

HONG KONG 'B62' CANCELLATION

Until the Philippines joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on May 1, 1877, the use of Spanish-Philippine stamps was not accepted on mail to foreign countries outside the Spanish empire. Very few overseas covers from the 1850s through 1877 to countries outside the Spanish empire were sent through the Manila Post Office.

To enable correspondence to be sent to non-Spanish empire countries, stock of British Asian stamps from India, Straits Settlements and Hong Kong were maintained by local merchants for use on foreign mail. The British Asian stamps were applied to overseas covers, which were then hand-carried to a departing ship en-route to a British Port, where they entered into the postal system and were accordingly cancelled. The postal rates for the British Asian stamps applied in Manila were calculated from the British port to its final destination.



For letters travelling through the port of Hong Kong, the British Asian stamps were typically cancelled with a black, oval 'B62' cancel.

A number of Spanish-Philippine stamps issued between the 1870s and 1890s have been found with the Hong Kong 'B62' cancel, indicating that these stamps were used on overseas mail passing through the port of Hong Kong, and possibly received the 'B62' transit cancel which in some cases was applied directly on the stamps. It was decreed that all overseas correspondence from May 1, 1877, regardless of destination, were to be affixed with Spanish-Philippine stamps and cancelled at Philippine Post Offices. It is most likely that the stamps issued before May 1, 1877 were 'old stock' and postally used after this date from which time letters were authorised to be sent to non-Spanish empire countries with the use of Philippine stamps.

STAMPS ISSUED PRIOR TO MAY 1, 1877

1871



Scott #40



Scott #40

1875 - 1876



Scott #52



Scott #56

With Lined Rhomboid Cancels

HONG KONG 'B62' CANCELLATION

STAMPS ISSUED AFTER MAY 1, 1877



Scott #55



Scott #62



Scott #62



Scott #67



Scott #73



Scott #73a (COREROS)



Scott #P1



Scott #76



Scott #79



Scott #79



Scott #s 76 & 83



Scott #83



Scott #98



Scott #101



Scott #106



Scott #106



Scott #144



Scott #167