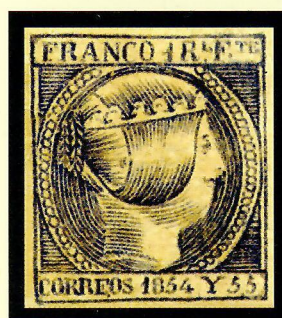


PHILIPPINES

1854 QUEEN ISABELLA II ISSUE



FOREWORD

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first set of Philippine stamps, the International Philippine Philatelic Society had published this book for the collectors, as well as non-collectors, to have a better understanding of the 1854 Queen Isabella II issue.

Numerous articles about the first issues were written as far back as 1896. This book tries to consolidate all the written information on the 1854 Queen Isabella II issues. Research was made regarding the known cancellations used. For many years, I had been documenting the largest known multiples of this issue and was able to illustrate all of them in this book. Also shown are significant postal covers which I personally believe are important and interesting.

To coincide with this celebration, the Philippine Philatelic Foundation and the International Philippine Philatelic Society, in cooperation with the Philippine Postal Corporation, held an invitational stamp exhibition known as FILIPINAS 2004 in Mega Trade Center B, SM Megamall from January 30 to February 01, 2004.

On behalf of the Philippine Philatelic Foundation and the International Philippine Philatelic Society, I would like to thank all the patrons and contributors who had given their support to make FILIPINAS 2004 possible.

Mario O. Que

The first issues of stamps for the Philippines came during the reign of Queen Isabella II of Spain. The Queen was the daughter of King Ferdinand VII by his fourth wife, Maria Cristina of Naples. She was born in Madrid on October 10, 1830. Isabella was made heir apparent by a decree that set aside the Salic Law, which forbade the succession of a woman, and ascended the throne on the death of her father in 1833. Her mother, Maria Cristina, was appointed queen regent from 1833 to 1840. An insurrection by the Carlists (members of the royalist faction), with the support of the Traditionalists, who favored her uncle, Don Carlos, to succeed the throne, raged with great violence. In 1839, the Carlists were defeated by the Liberalists. From 1841 to 1843, General Espartero became queen regent. On October 10, 1846, the queen married her cousin, Don Francisco de Asis. From the time Queen Isabella was declared of age in 1843, her reign was influenced by her confessors and her favorites among the courtiers and generals. She betrayed her Liberal supporters and the Conservatives found her unprincipled and untrustworthy. Isabella's forces were defeated by opposition troops through a revolution in 1869 and she was exiled to France. On January 25, 1870, she abdicated her throne in favor of her son Alfonso, who eventually ascended to the throne in 1875 as Alfonso XII. Isabella spent most of her years in Paris and died on April 10, 1904.

By Royal Decree of January 12, 1853 issued by Queen Isabella II of Spain, as promulgated by the Philippine Governor General Antonio de Urbiztondo on December 7, 1853 in his circular "CIRCULARES E INSTRUCCIONES PARA EL ARREGLO DEL POSTE DE LA CORRESPONDENCIA DE ESTAS ISLAS," the first issue of postage stamps to be put into actual use was ordered. The Royal Decree directed the Governor General to take the necessary steps for the manufacture and sale of stamps for domestic use within the Philippines. All private letters were to be prepaid by means of postage stamps. It was ordered that the first set of stamps be put on sale in Manila on February 1, 1854. The design shows the caricature of the portrait of Queen Isabella II of Spain; it was patterned after Spain's stamps of 1853, the only difference being the changed in currency in the value tablets and the alteration of the dates. The stamp was hand-engraved through a copper plate process by a local artillery corps sergeant (name unknown). The local engraver exhibited his patience and his artistic talent in reproducing on the plate, forty copies of each value, resulting in stamps that differ from each other. The sheet was arranged in eight horizontal rows of five. These stamps were recess-printed on wove, medium to thick paper, without watermarks, by the establishment of Plana, Jorba y Cia, at the Plaza of Binondo in Manila and were issued without perforations. Gum used is normally yellowish to pale orange in color. It will be noted that the plates used for the printing of all stamps were destroyed after the work was done. This practice was done in order to prevent the illegal printing of the stamps. In the same circular, one of the provisions mentioned concerns the commission to be received by stamp sellers. It is stated that, "The chief of the province in charge of the issuance of stamps and the Administrator of the Estancadas of Tondo, with the consent of the Superintendent, are given a 10% commission on the sales of stamps as remuneration and to cover the expenses that they may incur in the performance of their work, labor, and consequent responsibilities."

The use of stamps was made compulsory and the rate for inland postage were fixed by the Royal Decree of December 7, 1853 as follows:

- 5 Cuartos - letter under 1/2 ounce
- 10 Cuartos - letter within 1/2 to less than 1 ounce
- 1 Real Fuerte - letter within 1 to 1-1/2 ounces
(for each additional 1/2 ounce or part of 1/2 ounce thereafter - 10 Cuartos)
- 2 Reales Fuerte - registration fee

The ink used in printing the stamps were purchased locally from the Chinese stores in Binondo. Colors varied and were not permanent. This resulted in numerous color varieties for each value.

- 5 Cuartos - orange, pale orange, reddish orange, brownish orange
- 10 Cuartos - carmine, dark carmine
- rose-red, pale rose-red
- 1 Real Fuerte - ultramarine blue, bright blue, dark blue, slate blue, deep green blue
- pale bluish gray, pale grey
- 2 Reales Fuerte - green, yellow green, deep yellow green, emerald green, dark green, olive green

The stamps were printed in the following quantities:

- 5 Cuartos - 5,000 pcs. (125 sheets of forty stamps)
- 10 Cuartos - 5,000 pcs. (125 sheets of forty stamps)
- 1 Real Fuerte - 2,000 pcs. (40 sheets of forty stamps)
- 2 Reales Fuerte - 2,000 pcs. (40 sheets of forty stamps)

The first issue was engraved in Manila directly on plates of 40 stamps (5x8), representing 40 different, easily distinguishable types. These plates wore out rapidly and underwent continual retouches and re-engraving during the printing.

5 Cuartos - only 1 plate issued. It underwent several retouches and re-engravings during the printing.

Note: There are claims that two plates have been made for this value, one with finer lines of shading on the background around the Queen's head while the other had coarser lines of shading. However, most authorities doubt the existence of two plates in the printing.

They believe it is rather due to wear or retouching of one original plate.

10 Cuartos - 2 plates were issued.

a) Plate 1: Black. This stamp was first mentioned in the catalogue published in Manila in 1896 by the philatelist Juan Mencarini. Due to the very small size of the "O" in 10 cuartos, it was never officially authorized. Some copies were nonetheless put on sale without official authorization. Very few mint copies of this stamp are known and only one copy is known to have been used.

b) Plate 2: Rose-Red/Carmine. The size of the "O" in 10 cuartos has been corrected. Most authorities believed that the rose-red color was first used. All copies seen bear fine lines of printing. Later, the carmine color was used to replace the rose-red color to make it more visible and attractive. Retouching of one single plate was done on the worn out plate.

1 Real Fuerte - only 1 plate issued. Several retouches and re-engravings were made during printing. In the first printings, the color was deep blue, but the color varied considerably during printing, going from dull slate, very deep ultramarine to deep blue.

2 Reales Fuerte - only 1 plate issued. The first printing was in emerald green, but later this turned to a very pale, blotted green. This plate was never re-engraved, though some positions on the plate were retouched.

The paper used for this first issue is extremely brittle. It is practically impossible to find flawless blocks. These flaws are generally tear rather than thinnings. The same goes for oxidation of the inks, resulting from the special conditions of humidity and temperature to which these stamps have been exposed to over the years.

The printing error of this first issue occurred on the 1 Real Fuerte value which inscribed the word "CORROS" instead of "CORREOS". This error was located on the first stamp in the sixth row on the sheet of forty stamps (position #26). A total of forty such errors were known to have been issued.

There exist 10 cuartos stamps printed in black color instead of carmine. They were not officially issued. However, a single copy of stamp used on piece is known. The stamps, like the first issues, were hand-engraved on copper plates and printed on thin white paper. All stamps seen differed from each other. There exists a hand-written letter from the secretary of the civil government of Zambales, signed by C. Rubio, which reads: "... As regards the 1854 stamp, it is perfectly genuine. Only a few sheets of this, the first issue, were printed, but it was not approved of, so instructions were given to issue it in carmine. Some of these stamps were used without authorization during the few days they were at the post office before the circulation was finally forbidden. The Governor-General thereupon issue a lawsuit for unauthorized usage..". No attempt was made to plate this stamp since only a handful of copies were known. An error thus existed in which the inscribed word is "CORRREOS" instead of "CORREOS".

The 10 cuartos is also known with a bisect usage. It is the only recorded bisect usage of the first issue. The said folded letter was dated July 6, 1857, addressed from Manila to Guagua, Pampanga bearing half of the 1854-10 cuartos-pale rose stamp cut diagonally and used as a 5 cuartos stamp. For a brief period, there had been a shortage of the 5 cuartos stamps pending the arrival of new supplies, so the local postal authorities tolerated the splitting of the 10 cuartos stamp. Each part of the bisect corresponds to half the value of the whole stamps.

The first Philippine issued stamps were for domestic use but were deemed unsatisfactory by the Spanish authorities because they were crudely made. They were never considered to be used for overseas mail. These stamps were not valid for mail outside the Philippines. All overseas mail were sent prepaid without stamps but bore the postal marking "FRANCO". Royal Decree of September 1, 1854 was issued stating that a set of stamps printed in Spain would be made available for use in Cuba and Puerto Rico on January 1, 1855 and in the Philippines on April 1, 1855. Because of delays in printing and shipping, the said stamps did not arrive in Manila until January 1, 1856. The said decree also stated that all stamps for overseas mail should be printed in Spain and only those for domestic use be printed in Manila.

Here is a list of postal, municipal, and pen/manuscript cancellations that were seen used in cancelling our first issue stamps:

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS:

- a) circular dated-stamp 28mm in diameter. Manila above, ISs. FILIPs below, date in center, and 31 (postal district number for Manila) on its side. Exists in black and blue color.
- b) circular dated-stamp 30mm in diameter. Manila above, ISLs. FILIP Is. below, date in center and 31 (postal district number for Manila) on its side. Exists in black and blue color.
- c) circular dotted cancellation without outer line, about 24 to 25mm in diameter, dots square and about 1 mm, though the size varies. Exists in black color only.
- d) oval network stamp, 31x18mm, varying in shape, some being quite pointed at the ends, while others are well rounded. Exists in black color only.
- e) circular dated-stamp, 22mm in diameter. CAVITE above, LUZON. below date in center. Exists in black color only.

MUNICIPAL CANCELLATIONS: (It is believed that such cancellations were also used to cancel letters).

- a) oval handstamp, "JUZGADO/PRAL. DE YLOCOS/SUR" in three lines. Exists in red color only.
- b) oval handstamp, "ALCALDIA MAYOR PROV. DE BULACAN" around the oval frame containing the coat of arms. Exists in black color only.
- c) oval handstamp, "AUDIENCIA Y CHANCILLERIA GRAL. DE FILIPINAS" inside a large double oval frame, inner oval bears the coat of arms. Exists in black color only.
- d) oval handstamp, "ALCALDIA MAYOR PROV. DE CAGAYAN" around the oval frame containing the coat of arms. Exists in black color only.
- e) oval handstamp, "GOBIERNO POLITICO Y MILITAR DE LA ISLA DE/MINDANAO" inside a large double oval frame, inner oval bears the coat of arms. Exists in black color only.

PEN/MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS: (It is believed that such cancellations were also used to cancel letters)

Numerous counterfeit and forgeries are known to exist. *Beware of buying the first issue stamps and covers without any knowledge of the subject.* It is advisable to buy them from reputable dealers and collectors. It is safer to buy them with a certificate of authenticity issued by a respected expert. Special precautions have to be made in purchasing covers bearing the first issue stamps that were addressed to Spain and to other countries. Since the first issued stamps were not valid to be used for outbound mail, such covers were not considered paid. The presence of a handstamp due marking is essential to denote its penalty as an unpaid mail.

It is interesting to know that a large quantity of stamps and covers were destroyed over the passage of time due to insurrections, world wars, local climatic conditions, and calamities such as earthquakes, fires, floods, and the uncontrollable local infestation of termites, resulting in a great reduction of the quantity of stamps and covers that have survived to the present time.

The first issues of the Philippines rank high among the Classics of Philately. The Philippines is considered the first among the Spanish Colonies to issue postage stamps. It is also the first Asian country to issue postage stamps for general usage (use for the entire Philippine Islands).

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PREVENTIVE RULES

for the establishment of postal rates and prepaid postage of mail-matters within these Islands

- ARTICLE 1. Let there be established beginning February 1, 1854, prepaid postage compulsory for all mail-matters circulating within the Islands whether addressed from one province to another or between the towns of the same. The cost of the postage will be uniform in all places.
2. From the said date, any letter which has not been pre-stamped by means of stamp or its corresponding postmark, will not be allowed to circulate.
3. For all purposes of the operations of mails the letters will be divided into SIMPLE and DOUBLE. By SIMPLE it is understood to be one that weigh less than an ounce, and all others DOUBLE.
4. The SIMPLE as well as the DOUBLE letters may be addressed only in 2 ways:
(a) stamped (b) stamped and registered
5. The SIMPLE will have to pay 5 "cuartos" for the postage and the DOUBLE will be in the following proportion: those weighing 8 "adarmes" inclusive or half an ounce but not reaching an ounce, 10 "cuartos"; those weighing more than an ounce, 1 "real fuerte"; and so on, increasing 10 "cuartos" everytime the weight exceeds half an ounce.
6. The registered letters should also be prepaid besides the cost of postage that may be incurred and 2 "reales" should be paid for each registry whatever its weight is.
7. The mails circulating within each Administration or province will have to pay the same amount as those prescribed in the general rule.
8. The dailies and other periodicals will pay postage according to their weight at the rate of 2 pesos an "arroba" provided they have the following four conditions:
1st. That they should be directly presented to the Administration of Posts by the Editor's Office.
2nd. That they should be sealed with wrappers.
3rd. That the title of the newspaper be printed on the wrapper.
4th. That they contain neither signs nor manuscripts except the name of the subscriber and the place of his residence.
9. Printed matter of any other kind, excepting books, though published periodically on delivery will be charged also according to their weight at the rate of 9 pesos an "arroba" provided the following four conditions are followed:
1st. That they should be directly presented to the Administration of Posts by the printers, editors or proprietors.
2nd. That they be sealed with wrappers.
3rd. That on the wrapper be printed the name of the printer, editor or proprietor.
4th. That they contain neither signs nor manuscripts except the name of the person to whom it is addressed and place of his residence.
10. Dailies, periodicals and printed matter, excepting books which are presented with wrappers without containing any signs or manuscripts but the name of the person addressed and place of his residence, shall be charged 5 "cuartos" postage for a weight not exceeding an ounce; 10 up to 2 ounces and so on increasing 5 "cuartos" every time that the weight exceeds an ounce.

Facsimile of the original manuscript which established the first mails in the Philippines-1853. Translation to English text was made by Maria Calixto.

DISPOSICIONES PREVENTIVAS

para el establecimiento del correo y preta franqueo de la correspondencia interior de estas Islas.

- ART. 1. Queda establecido desde el día 1.º de Febrero de 1854 el franqueo previo obligatorio para toda la correspondencia que circule por el interior del archipiélago, ya se dirija de una á otra provincia ó entre los pueblos de las mismas. El precio del franqueo será igual para todas ellas.
2. Desde la citada fecha, no se dará curso á ninguna carta que no haya sido previamente franqueada por medio del sello ó timbre que le corresponde.
3. Para todos los efectos de las operaciones de Correos se dividirá las cartas en sencillas y dobles. Se entenderá por carta sencilla la que no llegue al peso de media onza. Se considerará como cartas dobles todas las demas.
4. Tanto las cartas sencillas como las dobles podrán dirijirse de solo dos modos:
1.º franqueadas; 2.º franqueadas y certificadas.
5. Las cartas devengarán en el franqueo, siendo sencillas, cinco cuartos; y siendo dobles en la proporción siguiente: las que pesen ocho cuartos inclusive ó sea media onza y no lleguen á la onza, diez cuartos; las que pesen de la onza su real fuerte; y así progresivamente, aumentando diez cuartos por cada vez que el peso exceda de media onza.
6. Las cartas certificadas deban ser así mismo previamente franqueadas, y además del porte que adreden por el franqueo pagaran por el certificado dos reales cada una, sea cualquiera su peso.
7. Las cartas que circulen dentro del caso de cada Administración ó provincia, pagarán lo mismo que queda establecido por regla general.
8. Los diarios y demas periódicos se portarán para el franqueo, segun su peso, á rason de dos pesos fuertes arroba, siempre que traxen las cuatro circunstancias siguientes:
1.º Que sean presentados en la Administración de Correos directamente por los Redactores.
2.º Que estén cerrados con laja.
3.º Que en la laja esté impreso el título del periódico.
4.º Que no contengan signos ni otra cosa manuscrita, mas que el nombre del suscriptor y el del pueblo en que reside.
9. Los impresos de cualquiera otra clase, excepto los libros, aun cuando no publiquen periódicamente por entregas, se portarán tambien segun su peso, á rason de nueve pesos fuertes arroba, siempre que reusar las cuatro circunstancias siguientes:
1.º Que sean presentados en la Administración de Correos directamente por las empresas ó por los editores ó propietarios.
2.º Que estén cerrados con laja.
3.º Que en la laja esté impreso el nombre de la empresa, editor ó propietario.
10. Que no contengan signos ni otra cosa manuscrita, mas que el nombre de la persona á quien vayan dirijidos y el del pueblo de su residencia.
10. Los diarios y demas periódicos é impresos, excepto los libros, que se presenten con laja y sin contener signos ni otra cosa manuscrita, mas que el nombre

CARTAS FRANCAS.

El que quiera franquear una carta no tiene que hacer mas que pegar en el sobre de ella uno ó mas sellos, según su peso, y echarla en el buzon. Si la carta no llega á media onza de peso se le pegará un sello de cinco cuartos; si tiene la media onza y no llega á la onza se le pegará un sello de diez cuartos ó dos de á cinco; si tiene la onza y no llega á la onza y media se le pegará un sello de á real ó dos de á diez cuartos; si excede de la onza y media se le pegará un sello de á real y uno de diez cuartos ó su equivalente; y así progresivamente, aumentando diez cuartos por cada vez que su peso exceda de media onza.

Por las cartas así francas nada abonarán por su porte las personas á quienes van dirigidas; pero si el que las franquea no pudiese en ellas todos los sellos correspondientes á su peso, el que las recibirá pagará la diferencia, archivándose la carta si se negase á satisfacerla.

Cuando en una carta se pongan mas sellos que los que según su peso correspondan, no habrá lugar á reintegro de ninguna especie; el podrá reclamarse el exceso.

En la Administración general de Correos habrá un empleado destinado á contestar á los particulares que deseen saber el peso que tenga una carta y el número de sellos que se necesiten para franquearla, los que serán facilitados en la misma oficina.

La Administración general de Correos usará luego como entre en su dependencia una carta franca, cuidará de inutilizar el sello ó sellos que tengan, estampando sobre ellos un timbre.

En el caso de que aparezca en la Administración una carta con sello que hubiese servido ya, no se le dará curso.

FRANQUEO DE PERIODICOS, LIBROS

Y DEMAS IMPRESOS, Y MUESTRAS DE GÉNEROS.

Los diarios y demas periódicos, así como los impresos de cualquiera otra clase, excepto los libros, que se presentan al franqueo por las reducciones ó por las empresas, editores ó propietarios, y que reúnan las circunstancias prescritas en los artículos 8.º y 9.º de las disposiciones que preceden se franquearán en la Administración por medio del sello designado al efecto.

Para el franqueo de los periódicos, diarios y demas impresos no comprendidos en la disposición anterior, y para el de los libros y las muestras de géneros, se observará el modo todo de sellos.

CARTAS CERTIFICADAS.

El que quiera certificar una carta no tiene que hacer mas que pegar los sellos que le correspondan por el franqueo y además uno de dos reales por el derecho de certificado, sea cualquiera su peso; y en lugar de ponerla en el buzon como se hará con las francas, presentarla en la Administración de Correos para que se le entregue el recibo de ella. En la Administración no se admitirá sino en el caso de que la carta tenga todos los sellos correspondientes á su peso. Por ejemplo: para certificar una carta sencilla es necesario ponerla un sello de cinco cuartos para el franqueo, y uno de dos reales por el certificado. Si solo se le pone uno de los dos sellos no podrá admitirse en la Administración.

Los sellos de certificados se inutilizarán en la Administración en los mismos términos que los del franqueo.

El que recibirá una carta certificada, del modo que queda dicho, nada tendrá que satisfacer por su parte, limitándose á devolver el sobre firmado por la persona á quien está remitida.

TIMBRES.

Cualquiera persona, corporación casa de Comercio, establecimiento, etc. tendrá derecho de estampar en el sobre de las cartas un timbre que indique que las escribe. Este timbre deberá colocarse en el reverso de la carta encima de la oblita ó hilo en el lateral.

No se hace por ahora variación en la correspondencia de la Península, tanto por la vía del Cabo como por la del Istmo, que se seguirá franqueando como basta aquí. En el mismo caso se encuentra la estrangería.

MAILING OF LETTERS

One desiring to mail a letter needs only to affix on the envelope one or more stamps according to its weight and drop it in a mail box. If the letter is less than an ounce in weight a stamp of 5 CUARTOS is affixed; from half an ounce to less than an ounce, a stamp of 10 CUARTOS or two stamps of 5 CUARTOS each are affixed; from an ounce to less than an ounce and a half, a stamp of 1 REAL or two stamps of 10 CUARTOS each are affixed; if it is more than an ounce and a half, a stamp of 1 REAL and another of 10 CUARTOS or its equivalent are affixed, and so on, increasing 10 CUARTOS for every half an ounce in excess.

For letters mailed in this way the addressee need not pay anything but if the sender fails to affix the necessary stamps on the envelope according to its weight the addressee will have to pay for the shortage and failing to do so, the letter is filed in the office.

No refund of any kind will be made of excess postage nor complaint entertained for the recovery thereof if more stamps than necessary were affixed on the letter.

In the general administration of the post office there will be an employee to take charge of informing the public as to the weight of the letter and the corresponding stamps to be affixed, which will be supplied in the same office.

As soon as a letter is received, the General Administration of the post office will see to it that the stamp or stamps affixed thereon are invalidated by having the same cancelled with a stamp canceller.

The Administration will not transmit in the mails a letter having a stamp already used affixed on it.

POSTAGE ON PERIODICALS, BOOKS AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER AND SAMPLES OF MERCHANDIZE

The dailies and other newspaper as well as other printed matter of any kind except books, meeting all the requirements prescribed in Articles 8 and 9 may be mailed in the Administration by affixing stamps designated for the purpose, when presented by the editors' offices or by the firms, editors or proprietors.

For mailing periodicals, dailies and other printed matter not included in the previous ruling and for mailing books and samples of merchandize the same rules will be followed as those for affixing stamps.

REGISTERED LETTERS

One desiring to register a letter must affix the corresponding stamps for mailing besides paying 2 REALES as registry fee, notwithstanding its weight, and instead of depositing it in the mail box as in the case of ordinary mails it is presented in the Administration of the post office for the issuance of a receipt. The Administration will not accept any letter unless it has all the stamps corresponding to its weight.

For example: To register an ordinary letter, it is necessary to affix one stamp of 5 CUARTOS for postage and another one of 2 REALES for registry. Affixing only one of these two stamps is not acceptable.

The stamps on registered mails will be cancelled in the same manner as those on ordinary mails.

The receiver of a registered letter needs only to return the envelope with the signature of the addressee.

RUBBER STAMPS

Any person, corporation, business house, establishment, etc. has the right to stamp on the envelope of the letters a rubber stamp indicating name of sender. This rubber stamp should be placed on the reverse side of the letter above the sticker or else on the sealed wax.

No change is for the present contemplated in the mailing of correspondence for the Peninsula via the Cape, as well as via the Isthmus which will continue as of the present. The same is true in the case of correspondence for foreign countries.

lar de la persona á quien vayan dirigidos y el precio de la redimición de esta, devengarán en el franqueo cinco cuartillos, no recibiendo su precio de una onza; diez, hasta dos onzas, y así progresivamente, subcalculándose cinco cuartillos por cada vez que el peso exceda de una onza.

11. Lo mismo devengarán en el franqueo las muestras de género de ninguna valor cerrado con fijas, que permitan asegurarse de que no tienen escrito de mano manuscrita los números de órden y las marcas.

12. Los libros, periódicos, impresos y muestras de géneros que no se hallan comprendidos en los artículos 8.º, 9.º, 10.º y 11.º devengarán en el franqueo igual precio que las cartas.

13. Así de los impresos de que trata el artículo 9.º como de libros, solo admitirán las arrolas de peso que consistan en los medios comunes y ordinarios de transporte, siempre de cubierta la anterior de la correspondencia y de los periódicos.

14. El franqueo y el certificado de cartas así como el franqueo de los periódicos é impresos sueltos que no sean entregados por las respectivas redacciones, lo harán los mismos interesados por medio de sellos, en los términos que se establecen en la instrucción que sigue.

15. El franqueo de periódicos y demás impresos que sean postales en el Correo por las redacciones, se verificará en la Administración por medio del sello destinado al efecto.

16. Nadie estará obligado á recibir de las poblaciones mas cartas de las que se le dirijan que las que designe antes de abrirlos.

17. Cualquiera persona, corporación, casa de comercio, establecimiento etc., tendrá derecho de estampar en el sobre de las cartas un timbre que indique quien las escribió. Si las cartas así timbradas no se distribuyesen por cualquier motivo, se devolverán á la persona que marque el timbre.

18. Las cartas que se remitan cerradas de un punto á otro aunque no sea por conducto del Correo, deberá así mismo ser puesto en ellas los sellos que le correspondan: en otro caso serán consideradas como de contrabando y quedarán sujetas los conductores á las penas que establece el título 20 de las ordenanzas generales del ramo de Correos.



INSTRUCCION

para el franqueo y certificado de cartas y para el franqueo de periódicos, libros y demas impresos, y de muestras de géneros en la correspondencia interior de estas Islas.

Desde 1.º de Febrero de 1851 será obligatorio en el previo franqueo de toda la correspondencia que circule por el interior del archipiélago, ya se dirija de una á otra provincia ó entre las provincias de las mismas.

El que desde dicho día quiera dirigir una carta tiene indispensablemente que franquearla, y tanto esta operación como la de certificar deberá hacerse por medio de sellos que se venden uno á uno ó en el número que al comprador acomode, en los papeles que en cada pueblo designe el Jefe de la provincia, exceptuándose esta Capital y sus alrededores en donde se expedirán en la forma y estanco que sigue.

Los sellos son de papel; está en ellos estampado el busto de S. M. la Reina, y queda goma por detrás á fin de que para pegarlos baste húmedecerlos.

11. The same postage should be charged on samples of wrapped cloths of no value, which have been assured as containing no handwritings except number of order and the trade mark.

12. Books, periodicals, printed matter and samples of things not included in the provisions of Articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 shall be charged the same postage as those of letters.

13. Like the printed matter treated in Article 9 as well as books, only weight in "arrobas" is permitted and means of common and ordinary transporting is allowed after giving preference to correspondence and newspapers.

14. Payment of the postage and registry of letters, as well as of the postage of newspapers and loose printed matter not delivered by their respective press offices, will have to be undertaken by the interested parties by means of stamps in accordance with the following instructions.

15. The postage of periodicals and other loose printed matter placed on the mail by the press office will be verified in the Administration by means of the stamp designated for the purpose.

16. No one will be obliged to receive from the provinces more letters than those addressed to him and so designated before opening them.

17. Each person, corporation, commercial house, establishment, etc. has the right to stamp on the envelope of the letter a rubber mark which will indicate the sender. If for some reasons the letters are not delivered, they will be returned to the person whose name is indicated in the rubber stamp.

18. Closed letters which are transmitted from one place to another not by mail should use the corresponding stamps; otherwise they should be considered a contraband and the senders are subject to penalty prescribed under Article 20 of the General Ordinance of the branch of Posts.

INSTRUCCION

for the postage and registry of letters and for the postage of periodicals, books and other printed matter, and of samples of cloth in the domestic mails of these Islands.

Beginning February 1, 1854, pre-paid postage will be compulsory on all correspondence which circulate within the Archipelago whether sent from one province to another or between towns of the same.

That, Beginning the said date, any person desiring to send a letter as well as to register it should indispensably use stamps which are sold one by one or any number that the buyer may so desire at the stations of every town designated by the Chief of the province, except in the Capital and its suburbs where sales will be in the "terrena" and "estancos" style.

The stamps are made of paper; the bust of Her Majesty, the Queen is printed on them and at the back they have gum to stick them with by dampening.

Facsimile of the original manuscript which established the first mails in the Philippines-1853. Translation to English text was made by Maria Calixto.

SAMPLE INDICATING PLACE WHERE TO AFFIX STAMPS FOR PRE-PAID AND REGISTERED LETTERS

Pre-paid letter weighing less than half an ounce

Stamp of 5 cuartos

To D. Jose Fernandez

Bulacan

Pre-paid letter weighing more than an ounce but less than one and half ounce

Stamp of 10 cuartos

Stamp of 5 cuartos

Stamp of 5 cuartos

To D. Jose Fernandez

Bulacan

Ordinary and registered letter weighing less than half an ounce

Stamp of 5 cuartos

Stamp of 2 reales

To D. Jose Fernandez

Bulacan

Modelo para que se vea el sitio en que han de pegarse los sellos así para franquizar como para certificar las cartas.

Carta Franca, pero no llega á medio onza.

Sello de 5 cuartos.

A D. José Fernandez.

Bulacan.

Carta Franca que pesa mas de una onza y no llega á una y media.

Sello de 10 cuartos.

Sello de 5 cuartos.

Sello de 5 cuartos.

A D. José Fernandez.

Bulacan.

Carta Franca y certificada que no pesa no llega á medio onza.

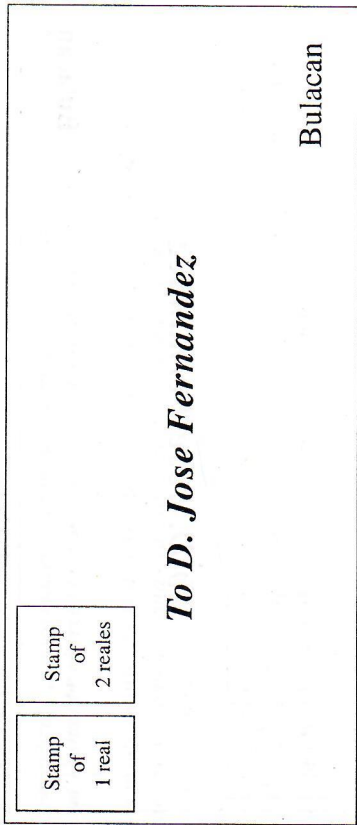
Sello de 5 cuartos.

Sello de 2 reales.

A D. José Fernandez.

Bulacan.

Ordinary and certified letter weighing more than an ounce but less than an ounce and a half.



NOTICE

To avoid confusion each denomination of stamps will have its distinct color.

One should take care in dampening the gum so that the stamp may not be removed.

When there is not enough space for all the necessary stamps on the upper part of the envelope they may be affixed on any part of the envelope.

In mailing heavy sheets it is advisable to affix stamps of 2 reales to avoid unnecessary use of too many stamps.

The public is informed that a simple letter weighing less than half an ounce may be included in the sheets of paper which are classified in the following:

Spanish paper of regular thickness, 14 inches long by 9 1/2 inches wide, a sheet and a half.

English letter papers of 11 1/2 inches long by 9 inches wide, two sheets.

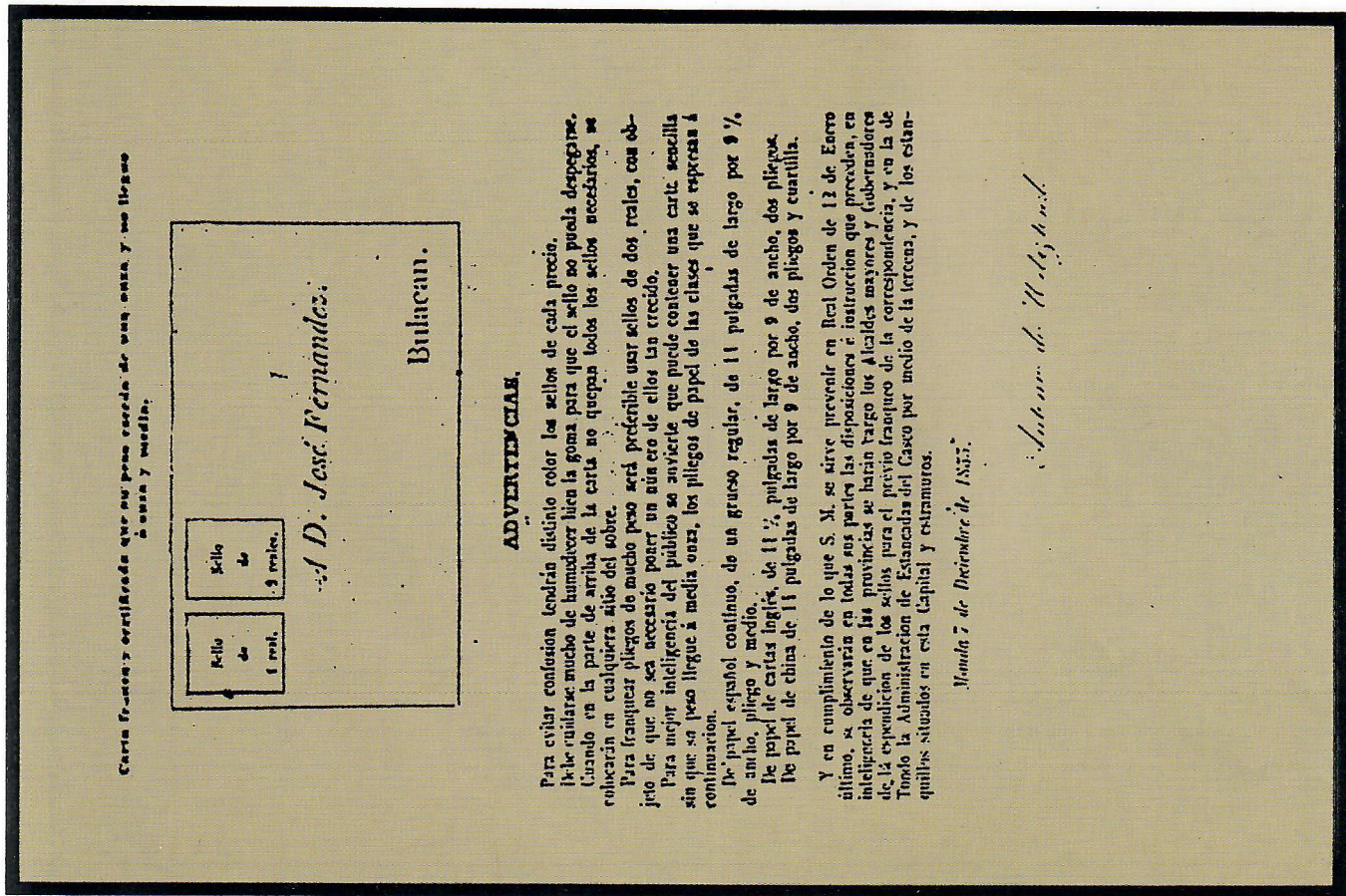
Chinese papers of 14 inches long by 9 inches wide, two and one fourth sheets.

In compliance with Her Majesty's instructions as contained in the Royal Order of January 12 ultimo, all the preceding rules and regulations governing the issuance of stamps will be enforced with the understanding that in the provinces, the mayors and governors will take charge of the issuance of stamps for the prepayment of postage on mail matters and that in Tondo, the *Administration de Estancadas del Casco* will do so thru the stations and booths situated in the Capital and its suburbs.

MANILA, December 7, 1853.

ANTONIO DE URBIZTONDO

Facsimile of the original manuscript which established the first mails in the Philippines-1853. Translation to English text was made by Maria Calixto.



Superior Government
General Seat of the Philippine Islands

Manila, December 7, 1853

In compliance with what Her Majesty has deigned to decree in the Royal Order of last January 12 and in conformity with the opinion of the General Assessor, I agree to determine the following:

1. Beginning the first of February of this coming year, postage and arrangement of correspondence within the islands will be followed in accordance with the previous rules and regulations issued by the General Administration of Posts in the capital.
2. The chiefs of the respective provinces will take charge of the issuance of stamps the required number of which they will receive thru their representatives in the Administration of Posts in the capital, as soon as the stamps are received by these representatives, the provincial chiefs are held responsible for their values and only in cases of loss under unavoidable circumstances will said chief be relieved of such responsibility.
3. After considering the particular circumstances in the province of Tondo, the "Administrador de Estancadas", with the consent of the Superintendent will take charge of the issuance of stamps in that place.
4. The chiefs of the province in charge of the issuance of stamps and the Administrator of the Estancadas of Tondo with the consent of the Superintendent are given 10% commission on the sales of stamps as remuneration and to cover the expenses that they may incur in the performance of their work, labor and the consequent responsibilities.
5. The Mayors and Governors as well as the Administrator will have to deal concerning their particular work directly with the Administration of Posts giving a yearly account at the end of the year of the existence of stamps and of the sales of same.
6. The chiefs of the province are not compelled to file any bond for the present because of the insignificant amount entrusted under their custody, but the Administrator of the Estancadas in Tondo being under different circumstances will have to file a bond the amount of which will be fixed by the Administration of Posts.
7. The official correspondence will be mailed using on the envelope a black stamp (with or without) the coat of arms indicating authority and place of origin.
8. The official correspondence of the following officials will be mailed by using their respective stamps; the Superior Government and the General Seat of the Philippine Islands; their Excellencies Archbishops and Bishops "Sufraganeos"; the Regent and Fiscal of the "Real Audiencia"; the General "Intendente" and Superintendent of Royal Finance; the Accountants of the Army and Finance and of the "Tribunal Mayor de Cuentas"; the general Administrators of "Rentas Estancadas y Tributos"; the Administrators of Sub-delegates in the Provinces; the general Commander of the Navy; the "Ministro Interventor del Apostadero"; the Sub-inspectors of all arms; the General Commander of the "Resguardo"; the Commander of the Public Security; Army Health Consultant; the Mayor of the provinces, Governors, Lieutenant Governors and the District Commanders; the General Administration of Posts.
9. The superior chiefs of the dependencies will see to it that the proper authorities, officials and chiefs are furnished as soon as possible with a supply of the above mentioned stamps as may be needed.
10. When the employees and army officers not included in the franchisement but are eventually engaged in the service will have to write on the back of the sheet of paper addressed to the authorities concerned the nature of their work and the Province where they are stationed with their signature at the bottom.

Facsimile of the original manuscript which established the first mails in the Philippines-1853. Translation to English text was made by Maria Calixto.

SEÑOR GOBIERNO
Y CAPTANIA GENERAL

Manila 7 de Diciembre de 1853.

En cumplimiento de lo que S. M. se sirve prevenir en Real cédula de 12 de Enero último, instruido el necesario expediente y de conformidad con el parecer del Sr. Asesor general de Gobierno, vengo a determinar lo que sigue.

1. Desde el día primero de Febrero del año próximo entrante quedará establecido el porte y arreglo de la correspondencia interior de estas islas, á cuyo fin se observarán las disposiciones e instrucciones precedentes firmadas por la Administración general de Correos de esta Capital.

2. En las provincias se harán cargo sus respectivos Jefes del expendio de sellos, á cuyo efecto recibirá, por medio de sus apoderados en esta Capital de la Administración de Correos el número que conceptue necesario la misma dependencia, desde que los apoderados reciban los sellos quedará los Jefes de provincia responsables de su importe; y solo en casos de pérdida ó extravío irremediables y plenamente justificados se les releva de responsabilidad.

3. Atendidas las circunstancias particulares de la provincia de Tondo, y en vista del asentamiento del Sr. Superintendente, se encargará en ella del expendio de sellos la Administración de Estancadas.

4. A los Jefes de provincia encargados de expendio y al Administrador de Estancadas de Tondo se les acordó de acuerdo con el Sr. Superintendente el 10 p/100 del importe de los sellos que vendan, como remuneración de los gastos que les ocasionará su comisión y del trabajo y responsabilidad consiguientes.

5. Tanto los Alcaldes mayores y Gobernadores de Correos en todo cuanto concierne á entenderla directamente con la Administración de Correos como el receptor, Administrador, en este ramo, dando cuenta á la misma en fin de cada año de las recaudaciones con remisión de un libramiento del importe de los sellos vendidos.

6. Hoy ahora y en razón á la corta cantidad del cargo que tendrían por este concepto los Jefes de provincia no se les exijirá fianza alguna; pero el Administrador de Estancadas de Tondo deberá prestarla por hallarse en distintas circunstancias desiguales la Administración de Correos la cantidad en que deba alzarse á satisfacción de la misma dependencia.

7. La correspondencia oficial se hará franca estamando en el sobre de las comunicaciones un sello negro con armas ó sin ellas, en que se espone la autoridad y provincia de que procede.

8. Harán franca la correspondencia oficial del interior por medio de sus sellos respectivos las autoridades siguientes: El Superior Gobierno y Capitanía general de estas islas; Los Escuelas é Ilustres, Sres. Arzobispos y Obispos Sufraganeos; Los Sres. Regente y Fiscales de la Real Audiencia; El Sr. Intendente general y Superintendente de Real Hacienda; Los Sres. Contadores de Ejército y Hacienda y del Tribunal mayor de Cuentas; Los Administradores generales de Rentas Estancadas y Tributos; Los Administradores ó Subdelegados de los mismos ramos en Provincias; El Sr. Comandante general de Marina; El Ministro Interventor del Apostadero; Los Sres. Subinspectores de todas armas; El Sr. Comandante general del Resguardo; El Comandante de las partidas de Seguridad Pública; El Consultor de Sanidad Militar; Los Alcaldes mayores de provincias, Gobernadores P. M., Tenientes de Gobernador y los Comandantes de Distrito; La Administración general de Correos.

9. Los Jefes superiores de las dependencias, condecorado de hallar á la mayor brevedad posible, de los mencionados sellos á las autoridades ó Jefes que carezcan de ellos.

10. Cuando los empleados y militares no comprendidos en la franquicia se hallen descomulgados cualquier comisión eventual del servicio, podrán en el curso de los pliegos que dirijan á las autoridades el carácter de su comisión y la provincia en que se hallen, con su propia firma al pie.

NEW SOUTH WALES - PHILIPPINE COMBINATION COVER



1854, September 27 - folded letter from Sydney to Manila with Manila receiving postmark January 25, 1855. Letter between 1/2 to 1 ounce from New South Wales is subject to 2 reales due rate. However, confusion among postal officials concerning the postal rate had led in the misused of the proper due rate. Hence, the presence of the handstamped numeral "1" (1 real) due marking and the 5 cuartos stamps.

11. En el caso de que algun Gefé de provincia no estuviere provisto del correspondiente sello para el dia primero de Febrero próximo venidero, podra hasta hallarse habilitado hacer franca su correspondencia oficial, por el mismo medio que se designa para los que dependen comisiones eventuales.

12. Para la remision por el Correo de los autos, peticiones entre partes ó causas se observará lo dispuesto por la ordenanza general del ramo en los artículos 6.º, 7.º y 8.º del título 19. En su consecuencia, deberán ser previamente frangueados los pliegos por escrito de los interesados, excepto los procesos de oficio ó causas en que los reos sean indolentemente bajo originario, con visto bueno del Jefe.

Comuníquese á quienes correspondie con el competente número de ejemplares impresos de las disposiciones ó instrucciones referidas que se circularán tambien á todos las demas autoridades y corporaciones, y se publicarán en el Boletín Oficial; dándose conocimiento al Gobierno de S. M. con testimonio de este expediente.

Urbiztondo.

11. In case any Chief of a province is not provided with his corresponding stamps by the 1st of February of this coming year, his official correspondence may be treated in the same manner as those designated for the employees undertaking eventual work.

12. For the transmission in the mails of papers bearing on judicial cases and trials between parties the general ordinance under article 6, 7 and 8 of Title 19 will be observed. Consequently the postage for the copies should be pre-paid by the interested parties except in trials of "ex-officio" or in cases when the parties are declared poor, then, Clerk of Court with the approval of the Judge will certify their exemption on the cover of the copies.

Let this order be known to all those concerned by means of printed copies of the above mentioned rules and regulations which will also be served upon all authorities and corporations and later published in the Official Bulletin giving information to the Government of Her Majesty with the testimony of this decree.

URBIZTONDO

5 CUARTOS



BLOCK OF 37
LARGEST KNOWN BLOCK

5 CUARTOS

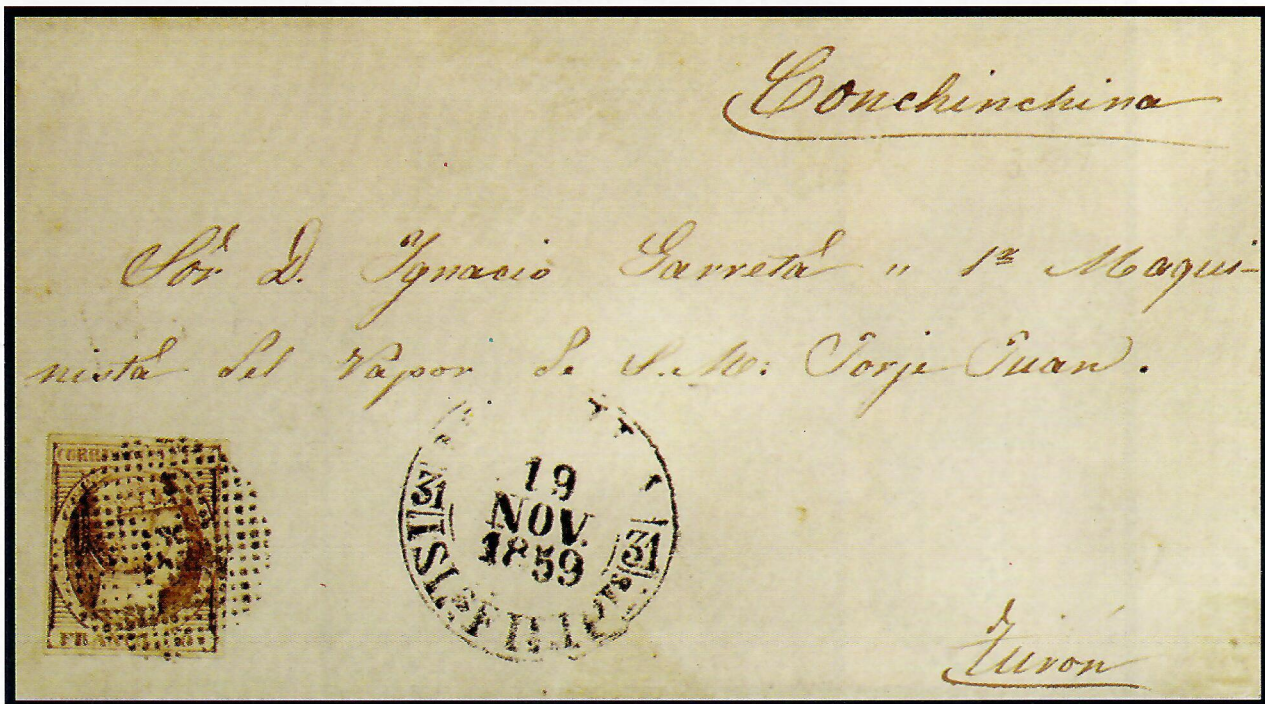
NEW SOUTH WALES-PHILIPPINES COMBINATION COVER



1854, May 12 - folded letter from Sydney to Manila with Manila receiving postmark dated June 29, 1854. Letter under the 1/2 ounce from New South Wales is subject to 1 real rate, due to the implementation of new postal rate brought about by the introduction of postage stamps in February 1, 1854, made the postal officials assumed that the postage from the port of addressee was equivalent to postage of an inland letter. Hence, a 5 cuartos stamp was affixed.

FRANCO-HISPANO CAMPAIGN COVER IN COCHINCHINA

In July 1857, Fray Jose Maria Diaz Sanjurjo, a Spanish missionary was beheaded in Tokin. France, who was then expanding his policies in the Far East, took this opportunity to send expeditionary forces. Spain, through request of France had sent to Conchinchina from Manila a total of 500 soldiers, all of Philippine origin under the command of Coronel Oscariz in two vessels, the JORGE JUAN and the ELCANO.



1859, November 19 - cover from Manila to Turon, Indochina bearing the 5 cuartos for a local single rate. All campaign letters from 1859 to 1863 were treated as local mails.

10 CUARTOS - BLACK



ONLY KNOWN USAGE



ERROR "CORRREOS" instead of "CORREOS"



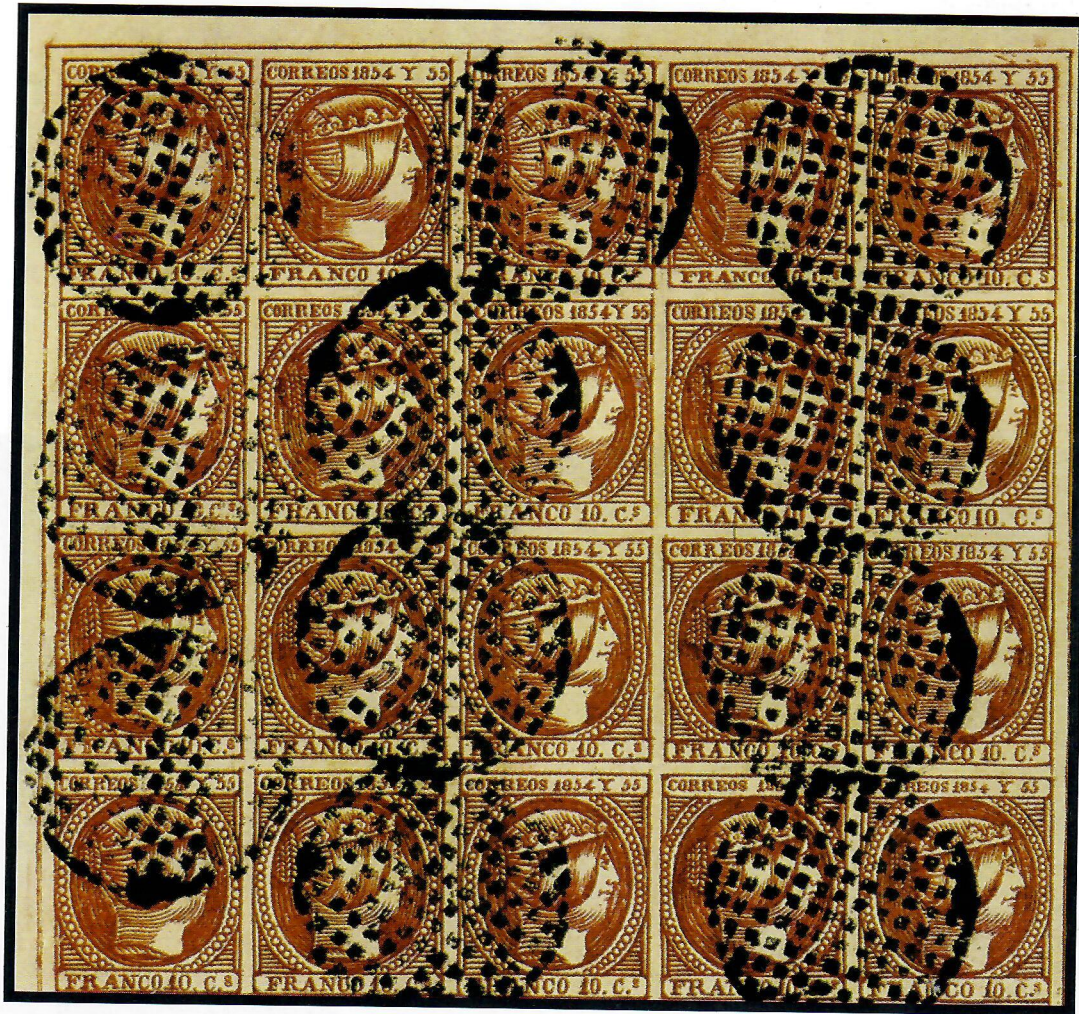
BLOCK OF 6
LARGEST KNOWN BLOCK

10 CUARTOS - CARMINE



COMPLETE SHEET OF 40
LARGEST KNOWN BLOCK

10 CUARTOS - CARMINE



BLOCK OF 20
LARGEST KNOWN USED BLOCK



1856, December 8 - folded letter addressed to and from Manila bearing the 10 cuartos for a local double rate letter (within 1/2 to 1 ounce)

10 CUARTOS - PALE ROSE RED

BISECT USAGE



1857, July 6 - folded letter from Manila to Guagua, Pampanga bearing the 10 cuartos diagonally bisect used as 5 cuartos for local single rate (letter under 1/2 ounce)

10 CUARTOS - PALE ROSE RED

UNAUTHORIZED USAGE
FOR OVERSEAS MAIL



1857, January 10 - folded letter from Manila to Madrid, bearing a pair of the 10 cuartos (1 real de plata) to prepaid an outbound single rate to Spain. The first issued stamps were not authorized for outbound mail. Hence, the presence of a "4Rs" (4 reales de vellon) handstamped due mark. In accordance with the postal regulation then in effect, the Manila Central Post Office assessed the double rate penalty on all unpaid mail. The Philippine currency of 1 real de plata is equivalent to almost 2 reales de vellon of the Spanish currency.

1 REAL FUERTE - BLUE



ERROR



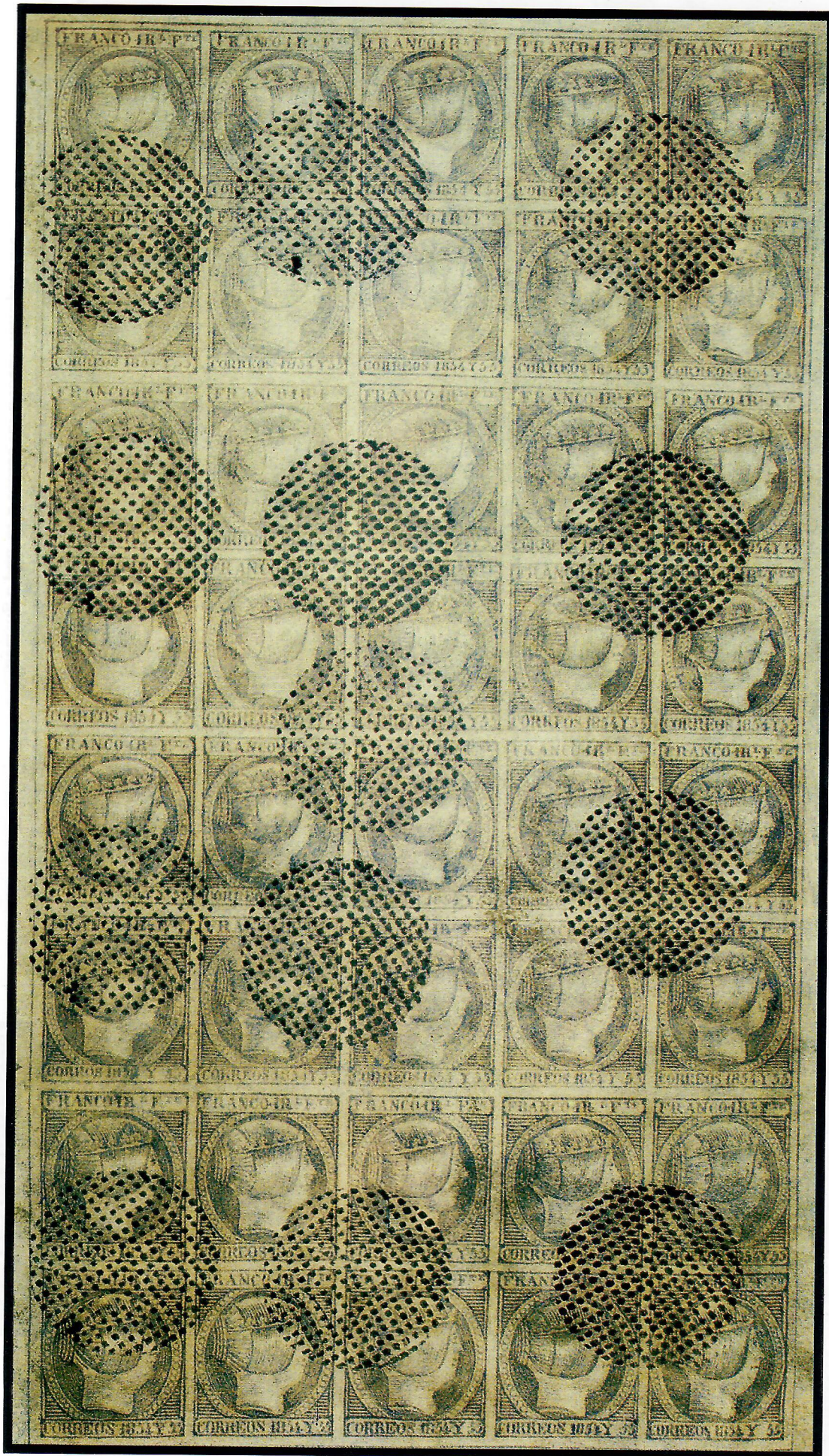
“CORROS”
instead of
“CORREOS”

BLOCK OF 16
LARGEST KNOWN UNUSED BLOCK



1854, May 23 - folded letter (large portion) addressed to and from Manila bearing the 1 real fuerte for a local triple rate letter (within 1 to 1 1/2 ounces)

1 REAL FUERTE - PALE GREY



COMPLETE SHEET OF 40
LARGEST KNOWN BLOCK



1858, March 12 - official envelope of the Royal Service addressed to Manila bearing a pair of 2 reales for a local multiple rate.

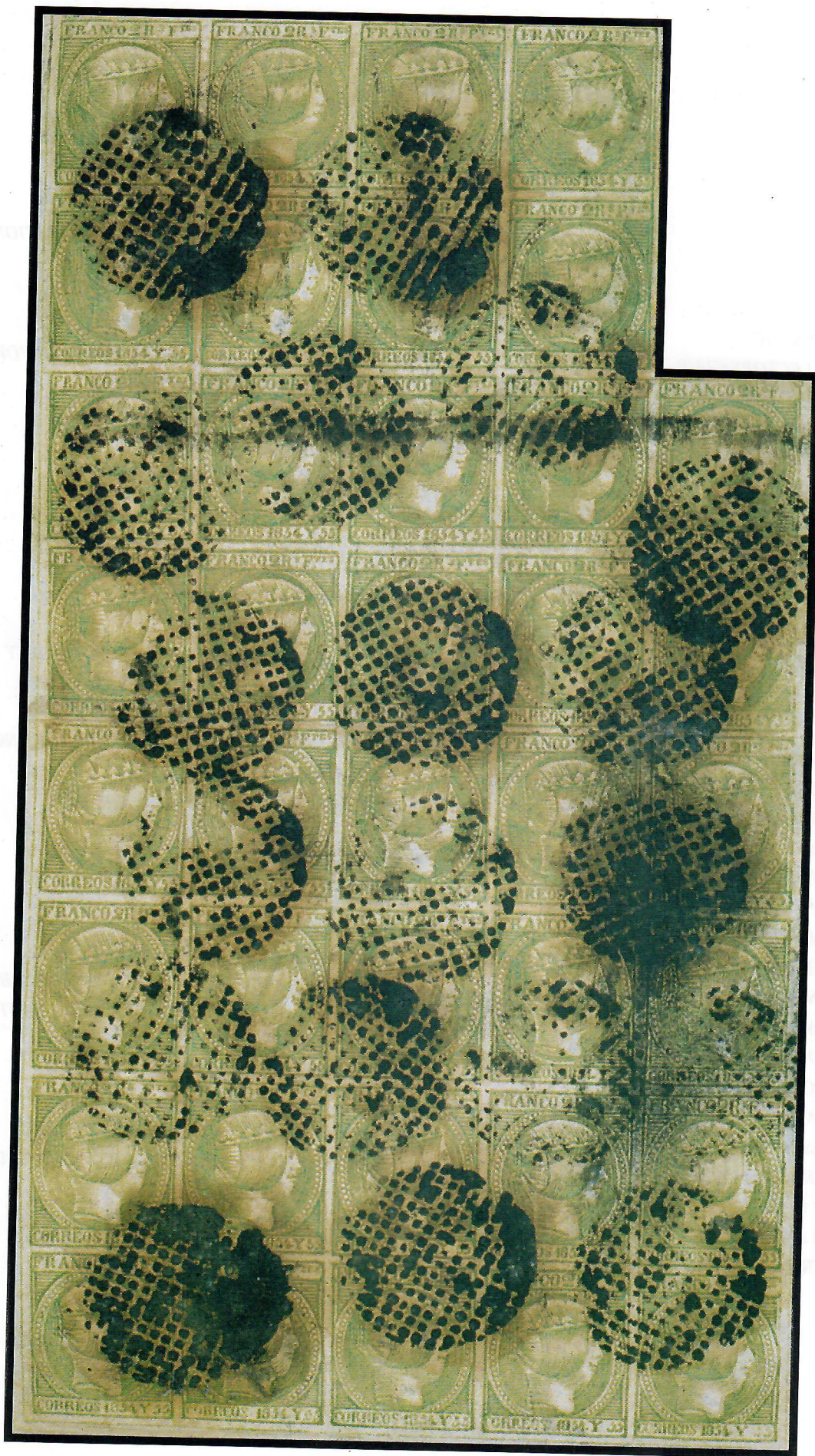


PAIR

LARGEST KNOWN UNUSED MULTIPLE

2 REALES FUERTE

2 REALES FUERTE



BLOCK OF 38
LARGEST KNOWN BLOCK

