

However, The Black Ink Vignette Plate #129954 is the most common plate number. Plates 158244, 158245 and 158246 are not common and are worth a modest premium. Undoubtedly, more plate blocks will be reported with plate numbers 158244, 158245 and 158246 in the future.

The Author and the Editor would appreciate a photocopy of any stamp or any cover with plate numbers 158244, 158245 or 158246.

Special “**Thanks**” to Craig Eggleston for having a Keen eye and the business acumen to purchase this very rare item. And to Ray Coughlin for his research at the Smithsonian Institution in the mid 1970s when he photographed the Proof Sheet of this plate. Without his work, the possible existence of plate 158246 would have been unknown.

## **UPDATED LIST OF SPANISH PHILIPPINE SPECIMEN (MUESRA) TYPES**

**by Don Peterson**

This list of specimen (MUESTRA) types up-dates and corrects the list published in the Philippine Philatelic Journal, Fourth Quarter 1993. TABLE 1 is a description of the six known, genuine specimen types; and TABLE 2 shows the occurrence of specimen types on Spanish Philippine postal and newspaper issues from 1871 through 1898. Illustrations of the six specimen types follow the tables.

Ed. Note: color examples for this article are found on pages 10 and 11. Don Peterson, in addition to sharing his information also is paying the extra cost of the color copy. Thanks, Don

**TABLE 1**  
**DESCRIPTION OF SPECIMEN TYPES OF THE**  
**SPANISH PHILIPPINES, 1871-1898**

- TYPE 1** Handstamped "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR MUESTRAS" in two lines. The top line, "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR", has sans serif letters. The bottom line, "MUESTRAS", has serif letters. 15mm. by 59.5mm. Blue. Usually with no gum. Found on 1871-1879 postal and fiscal issues.
- TYPE 1A** Similar to TYPE 1, except that some of the lines in "MUESTRAS" are thicker. For example, the left vertical line of the "U" is 1mm. wide, instead of 3/4mm. wide, as in TYPE 1. The vertical line of "E" is 1 to 1-1/4mm. wide, instead of 1/2 to 3/4mm. wide, as in TYPE 1.
- TYPE 2** Handstamped "MUESTRA" with sans serif letters. 2mm. by 14mm. Red. With gum. Found on 1886-1896 newspaper issues, and 1890-1896 postal issues.
- TYPE 3** Handstamped "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR MUESTRAS" in two lines. The top line, "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR", has serif letters. The bottom line, "MUESTRAS", has sans serif letters. 17mm. by 42.5mm. Violet. With gum. Found on 1890-1896 postal, newspaper, and fiscal issues. Also known on 1898 postal cards (very rare).
- TYPE 4** Typeset "MUESTRA" with sans serif letters. 1 to 1-1/2mm. by 10-1/2mm. Violet. With gum. Found on 1897 postal issues.
- TYPE 5** Typeset "MUESTRA" with sans serif letters. 3mm. by 13mm. Violet. With gum. Found on 1897-1898 postal issues, and #141 (1895 postal issue).

**TABLE 2**  
**OCCURRENCE OF SPECIMEN TYPES ON POSTAL AND**  
**NEWSPAPER ISSUES OF THE SPANISH PHILPPINES**

Scott #	1	1A	2	3	4	5
<u>1871 Postal Issue</u>						
39 card stock	VR					
40	R	R				
40 card stock	VR					
41	VS					
41 card stock	VR					
42 cardstock	VR					
<u>1872 Postal Issue</u>						
43	VS					
43 blue color proof	R					
44	R					
45	VS	VS				
45 imperforate proof		R				
46 rose color proof	R	R				
47	VS					
<u>1874 Postal Issue</u>						
48	VS					
49	VS					
50	VS					
51	R					
<u>1875-1877 Postal Issue</u>						
52	VS					
54	R					
56	VS					
57	R					
58	R					
<u>1878-1879 Postal Issue</u>						
64		VS				
<u>1890-1897 Postal Issue</u>						
140			S	VS		
141			S	VS		R
142				VS		
143		VS		VS	VS	
143 stamp pale brown					R	
144			S	VS		

Scott #	1	1A	2	3	4	5
145			S	VS		
146			S	VS		
147				VS		
148			S	VS		
149			S			
150			S	VS		
151			S	VS		
152			S			
153			S	S		
154 perforated proof				VR		
155				VS		
156			S	VS		
157			S	VS		
158			S	S		
159			S			
160			S	VS		
161			S			
162			S	VS		
163			S			
164			S	VS		
165			S	VS		
166			S	S		
167			S			
168			S	VS		
169			S	VS		
170			S	S		
171				S		
172			VS	R		
173			S			
174			S	VS		
175			S	VS		
176				VS		
177			S			
178			S	VS		
179			VS		R	
180					R	
<u>1898 Postal Issue</u>						
192						S

Scott #	1	1A	2	3	4	5
193						S
194						S
195						S
196						S
197						S
198						S
199						S
200						S
201						S
202						S
203						S
204						S
204 imperforate proof						VR
205						VS
206						S
207						VS
208						VS
209						VS
210						R
211						R
<u>1886-1896 Newspaper Issue</u>						
P1			S			
P2			S			
P3			S			
P4			S			
PS			S			
P7				S		
P8				VS		
P9			S			
P11				VS		
P12			S			
P13			S			
P15				S		
P16				VS		
P17			S			
P18			R	R		
P19				VS		
P20				VS		

Relative scarcity is indicated by: S=scarce, VS=very scarce, R=rare, and VR=very rare.



**TYPE 1**  
(on #45)



**TYPE 1A**  
(on #56)



**TYPE 2**  
(on #153)



**TYPE 3**  
(on #P19)



**TYPE 4**  
(on #143)



**TYPE 5**  
(on #143)