



SPANISH PERIOD CORNER

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Scott #141 - The 1 Centavo Rose Stamp Was Issued in 1894

Sometimes you have to go with the physical evidence, even when the book says otherwise. Take Scott #141, the 1 centavo rose issue for instance. Early reputable references, such as Mencarini (1896) and Bartels et al. (1904), which are seldom wrong, state that the 1 centavo rose stamp was issued on April 25, 1895. Thus, it was perfectly logical for Scott and a few other catalogues to accept the 1895 date. The only problem is that I have a used stamp with an 1894 date (**Figure 1**), and two covers are known with the 1 centavo rose stamp, both dated 1894. **Figure 2** is from Lingayen to Alaminos, Zambales, dated October 16, 1894 (Don Peterson collection). A second cover, Dagupan to Lingayen, is dated much earlier on March 6, 1894 (Ebay, July 2009). Too much physical evidence, so to speak.



Figure 1. Scott #141 with a "94" date in the cancel.



Figure 2. Scott #141 on a Lingayen to Alaminos, Zambales cover, dated "16 OCT 94".

Fortunately, a few references exist that connect, albeit loosely, the 1 centavo rose stamp to 1894. Palmer (1912) and Harradine (1987) discuss rose and carmine-rose issues, different paper thicknesses, possible proofs, and different issuance dates, that include: January 1, 1894; April 25, 1894; April 25, 1895; May 1895; January 1, 1896; and March 1896. The inconsistencies between these two references leave many doubts about their statements. One thing is clear, most references state that between 9-10 stamps of different values and colors were issued on January 1, 1894. The current Edifil lists a 1 centavo rose stamp in 1894, and Stanley Gibbons lists that stamp on January 1, 1894.

Thus, with the dated evidence, along with a few references, I conclude that the 1 centavo rose stamp was most likely issued on January 1, 1894, along with the other 1894 issues.