

COMPENDIUM OF PHILIPPINE POSTAGE STAMPS, 1854-1870 * *

by



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INTRODUCTION

It was during the reign of Queen Isabella II of Spain when the first adhesive postage stamps were issued in the Philippines. This country was then a Spanish colony for over three centuries until 1898 when, by the Treaty of Paris, Spain ceded this country to the United States. The registration fee was 2 "reales."

A royal decree of January 12, 1853 promulgated in Manila on December 7 of the same year ordered that necessary steps be taken for the manufacture and sale of postage stamps for the domestic use of the Philippines. These stamps came out for the first time on February 1, 1854.

It will be noted that the Philippines issued the first stamps fourteen years after Great Britain originated and put into actual practice their use (1840); and four years after Spain had issued the first ones (1850).

This article consists of the following parts: I. Queen Isabella II Stamps, 1854-1868; and II. Stamps Issued During the Spanish Revolution, 1868-1870.

QUEEN ISABELLA II STAMPS, 1854-1868

The royal decree of January 12, 1853, already mentioned above, provided also that all letters, including those privately sent, were to be prepaid by means of stamps, and that the postal rate would be 5 "cuartos" for mail under 1/2 ounce; 10 "cuartos," from 1/2 to one ounce; one "real," over one to 1 1/2 ounces; 10 "cuartos" for each additional 1/2 ounce. The registration fee was 2 "reales."

During this period, and up to 1864, the monetary system was one peso "peso duro," "peso plata fuerte," or simply "peso" being equivalent to 8 "reales fuertes," or simply "reales;" and one "real fuerte," or simply "real," to 20 "cuartos." Also, one "cuartillo," to one

fourth of one "real," or to 5 "cuartos."

The "real" of the Spanish colonies was called "fuerte" in order to distinguish it from the "real de Vellon" which was the monetary unit in Spain proper.

February 1, 1854 Regular Issue (1)

The stamps consist of two designs. The first shown in illustration A1 has, as a motif, the crude

profile of Queen Isabella II, facing to the right, in an oval frame of pearls. The frame is cut by the top panel with the inscription "CORREOS 1854 Y 55," meaning postage, and by the bottom panel with "FRANCO," meaning prepaid, and the value of the stamp (5 or 10 Cs.), all in Roman lettering. The design measures 18.75 x 21.75 mm.

The second design (A2) is similar to the first (A1), except that the inscriptions are interchanged, and it was used for the 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. values. It has the same measurement as that of above.

This issue was first placed on sale on February 1, 1854 in Manila as regular postage stamps for do-

I-1 QUEEN ISABELLA II STAMPS



Illustrations from F. L. Palmer's **POSTAL ISSUES OF THE PHILIPPINES (1912)**, except A4, courtesy of Rogelio de Jesus.

** Silver Medal in the PHICIPEX Essay Contest.
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mestic use only. Occasionally though, the 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. were used on foreign mail.

The values of the stamps released with their respective colors, quantities issued, and other particulars are as follows:

5 Cs., orange, also brown orange, or orange red, 5,000. (A1, G-1, G-1A, S-1).

10 Cs., carmine, also pale rose, or dark carmine, 5,000. (A1, G-2, G-3, S-2). The black 10 Cs. was just an essay or trial print, and was never placed in circulation. (G-2A).

1 Rl. Fte., slate blue, also blue, or ultramarine, 2,000. (A2, G-4, G-5, S-4). The error "CORROS," the "E" in "CORREOS" missing, occurs in stamp No. 26 of any sheet of the 1 Rl. Fte. value (G-4E, G-5E).

2 Rs. Fte., green, also yellow green, or emerald green, 2,000. (A2, G-6, S-5).

Since the engraving was done by hand, there resulted forty varieties of stamps in every sheet of each value.

On January 1, 1856, the 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. became obsolete upon the appearance of the Spanish Antilles stamps of the same value, but for some unknown reasons, the remaining supply was saved because in January, 1874, these stamps, including the 5 Cs., were re-issued as provisionals with the "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" overprint (S1).

The stamps were engraved by Plana, Jorba y Cia., Plaza de Binondo, Manila, on rather thick, and also thin paper (5 and 10 Cs.), and on yellowish paper (1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte.), both unwatermarked, in sheets of 40 stamps each, 5 x 8. They are all imperforate.

It will be noted that the plates used for the printing of all stamps were, in general, destroyed after the work was done. This practice was done in order to prevent the illegal printing of the stamps.

June, 1855 Regular Issue

In compliance with a royal decree of September 1, 1854, another but better design (A3) of the profile of the queen was prepared locally which was an improvement over design A1, but the head came out so large that Filipino collectors refer to it as the "cabeza grande." Another difference is that the frame of pearls is circular. For other particulars, refer to the description of said design A1. It measures 19.5 x 22 mm.

The said decree required also that the stamps (1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte.) on foreign mail had to be printed in Spain, but the effectivity of this provision was postponed several times until January 1, 1856, in order to permit the complete exhaustion of the existing supply.

Only the 5 Cs. value was released in Manila in June, 1855 (the exact date is not known). The quantity issued, colors, etc., are the

following:

5 Cs., pale vermilion, also red, 5,000. There are four varieties in every block of four stamps. (A3, G-7, S-6).

They were lithographed by Plana, Jorba y Cia., Manila, on thin paper, unwatermarked, in sheets of 48 stamps each, 6 x 8, without perforation.

August, 1855 Regular Issue

At a later date, another design (A3a) was prepared in the same general style of the previous one, except that the head was smaller, now referred to as the "cabeza chica," and the inner circle of the frame is smaller and not broken by the top and bottom panels. The design measures 18.5 x 21.5 mm.

The stamps were released in August, 1855 with the following value, color, etc.:

5 Cs., vermilion, 3,000 (second printing). In the first printing, only a few sheets of stamps (5 Cs., pale vermilion) were found to be satisfactory; all the rest were destroyed. The third printing which was released on November 15, 1855, was not quite satisfactory. Only 500 copies, 5 Cs., pale vermilion, were found good. (A3a, G-8, S-7).

In every case, there was only one variety of stamps.

The stamps were lithographed on thin unwatermarked paper without perforation by the same printing firm mentioned. The size of the sheet is not known.

The 1856-1866 Spanish Antilles Regular Issues

In accordance with the provisions of the royal decree of September 1, 1854, which finally took effect on January 1, 1856, the 1855-1 and 2 Rl. PLATA F. of the Spanish Antilles were used on foreign mail, thus making obsolete the locally printed stamps of the same value. The stamps arrived in Manila about the middle of January, 1856 and were subsequently released.

The design (A4) portrays the head of Queen Isabella II, looking to the right in a circular unbroken frame of pearls with the following inscriptions in white Roman lettering: "CORREOS" at the top panel, and at the bottom, the value of the stamp followed by "PLATA F." One "real plata fuerte" means simply one "real." The engraving was done by Jose Perez Varela. The design measures 18.5 x 22.5 mm.

The values and their respective colors, etc., the quantities issued being unknown, are the following:

1 Rl. PLATA F., green on bluish paper. This was used as a regular stamp. (A4, G-9, S-8).

2 Rl. PLATA F., carmine on bluish paper. It was used for registered mail matter. (A4, G-10, S-9).

The stamps can only be distinguished from those issued in the Spanish Antilles by the Philippine cancellations, especially on covers, such as MANILA, CAVITE, etc.

The oval network cancellations which were also used in other Spanish colonies could not be used alone for purposes of identification. These vary in shape; some are quite pointed at the ends, and others are rather rounded.

They were in use until 1866 although the stamps became obsolete on January 1, 1864.

On January 24, 1872, the remaining supply of the two values was overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (S1).

The stamps were typographed by the Fabrica Nacional del Timbre, Madrid, Spain, on bluish paper with watermark of "loops," in sheets of 56 stamps each, 7 x 8, without perforation.

The 1859 Regular Issue

In order to replenish the supply of stamps of 5 and 10 Cs. which was getting low, an order was placed to print these values with a design similar to that of the 1856-1866 Spanish Antilles stamps (A4).

The design (A5) portrays the profile of the queen, facing to the right, in an unbroken frame of pearls, the outer circle occupying practically the width of the stamp. The following inscriptions, in Roman lettering, appear at the top panel, "CORREOS. INTERIOR," and at the bottom panel "FRANCO" with the value of the stamps. The design measures 18.5 x 23.5 mm.

The stamps were released about the middle of October, 1859, with the following data:

5 Cs., vermilion, also scarlet, or orange, 5,000. (A5, G-11, S-10).

10 Cs., rose, also lilac rose, 3,000. (A5, G-12, S-11).

There are four varieties in every block of four stamps for each value.

In 1874, the remaining supply of 10 Cs., was overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (S1).

They were lithographed by M. Perez e Hijo, Manila, on thin, and also on ribbed paper, both unwatermarked, (5 Cs.) in sheets of 56, 130 or 192 stamps each, and (10 Cs.), 56 stamps each, 7 x 8. The stamps are imperforate.

The 1861 Regular Issue

The design (A6) of this stamp is somewhat similar to that of the 1859 regular issue (A5), with the same inscriptions, except that it is less artistic. The pearls are smaller, the background is blurred, and the lettering is heavier. The stamps are so close to each other in the sheet that no stamp can have any margin. It measures 18.5 x 23.5 mm.

The stamps were released in November, 1861, with only one value, thus—

5 Cs., vermilion, 10,000. There is only one variety, and the minor varieties are caused by defective printing. (A6, G-13, S-12).

They were lithographed by M.

Perez e Hijo, Manila, on yellowish, and also bluish paper, without perforation. The size of the sheet is unknown.

The 1862 Regular Issue

Owing to the fact that the supply of the 5 Cs., value was getting low again, another issue of this value was printed with a design (A7) similar to the previous one, except that it is better executed. The circular frame is smaller and does not touch the panels containing the inscriptions, the lettering being finer. It measures 19.5 x 23.5 mm.

The stamps were released in August, 1862, with only one value (the quantity is unknown).

5 Cs., dull red, also red brown. There is only one variety, and the stamps are so close to each other in the sheet that no single stamp can have any margin. (A7, G-14, S-13).

The remaining stock of these stamps was overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (SI) on October 7, 1873.

The printer is unknown. The stamps were lithographed locally on unwatermarked paper, and in sheets of 128 stamps, 10 x 13, except that the bottom row has only 8 stamps leaving a blank space at each end of the row. The purpose of this arrangement was probably to make one sheet of stamps be worth exactly 32 "reales". They are imperforate.

The 1863 Regular Issue

In order to replenish the supply of the low-valued stamps (5 and 10 Cs.), and to meet the demand for the higher values for use in the domestic mail, a new set of stamps (A8) was printed locally with a design similar but finer in appearance than the previous one. Two points, or colon, however, appear between "CORREOS" and "INTERIOR", instead of one as in the case of the previous issues. The design measures 19.5 x 23.25 mm. (5 and 10 Cs.); 19.5 x 24.5 mm. (1 and 2 Rl.).

The stamps were placed on sale in January, 1863. Their values and other particulars are the following:

5 Cs. vermilion, 9,000. (A8, G-15, S-14).

10 Cs., carmine, 7,000. (A8, G-16, S-15).

1 Rl., violet, 5,000. (A8, G-17, S-16).

2 Rl., blue, 5,000. (A8, G-18, S-17).

The stone used to print the 5 Cs. was also used to print the 10 Cs. by correcting the numerals. In many cases, the numeral "5" can still be slightly seen in the 10 Cs. stamps.

On account of the fact that "CORREOS: INTERIOR", meaning domestic postage, appears in the stamps, it is not definitely known whether the 1 and 2 Rl. were placed in circulation during this period. As a matter of fact, no

stamps of these values are known to be in used condition, except those that were overprinted on January 24, 1872, including the 5 Cs., with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (SI).

The stamps were lithographed by M. Perez e Hijo, Manila, on rather thick paper, unwatermarked, and imperforate. The size of the sheet is not known.

The 1863 Provisional Issue

Owing to the approaching exhaustion of the stamps for foreign mail, it was found necessary to print locally a provisional issue. Stamp A8a was issued for this purpose. This is a redrawn design of the previous one with "CORREOS" only at the top panel, and "1 Rl. PLATA F.", at the bottom; all are in white Roman lettering. The distinguishing marks of these stamps are: the point of the bust is rounded and is about 1 mm. from the circular string of 94 pearls, and the printing is rather blurred. The design measures 20 x 23.5 mm.

The value of the stamps, and its respective colors and quantities issued are the following:

1 Rl. PLATA F., gray green, 7,000 (first printing, March 1863). The second printing was released in October, 1863, with 5,000 stamps, deep gray green. (A8a, G-19, S-18).

On September 6, 1870, the remaining supply of this issue was overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (SI).

The stamps were lithographed by M. Perez e Hijo, Manila, on thin, and also rather thick, unwatermarked paper without perforation. The size of the sheet is believed to be 50 stamps each, 5 x 10, although others say it is larger.

The 1864 Provisional Issue

Shortly before the arrival of the new set of 1864 regular stamps, and due to the fact that the supply of 1 Rl. PLATA F. was almost exhausted, another issue of this value was printed with a redrawn design (A9). Although similar to stamp A8a, however, it can be distinguished by the fact that the bust ends in a sharp point almost touching the circular string of 96 pearls, and the letters are larger in size. The design measures 20 x 23.5 mm.

The value of the stamps and the corresponding color and quantity issued are the following:

1 Rl. PLATA F., green, also emerald green, 2,000. (A9, G-20, S-20).

The remaining stock of this issue was overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (SI) on September 6, 1870.

The stamps were lithographed by M. Perez e Hijo, Manila, on thin, and also thick, unwatermarked paper without perforation. The size of the sheet is unknown.

This was the last issue to be printed in the Philippines, though surcharging was always resorted to in Manila whenever there was a

change of government in Spain or certain values became exhausted and the supply from Madrid, where future printings of stamps were done, did not arrive on time. This was due to the protests raised by the public on account of the high cost of printing in Manila and poor quality of the stamps printed locally.

It is worthy to note that no stamps were printed in the Philippines from 1864 until 1926, excepting, of course, the Aguinaldo or Katipunan stamps of 1898-1899.

The 1864 Regular Issue

By a royal decree of July 19, 1849, the metric monetary system was adopted, though its introduction in the Philippines actually took place in 1864, and in Spain two years later. This system consisted of one "peso fuerte" which was equivalent to 100 "centimos de peso fuerte." In terms of the old system, one "peso fuerte" was equivalent to eight "reales fuertes."

In order to meet the provisions of the new monetary system, the issuance of a new set of stamps whose design (A10) was basically different from the previous issues was necessary. The stamp portrays the profile of Queen Isabella II, facing to the left, in an elaborate frame of pearls. The inscription "CORREOS" appears at the top panel, curved downward, and the value of the stamp, at the bottom panel, curved upward. All are written in Roman lettering. The design measures 18.75 x 22 mm.

The stamps were first issued about the middle of February, 1864 in Manila with the following values, their respective colors, and other particulars:

3 1/8 CENT. Po. Fe., black on buff paper, also yellowish paper. The following varieties occur: no period under "o" of "Po."; no period under "e" of "Fe."; also, no period under both "o" and "e" of "Po. Fe.". (A10, G-21, S-21).

6 2/8 CENT. Po. Fe., green on rose, and also white paper. Likewise, no period under "o" of "Po."; no period under "e" of "Fe."; also, no period under both "o" and "e" of Po. Fe.". (A10, G-22, S-22).

12 4/8 CENT. Po. Fe., blue on salmon, and also white paper; also deep blue on salmon paper. Likewise, no period under "o" of "Po."; also, no period under both "o" and "e" of "Po. Fe.". (A10, G-23, S-23).

25 CENT. Po. Fe., red on flesh, and also white paper, also pale red, or vermilion on rose paper. Likewise, no period under "o" of "Po."; also, no period under both "o" and "e" of "Po. Fe.". (A10, G-24, S-24).

The above values correspond, respectively, to the 5 and 10 Cs., 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. values of the previous issues. The quantities issued are unknown, although the supply that came from Spain was considerably large as to meet the demand until the end of 1868 when the remaining stock was finally overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (SI).

I-2 STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE SPANISH REVOLUTION

HABILITADO
POR LA
NACION.

S1



S1/A10

A11

Illustration S1 from Scott's STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE, 1953 edition, and the rest, F. L. Palmer's POSTAL ISSUES OF THE PHILIPPINES (1912).

With the appearance of these stamps, all previous issues were rendered obsolete.

The engraving was done by Jose Perez. The stamps were typographed by the Fabrica Nacional del Timbre, Madrid, Spain, on various kinds of paper as indicated above, all unwatermarked, in sheets of 100 stamps each, 10 x 10, without perforation.

STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE SPANISH REVOLUTION, 1868-1870

A successful revolution in 1868 sent Queen Isabella II fleeing as an exile to France, and a Republic was declared temporarily. In order to emphasize the change in the form of government, the Revolutionary Government decreed on September 30, 1868 that all remaining supplies of previous stamps be overprinted with the legend "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (S1).

The dies were made in Spain and then sent to Manila. Twenty-seven dies, all in all (the so-called Vizcaya type) were received in December, 1868. The overprint appears in heavy Roman lettering and in three lines, thus: "HABILITADO" occupies the first line, underneath it is "POR LA" of smaller type, and the third line, "NACION" in a larger type than the first.

Due to carelessness in overprinting which was done by hand, the overprints occur in various positions; horizontal, inverted, vertical, diagonal, or double overprints.

The 1868 Provisional Issue

In December, 1868, the remaining supply of the 1864 Queen Isabella II regular issue (A10) was thus overprinted in black:

3 1/8 CENT. Po. Fe., black on buff, also yellowish paper (black). (S1/A10, G-25, S-35).

6 2/8 CENT. Po. Fe., green on rose, also white paper (black). (S1/A10, G-26, S-36).

12 4/8 CENT. Po. Fe., blue on salmon, also white paper; also deep blue on salmon paper (black). (S1/A10, G-27, S-37).

25 CENT. Po. Fe., red on flesh, also white paper; also pale red, or vermilion on rose paper (black). (S1/A10, G-28, S-38).

Inverted, vertical, diagonal, and double overprints exist in each of the said values. The quantities issued are unknown.

The 1870 Provisional Issue

Due to the fact that no new stamps were received from Spain, and that the supply of the previous provisionals was getting low, the remaining supply of the 1863-1864 Queen Isabella II provisionals were equally overprinted in black on April 12, 1870. They are as follows:

(On 1863 Provisionals)

1 Rl. PLATA F., gray green (black). It is known that 75 or 76 sheets were overprinted. (S1/A8a, G-29, S-33).

(On 1864 Provisionals)

1 Rl. PLATA F., emerald green, also (black). The quantity issued is not known. (S1/A9, G-30, S-34).

Inverted, vertical, diagonal, and double overprints exist in each of the said values.

(1) The illustration of any stamp is represented by such symbols as A1. That of any overprint or surcharge, by a symbol, such as S1 for "HABILITADO POR LA NACION."

The color of any overprint or surcharge is always written between parentheses following the color of the stamp.

The quantity issued, represented by a number, usually follows the color of the overprint; in the absence of the latter, that of the stamp.

Symbols and index numbers found between parentheses following the description of any stamp are given in order to facilitate the reference of the stamp to the illustrations in this article and to the stamp catalogs listed below. The index numbers, such as G-7 and S-6, refer respectively to those of the following catalogs:

Galvez' Catalogo Especial de los Sellos de Ex-Colonias Espanolas, 1951 edition.
Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1953 edition.

The regular issue of the Revolutionary Government came out belatedly in March, 1871, four months after the said government had a king of its choice. The design (A11) of the stamps portrays the head of a woman, an allegorical figure representing Spain, facing slightly to the left, in an elaborate oval frame. The inscription "CORREOS" appears at the top curved downward, in white Roman lettering; and the value of the stamp, at the bottom, curved upward, also in Roman lettering. The initials "E. J.", which appear below the neck are those of the engraver, Eugenio Julia Jover. The design measures 18.5 x 22 mm.

It might be mentioned here that a new currency was introduced during this period. It consisted of one "escudo" being equivalent to 100 "centimos"; also equivalent to 250 "pesetas".

The stamps issued, and their respective colors (the quantities issued being unknown) are as follows:

5 Cs. DE Eo., blue, also dark blue. It exists as imperforate. (All, G-31, S-39).

10 Cs. DE Eo., deep green, also bright green. It exists as imperforate. (All, G-32, S-40).

20 Cs. DE Eo., brown, also yellow brown. (All, G-33, S-41).

40 Cs., DE Eo., rose, also carmine. (All, G-34, S-42).

Proofs of all denominations are found in blue on white cardboard without perforation.

The stamps were typographed by the Fabrica Nacional del Timbre, Madrid, on thin unwatermarked paper, in sheets of 100 stamps each, 10 x 10, with perforation 14. These were the first perforated stamps to be used in the Philippines.

The perforation number represents the number of small holes in a space of two centimeters along the edge of a stamp, and is usually determined by the use of a perforation gauge.



Comments and Reminiscences

by J. Murray Bartels

Philippines—1854 Issue

THE first issue of the Philippines ranks high among the classics of Philately. Only one set of stamps had appeared previously in all Asia. These were the three embossed stamps of the Scinde District of India.

A peculiar feature of these Philippines, consisting of forty stamps to a sheet (8 x 8), is the fact that each stamp on the copper plates was separately engraved. Naturally each subject shows a marked variation from the other 39 which makes it quite easy to reconstruct a plate, especially as large blocks and even full sheets of some values exist. Such sheets are known of the 10c carmine and 1r unused, the 10c pale rose and 1r dull blue used. The largest block of the 5c orange (used), contains 37 of the 40 varieties. This was in the collection of the late M. Mirabaud, its present owner is H. F. Tows. An interesting error occurred in the plate of the 1 real where on one stamp the inscription reads CORROS instead of CORREOS.

Very fine copies of this issue are difficult to find as the paper cracks and breaks quite easily.



The likeness of Queen Isabella II on these stamps was rather distorted and when it came to her attention for the first time nearly two years after issue, she was shocked and immediately forbade the continuance of their use on mail to Spain.

Upon the abdication of King Amadeus on February 11, 1873, a provisional government was formed and all previous stamps were demonetized. Several denominations of the Isabella stamps were surcharged HABILITADO POR LA NACION for provisional use. Among these there were several

sheets of the blue 1r first issue of which about a dozen copies are known including the unique error CORROS. One of the world's rarest stamps is the 2r green of the first issue with the provisional surcharge. Only two copies are known, one was in the Mendel collection, the other in the Ferrary collection. The finest known used copy of the 1r blue was recently acquired by A. F. Lichtenstein.

MEK 52: 529, 536 11/7/38

First Philippines

By PERCY A. HILL.



Previous to the year 1854 stamps for the pre-payment of mail matter were unknown in the Philippines. This was not strange, for the first postage stamp was only issued in 1810 by Great Britain and by the United States in 1845. Spain issued its first stamps in 1850. But Manila, although far off the beaten track, had its progressive also. In 1842 the editor of the *Seminario Filipino*, Don Gregorio Borjas, recommended a system of post offices and Sinibaldo de Mas in his report to the Queen in 1842 mentioned the need for mail service. In 1843, the following year, Governor General Marcelino Oraa y Lucumberrí published rules for the safeguarding and carriage of the mail. Commercial and private correspondence was intrusted to private carriers while official mail marked S. N. (*Servicio Nacional*) was carried by special messengers or by the Royal Galleys in the inter-island communications.

It is reported that an Englishman in Manila suggested the pre-payment of important mail by an adhesive stamp as early as 1842, the design of which was a sun surrounded by rays—forerunner of the Katipunan designs. The value was one *escudo de oro*, about two pesos of our present money. In the original decree, dated Madrid, January 5, and signed by Minister Claudio Anton Luzuriaga, the postage rates for the Philippine Islands carried by municipal carriers (*polistas* and *cuadrilleros*) were to be 5 cuartos vellon, about 1¼ cents of the present currency for local letters. Those for Spain and foreign countries were to be 10 cuartos vellon, with proper equivalents in *reales de plata* and *reales de calderilla*, another coinage then existent.

In March, 1854, however, the first stamps were produced locally by the Philippine Government. These were

mainly for local use, but some found their way to Europe on cover as well. The high real values were in the main for registered mail, the cover of which with the stamps was retained by the government as a receipt, as in Spain, and these, in consequence, are rarer on cover than the low values.

The design was the head of Queen Isabella II, but so crudely drawn as to make the genuine stamps look like frauds, and as the inks were purchased locally from the Chinese stores, these varied, and were not lasting in color. The stamps were made by Filipinos, first engraved and then printed in the establishment of Plana, Jorba y Compañía in Manila. The metal plates from which they were printed bore five rows of eight stamps each, and this, due to minor differences, caused forty different types. In each sheet of 40 of the 1 real was the error Corros instead of Correos (number 26 in each sheet). For the most part these were four values. Of the 5 cuartos orange and the 10 cuartos carmine, 5,000 each were printed; and of the 1 real slate and 2 reales green, 2,000 each, the first two for ordinary mail, the others for registration or heavy letters. There was a change of color in the

10 cuartos value to rose. The cost of printing these 14,000 stamps was \$253.00. In June and in August, as the low values were exhausted, a further printing was made of a few thousands, distinguished by a new design.

The entire stamp needs for the Islands were then for the first year less than 28,000, hence their rarity and their value at the present day to collectors. There are also many counterfeits of these issues. Spanish usage was to change colors and designs every one or two years and a few thousand stamps of the Cuban issue were sent here in 1856 which can only be distinguished by the postmarks. Due to distance, time, and tardiness in filling orders common in Spain, stamps were produced locally, and the troubled political times in the mother country necessitated various overprints and surcharges which, through no fault of the government here, has made collecting difficult. In fact it is said that fraudulent marking designs made in Paris were delivered to the addressee by the postal authorities themselves, after fees were paid covering the package through the post office.

In 1863 the printing contract was given to *La Ilustracion Filipina*. The stamps were of finer designs and the inks good. Issues of Nos. 14 to 20 were as follows: 5c vermilion, 9,000; 10c carmine, 7,000; 1r violet and 2r blue, 5,000 each; 1r p gray-green, 1r dark-green, and 1r emerald green,—the first 7,000 copies and the last two 5,000 each. This was the end of producing stamps locally for some thirty years.

In March, 1864, there was a protest made by commercial firms, parish priests, and government officials in reference to scandals in handling the sales and the high cost of printing. In February, 1863,

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the printing of 700 stamps cost \$85.00; but from this date until 1898 all stamps were printed in Madrid and forwarded to the Philippines. Furthermore a new fractional currency came into use in the form of copper coins called *maravedies* and new rates were made necessary for carry-

ing ordinary letters which was 2-4/8ths centimos about 3½ cents of our present currency.

But the amounts varied with distance the letter went and its importance, running as high as \$1.50 (Mex.) for from 15 to 20 sheets of small folio paper. At first stamps were retailed outside the main post offices by small cigar stores called estanquillas in Tondo, Binondo, Quiapo, etc., but thefts and losses made for their abolishment in 1870. In 1875 there were only twenty-eight post offices in the Philippines, three in Manila, sixteen in Luzon, six in the Visayas and three in Mindanao, showing the small use of the mails. Compare this today when the last reports gives 1,257 post offices in the Islands.

—The A. F. F.

(To be continued)

[CONTINUATION NEVER FOUND]

MEK 53: 319 6/26/39

First Stamps Of The Philippines

By B. W. H. POOLE.

May 14, 1847, the Postmaster-General of the Philippine Islands submitted to the government of Spain a proposition to issue postage stamps and adopt the system that had been so successfully placed in operation in Great Britain seven years previously. But as Spain itself had not yet issued postage stamps, though the government had been dallying with the idea since as early as 1843, the proposition was not accepted.

Spain finally got around to issuing stamps in 1850 but with that lack of haste (tomorrow is surely soon enough) which characterises so many Spanish enterprises, no plans were made for the colonies and that they had to handle their postal affairs in the same old archaic manner. Then, almost like a bolt from the blue, the Governor-General of the Philippines received a Royal Order from Madrid early in 1853 to the effect that postal rates must be reduced, prepayment of postage must be made compulsory, and arrangements for the issuance of postage stamps must be made without further ado.

In compliance with these royal commands His Excellency made formal announcement on Dec. 7, 1853, that postage stamps would be issued and placed in circulation on Feb. 1, 1854, and that with their advent single and double letters could be mailed in two ways (1) prepaid and (2) prepaid and registered.

This somewhat lengthy document stipulates in detail how letters, newspapers, printed matter, and other mailable material are to be handled and the rates of postage to be collected in advance in each instance. To make it quite clear that mail carrying was a prerogative of the government one article in this docu-

ment stated "Closed letters transmitted from one place to another, although not sent by the post, must nevertheless have affixed to them the stamps corresponding with the postal rates; otherwise they will be regarded as contraband, and will render the carriers liable to the penalties laid down in the General Ordinance for the Postal Service".

There were four different denominations in this issue—5 cuartos, 10 cuartos, 1 real and 2 reals. The 5c stamp paid the postage on a single letter (one weighing less than half an ounce), 10c paid for a letter up to one ounce in weight but heavier letters were mulcted at the rate of 10c for every half ounce. The registration fee was fixed at 2r.

Naturally facilities for the manufacture of postage stamps were somewhat limited in Manila at this period but the government were fortunate in finding a local engraver who was capable of engraving the necessary plates though, unfortunately this artist's name seems to have been lost entirely. The then current stamps of Spain were taken as a model and plates of forty stamps for each value were produced. As each stamp was engraved separately there are forty minor types of each denomination and they are all easily platable.

The portrait of Her Majesty Queen Isabella II is somewhat of a caricature on all the stamps and it is damning them with faint praise to state that some are not so bad as others. This portrait appears on a ground of curved lines within a pearled circle broken at top and bottom by inscribed labels. The spandrels are filled with horizontal lines and the whole is enclosed within a single frame line. In the case of the 5 and 10 cuartos values the upper label shows "Correos" and the date, while the lower one contains "Franco" and the value.

For some reason or other these inscriptions were transposed for the two higher denominations so that "Franco" and the value are at top and "Correos" and the date at bottom. Considering that each plate contained forty separate engravings (8 horizontal rows of 5) or a total of 160 it is perhaps rather remarkable that only one error was made. This occurs in the 1 real value where the first stamp in the sixth row of the plate was inscribed "Corros" instead of "Correos".

The stamps were printed from the copper plates on yellowish white paper which is very brittle so that these stamps have to be handled very carefully to avoid damage. They are, of course, imperforate. There appear to be two marked varieties of the 5c stamps characterised by the lines of the background in the portrait circle. In one variety they are fine and in the other coarser and more widely spaced. Neither seems to be rarer than the other and specialists are divided in opinion as to their cause. Some consider there were two separate plates and others that the original plate was re-engraved after it began to show signs of wear.

Plating of these stamps was greatly facilitated in the first instance by the existence of many large cancelled blocks. It appears that these came from stock left in the hands of the Government after the stamps were withdrawn from circulation and which were cancelled in this manner to destroy their facial value. Many of these blocks were sold by J. B. Moens who bought most of the stamp stock then remaining in the treasury about 1881.



Like a cretin or witch.

(Reprinted from "Stamps Day by Day" with the authors' permission.)

First Stamps of Philippines Came in 1854

By L. N. & M. WILLIAMS

SEVEN years after the 'Penny Black' appeared the Postmaster-General of the Philippine Islands, Senor Manuel de Urioste, suggested to the Spanish Government that a series of postage stamps should be issued for use in Luzon, chief island of the group.

Together with his proposal he submitted four essays, of circular design, showing in the center the Queen's head facing to the left, and inscribed 'Correos,' with the value in words at the foot.

Urioste's suggestion did not bear fruit, probably because at that time Spain itself had no postage stamps, but in January, 1853, an ordinance was addressed to the Governor of the Philippines, instructing him to carry out a number of postal reforms, among them being the issuing of stamps.

On December 7th of that year he published a decree making pre-payment of postage compulsory, and fixing the rates on local letters at 5 cuartos for the first half-ounce, 10 cuartos for letters not exceeding 8 adarmes, 1 real for those of one ounce, and with an additional 10 cuartos for every extra half-ounce; newspapers would be charged 2 pesos.

As Bad As Lapirot

Instructions were given to a local engraver to prepare plates for printing the stamps, but his identity has been lost in the mists of time. Perhaps that is just as well, for his skill was on a par with that of the other local engraver, Lapirot, who, some thousands of miles away on the island of Mauritius, engraved a stamp plate five years later, and in so doing perpetrated the worst libel on Queen Victoria to appear on any postage stamp. The Filipino engraver treated Queen Isabella II with equally scant respect,

and on some specimens she appears as a cretin while on others she resembles a witch.

From this it will be inferred correctly that the designs on the plate differed in detail; in fact, every stamp in the sheet of 40 was of a different type, having been separately engraved by hand. The sheet formation was eight horizontal rows of five.

There were four values: 5 cuartos orange-red, 10 cuartos carmine, 1 real blue and 2 reales green. Several shades of each denomination can be found. An error occurred on the plate of the 1 real, where the 26th stamp was inscribed 'Corros' for 'Correos.' The paper used was unwatermarked, yellowish white wove, of a delicate nature and

very easily damaged. The sheets were imperforate.

5c Plate Wore Down

The plate of the 5c seems to have worn badly, because specimens are found showing two different types of background behind the Queen's head. On one the ground consists of fine lines, but on the other the lines are coarse and farther apart.

At the beginning of 1854, Don A. Gutierrez was appointed Director General of the Posts, and it was on his authority that the stamps were issued on February 1st. He encountered numerous difficulties in organizing the postal service, and he described them in a letter written nearly 30 years later:

"Having undertaken the office of Director General of Posts in the Philippine Islands, at the commencement of 1854, in spite of the difficulties that my predecessors had encountered in overcoming the obstacles presented by the character of the people and the indecision of the Magistrates and Governors of the provinces, who could not make up their minds to accept the responsibility imposed upon them by . . . the Decree of 7th December, I succeeded nevertheless, thanks to the goodwill of the Governors of the Districts and the native authorities, in establishing, from the month of March, 1854, a regular service throughout the Archipelago, with the exception however of the Marianne Islands, Catanduan and Batanan, on account of the want of communications between those provinces and the capital, Manila; but this irregularity disappeared after a year in the case of the first two islands and after two years in the case of the third."

Forgeries Even Cruder

Gutierrez went on to say that an attempt was made to forge stamps of the first issue, apparently with the object of defrauding the revenue. The culprit, a native, was soon arrested, but in consideration of his ignorance the magistrates released him. Gutierrez stated that the forgeries were extremely crude. They must indeed have been poor productions if they were cruder than the stamps themselves!

Apparently the recess method of printing proved too expensive, because in 1855 a printer at Manila was instructed to produce a 5 cuartos stamp by lithography. The design was modelled on that of the earlier issue, and if the lithographer did not turn out to be a William Humphrys,

he did at least produce a portrait of the Queen which was not quite as repulsive as the previous effort.

The original printing of the new stamps was made from a stone showing only one type. Its characteristic is that the solid background behind the Queen's head is not cut into by either the upper or lower label containing the inscriptions. Stamps in this type, printed in bright red on white paper, were issued about June, 1855.

Tell Types by Shading

Soon afterwards stamps from a second printing were issued. They were produced from a stone containing 48 impressions, arranged in six horizontal rows of eight, comprising 12 blocks of four. Each block consisted of the four types which characterize this issue. In all types the solid background is cut by the upper label.

The types can be distinguished by the number of lines of shading in the spandrels:

	I	II	III	IV
Upper left	8	9	7	9
Upper right	11	13	10	11
Lower left	8	8	8	10
Lower right	13	15	12	13

Types I and II have a stop after the '55' in the upper level.

These stamps are in a duller shade of red than the earlier printing. They remained in use for three and a half years but are, oddly enough, much rarer than the original 5 cuartos which was in use for only 18 months.

[EXCERPTED FROM]

PHICPEX (Souvenir Book) 42-49 4/25-5/9/1954

COMPENDIUM OF PHILIPPINE POSTAGE STAMPS, 1854-1870**

by

Emilio del Prado.

QUEEN ISABELLA II STAMPS, 1864-1868

The royal decree of January 12, 1853, already mentioned above, provided also that all letters, including those privately sent, were to be prepaid by means of stamps, and that the postal rate would be 5 "cuartos" for mail under 1/2 ounce; 10 "cuartos," from 1/2 to one ounce; one "real," over one to 1 1/2 ounces; 10 "cuartos" for each

additional 1/2 ounce. The registration fee was 2 "reales."

During this period, and up to 1864, the monetary system was one peso "peso duro," "peso plata fuerte," or simply "peso" being equivalent to 8 "reales fuertes," or simply "reales;" and one "real fuerte," or simply "real," to 20 "cuartos." Also, one "cuartillo," to one fourth of one "real," or to 5 "cuartos."

The "real" of the Spanish colonies was called "fuerte" in order to distinguish it from the "real de Vellon" which was the monetary unit in Spain proper.

February 1, 1854 Regular Issue (1)

The stamps consist of two designs. The first shown in illustration A1 has, as a motif, the crude profile of Queen Isabella II, facing to the right, in an oval frame of pearls. The frame is cut by the top panel with the inscription "CORREOS 1854 Y 55," meaning postage, and by the bottom panel with "FRANCO," meaning prepaid, and the value of the stamp (5 or 10 Cs.), all in Roman lettering. The design measures 18.75 x 21.75 mm.

The second design (A2) is similar to the first (A1), except that the inscriptions are interchanged, and it was used for the 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. values. It has the same measurement as that of above.

This issue was first placed on sale on February 1, 1854 in Manila as regular postage stamps for domestic use only. Occasionally though, the 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. were used on foreign mail.

The values of the stamps released with their respective colors, quantities issued, and other particulars are as follows:

5 Cs., orange, also brown orange, or orange red, 5,000. (A1, G-1, G-1A, S-1).

10 Cs., carmine, also pale rose, or dark carmine, 5,000. (A1, G-2, G-3, S-2). The black 10 Cs. was just an essay or trial print, and was never placed in circulation. (G-2A).

1 Rl. Fte., slate blue, also blue, or ultramarine, 2,000. (A2, G-4, G-5, S-4). The error "CORROS," the "E" in "CORREOS" missing, occurs in stamp No. 26 of any sheet of the 1 Rl. Fte. value (G-4E, G-5E).

2 Rs. Fte., green, also yellow green, or emerald green, 2,000. (A2, G-6, S-5).

Since the engraving was done by hand, there resulted forty varieties of stamps in every sheet of each value.

On January 1, 1856, the 1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte. became obsolete upon the appearance of the Spanish Antilles stamps of the same value, but for some unknown reasons, the remaining supply was saved because in January, 1874, these stamps, including the 5 Cs., were re-issued as provisionals with the "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" overprint (S1).

The stamps were engraved by Plana, Jorba y Cia., Plaza de Bi-

nondo, Manila, on rather thick, and also thin paper (5 and 10 Cs.), and on yellowish paper (1 Rl. Fte. and 2 Rs. Fte.), both unwatermarked, in sheets of 40 stamps each, 5 x 8. They are all imperforate.

It will be noted that the plates used for the printing of all stamps were, in general, destroyed after the work was done. This practice was done in order to prevent the illegal printing of the stamps.

[EXCERPTED FROM] PAGE 31
PPN vol 2 #1: 23-46: 9/86

NATIONAL PHILATELIC TREASURES by ENCARNACION



Philatelic authorities have collectively agreed on the extreme rarity of the first 1 real "CORROS" error: However, very few realized the existence of the 1874 "CORROS" error with the "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" surcharge.

PPN vol 2 #6: 17: 10-12/76

BITS AND PIECES BY LINSTAN

PHILIPPINES NO. 1 NOT ISSUED FEB. 1, 1854? — Mario also reports that he saw recently from a Manila dealer a Block of Four of Philippines No. 1 — Queen Isabella II stamps with a postmark right at the center bearing the date January 21, 1854. Is it possible that Feb. 1, 1854 then is not the first day of issue of the said stamps. Further to Mario's contention is an article published with the PJP Sept-Oct 1951 (Vol. IV No. 1) found on p. 18 which is entitled "Brief History of the Philippines as Portrayed On Its Stamps" by Don Pablo Esperidion. According to Don Pablo, Philippines No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were issued January 16, 1854. May we hear readers comments on this please

PPSJ vol 3 #1: 20: 9/77

INFORMATION PLEASE

2. I have a record of 1 cover with Scott No.1, postmarked on Oct. 1, (the year is not clear, but is probably 1854), at Manila. Are any other covers known, bearing this, the first stamp of the Philippines?

EARLY PHILIPPINES

THE first two issues of the Philippine Islands constitute one of the most "exclusive" as well as most interesting groups of the world's philatelic classics. They are practically unknown to nearly all collectors, however, as not one of the seven major and six minor varieties listed by Scott catalogs less than \$25, and even at that price they are seldom seen.

Our catalog lists them rather inadequately, due, probably, to their rarity. Of no. 1, for instance, there are two *very* distinct types, the first with the background of fine lines, close together; the second with the background of heavy lines, spaced more widely. Both these types are listed by Gibbons, the latter being somewhat rarer.

The Advanced Collectors Catalog, issued many years ago, and in a great many ways a terrific disappointment because of its sins of omission, nevertheless shows entire reconstructed



Philippines No. 2

and Gibbons ignore distinctions between white wove and yellowish wove papers, though the A. C. C. recognizes the higher values as occurring this way only.

A. C. C. lists the 1 real as being bright blue, slate-blue, pale blue, and greenish-blue. Scott says slate-blue, blue, and ultramarine. Gibbons says bright blue and slate-blue only. A. C. C. lists all four shades with the error "CORROS" for "CORREOS," also.

A. C. C. lists the 2 reales as being green, yellow-green, deep green, and olive-green. Scott lists the first two shades only. Gibbons says bright green and dull green.

Here, certainly, we have a splendid exposition of the lack of agreement as to what colors are, among the doctors themselves.

With P. I. no. 6 we meet another type of slanderous caricature. All are easy to place, either by the shape of the "5" in "FRANCO 5 Ct." or the outline of the neck just below the chin. The catalog illustration is Type I. A block of four is shown in A. C. C., and from this we see that the stamps are again spaced about 1 mm. apart, but that the horizontal pairs are separated by a vertical line between the two outer frame lines. There is no such separating line between the vertical pairs. In this group the head is drawn against a circular background which has had both top and bottom cut off by the labels carrying "CORREOS 1854 Y 55" and "FRANCO 5 Ct." and the various amounts of truncating also serve to identify the four types, each being obviously different.

A. C. C. lists this stamp as being vermilion, pale vermilion, and brown-

ish-vermilion. Scott says pale vermilion. Gibbons calls it bright red.

In the case of no. 6, the redrawn stamp, there is but one variety. Here the medallion is on a perfectly circular background which just touches the top label, and shows a space of about 1/5 mm. between it and the bottom label.

A. C. C. lists this stamp as being vermilion and pale vermilion. Scott says vermilion. Gibbons calls it bright red.

This and the preceding are lithographs, and they differ from one another in size: no. 6 is 19 to 19 1/2 x 22 mm., while no. 7 is 18 1/2 x 21 mm.

It is obvious that these locally-produced Philippines were inspired by Spain Type A6, of 1853, but the engraver just could not make the grade. In order to show this, we illustrate Spain no. 21 with the Philippine items.

These stamps seldom appear in auction, but a recent New York sale



Philippines No. 2



Spain No. 21

plates of the forty varieties of engraving in the sheet of each value.

The plates, of course, were engraved and printed in Manila, and it is not to be supposed for an instant that Isabella II could have been very much pleased with these extremely unflattering likenesses, each one in the sheet of forty being worse than the other.

The sheets were five stamps wide and eight stamps high, with a thin line around the entire sheet, which measures 102 x 193 mm. from border to border. Space between stamps is quite narrow, about a millimetre, plus or minus, so that large margins are not to be expected.

The A. C. Cat. lists the 5c as occurring in orange, pale orange, and red-orange. Scott mentions brown-orange. Gibbons calls all of them orange-red.

The 10c is listed by the A. C. C. as being dark red, carmine-red, pale red. Scott says carmine and pale rose. Gibbons says the same.

The A. C. C. lists the 10c also on yellowish paper, in dark red. Scott



Philippines No. 6



Philippines No. 6

contained numerous examples, all of which are illustrated here, due to the kindness of Mr. H. R. Harmer, of 32-34 East 57 St.

There were three singles, two pairs, a strip of four, and a block of eight, all of which are described herewith. (This refers to the illustrated items. Of unpictured stamps there were numerous others.)

Our first illustration shows a magnificent unused copy of the 10c no. 2, evenly margined on three sides, but with entire gutter and portion of adjoining frame line at right, being no. 15 in the sheet. With this we have placed the illustration of Spain no. 21, also unused and an unusually brilliant copy.

Next we show a pair of Philippines no. 2, very fine and with large margins all around. These appear to be nos. 11 and 12 in the sheet.

Our next illustration is of a pair of the 2 reales, no. 5a, a superb pair of the yellow-green, brilliant color, and large margins. These seem to be nos. 1 and 2 in the sheet.

(Next page, please.)



Philippines No. 5a

Next we show two copies of no. 6, one unused, the other used. The first is Type IV, the second (used) is Type II.

We now come to two unusual pieces, the first a strip of four of the 1-real slate-blue, no. 4, and these appear to be 26 to 29 in the sheet. At any rate they are the first four stamps in a row, as the sheet frame shows at left.

The second unusual item is a block of 8, not only with left frame but with

full sheet margins: it is also a slate-blue. These may be positions 6-7-8-9, 11-12-13-14, but both of these final illustrations show detail very faintly, and the positions are not certain.

At this writing the stamps have not been sold, but as soon as the prices are available, we shall publish them.

Thanks to Mr. H. R. Harmer for all illustrations used, and to the catalogs mentioned for other data.

—C. S. T.

[VERY POOR COPIES TO START WITH]



Philippines No. 4



Philippines No. 4

That cancellations only can constitute the difference between two catalog numbers too few collectors will understand, but the Scott Catalog features such cases, truly copied from the Gibbons Catalog. As far as we could find out, this has been done only in two cases, *Philippines* #8 and 9, which in unused condition are identical with *Cuba* #2 and 3, and *Peru, Chilean Occupation* #N1 to 10, which are to be distinguished only by the cancellations from the regular Chile stamps #20 to 28 and 34. The first case is a complicated one, because it results through the failure of both catalogs to recognize the existence of a separate country, best called "*Spanish Colonies*" (the other European catalogs call it "*Spanish West Indies*"), comprising stamps #1 to 53 of Cuba, as these stamps (with exception of the local overprints) were valid not only in Cuba as well as in Porto Rico, but partly also in the Philippines and in Fernando Po and are known used there. They constitute therefore an analogy to "*French Colonies*" and should be listed accordingly, making the listing of the two stamps in two places unnecessary. The case of the Chile stamps is easier, as a simple note would do, instead of listing them again under Peru. This would do them justice enough. Similar cases of the use of stamps of an occupying country in the country of occupation are known in many other cases and nobody would seriously ask that they be listed in this condition as separate stamps.