

PRESTAMP CANCELLATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

by
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DATESTAMPS

DS1B. FILIPINAS in seriffed capitals, Manila in italic script, and date inside oval with ornamentalions, in black. 1842 - 1845.



Recorded in 1971 as No. 4 and as No. 6 in 1986 by Tizon & Guinovart, usage dates 1842 - 1843, and rated RRR. Previous articles have listed two subtypes apparently arising from misspelling of Manila: as "Mananila" and as "Manilla"¹¹. However, these subtypes appear to have been based on slurred strikes of "Manila" and have not been proven to be actual misspellings.

The earliest use of **DS1B** recorded by the author is 1842 (September 7) on two letters, one to Cadiz (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 20) and the other to Ferrol (SL, June 1991, Lot 2295; GF, May 1994, Lot 16). The latest recorded example is 1845 (May 30) on a cover addressed to Ramon Rodriguez, Macao (SL, March 1994, Lot 1496) described under **OM7**. There is a remarkable usage of **DS1B**, 1843 (January 31) to Manuel Perez Sexane. Madrid (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 22) which had an additional **FMI** (FRANCA) marking. This postmark has also been used as a receiving mark, and an example dated March 31, 1843 (SL, Feb. 1997, Lot 757) is in the author's collection.

DS1R. FILIPINAS in seriffed capitals, Manila in italic script, and date inside oval with ornamentalions, in red. 1842



Not recorded in 1971 nor 1976 by Tizon & Guinovart. The only recorded example is 1842 (June 22) to [Lt. Col.] Manuel Salavera, Zaragoza (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 17), stated in the catalogue to be the only one known.

DS2B/DS2BI. MANILA - 31 date 31 - ISs. FILIPs. in double ring cancel, upper and lower tablet rounded inside, struck in black or blue. Black: 1843- 1862; blue: 1849- 1854



Listed as No. 5 in 1971 and No. 9 (Type I) in 1986 by Tizon & Guinovart. This postmark is part of the standard issue by Spain which designated Spanish cities and colonies as postal districts (Manila was district 31). An easily obtainable prestamp marking, usually used with **FM5** (FRANCO), struck in the same color. Stakes in black continued well into the stamp period as the first datestamp, with or without use of dumb obliterator. While both strikes are usually found as forwarding marks, strikes in black have been seen as receiving marks on incoming mail.

Usages of these markings are not noteworthy, but one usage in blue, 1849 May 17 also with **FM5** in blue, is known with the only recorded example of **RG1**, also struck in blue (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 33).

DS3BI. MANILA - 31 date 31 - ISs. FILIPs. in double ring cancel, upper and lower tablet not rounded inside, struck in blue 1851



Not listed in 1971 but listed as part of No. 9 (Type II) in 1986 by Tizon & Guinovart, usage date 1851, and rated RRR. It is not known why this variation of DS2 was issued, but used only for a very brief period in 1851, since the **DS4** postmark was used starting in 1851. Of six examples recorded by the author, five are dated January 2, all with **FM5** also in blue. This postmark is known used as an arrival mark, dated May 15 (SL, March 1994, Lot 1501), which also happens to be the latest recorded date.

DS4B/DS4BI. MANILA - 31 date 31 - ISLs. FILIPs. in double ring cancel, upper and lower tablet rounded inside, struck in black or blue. Black: 1854-1869; blue: 1851-1859



Listed as part of No. 5 in 1971 and No. 9 (Type III) in 1986 by Tizon & Guinovart. Like **DS2**, easily obtainable prestamp marking, usually used with **FM5**, struck in the same color. This mark was used well into the stamp period as a datestamp, sometimes also doing duty as a canceller.

FRANKING MARKS

The franking marks are indications that the mail has been prepaid. "FRANCA" was originally used, until substituted by "FRANCO" sometime in 1844.

FMI. Franca Azas, inside plain circle with signature, in black. 1787

Unrecorded in 1971 and 1986 by Tizon & Guinovart. The only recorded example is in B 1787/?B Belletti cover, with OM1 (AT, Oct. 1995, Lot 3048). The name and signature pertain to Andres de Azas Valdez, a postal administrator in Manila¹².



FM2. Franca Azas, inside scalloped circle with signature, in black. 1787 - 1804

Unrecorded in 1971, and listed in 1986 as No. 10 by Tizon & Guinovart, usage dates 1787/1797, and rated RRR. The earliest date is in Belletti B1787/?C (SL, June 1991, Lot 2287) and the latest in Belletti B1804/02/17. Other covers with this marking (all from the Belletti correspondence) are: B1790/?A, B1793/11/21, B1796/?A, B1797/01/27, and B 1797/?A.



FM3. FRANCA in seriffed capital letters, 4 mm tall and 22 mm long, slightly curved, struck in black. 1838- 1843

FRANCA

Recorded in 1971 as No. 6 by Tizon & Guinovart, and in 1986 as No. 11, usage date 1838/1843, and rated RRR. Usages recorded by the author are:

1841 (December 23) to Juan Martin de Aguilar, Madrid (in the author's collection, figure 4).

1843 (January 31) to Manuel Perez Sevane (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 22) with **DS1**.

undated cover front to Manuela Bermingham de Brunet, San Sebastian (SL, June 1991, Lot 2292)

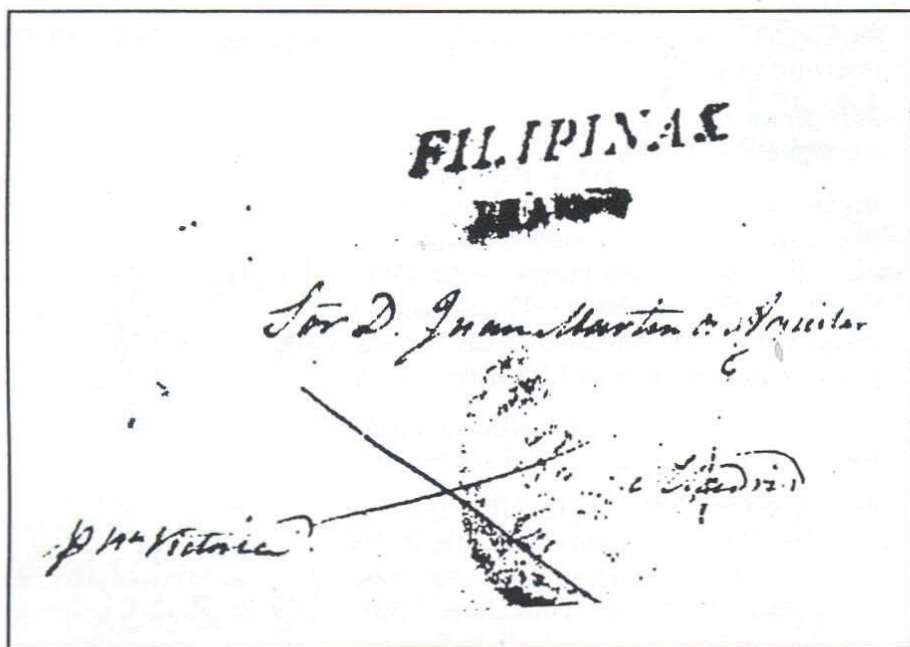


Figure 4 1841 letter to Madrid with OM4B and FM3 markings.

FM4. FRANCA, seriffed capital letters curved in an arch, in black, dimensions not known. 1838

FRANCA

Unrecorded in 1971 and 1986 by Tizon & Guinovart. Only example recorded was on an 1838 entire to Federico Huth & Co., London cover "por Fortuna" (SL. Feb. 1992, Lot 3002). Lewis thinks that this postmark is **FM3**, with the device struck in such a way as to give it a pronounced curved effects.. This could possibly be the case; however, the **FM4** strikes of later dates show that there are enough variations in the letters (particularly the "N") to this postmark, so the author has given it a separate number.

FM5B/FMSBL FRANCO, seriffed capital letters inside curved frame, black 1844 - 1854; blue, 1846 - 1854

Used in conjunction with **DS2B**, **DS2B1**, **DS3**, **DS4B** or **DS4BI**, and struck in the same ink as the datestamp. A fairly easy postmark to obtain, except when used with **DS3** Figure 5).

REGISTRATION MARKING

RGI. CERTIF inside box with inward curved corners, with "handles" on either end. 1849



Only listed by Tizon & Guinovart in 1986 as No. 13, and rated EXT. The only known example is dated May 17 to Jose Matia, Cadiz (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 33), also with **DS2BI** and **FM5BI** markings.

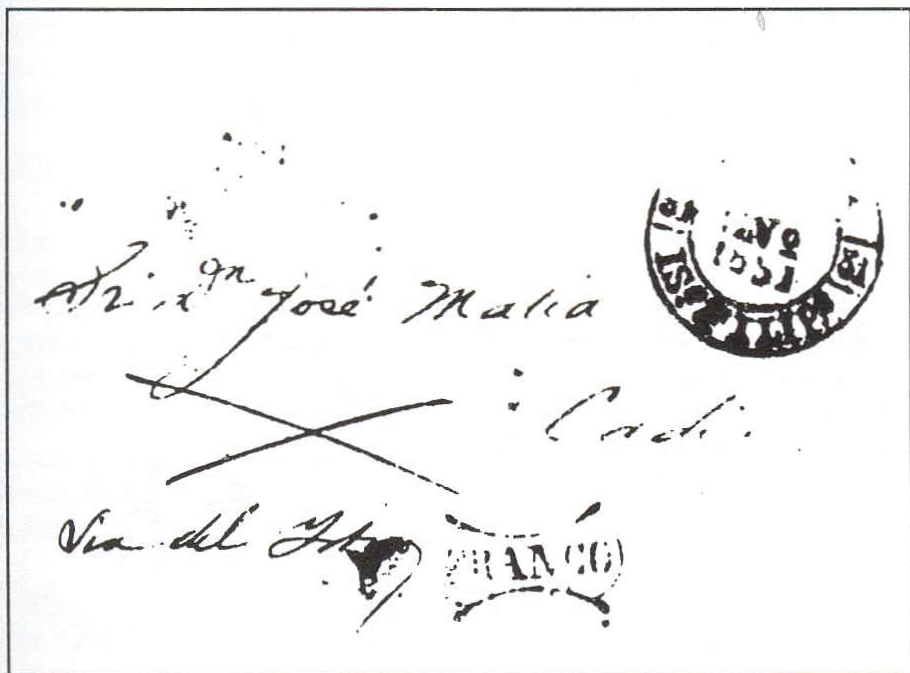


Figure 5 1851 letter to Cadi with DS3 postmark dated January 2, 1851.

The postmarks enumerated in the following sections are not listed by Tizon & Guinovart. It is not known to the author whether the omission is due to a restricted definition of postal markings by Tizon & Guinovart, as they certainly would have been aware of the numeral markings applied on unpaid arrival mails. In the case of the weight markings, the probable explanation is that these were not known at the time the revised list was published in 1986.

WEIGHT MARKINGS

WMI. 1/2 ONZ., in black. 1841

The only example recorded is in 1841 (March 8) to Jose Matia, Cadiz (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 26), also with **DS2B** and "por Antenor" notation. It should be noted that this letter does not bear **FM2** (an indication of prepayment of postage).

A handwritten weight marking consisting of a fraction 1/2 followed by the word ONZ. The fraction is written with a horizontal line and the numbers 1 and 2 on either side. The word ONZ. is written in a bold, slightly slanted, sans-serif font.

WM2. 3/4 ONZ., in black. 1841 - 1846

The two recorded examples were also sent to Jose Matia in Cadiz: 1841 (September 27) with **OM4B** and with "por la Colom" notation (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 16); and 1846 (December 19) with **DS2B** and "por Mariveles" notation (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 29).

A handwritten weight marking consisting of a fraction 3/4 followed by the word ONZ. The fraction is written with a horizontal line and the numbers 3 and 4 on either side. The word ONZ. is written in a bold, slightly slanted, sans-serif font.

TAX MARKS

Unfranked arrival mail or prepaid mail from countries not having a postal treaty with Spain was taxed upon arrival in Manila. There were two types of markings: (a) numerals signifying the amount due in reales, and (b) numerals with "Rs." The different values are not given separate listings, but are only grouped by type.

TMI. Numeral followed by **Rs**

6Rs: with or without circle: 1850 - 1854.
Black or blue black

A handwritten tax marking consisting of the numeral 6 followed by the letters Rs. The numeral 6 is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The letters Rs are written in a smaller, sans-serif font to the right of the numeral.

The recorded examples show the markings with or without the circle. Where the circle is evident, it is very faint compared to the "6Rs," so it is possible that those without the circle are the same devices applied with less than sufficient pressure to make the circle evident. The examples recorded are:

1851 (March 2 departure date) from Valencia to Ignacio Sebastian (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 41) (without circle)

1853 (April 11 departure date) from Santander to Ramon de Equavas (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 45)

1850 (December 11 departure date) from Madrid to Joaquin Bermingham, Bulacan SL. Feb. 1992, Lot 3002) (without circle)

1851 (January 18 arrival date) from Spain to Joaquin Bermingham, Bulacan (without circle) in the author's collection

The author has a group of incoming letters to Augustinian priests from 1846 to 1851. The letters were taxed 6 reales upon arrival, with the "6" in manuscript in the earlier letters, with a March 26, 1850, arrival date as the latest with manuscript markings. Subsequent letters were marked by **TM1** (6 with or without circle). A **4Rs** marking has been recorded on an 1854 (November 15 departure date) from Cieza to Manila (SL, March 1994, Lot 1507; SL, Feb. 1997, Lot 762). The catalogue stated that there was a change in postal rates effective November 1, 1854, from 6 reales to 4 reales, and added that the cover is the only one known with this marking. However, the author has recorded this marking on an 1854 (October 21 departure date) from Seville to Manila (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 143). As this mark was introduced at the onset of the stamp era, however, this has not been listed in this article.

792Rs: 1854. Black

This marking is found on a large piece, apparently from the wrapper of a very large parcel (AT, Oct. 1995, Lot 650). It was sent by the Superior Tribunal de Justicia to the Juez General de Bienes de Difuntos, Manila. While the departure date (there is no arrival date) is indistinct, it is believed to have been sent in 1854, and apparently is one of the highest. if not the highest franking for Spain and its colonies. ¹³

TM2. Numeral without "Rs"
24: 1852. Black

One example recorded, 1852 from Madrid to Juez General de Bienes de Difuntos (similar addressee as the piece with **792Rs** (GF, Jan. 1991, Lot 44). Using 6 reales as the single-letter rate during this period, this translates to a quadruple franking. A 2 franking has been recorded in an 1854 (August 18? departure date) from Olivenza to Manila, but again, since this marking's date is after the introduction of Philippine stamps, this is not separately listed here.

ENDNOTES:

1. Among the early articles (to 1985) which touched on early postal history and or prestamp markings are:

Comfort, Newton C., "Postal Markings of the Philippines (to 1898)," *The American Philatelist*, Vol 46, No. 6, pp 318-323

Wellsted, W.R., "The Postal History of Manila and the Philippine Islands Up to 1877," *Postal History Bulletin*, No. 87 Nov.-Dec. 1956 pp.76-78

Wellsted, W.R., "Philippines Postal History to 1877," *Philatelic Magazine*, Vol. 79 February 1971, p. 303

Llul, Francisco Ferrer, "Philippine Islands' Postal Communications, A Brief Sketch." *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 64 No.4 pp. 315-316

Peterson, Donald J., "Manila to London Mail System, 1821-54," *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 94, No. 11, November 1980, pp. 1007-1012

Encarnacion, Emmanuel, "Establishment of Philippine Post Office in 1783," *Philippine Philatelic News, IPPS*, Vol. 2, No. 4, November-December 1982.

Encarnacion, Emmanuel, "Establishment of the Postal System of the Philippines," *Philippine Philatelic News, IPPS*, Vol. 7, No. 1, January 1985.

2. Guinovart, Jorge and Tizon, Manuel, *Prefilatelia Espanola: Estudio de las Marcas Postales de Espana y sus Dominios de Indias, Siglos XVIII y XIX*, Barcelona, 1971, Vol. II, pp. 829-830; Tizon, Manuel and Guinovart, Jorge, *Prefilatelia Espanola: Nueva Estudio de las Marcas Postales de Espana y sus Dominios de Indias, Siglos XVIII y XIX*, Barcelona, 1986, Vol. III, pp. 1235-1239. This article will henceforth refer to these works as Tizon & Guinovart.

3. Post-1985 articles touching on this topic include:

Encarnacion, Emmanuel, "National Philatelic Treasures," *Philippine Philatelic News, IPPS*, Vol 8, No. 1, September 1986.

Encarnacion, Emmanuel, "The Philippine Postal Service Until 1877," *Philippine Philatelic Journal, IPPS*, Vol 9, Special Edition, November 1987.

Lewis, Geoffrey, "The Postal History of the Philippines in the Last Quarter of the Eighteenth Century," *The N.S. ~ Philatelist*, New South Wales, Australia, Vol. 13, No. 2 May 1991; also in *Possessions*, Vol. 14, No. 1 and 2.

Nuñez, Nestor C., "Unrecorded Prestamp Postal Markings", *Philippine Philatelic Journal, IPPS*, Vol. 16 No. 1 First Quarter, 1994

4. Composite information from Wellsted, Llul, Lewis and Peterson, as previously cited.

5. First mentioned in the literature by Wellsted (1971 article), who erroneously used "Bellini." Information on Belletti comes mainly from Lewis.
6. Communication of Don Jose Llach to the author in January 1997.
7. Panelo has been identified to be Juan Antonio Panelo, postal administratur at that time. See Cuesta, Antonio, "Philippine Postal History Falls into Place," *American Philatelist*, Vol. 111, No. 11, November 1997. This article erroneously identified B1780/10/14 as "thought to be the oldest known postal letter from the Asian continent." Panelo was succeeded by Azas in 1782 (see Endnote 12).
8. Communication of Don Jose Llach to Eugene A. Garrett, March 1, 1994, copied to the author.
9. Lewis, in "Manila Mark Applied in Mexico," *Philippine Philatelic Journal*, Vol. XIX, No. 3, Third Quarter 1997, puts forth the proposition that OM5 and OM7 were arrival markings applied in Mexico, based on the fact that three covers he recorded with OM5 markings were sent either to or via Mexico, and the supposition that a letter to London with OM7 may have been sent via Mexico. This author believes that these bases are not strong enough to make a definitive conclusion. There is a remote possibility that ON15 may be an arrival marking applied in Mexico; however, no previous "Filipinas" or "Manila" arrival markings had been recorded as having been applied in Mexico. and it seems unlikely that such arrival markings would be started towards the end of the galleon era. The incoming letter to Bulacan province and outgoing letter to Macao with OM7 markings negate the proposition that OM7 is a Mexican marking.
10. Lewis correspondence to the author, July 1997.
11. Mentioned in Encarnacion (1987, Endnote 3), and repeated, quoting Encarnacion in Nuñez (1994, Endnote 3). In correspondence to the author in July 1997, Lewis stated he has never seen these supposed subtypes of misspellings of Manila.
12. There has been uncertainty whether a postal administrator by the name of Azas lived in Manila around this time. The author found proof of his existence in a form reproduced in *El Correo Espanol En America*, Ministry of Culture, Seville, May 1996 (published in conjunction with ESPAMER 96). See also Cuesta, Antonio, "Islas Filipinas: Las Marcas Cobran Sentido," in *Cronica*, October 1996, and Cuesta (1997, Endnote 7).
13. Illustrated in Encarnacion (1986, Endnote 3).

Ed. Note: Nestor's article was originally printed in the 1998 (6th) *American Philatelic Congress Book*.