

# UPDATED DESCRIPTION OF SPANISH PHILIPPINE "CERTIFICADO" HANDSTAMP TYPES

by Don Peterson

This article updates the Spanish Philippine "certificado" (registration) types described in the September 1988 issue of the PPN (Vol. X, No. 4). It describes seven new types (including a type used in the Spanish Marianas), deletes one type, and updates information on the remaining types. The previous Type 3 has been deleted due to a lack of supporting evidence. The new seven types include a new Type 3, Type 10A, and Types 13 through 17. Type 15 was added because it was applied in Agana, Marianas, to Spanish Philippine stamps.

TABLE 1 is a description of 18 certificado handstamp types known to have been used in the Spanish Philippines and Marianas from 1865 through 1898. FIGURES 1 through 5 are examples of five of the seven new certificado types. Refer to the 1988 article for illustrations of the previous 12 certificado handstamp types,

**TABLE 1**  
**PHILIPPINE "CERTIFICADO" HANDSTAMP TYPES**

- TYPE 1**     **Name: Boxed CERTIF-Fancy**  
Dimensions: 9mm by 26mm  
Period of Use: 1865-1883  
Post Offices: Manila  
Cancel Color: Black (common) and magenta (very rare)  
Remarks: Earliest known handstamp. Usage between 1865 and 1879 is rare. Last use of this type in 1883 coincides with the first use of the Type 6 handstamp in 1883. Earliest known usage found on 1864 issue. Variations occur in the thickness of the lines and letters. Uncommon.
- TYPE 2**     **Name: Boxed CERTIF-Double-lined Rectangle**  
                  **(Block Letters)**  
Dimensions: 7.5mm by 23mm  
Period of Use: 1882-1883, possibly earlier  
Post Offices: Probably Manila  
Cancel Color: Black  
Remarks: Earliest known usage found on 1878-1879 issues. Uncommon.

**TYPE 3 Name: Boxed CERTIF-Single-lined Rectangle  
(4 1/2mm. high thick letters) (FIGURE 1)**

Dimensions: 7 1/2mm by ?mm

Period of Use: 1870s

Post Offices: Not known

Cancel Color: Black

Remarks: Only known on one stamp (#71) in D. Peterson collection. Dot after CERTIF. Rare.

Note: This Type 3 replaces the Type 3 previously described in the September 1988 PPN article. The former Type 3 was dropped due to a lack of supporting evidence.

**TYPE 4: Name: Circular CORREOS DE FILIPINAS**

Dimensions: 24mm diameter

Period of Use: 1880s to 1898

Post Offices: Manila and others

Cancel Color: Black (common) and shades of blue/purple, blue-green, and magenta (rare)

Remarks; Primarily used on interior mail (common). Also found on philatelically prepared interior and overseas letters and postal cards between 1894 and 1898 (uncommon); 1880s telegraph issue (rare); 1890s newspaper issues (scarce); and 1889 recargo de consumos issues (rare).

**TYPE 5: Name: Boxed CERTIF-Double-lined Rectangle**

Dimensions: 8.5-9mm by 42mm with rounded corners

Period of Use: 1879-1891

Post Offices: Not known

Cancel Color: Black

Remarks: Rare

**TYPE 6: Name: Boxed CERTIFICADO-Small**

Dimensions: 10-11.5mm by 33-35mm and letters 4-5mm high  
Period of Use: 1883-1898. Possibly earlier and later.

Post offices: Manila, Aparri, Iloilo, Isabela Province, San Fernando (La Union), and many others

Cancel Color: Black (common) and shades of blue/purple, red/magenta, and green (uncommon)

Remarks: Most common type. Variations occur in the size of letters. Includes large letters and rectangles

with rounded corners (scarce). First use of this type in 1883 coincides with the last use of the Type 1 handstamp in 1883. Earliest known use on 1878-1879 issues. Also found on 1889 recargo de consumos issues (rare), 1890s newspaper issues (scarce), and 1890s telegraph issues (rare).

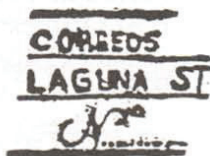
- TYPE 7:** **Name: Large "R"**  
Dimensions: 17-18mm high  
Period of Use: 1887-1898  
Post Offices: Manila, Iloilo  
Cancel Color: Black (uncommon) and shades of blue/purple, red/magenta, and blue-green (scarce)  
Remarks: Uncommon. Two types known: (1) upper left hook straight or slightly upward (found on covers dated from 1886 through 1895) (uncommon), and (2) upper left hook curved downward (found on 1890s dated covers) (scarce).
- TYPE 8:** **Name: Boxed "R" with No./Town**  
Dimensions: 21-22mm by 40-42mm  
Period of Use: 1888-1898 and possibly earlier and later  
Post Offices: Manila  
Cancel Color: Blue, red/rose/magenta, and blue-green  
Remarks: Earliest known usage on 1880s issues. Scarce.
- TYPE 9:** **Name: Straight-lined REGISTERED**  
Dimensions: 42mm long  
Period of Use: 1894  
Post Offices: Manila  
Cancel Color: Black  
Remarks: Letters in lower-case and underlined. Rare.
- TYPE 10:** **Name: Boxed CERTIFICADO with Rounded Ends-Large**  
Dimensions: 15mm by 47mm  
Period of Use: 1897  
Post Offices: See remarks  
Cancel Color: Black  
Remarks: Applied privately by stamp dealer Federico Schenkel of Manila. Scarce.

- TYPE 10A: Name: Boxed CERTIFICADO with Rounded Ends-Small**  
 Dimensions: 12mm by 45mm  
 Period of Use: 1897  
 Post Offices: Iligan, Mindanao  
 Cancel Color: Violet  
 Remarks: Has "period" after "CERTIFICADO."  
 Only one example, on 1897 cover known. Very rare.
- TYPE 11: Name: Straight-lined CERTIFICADO (Upper-Case Letters).**  
 Dimensions: 7.5mm by ?mm  
 Period of Use: 1880s, 1897-1898, and later  
 Post Offices: Probably Manila  
 Cancel Color: Black  
 Remarks: Rare
- TYPE 12: Name: Boxed CERTIF-Single-lined Rectangle (4 1/2mm high thin letters)**  
 Dimensions: 9mm by 23mm  
 Period of Use: 1898, and later  
 Post Offices: Ilagan, Isabela Province, Jolo and probably also Zamboanga  
 Cancel Color: Black (rare) blue (very rare) and red (very rare)  
 Remarks: Usually block letters. Variation with serif letters. No dot or dash after CERTIF. Rare.
- TYPE 13: Name: CORREOS LAGUNA ST (Station) Straight-line (Figure 2)**  
 Dimensions: 18mm by ?mm  
 Period of Use: 1898, and possibly later  
 Post Offices: Laguna Station  
 Cancel Color: Black  
 Remarks: Only known on one stamp (#199) in the G. Lewis collection. Very rare.
- TYPE 14: Name: Straight-lined Certificado (Lower-Case Letters)**  
 Dimensions: Not known  
 Period of Use: 1880s  
 Post Offices: Not known  
 Cancel Color: Blue/purple  
 Remarks: Only known on one stamp (#88) in the D. Peterson collection. Very rare.

- TYPE 15: Name: Boxed CERTIF-Single-lined Rectangle (6mm high thick letters) (FIGURE 3)**  
 Dimensions: 9mm by 23mm with square corners  
 Period of Use: 1886-1899, and possibly earlier.  
 Also used early in U.S. Administration.  
 Post Offices: Agana, Marianas  
 Cancel Color: Black  
 Remarks: Roman (with serifs) letters. Dot after "F" of "CERTIF". Squared corners. One variation in some examples from the 1880s includes rounded corners. Very rare.
- TYPE 16: Name: Boxed CORREOS Certificado (FIGURE 4)**  
 Dimensions: 15mm by 24mm  
 Period of Use: 1890s  
 Post Offices: Not known  
 Cancel Color: Purple  
 Remarks: Rare
- TYPE 17: Name: Manuscript Certificado (FIGURE 5)**  
 Dimensions: Variable  
 Period of Use: 1890s  
 Post Offices: Primarily from small rural town post offices without handstamps.  
 Cancel Color: Black (scarce) and purple (rare)  
 Remarks: Scarce



**FIGURE 1.** Example of Type 3 on Scott #199 (D. Peterson collection).



**FIGURE 2.** Example of Type 13 on Scott #199 (G. Lewis collection).



**FIGURE 4.** Example of  
Type 16 on Scott #170  
(D. Peterson collection).



**FIGURE 3.** Example of  
Type 15 on Scott #170  
(D. Peterson collection).



**FIGURE 5.** Example of  
Type 17 on Scott #171  
(D. Peterson collection).

If you have any additional information on certificado handstamp types, please contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20012. ■

#### REFERENCES

Lewis, G. From personal collection. 1996.

Peterson, D. "Registration Handstamps of the Spanish Philippines." *PPN*. Vol. X. No. 4. Eden, N.Y. September 1988.

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