

REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS OF THE SPANISH PHILIPPINES

by Don Peterson

After the Philippines joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1877, registered mail was usually marked with a distinctive handstamp indicating registration. These handstamps consisted of some form of the word "CERTIFICADO" or "REGISTERED."

The rates and procedures for registration were first promulgated in 1854. The first registration handstamps appeared in 1877. For additional information on registered mail of the Spanish Philippines, refer to Peterson (1982, 1983). An up-dated and more complete discussion of postal rates, including those for registration between 1879 and 1898, is addressed in another article by Peterson (1984). See bibliography.



Figure 1. 1877 (September 28) Marianas to Manila letter showing earliest known use of registration handstamp (Type 1) (from author's collection).

This current article up-dates the description of registration handstamps first listed by Peterson (1982). There are now twelve registration handstamp types known from the Spanish Philippines period. All of the types, except Type 10, were applied at the post office. Type 10 was a privately-applied handstamp. Figure 1 shows the earliest recorded use of a registration handstamp (Type 1) on an 1877 (September 28) Marianas to Manila letter.

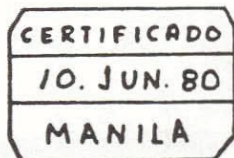
The twelve registration handstamp types are described and illustrated as follows:



- TYPE 1 Name: Boxed CERTIF-Fancy
Dimensions: 9mm by 26mm
Period of Use: 1877-1883
Post Offices: Manila
Cancel Color: Black
Remarks: Uncommon. Earliest known handstamp.
 Found on issues as early as 1864.



- TYPE 2 Name: Boxed CERTIF-Double-lined Rectangle
Dimensions: 7.5mm by 23mm
Period of Use: 1882-1883
Post Offices: Probably Manila
Cancel Color: Black
Remarks: Uncommon



- TYPE 3 Name: Boxed CERTIF with Town/Date
Dimensions: Unknown
Period of Use: Not certain. Probably 1880's to early 1890's
Post Offices: Probably Manila
Cancel Color: Black
Remarks: Only one partial example known (on #168). Questionable handstamp. Very rare.

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