

PD4. 3.P. inside plain oval, in red,
dimensions unknown 1790- 1802



Not recorded in 1971 and 1986 by Tizon
& Guinovart. Two examples recorded:

cat 1790 to Manuel Letuna y Equizabal, Guatemala (SL, June 1991,
Lot 2288) with **OM2**

cat 1802 to Juez General de Bienes de Difuntos, Guatemala (GF, May
1994, Lot 2), with **PD3** originally struck, and superimposed with **PD2**
4.U., with the "4" in turn manually corrected to "6".

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PHILIPPINE MAIL OF THE FRENCH-SPANISH CAMPAIGN IN COCHINCHINA, 1858 - 1862

by
Don Peterson

One interesting historical event of the Philippines was the role the Spanish government played in the affairs of French Indo China in the mid- 1800s, then referred to as Cochinchina. One result of this involvement by the Spanish was the occurrence of mail from the Philippines to Cochinchina.

In July 1857, the Spanish missionary, Fray Jose Maria Diaz Sanjurjo, was beheaded in Tokin, Cochinchina. France, which had already pursued an expansionist policy in the Far East, decided on military intervention in order to obtain restitution from the Annamite Government in Cochinchina for the crime committed as well as to assure that similar acts would not recur. At the same time, France requested cooperation from Spain.

As a result, in 1858, a French-Spanish Expeditionary Force, consisting of 1,300 French soldiers and two Spanish convoys of 500 soldiers proceeded from Manila to Cochinchina. The 500 soldiers in the Spanish convoys were all of Philippine origin, except for the officers, who were Spanish. The Spanish contingent was under the command of Colonel

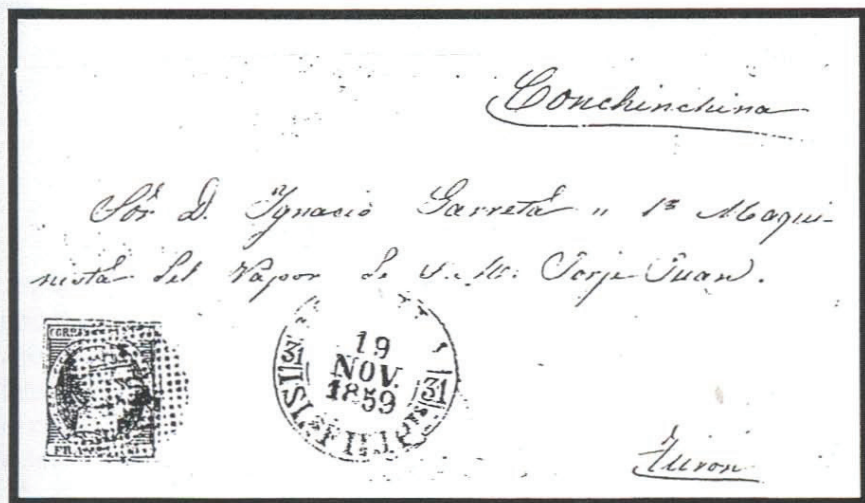


Figure 1 1859 Manila to Turon, Cochinchina, letter, showing the 5-cuartos interior single-weight rate (Soler y Llach Auction, Barcelona, Spain, February 20, 1992).

Oscariz, who directed the sailing of the two Spanish naval vessels, JORGE JUAN and the ELCANO. France, with the help of the Spanish soldiers, immediately seized parts of Cochinchina, and in 1859, occupied Saigon. The port of Saigon was opened to foreign commerce in 1860 (De Bevoise, 1995). On April 4, 1862, the Spanish troops withdrew from Cochinchina, leaving vast portions of the area in French control. By 1863, France had annexed all of eastern Cochinchina. In 1885, peace was negotiated between France and China; and in 1887, France formed a General Government in China.

The Spanish auction firm of Soler y Llach reports there are 8 known letters from this period addressed either from Spain or Manila to Ignacio Garreta, engine-driver of the Spanish warship JORGE JUAN in Turon, Cochinchina (Soler y Llach Auction, Barcelona, February 20, 1992). **FIGURE 1** is an 1859 Manila to Turon, Cochinchina, letter with a Manila postmark, dated November 19, 1859, showing the 5-cuartos interior single-weight rate. My records indicate that Philippine mail to Cochinchina at this time was sent using the Philippine interior postal rates.

REFERENCES

- De Bevoise, K. AGENTS OF APOCALYPSE. 1995. Princeton University Press. Princeton, NJ
- Soler y Llach. Auction. February 20, 1992. Barcelona, Spain