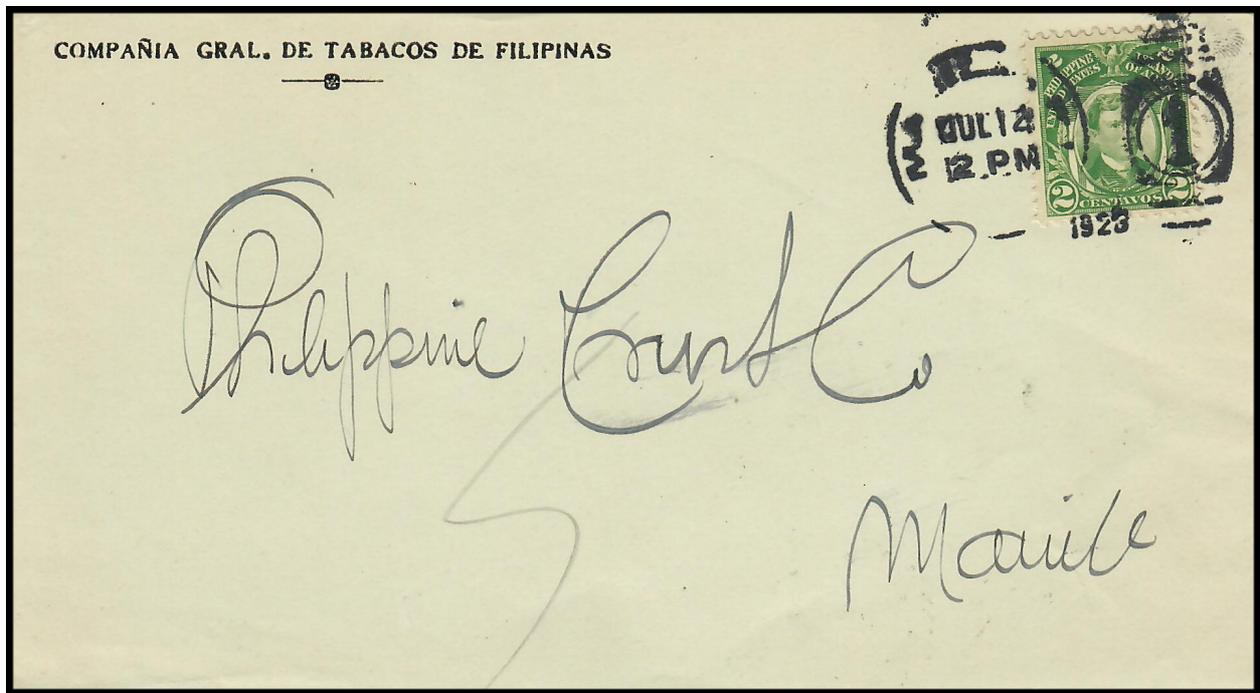
Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas 'Contaduria' (Accountancy) Handstamp applied on Reverse

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

COMPANIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS CORNER CARD

COMPAÑIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS
— 2 —



14 July 1923 – Manila Circulating Cover Front

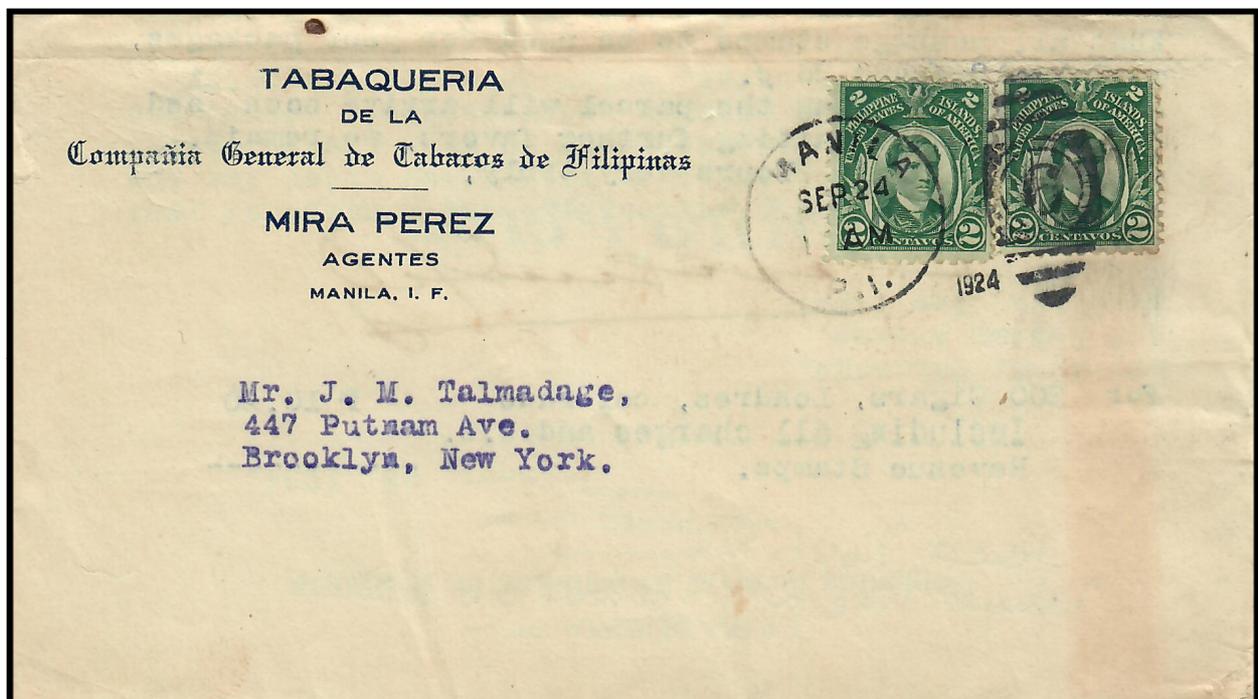
2c Stamp tied with Manila No. 1 Duplex Cancellation paying Single Weight Domestic Rate

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

COMPANIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS CORNER CARD

TABAQUERIA
DE LA
Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas
MIRA PEREZ
AGENTES
MANILA, I. F.



24 September 1924 – Cover from Manila to Brooklyn, New York, USA

Stamps tied with manila No. 6 Duplex Cancellation

24 September 1924 – Cover from Manila to Brooklyn, New York, USA

Stamps tied with manila No. 6 Duplex Cancellation

The Tabaqueria de la Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas, located at 57 Escolta, Binondo, was an agent exclusively selling cigars and cigarettes of La Flor de La Isabela Factory. Records in 1920 show Jose Mira Perez as Assistant Manager and in 1922 working as an Agent.

TABAQUERIA DE LA COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS (Factory: La Flor de La Isabela), Cigar and Cigarette Manufacturers — 57, Escolta; Teleph. 10; P.O. Box 75; Tel. Ad: Miraperez; Code: A B.U. 5th edn.
M. Mira Perez, agent
J. Mira Perez, do.
F. Policarpio, chief clerk
Perpetuo Conda, bookkeeper
Arturo Gay, assist. do.
Josefina del Rosario, cashier
Rafael Luque Pizarro, salesman
Juan Salmon, do.
Tirso Tabangcay, do.
Antonio Gonzales, collector
Roman Farolan, assist. chief clerk

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

COMPANIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS CORNER CARD

LETTER CONTENT

TABAQUERIA DE LA
Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas
 MIRA PEREZ, AGENTES
 MANILA Sept. 23, 1924.

Mr. J. M. Talmadge,
 447 Putnam Avenue,
 Brooklyn, New York.

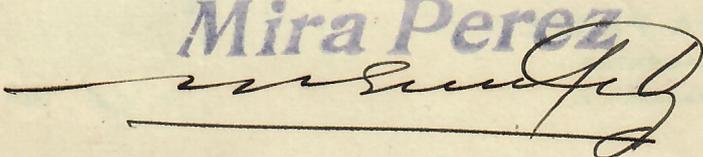
Sir :-

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your order of August 8th together with Money Order for the amount of \$ 6.00, and according to your instruction we have posted this morning under separate cover, two boxes of cigars, Londres, colorado as per registry receipt No. 45838.

The mail clerk has been instructed to see that all postage stamps to be used for your packages, must be 12 ¢ and 26 ¢.

Trusting the parcel will arrive soon and in good order, awaiting further favors, we remain,

Yours very truly,

Mira Perez


For 200 Cigars, Londres, colorado P 10.20
 Including all charges and U.S.
 Revenue Stamps. -----

Recd Nov 1, 24
 Verified P.M. change of address Nov 10, 24

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

PRE-PRINTED COVER FROM SPAIN TO FRANCE



14 December 1927 – Cover from Barcelona, Spain to Marseille, France

Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas Circular Dated Handstamp applied in Barcelona Headquarters

Barcelona (14 December 1927) Machine Departure Cancellation

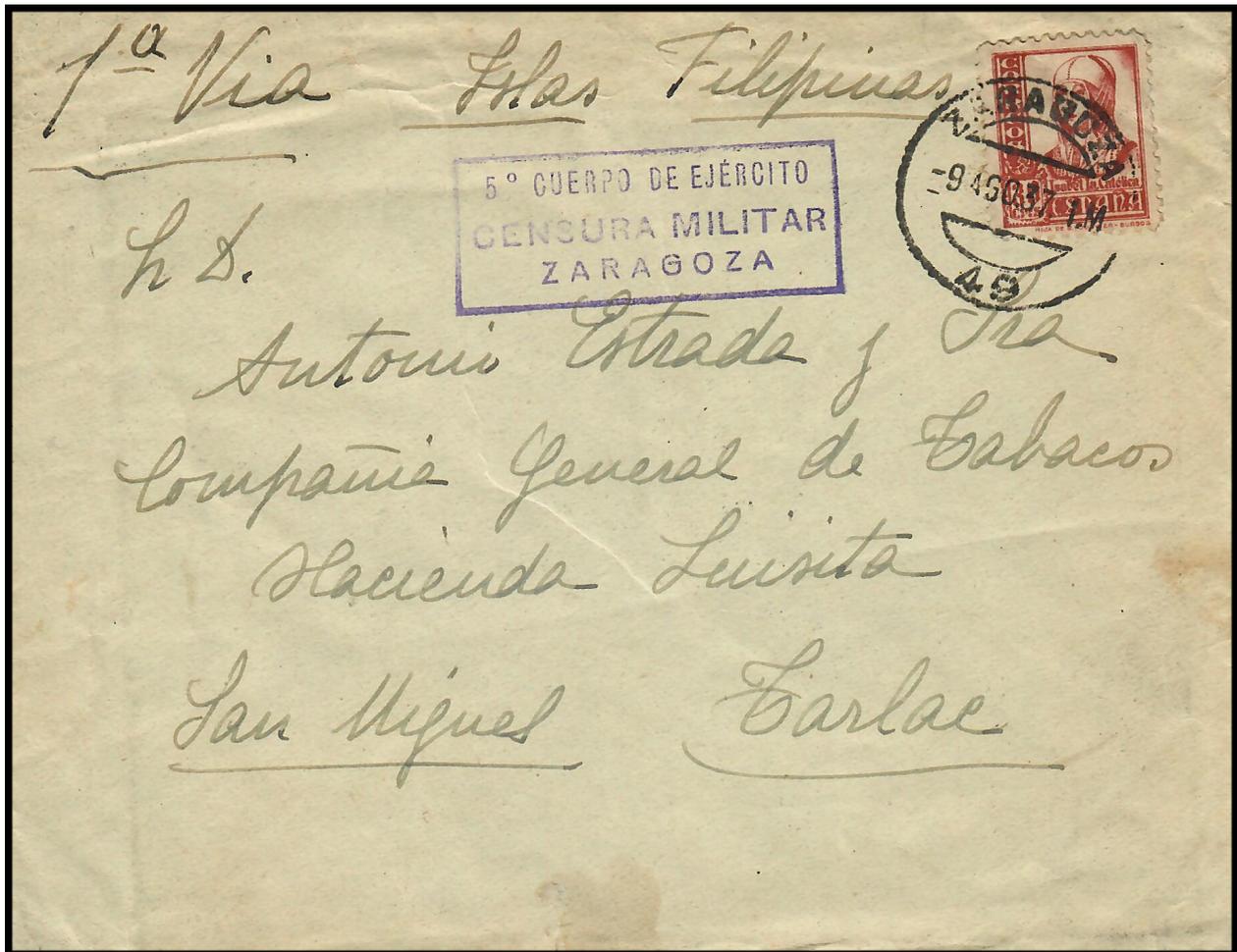
Pre-Printed Barcelona Return Address on Reverse Side

**COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS
DE FILIPINAS
BARCELONA**

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

INBOUND COVER TO HACIENDA LUISITA FROM SPAIN



9 August 1937 – Censor Cover from Zaragoza, Spain to San Miguel, Tarlac

Zaragoza Circular Date Departure Cancellation with corresponding Military Boxed Censor Handstamp

Addressed to Hacienda Luisita, San Miguel, Tarlac

San Miguel (8 September 1937) Receiving Circular Dated Backstamp

In 1885 Tabacalera purchased 12,000 hectares of forestland and established "Hacienda Luisita", a sugar plantation located in the province of Tarlac.

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

INBOUND CENSORED COVER FROM SPAIN



30 May 1940 – Censored Cover from Spain to Manila, via HongKong

Addressed to Tabacalera, Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas, Manila, then redirected to Cebu

Censor Tape applied on Arrival in HongKong

Victoria HongKong (17 June 1940) Transit and Manila (28 June 1940) Arrival circular date cancellations

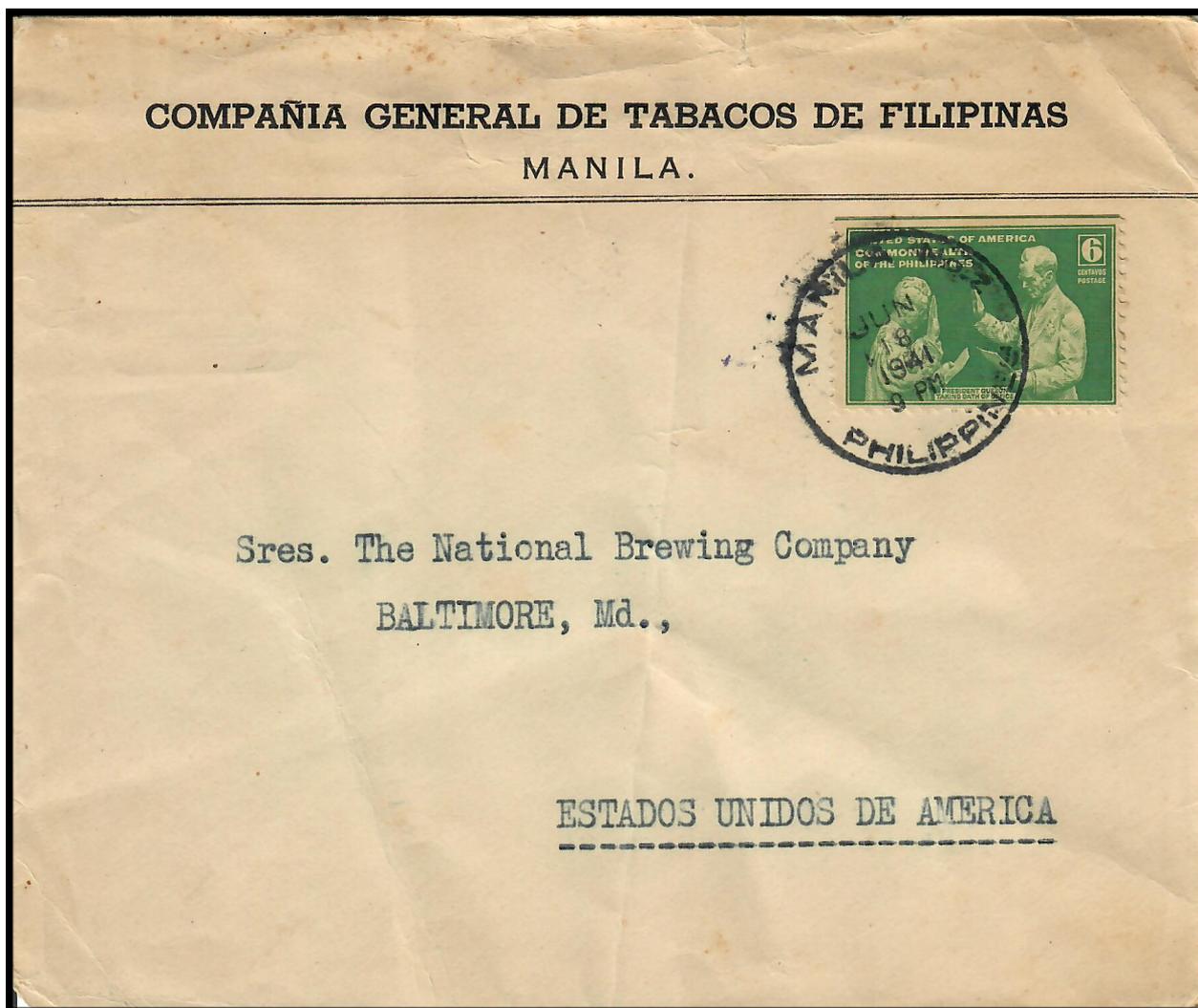
COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

COMPANIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS CORNER CARD

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS
MANILA.

COVER FRONT



18 June 1941 – Cover from Manila to Baltimore, USA

6c Stamp tied with Manila No. 2 Circular Date Departure Cancellation

Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas (Factoria Central) Business Handstamp on Reverse

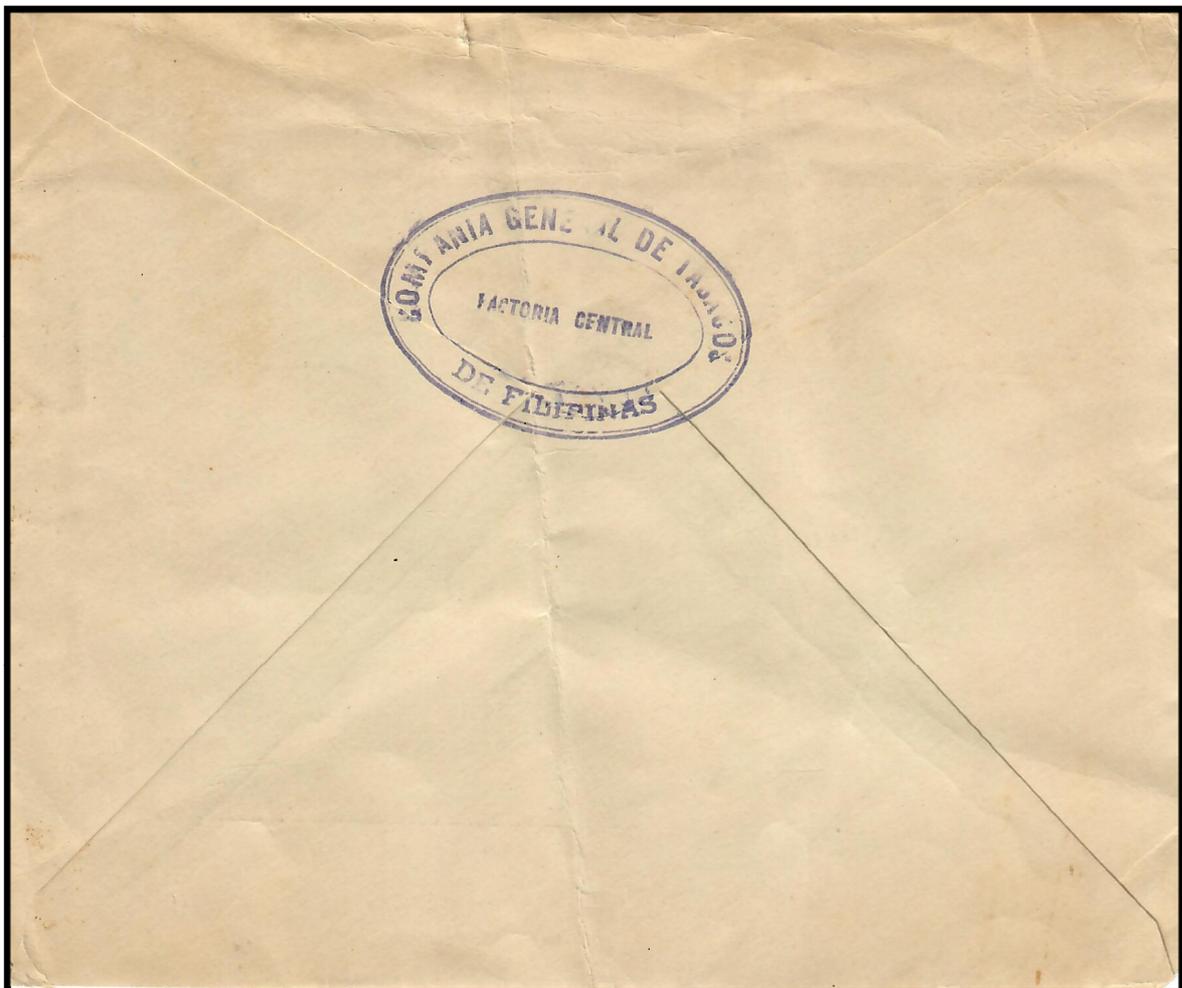
COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

DOUBLE OUTER AND SINGLE INNER LINED BUSINESS HANDSTAMP



REVERSE SIDE OF COVER



18 June 1941 – Cover from Manila to Baltimore, USA

6c Stamp tied with Manila No. 2 Circular Date Departure Cancellation

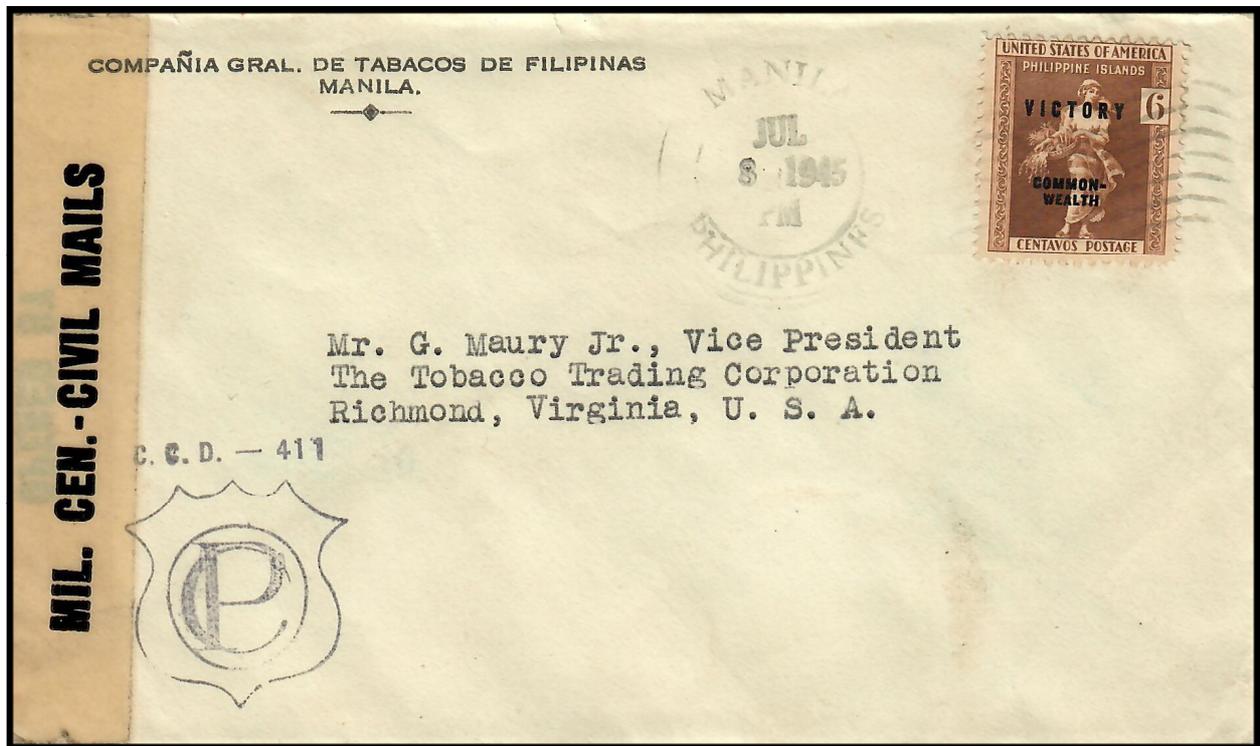
Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas (Factoria Central) Business Handstamp on Reverse

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

US OCCUPATION

COMPANIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS CORNER CARD

COMPAÑIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS
MANILA.



8 July 1945 – Censored Cover from Manila to Richmond, Virginia, USA

Manila Duplex Cancellation with Military Censor Tape and corresponding Censor Handstamp on left

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

COMPANIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS CORNER CARD

COMPAÑIA GRAL. DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS
MANILA.



26 November 1946 – Cover from Manila to Alameda, California, USA

Manila 'Help the Philippine Red Cross' Slogan Cancellation

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

INBOUND COVER FROM HONG KONG



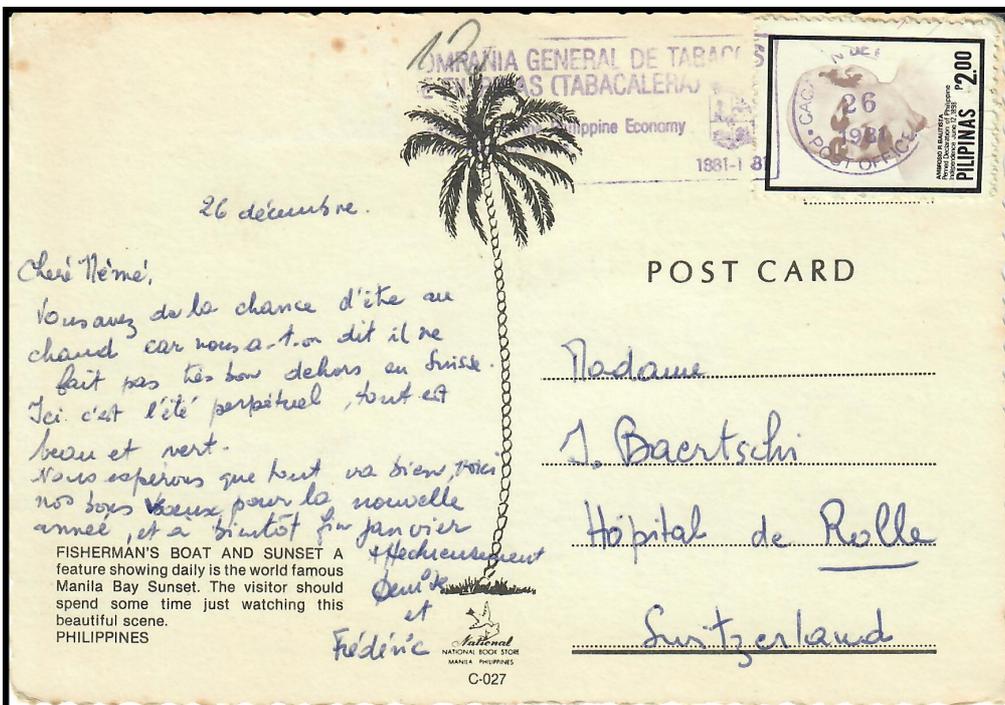
12 December 1950 – Cover from Yaumati, Hong Kong to Manila

Addressed to Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas, PO Box 143, Manila

COMPAÑIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

SLOGAN CANCEL



26 December 1981 – Post Card from Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao to Switzerland

Stamp tied with Slogan Cancellation