

# NATIONAL PHILATELIC TREASURES

By  
Emmanuel Encarnacion

In the afternoon of July 23 this year, the IPPS Officers and Directors met with Postmaster General Angelito T. Banayo to discuss the urgency of preparing for PHILPEX '86 and the feasibility of holding an ASEANPEX in 1987 in connection with the ASEAN Meeting scheduled to be held in Manila. One of the salient topics discussed was the possibility of revitalizing the collections stored at the National Postal Museum in Manila.

With some inspiration from this dialog, many of my colleagues including myself wondered, what it would be like to see a collection in a Philippine Museum housing the national philatelic treasures. Consequently, a survey was conducted to seek out for philatelic items which could merit the distinction of national philatelic treasure.

Appropriate philatelic material is defined here as, "for the purpose of transmitting mail and other postal communications, the item has been issued, intended for issue, or produced in the preparation for issue, used, or treated as valid for postage for postage by governmental, local, or private postal agencies, or by other duly commissioned or empowered authorities" (F.I.P. General Regulation, 3.2). In this regard, stamps, covers, post office receipts, post office maps, post office charts, government official decrees and documents, and old photographs have been included.

National philatelic treasure includes only those philatelic items related to the Philippines which, according to the survey-respondents opinion, no more than four pieces are known to exist.

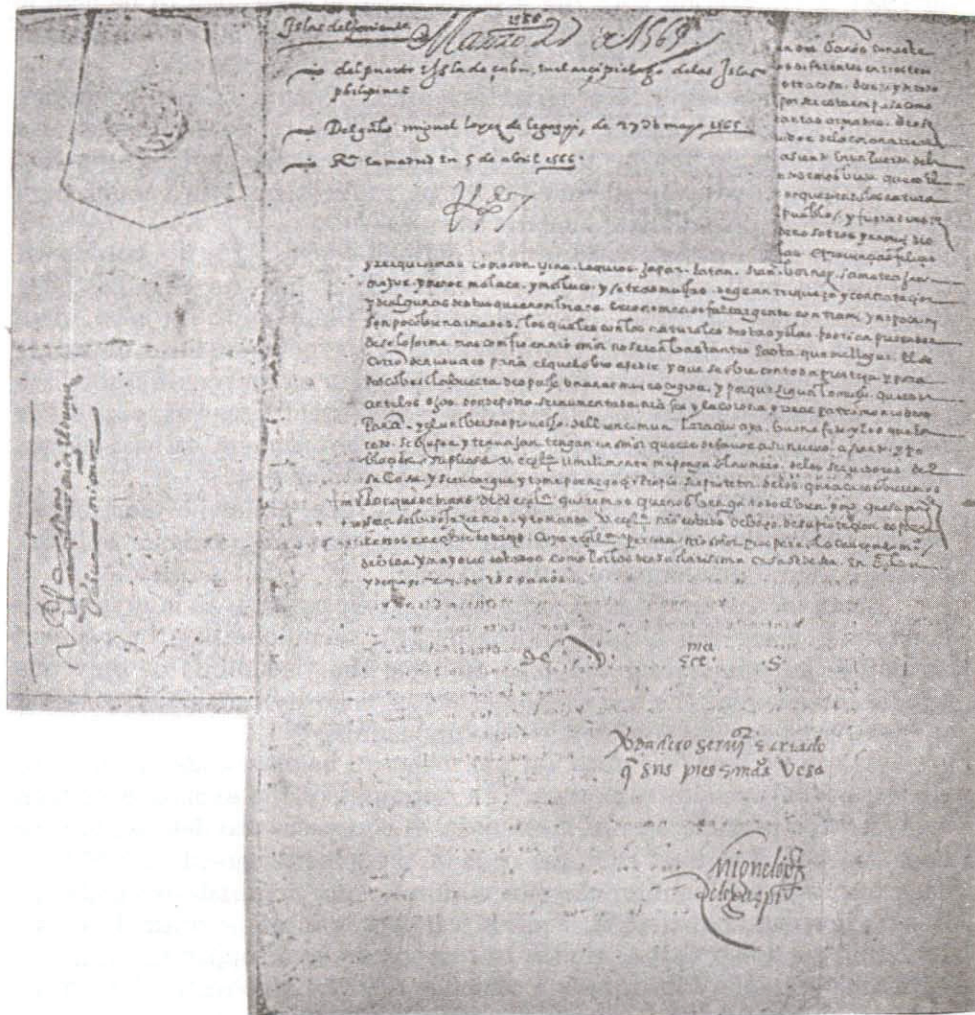
Based on the opinions of some 12 philatelic experts, an interview was conducted using the Delphi approach. This technique has the peculiar advantage of eliminating the bias of using the viewpoints of only one expert and avoiding the bandwagon effect of majority opinion often found in panel consensus or conference-type discussions.

As can be seen, the question was meant to be open-ended in order to elicit a broad range of responses. The responses of the experts were then analyzed for possible area of consensus. A consensus was deemed to have been reached if at least fifty per cent of the experts agreed. In addition, each response was counter-checked with reference materials like philatelic books, journals, newsletters, auction catalogs, and other research works. It should be noted that a number of responses were dropped as a result of obtaining secondary information which verify the inconsistency with the criteria of only four or less known.

The methodology for a list of opinions began with a first round of interviews wherein only one question was asked from the participants: "What do you think can be considered as national philatelic treasure?" The delimitation of the study was carefully explained in each encounter.

In areas where there were no consensus, a second round of interviews was conducted. Here, the experts were given copies of the opinions of the other experts without divulging the identity of these experts in order to avoid premature influencing of the opinion making process. As in the first round, the responses were analyzed once again and areas of consensus identified.

Thus, the pictorial and captions shown here include the emerging national philatelic treasures as identified by the experts.



The earliest surviving letter originating from the Philippines was sent by Miguel Lopez de Legaspi to King Philip II of Spain in 1565.

27  
28  
29  
Nomenclacion que debora observarse para el mas  
promto curso de la correspondencia del Real Servicio, y Publica,  
haceta que se pudiese formalizar el establecimiento de Correos  
en estas Islas Filipinas.

El Deficiencia, que por falta de correo, se padece en la comunica-  
cion reciproca de esta Capital con las provincias de las Islas, difi-  
culta los negocios, entorpece la justicia, hace interminables los conple-  
tos, y causa de perjuicio a los parados del Gobierno. Por tanto,  
pues de dejar en lo posible con, interviniendo, facilitando, y regu-  
lando la correspondencia de unas provincias con otras, y de todas  
con la Capital, con decorado, como hasta aqui lo era, es oportuno  
a la necesidad, y conveniencia de que haya, y no ocasion para  
a las partes a donde deben dirigirse; y teniendo presente lo que es el  
deber de que se establezca esta correspondencia interior, por el  
establecimiento en diversos Reales Decretos, y mas particularmente por  
la de treinta y uno de Mayo de mil setecientos ochenta y tres, co-  
municada a este Gobierno por el Excmo. Sr. Marqués de S. Juan,  
en la qual para animar este establecimiento por parte de la libere-  
dad que es fuerza necesario hacer guerra para reducirlo a cumplimiento  
del producto de las correspondencias Viena-marinas, se ordena  
comentando se establezcan Corredores, o Portadores en esta Isla  
de Luzon, que de pueblo en pueblo, y de provincia en provincia  
conduzcan con regularidad, y puntualidad los pliegos, ordenes, y  
cartas, tanto de este Supremo Gobierno, y Capitania General, como  
de la Real Audiencia, Comandancia de Real Hacienda, Tribu-  
nales Reales, y Políticos, y aun las del Publico, con lo qual  
se arreglase perfecta comunicacion en aumento del comercio, y  
la visible mejora correspondencia de los pueblos, hasta por  
usando el sistema de las Islas puedan introducirse correo-  
ramientos, los quales no han sido debdo establecer hasta el presente,  
ni meno lo es por aora, a causa de no considerarse pueda servir  
este mismo aun agrediendo todo el producto del correo interno por  
tanto lo que tiene de imponer sus cargas, y por lo que tiene

Governor General Joseph Basco y Vargas issued Instructions for the  
establishment of an internal postal system in the Philippine Islands on  
October 31, 1783.

*Al Poder general  
Difuntor de*

792 R<sup>s</sup>



Incoming mails from countries with which Spain had no postal treaty, were normally, such mails were subjected to a local postal charge in Manila beginning October 1800, computed at about 6 reales per ounce weight. The above parcel post is the earliest largest local postal charge ever applied on Spanish-Philippine mail.

Oficio de Suor.

General de Buenos de



Manila

...aty, were normally sent stampless even if these were already prepaid. How-  
...a beginning October 1838 based on a prescribed schedule which was com-  
...t is the earliest known, and bears the biggest handstamp numeral and the



Essays of the proposed Philippine stamp designs were submitted by Postmaster General Antonio Gutierrez y Pavia on May 14 1847. Had these been approved, the Philippines would have issued postage stamps much earlier than 1854.

ESPAÑA GOBIERNO  
CAPTANÍA GENERAL  
de las Indias.

### DISPOSICIONES PREVENTIVAS

para el establecimiento del porte y previo franco de la correspondencia interior de estas Islas.

- ART. 1.** Queda establecido desde el día 1.º de Febrero de 1854 el franco previo obligatorio para toda la correspondencia que circule por el interior del archipiélago, ya se dirija de una á otra provincia ó entre los pueblos de las mismas. El precio del franco será igual para todas ellas.
- 2.** Desde la citada fecha, no se dará curso á ninguna carta que no haya sido previamente franqueada por medio del sello ó timbre que le corresponde.
- 3.** Para todos los efectos de las operaciones de Correos se dividirán las cartas en sencillas y dobles. Se entenderá por carta sencilla la que no llegue al peso de media onza. Se considerarán como cartas dobles todas las demas.
- 4.** Tanto las cartas sencillas como las dobles podrán dirigirse de solo dos modos: 1.º franqueadas; 2.º franqueadas y certificadas.
- 5.** Las cartas devengarán en el franco, siendo sencillas, cinco cuartos; y siendo dobles en la proporción siguiente: las que pesen ocho adarques inclusive ó sea media onza y no lleguen á la onza, diez cuartos; las que pasen de la onza un real fuerte; y así progresivamente, aumentándose diez cuartos por cada vez que el peso exceda de media onza.
- 6.** Las cartas certificadas deben ser así mismo previamente franqueadas, y además del porte que adenden por el franco pagarán por el certificado dos reales cada una, sea cualquiera su peso.
- 7.** Las cartas que circulen dentro del caso de cada Administración ó provincia, pagarán lo mismo que queda establecido por regla general.
- 8.** Los diarios y demas periódicos se portarán para el franco, segun su peso, á razon de dos pesos fuertes arroba, siempre que reunan las cuatro circunstancias siguientes:
- 1.º Que sean presentados en la Administración de Correos directamente por las Redacciones.
  - 2.º Que estén cerrados con fajas.
  - 3.º Que en la faja esté impreso el título del periódico.
  - 4.º Que no contengan signos ni otra cosa manuscrita, mas que el nombre del suscriptor y el del pueblo en que reside.
- 9.** Los impresos de cualquiera otra clase, excepto los libros, aun cuando se publiquen periódicamente por entregas, se portarán tambien segun su peso, á razon de nueve pesos fuertes arroba, siempre que reunan las cuatro circunstancias siguientes:
- 1.º Que sean presentados en la Administración de Correos directamente por las empresas ó por los editores ó propietarios.
  - 2.º Que estén cerrados con fajas.
  - 3.º Que en la faja esté impreso el nombre de la empresa, editor ó propietario.
  - 4.º Que no contengan signos ni otra cosa manuscrita, mas que el nombre de la persona á quien vayan dirigidos y el del pueblo de su residencia.
- 10.** Los diarios y demas periódicos ó impresos, excepto los libros, que se presenten con fajas y sin contener signos ni otra cosa manuscrita, mas que el nom-

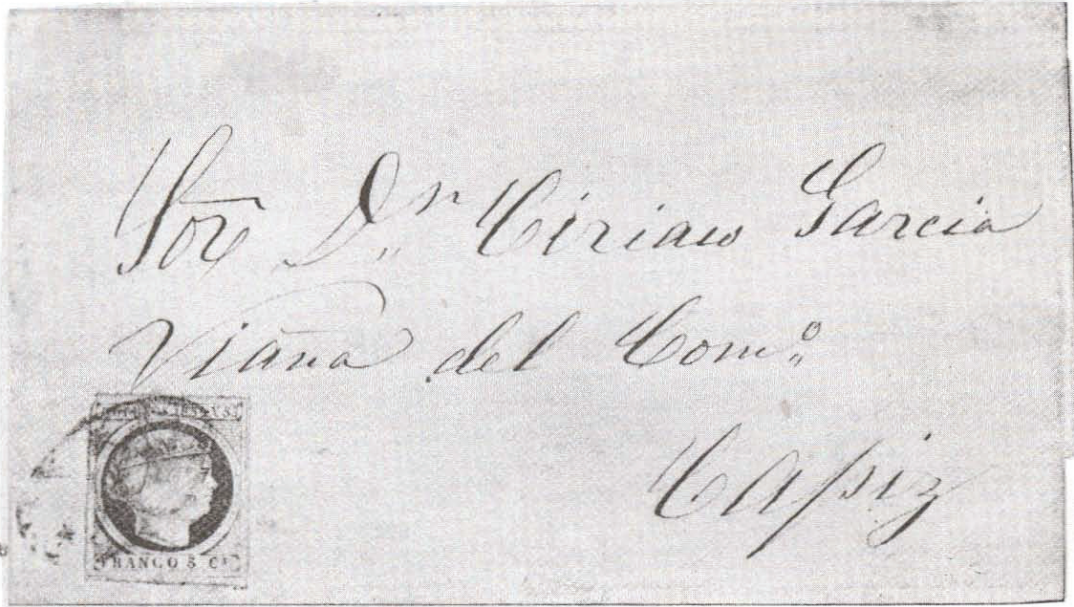
Governor General Antonio de Urbistondo issued a Decree authorizing the issuance of the first postage stamps in the Philippines on December 7, 1853.



Picture of the Manila Post Office (Head Office) during the Spanish regime, located at 129 Escolta, Manila.



Possibly the most expensive Philippine philatelic item ever offered for sale in the last three years is a registered combination letter sent from New South Wales to Manila in 1854 bearing two 6d greenish grey N.S.W. stamps and a 5c orange-red first Philippine postage stamp.



The 5-cuatro vermillion redrawn 1855 issue is definitely one of the most expensive Philippine stamp in the catalog ever issued for postage. On cover, it is exceedingly rare and can be considered also as unique.



**FRANCISCO REYES Y C.<sup>a</sup>**

COMERCIANTE,

CONSIGNATARIO DE LOS VAPORES-CORREOS ESPAÑOLAS

Mariveles.  
Panay.

Paragua.  
Pasig.

De los bergantines goletas, CALANTAS, FRANCISCO, ALBAY, JESUSA y barca PEPITA á varios puntos del archipiélago.

OFICINA

Callejon de San Gabriel núm. 8.

**EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN MAIL**

STEAM COMPANY.

Línea de vapores correos entre Hongkong, Singapore y Australia: hacen viajes regularmente, y admiten carga y Pasajeros.

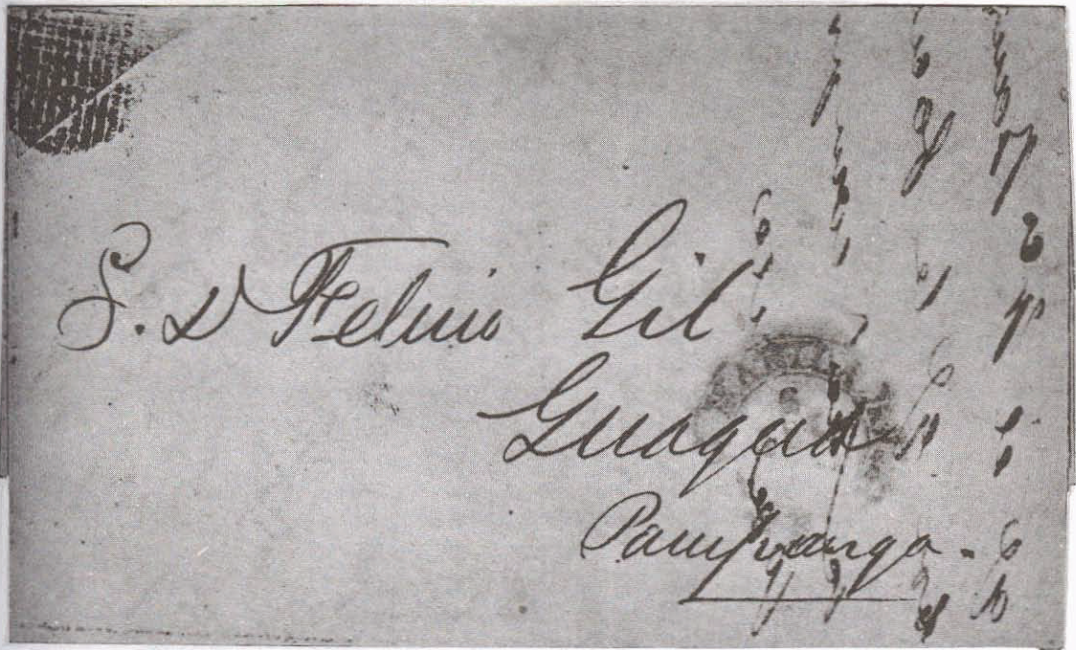
Para pormenores acúdase á

**Smith Bell & C.<sup>o</sup>**

AGENTES.

Advertisements of shipping lines which were authorized to carry mails from Manila to Hongkong, Singapore and Australia, and to Spain.

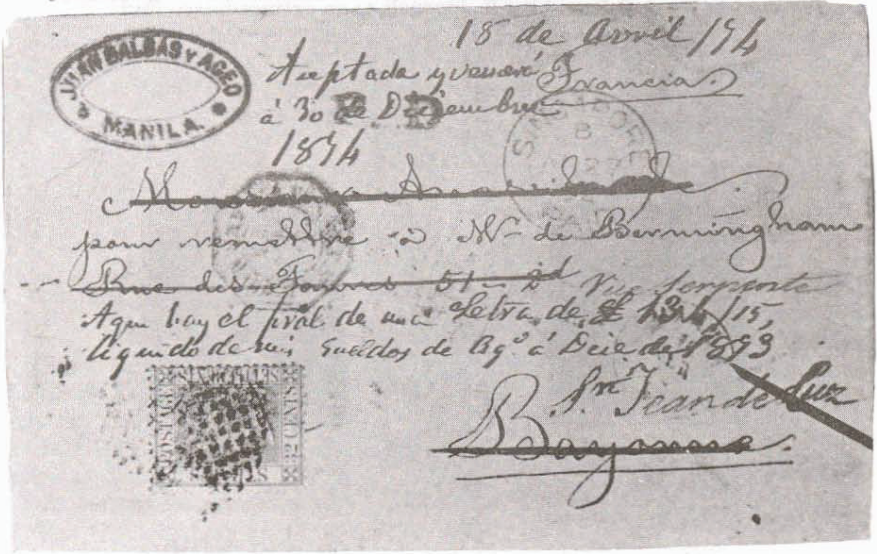
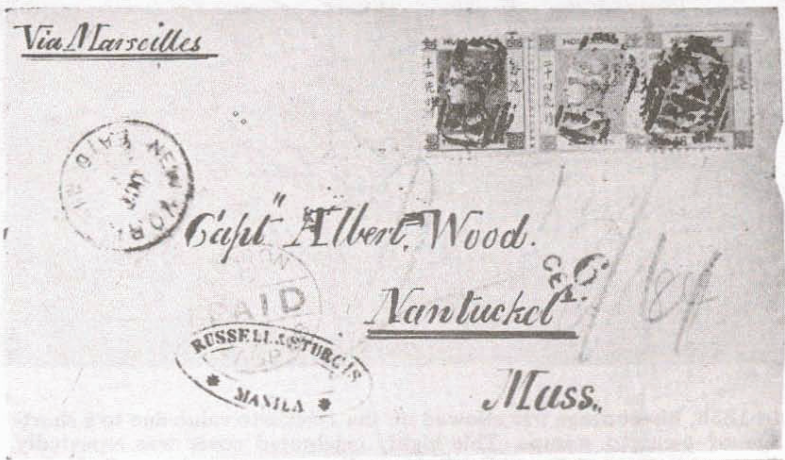
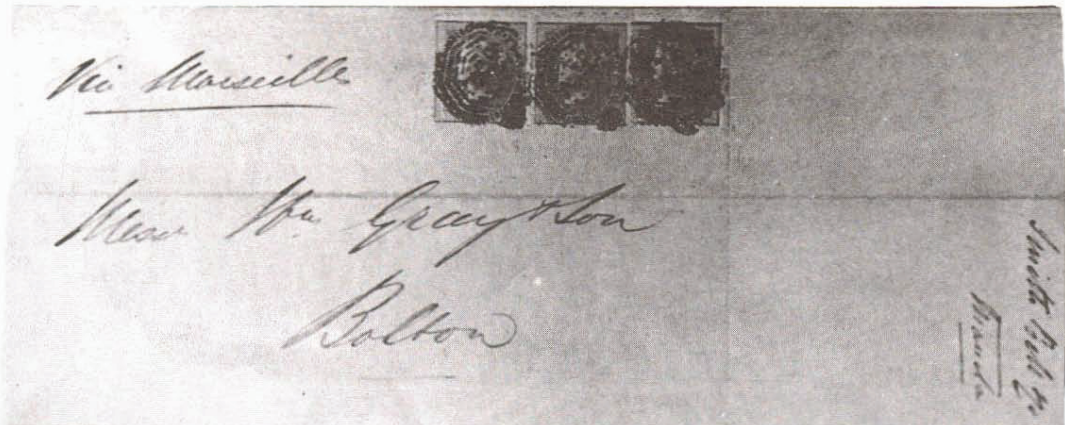




In 1856, bisect usage was allowed on the 10-cuarto value due to a shortage of 5-cuarto stamps. This highly celebrated cover was repeatedly featured in the A.F.F. and P.J.P. Journals as an extraordinary find.



Philatelic authorities have collectively agreed on the extreme rarity of the first 1 real "CORROS" error. However, very few realized the existence of the 1874 "CORROS" error with the "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" surcharge.



Before joining the General Postal Union in 1877, Philippine stamps were not acceptable to countries where Spain had no postal treaties. Thus, there were occasions when foreign stamps such as the above India, HongKong and Strait Settlements stamps were found franking Philippine outbound covers.



# TABLA

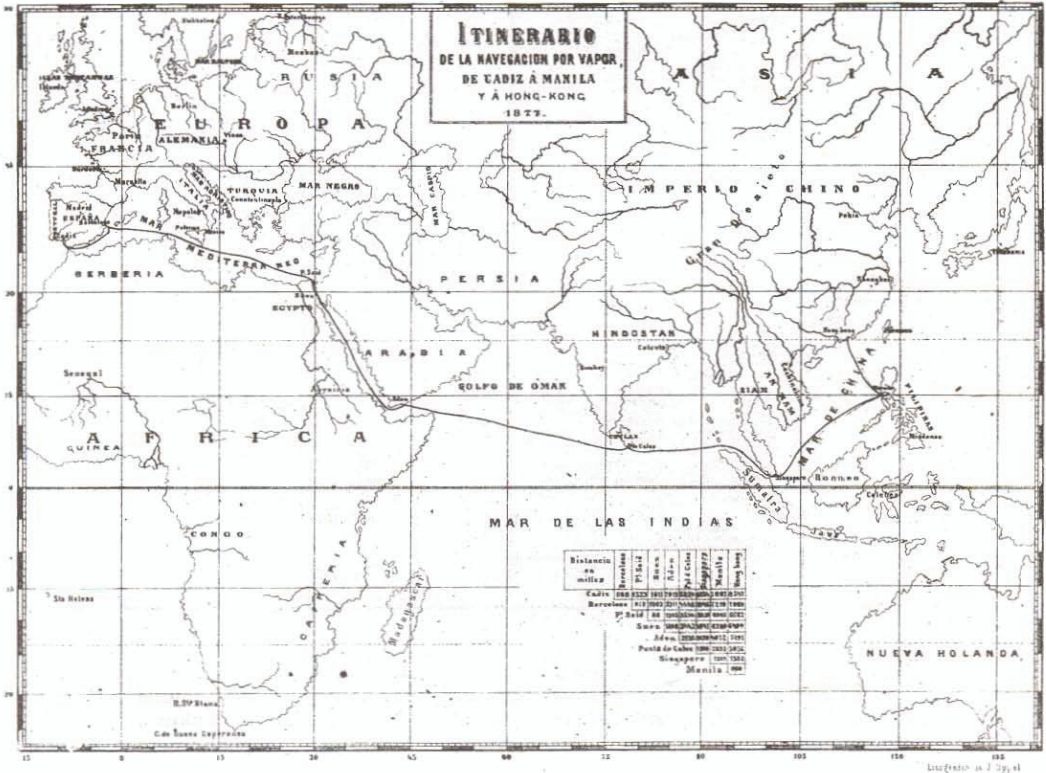
de las entradas y salidas de los correos del Archipiélago y horas en que se verifica su despacho.

CORREOS.	LLEGADAS.	SALIDAS.
El general del Norte . . . . . Comprende las provincias de Batang, Zambales, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Union, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Abra y los distritos de Lepanto, Binaloc, Benguet, Tiaga, Porac y Corregidor.	Los viernes á las una de la tarde . . . . .	Los lunes á las diez de la noche.
El de la travesera de Cagayan . . . . . Comprende las provincias de Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, Cagayan y distritos del Príncipe y Salta.	Los viernes á las cuatro de la tarde . . . . .	Los lunes á las diez de la noche.
El general del Sur . . . . . Comprende las provincias de la Laguna, Batangas, Mindoro, Tayabas, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay y los distritos de Morong, Mahabale y Ticao, Infanta y Burias.	Los miértes á las ocho de la mañana . . . . .	Los miércoles á las cinco de la tarde.
El de Cavite (dos expediciones diarias) . . . . .	A las diez de la mañana y seis de la tarde . . . . .	A las seis de la mañana y dos de la tarde.
El de la Pampanga, Batang y el Corregidor . . . . .	Los lunes, miércoles y viernes á las una de la tarde . . . . .	Los domingos, martes y jueves, á las seis de la mañana.
El de Bulacan, Pampanga y Nueva Ecija . . . . .	Todos los días á las cuatro de la tarde . . . . .	Todos los días á las ocho de la mañana.
El de la Laguna (por vapor) . . . . .	Los lunes, martes, jueves, viernes y sábado por la tarde . . . . .	Los martes, jueves y sábado á las ocho de la mañana.
El de la Laguna, Batangas y Mindoro, via Ibañal . . . . .	Los domingos á las doce del día . . . . .	Los lunes á las doce de la mañana.
El de los Interiores de la provincia de Manila . . . . .	Todos los días á las doce de la mañana . . . . .	Todos los días á las cuatro de la tarde.
El de las Islas Batanas . . . . .	Los viernes á las cuatro de la tarde con el correo de Cagayan en los meses de Mayo á Diciembre, y en los meses de Enero á Marzo . . . . .	Los lunes á las nueve de la noche en los meses de Mayo á Diciembre y por los pantos en los de Enero á Marzo.
El de Balabac, Luncan, Puerto Princesa, Zamboanga y Pollok . . . . .	20 de Abril, 16 de Mayo, 13 de Junio, 11 Julio, 8 de Agosto, 5 de Setiembre, 3 de Octubre, 31 de Octubre, 30 de Noviembre y 28 de Diciembre; y en 1873 el 25 de Enero y el 22 de Febrero . . . . .	28 de Marzo, 23 de Abril, 21 de Mayo, 18 de Junio, 16 de Julio, 13 de Agosto, 10 de Setiembre, 8 de Octubre, 7 de Noviembre y 5 de Diciembre; y en 1873 el 2 y el 30 de Enero . . . . .
El de las provincias marítimas del Archipiélago . . . . .	Incluida por los buques de cabotaje . . . . .	Incluida por los buques de cabotaje . . . . .

## OBSERVACIONES.

- 1.º Las horas ordinarias de despacho en la Administración general de Correos, son de ocho de la mañana hasta las dos, y de tres y media á cuatro y media de la tarde los días laborables, excepto los lunes y miércoles, que se halla abierta la caja hasta las cuatro y media de la tarde para el despacho de los correos generales. Los domingos y fiestas de guardar, en circunstancias ordinarias, solo hay despacho de ocho á doce de la mañana.
- 2.º Para el correo general del Sur de Luzon en los días de salida, pueden depositarse cartas en el buzon hasta las cuatro y media en punto de la tarde y hasta las cuatro se reciben certificadas. Para el correo general del Norte se admiten en el buzon hasta las diez de la noche de la víspera de la salida y hasta las cuatro de la tarde se reciben los certificados. Para los demás correos terrestres pueden depositarse también las cartas hasta media hora antes de que verifique su salida. Para la salida de la Mala de Europa y Correos marítimos de todas clases con la debida oportunidad se publican las correspondientes anotaciones, en las que se fijan las horas de salida de los buques y cierre de la correspondencia.
- 3.º La llegada á esta Administración de la Mala de Europa se verifica ordinariamente una ó dos horas despues de fondear el buque conductor, y el despacho de los apartados tiene lugar por lo general á las dos ó tres horas de recibida la correspondencia. Los carteros salen á repartir la correspondencia de estos correos, y se fijan las listas de las cartas que vengan sin direccion, una hora despues de abrirse la caja para el despacho de apartados.
- 4.º Para el reparto al público de los correos de Europa no hay horas fijas, se emplean todas las necesarias, pero si la llegada de los mismos á la Administración se verifica de doce á dos de la madrugada, dará aquel principio á las seis de la mañana del mismo día.
- 5.º Se publicará diariamente en la Gaceta una relación de las cartas que haya deteniadas por insuficiente franqueo, y el mismo de la salida de los Correos de Europa, una hora antes de cerrarse el buzon, se fijará en la caja una lista de las que se hallan en igual caso y sean recibidas desde la fecha del anuncio hasta la hora indicada.

An 1877 schedule of mail delivery to different interior post offices in the Philippine Islands indicated specific delivery dates for very far places such a Batanes, Balabac, Luncan, Puerto Princesa and Zamboanga.



Map showing the ship routes and time schedules in 1877 between Manila and Cadiz, Spain.



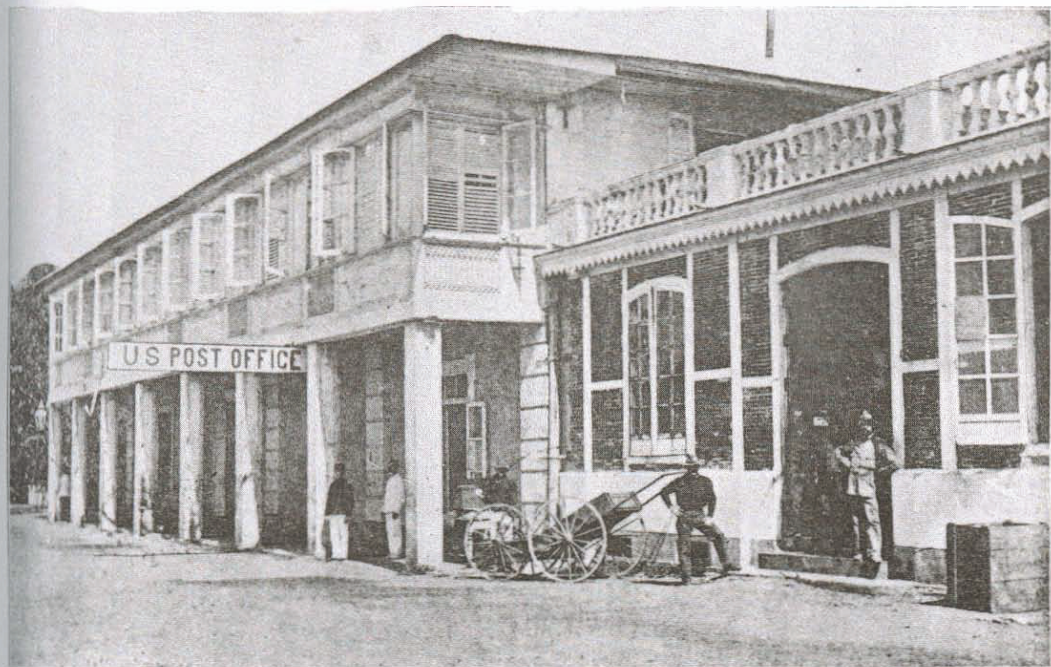
The first Philippine postal card bearing a face value of 50 milesimas de peso was printed in Madrid in 1878, only to be surcharged in Manila by the following year with a new 3-centavo value. Out of the few unsurcharged postal cards that were released, only two are known to be in used condition.



The earliest known registry receipt was issued to Paciano Rizal in 1889 for his letter addressed to the national hero Jose Rizal in London, England.



Royal service mail during the Spanish regime are very scarce. Because official mail were not required to pay postage, very few are seen franking postage stamps.



Picture of the Post Office and Telegraph Station in Cavite, considered as a historical landmark because it was the very first U.S. Post Office ever established in the Philippine Islands when expeditionary forces landed in 1898 after the Battle of Manila Bay.

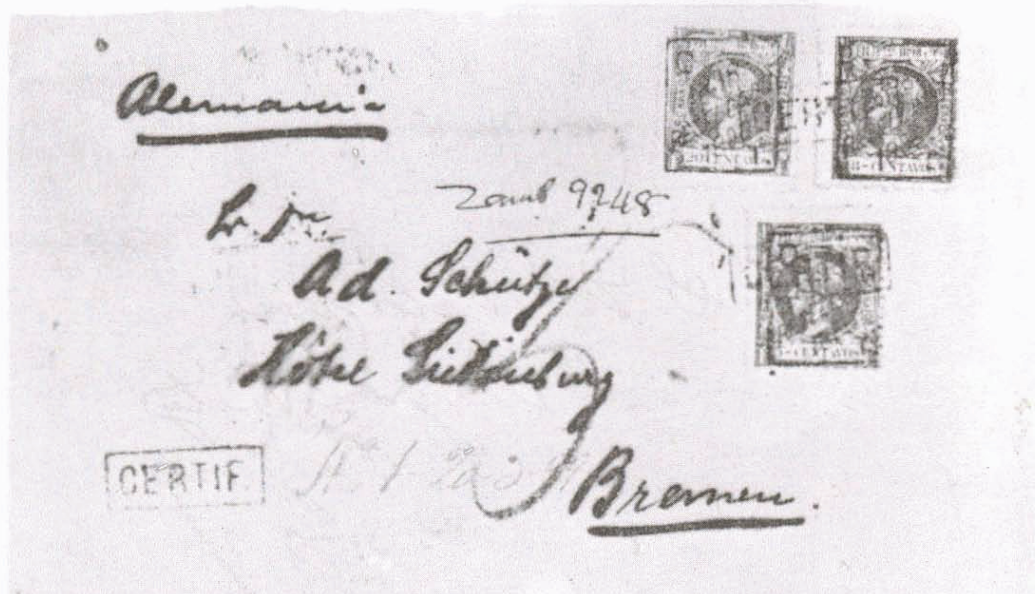


*S. W. Waldron  
Oregon City  
Oregon  
U. S. A.*

The first U.S. postal mark applied in the Philippines was used on July 30, 1898 at Cavite on the southern coast of Manila Bay.



Considered to be absolutely spurious by all collectors until 1938, the La Union issues were accepted by all experts as being completely genuine when this cover was found, together with the San Fernando, La Union document of June 1, 1898 which authorized the issuance of provisional postage stamps.



Zamboanga served as the last bastion of Spanish rule in the Philippines and the embarkation point for Spaniards leaving the country in 1899. Among the very few copies issued of the Resellado stamps, the one peso value (only 4 copies reported) together with any issue used on cover are extremely rare.



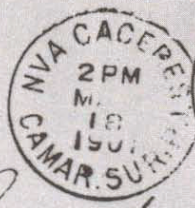


Less than five sets of the Canton Government of Negros stamps have survived after the American troops under Col. James Smith confiscated and burned remainders left at Negros Island post offices on March 4, 1899.



Four 2-centavo with lined background Aguinaldo stamps were used on this cover at Vigan, Ilocos Sur in 1899 to cover registry fees.

Maj. S. T. Armstrong  
Guerra Caceres, Camar Sur,  
Ligao, P.I.



PORTO RICO.

Mrs. S. T. Armstrong  
New Rochelle,

29 Leland Ave.

N.Y.

On July 26, 1900, the U.S. Postmaster General authorized the use of all U.S. Possession stamps and postal stationery in all areas where U.S. stamps were valid including the Philippines. This Porto Rican stationery is the only one known to have been used outside of Manila during this period.

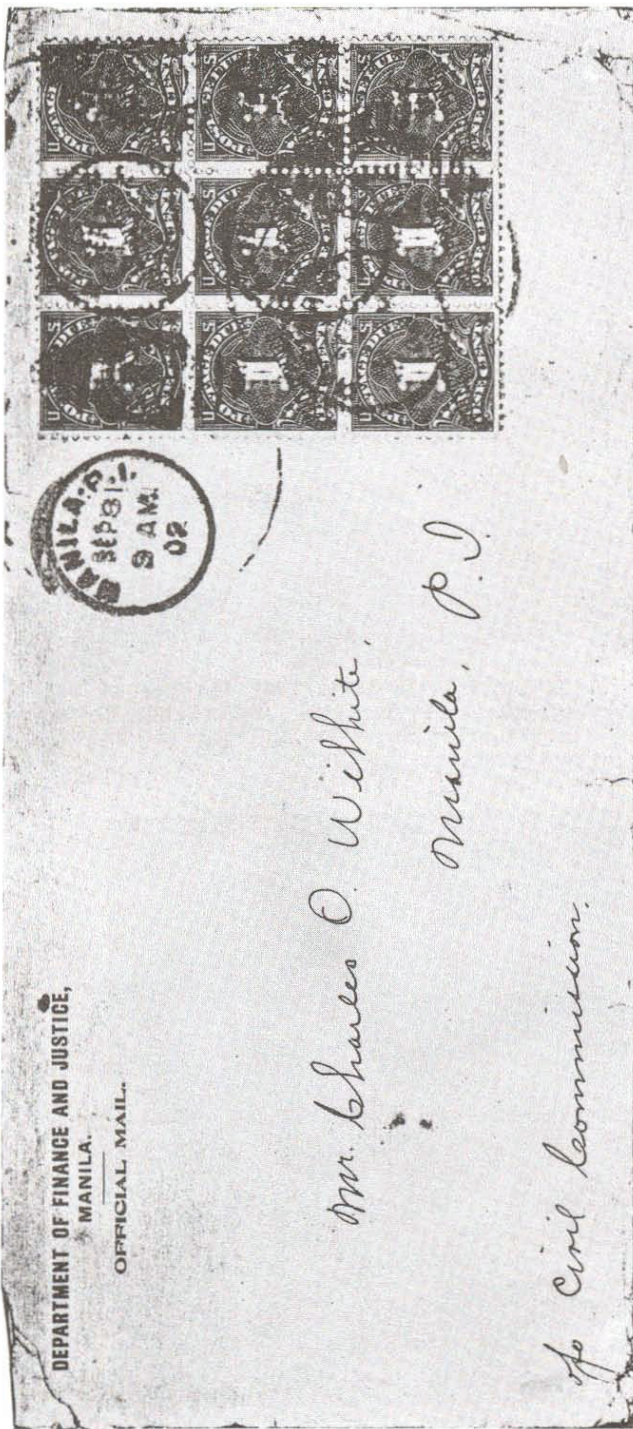
L. F. Chapin, Esq., Asst. Treasurer,  
Windsor Company,  
North Adams, Mass.



PHILIPPINES.



Due to the fact that American soldiers who had served in the Philippines were later assigned to offshore duties in other countries, stamps and stationery with the "PHILIPPINES" surcharge may be found used abroad. This 4-cent Lincoln embossed stamp envelope shows this practice.



The one cent postage due stamp of 1899 was allowed to be used for regular postage from September 5-19, 1902. This cover is the only known official usage of the 1¢ postage due at that time, and contains the biggest multiple seen on cover.



Mr. Enrique Sanchez Toca,  
32 Rizal Avenue,  
Manila, P. I.

Like the U.S. 24-cent inverted Jenny, only one sheet of 100 of the inverted Madrid-Manila overprint was sold to the public. However, only four of the stamps found its way thru the mails and known to have been postally used in 1926.



Also in 1926, the Post Office overprinted 1,000 sheets of the 16-centavo value of the 1923 issue. Because it ran out of stocks, 4 sheets of the 16-centavo Sampson 1906 issue were included, three with violet surcharge and one with the red surcharge. The block of sixteen Sampson red surcharge is believed to be unique because it has the only known copy of the broken propeller error on this stamp.



There are only 4 copies known of the broken propeller error of the Madrid-Manila P4 value, and only 3 copies of the P10 issue.



Here is the most expensive German air post stamp used on cover, flown via the Graf Zeppelin during its South American tour of 1931. Zeppelin covers which were addressed to the Philippines are few and are considered today as classic philatelic masterpieces.

By FIRST FLIGHT "HINDENBURG."  
From U. S. A. to China

From STEVEN L. MILIS  
1209 S. 4th Street,  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Via Air Mail.

州一廣  
廿五月  
年  
CANTON

LAKEHURST  
ILLINOIS



20554



GENERAL AT A CENTURY

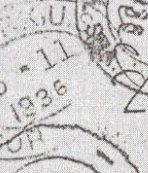
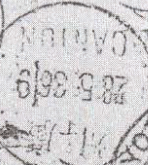


To Mrs. SOPHIE MILIS, c/o Postmaster  
Post-Office CANTON, China.  
2930 North Melvina Ave., CHICAGO,  
PAR AVION via France-Singapore, Ill.  
U.S.A.

693896 c/o Director of Posts Manila, P.I.



MIT LUFTSCHIFF  
HINDENBURG BE...



Director of Posts & Postmaster, Manila

JOAN ROIZ

The only known "HINDENBURG" Zeppelin cover that contains U.S., China and Philippine stamps and postmarks was mailed from New York on May 6, 1936. It circumnavigated the globe in 45 days as a result of several forwarding by the Post Offices in Canton, China and Manila for the transient addressee Sophie Milis.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES  
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**BUREAU OF PRISONS**  
 IWAHIG PENAL COLONY  
 PALAWAN  
 OFFICIAL MAIL

MANILA No. 2  
 AUG 7 1942  
 3 PM



POSTAGE DUE 8 CVOS.  
*Ford*

The Chairman,  
 Executive Commission  
 Manila

大日本海軍  
 陸軍  
 Open by the General  
 Postal Inspection

*The attached*  
 NOT VALID FOR POSTAGE

In 1942, the Japanese Military Administration was very strict in dealing with anything that had to do with the United States of America. The sender made the tactical mistake of using a Philippine Commonwealth corner card and postage stamps. As a result, postage due was charged because the attached stamps were not valid for postage.

比島行政府  
 内務部  
 Philippine Executive Commission  
 Department of the Interior  
 Manila

MANILA  
 FEB 4 1943  
 12 M  
 PHILIPPINES



OFFICIAL MAIL RETURNED TO SENDER FOR POSTAGE DUE 3 CVOS.  
 POSTAGE DUE 3 CVOS.

Atty. Felix Bautista  
 1330 Tarlac (Oregon)  
 Manila



131 PRINTED MATTER

POSTMASTER: THIS PACKAGE MAY BE OPENED FOR POSTAL INSPECTION IF NECESSARY

One of the scarcest item in Japanese Occupation postal history is this combination cover of Handstamped K.P. or official usage, printed matter mail and postage due.



Today, censor marks are the most sought after by Japanese Occupation buffs. One such cover which was offered during PHILPEX '85 from the Buenafe collection contains the previously unreported Davao Fieldpost censor mark.

There is no doubt that given more time to survey other experts, a lot more items can still be added to this list. Perhaps in the near future, my American colleagues in IPPS can duplicate this feat and come up with an addendum entitled "National Philatelic Treasures II".

If however, any of the items in the foregoing list will be found not to conform with the limitation of the study, i.e., only four or less than four known, a formal rebuttal is properly in order.

The references used in the review of literature cannot be listed because of its enormity. Nevertheless, I wish to thank the following, without whose help this study would not have been realized successfully:

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