



SPANISH PERIOD CORNER

Don Peterson



Three Scott #P3 Plate Flaws

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The 2 milesimas blue Philippine newspaper stamp, showing the likeness of King Alfonso XII (Scott #P3), was issued in 1889 in sheets of 100 (10 x 10); and was one of four King Alfonso XII newspaper stamps (#P1-4). More so than the other three, #P3 seems to have had more than the normal share of plate flaws. This article describes three of those plate flaws that are repetitive. In other words, the plate flaws occur in the same position on more than one sheet. I have several similar #P3 stamps showing these flaws in my collection. There are other repetitive plate flaws on #P3 and on other King Alfonso XII newspaper stamps, but this will do for now.



Figure 1. Broken “L” of “FILIP”, broken top frame line, colored dot in hair above ear.



Figure 2. Colored dot below first “I” of “FILIP”.

Broken “L” of “FILIP” and Top Frame Line and Colored Dot in Hair Above Ear

There are two repetitive plate flaws on this stamp (**Figure 1**). The first plate flaw is a damaged plate, where the vertical stroke of the letter L broke. The broken top portion of the “L” then shifted upward to break the horizontal frame line above it. It also appears that the “L” is slightly tipped to the right. This is a particularly “dramatic” flaw. The second plate flaw resulted when a piece of debris adhered to the hair above the ear. When the blue ink was applied to the plate, the raised debris was colored, leaving a white, un-inked portion around the debris, giving the appearance of a blue-colored dot. The position of this stamp on the sheet is unknown.

Colored Dot Below First “I” of “FILIP”

This repetitive plate flaw (**Figure 2**) is a damaged plate. The lower part of the first “I” of “FILIP” broke and shifted downwards on top of the horizontal line below. When the blue ink was applied to the plate, the shifted piece of the “I” appears as a blue-colored dot. The position of this stamp on the sheet is unknown.