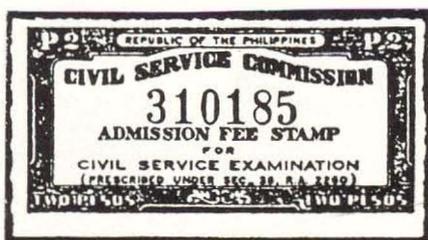




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Third Quarter, 1994

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Philippine Philatelic Journal

**NEWLY DISCOVERED "HABILITADO POR LA NACION"
OVERPRINT ON 5 CUARTOS ISSUE (SCOTT #10)**

By Don Peterson

It was recently my good fortune to visit IPPS member Richard Arnold in Salt Lake City and to purchase a number of Spanish Philippine stamps. One such stamp was the 5 cuartos vermilion issue of 1859 (Scott #10), overprinted with "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" (Figure 1). Until now, no "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" overprint has been confirmed on Scott #10.

All parts of the overprint are visible, although some parts are better struck than others. The stamp was cancelled with a black fiscal cancel showing a crown and part of the word "GOBIE . . ." which likely stands for "GOBIERNO", common on fiscal cancels at that time. The stamp, overprint, and cancel appear genuine in all respects. The overprint compares well with similar "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" overprints on other Spanish Philippine issues (Scott #25-38).

The handstamp, "HABILITADO POR LA NACION", was used to validate existing supplies of Philippine stamps between 1868 and 1874 to recognize the new Republican form of government in Spain (Harradine, 1987). A total of 27 dies of the Viscaya type were sent from Spain to Manila for the surcharging of all stamps held there.

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Each of the dies was supposedly identical (no varieties) (Palmer, 1912). Existing stamp stocks at that time were overprinted and released between 1868 and 1874. A total of 15 Spanish Philippine postal issues are known to have been surcharged (Scott #25-38), including Scott #11 (overprinted as Scott #28), also an 1859 issue.

Apparently, not all of the previous issues were surcharged, including Scott #1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 15, and 10 (until now). It is presumed they were not overprinted either due to their lack of availability, or because other stamps of that particular value were sufficiently abundant for overprinting. In the case of Scott #10, a lack of available stamps seems unlikely given the availability of mint copies remaining today. This should also be the case for Scott #12 and 15, although no "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" overprints are known on those two issues.

The 5 cuartos vermillion issue (Scott #10) was issued, along with the 10 cuartos rose issue (Scott #11) in 1859 (Palmer, 1912). Both values were issued primarily to satisfy postal rates for interior mail (Peterson, 1988). One 5 cuartos stamp satisfied the single-weight rate for a letter mailed within the Philippines.

Between 1869 and 1874 there were numerous shortages of stamps in the Philippines, due to the political turmoil, resulting in a lack of stamp shipments to the Philippines (Harradine, 1987). We also know there was a need for a 5 cuartos value to satisfy the single-weight interior rate, since Scott #13 and 14 (also 5 cuartos values) were overprinted (becoming Scott #29 and 30, respectively). As shortages continued, even earlier issues were overprinted. By 1873 and 1874, Manila postal officials were overprinting remaining stocks from 1854, 1856, 1859 (Scott #11) and 1862.

It seems logical that some remaining stocks of the 1859 5 cuartos vermillion issue could have been overprinted. The discovery of this overprinted stamp indicates that an unknown, but small number of the 1859 5 cuartos vermillion stamp (Figure 1) were overprinted, probably in 1873 or 1874. A factor contributing to its scarcity was the fact that the overprinted stamp was used primarily on internal mail. Such mail and its affixed stamps had a low probability of survival due to the perils of 120 years of Philippine insects and humidity.

The only mention in philatelic literature of the "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" overprint on the 1859 5 cuartos issue is by Palmer (1912). On page 27, he reports the following:

While no copies of the 5 Cs. of 1859 with this surcharge are known, a German philatelist of Manila informed the writer (Palmer) that he had seen and sold a few such copies. As the writer (Palmer) has never seen a copy of this stamp with surcharge and has only the above statement as authority for having been made, it is not listed herein.

Harradine (1987) also refers to Palmer's statement in his book (page 25).

I am currently not aware of any other copies of this issue and I have found no other references that discuss or list this stamp. Is the stamp, shown in Figure 1, one of those sold by that German philatelist at the turn of the century?

If anyone is aware of other copies of this overprinted issue or of any additional information, please contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20012.



Figure 1.

REFERENCES

- Harradine, Peter, W.A. Philippine Postage Stamp Handbook, 1854-1892 Jefferson, North Carolina, and London. 1987.
- Palmer, F. L. The Postal Issues of the Philippines New York. 1912
- Peterson, D. "Postal Rates of the Spanish Philippines: Early Adhesive Period, 1854-1879". The American Philatelist. Vol. 102. No. 9. State College, PA. September 1988.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION STAMPS

By Nemi L. Rivera

An introductory article describing the Civil Service Commission Admission Fee for Civil Service Examination Stamps appeared in the Second Quarter 1993, Whole Number 37, issue of IPPS NEWSletter, pp. 19-20. In brief review, the earliest reference in the literature is in the Arnold H. Warren Catalogue, wherein he showed the date of issue of W-1801 as "1965 (?)".

That date is, of course, approximate, as the enabling authority was Republic Act 2260, otherwise known as the Civil Service Act of 1959. Under that act, the former Bureau of Civil Service was converted to the present Civil Service Commission. It functions as the "central personnel agency of the Philippine government".

Among its major operations is the administration under Section 38 of qualifying examinations to those desiring to enter government service or to improve positions already occupied. Applicants are required to apply for Civil Service Examination through payment of an Admission Fee covered by the Civil Service Commission stamps.

Printing details are unknown for the earliest issues. The example of Warren's No. W-1801 P2 stamp shown in Figure 1 is rouletted three sides, with straight-edge at bottom; however, the example illustrated in Warren's Catalogue is rouletted four sides. Taken together, those two examples suggest that the stamps were printed in sheets of unknown size.

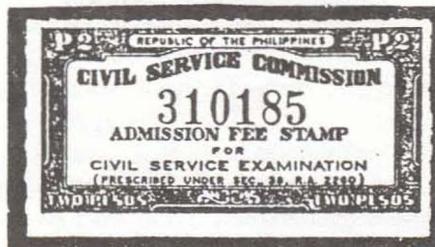


Figure 1. W-1801, frame and upper label in blue, central labels in black, control number in blue.

Only because it was not listed by Warren, it is guessed that the P1 stamp illustrated in Figure 2 was issued after W-1081. It is rouletted four sides, and the illustrated example with bottom selvage suggests that it was printed in sheets of unknown size with no straight edges.



Figure 2. Frame and upper label in red, central labels in black, control number in blue.

Another early P2 stamp is found with two different separations. The example in Figure 3 is perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ top and bottom, with straight edges on both sides. The example in Figure 4 is otherwise identical except that it is rouletted top and bottom, also with straight edges both sides. Those straight edges suggest that both varieties were printed in vertical strips of unknown size. Both display frames and upper labels in orange, "CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION" and control numbers in blue, other central labels in black. The addition of the capital letter "A" is noted.



Figure 3.



Figure 4

It is not known how long those early stamps were in use, nor if other values or colors were printed, although none has been reported. But at an unknown later date, an entirely new series appeared.

The new stamps are printed by the Central Bank Security Printing Plant, which also prints the current serially numbered Internal Revenue Documentary Stamps. They are printed on high-quality white watermarked paper with security fibers and are rouletted. Composition is 50 stamps per sheet (5x10), straight edges all four sides. Numbering is sequenced bottom to top, and by column from right to left.

The stamps are not superseded or demonetized, but are used until stocks are depleted. Tellers are instructed to use the lower values first, with the result that the low value stamps are no longer available. The rate of the fees is changed from time to time by Commission Resolution in order to support the ever-increasing expenses "relative to the effective administration of civil service examinations".

Stamps of the present series display different colored borders, with central inscriptions and serial numbers in black in nine values.



P5.00 Light Blue



P10.00 Yellow Orange



P20.00 Orange



P30.00 Violet



P40.00 Yellow



P50.00 Red



P70.00 Green



P100.00 Brown



P150.00 Blue

At present, the admission fees are as follows:

- a. Local Scholarships No Fee
 - b. For Professionalization of Teachers
under PD 1006 P20.00
 - c. Police Officer I Examination 50.00
 - d. Career Service Examination:
Subprofessional Level 50.00
 - e. School Superintendent Examination 100.00
 - f. Special Modified Walk-in
Examination 100.00
 - g. Professional Board Examinations
for Teachers 150.00
- (Other fees are announced as new examinations are announced.)

Up to four stamps may be pasted on the indicated space in the application form, a small portion of which is illustrated in Figure 1, providing that the total face value will equal the prescribed application fee. The "indicated space" is seen at the bottom right of the application form marked "Affix Admission Fee Stamp Here" and explains why the stamps are inscribed "BOTTOM" at the left side and "TOP" at the right side.

After it is processed and approved, the application is cut horizontally along the dotted line, likewise cutting in half the attached stamps. The Application Receipt or stub serves to identify the examinee (Figure 2, reduced), with the rest remaining with the CSC. If these rare stamps ever are afforded catalog listing, it may therefore be necessary to list "RH" (Right Half) and "LH" (Left Half) as are many Internal Revenue stamps.

The illustrated Application Receipt displays P10, P40 and P50 stamps totalling P100 to cover the admission fee for "Career Service Examination: Professional Level".

I DECLARE UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN GOOD FAITH, VERIFIED BY ME AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF IS A TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PERTINENT LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

I LIKEWISE AGREE THAT I WILL SUBJECT MYSELF TO A VALIDATING EXAMINATION IN CASE THE TEST RESULTS IN THE ROOM WHERE I INITIALLY TOOK THE EXAMINATION ARE STATISTICALLY IMPROBABLE.

(TOP)	_____ Signature of Applicant
Affix	12. Do not fill this portion: ACTION TAKEN: _____ Date: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
	_____ Signature of Processor
Admission Fee Stamp Here (BOTTOM)	Application Receipt APPLICATION NUMBER: _____ Received the application for the PROFESSIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS of the applicant whose name, date of birth, sex and signature appear below: APPLICANT'S PRINTED NAME: _____ SEX: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____
	SIGNATURE OF PROCESSOR _____ DATE RECEIVED/PROCESSED _____

Figure 1.

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SCIENCE REVENUE STAMPS, 1969-1968**

By Nemi L. Rivera and Eugene A. Garrett

In the First Quarter, 1989, Volume XI, No. 1 issue of this journal, pp. 1-7, a proposed listing of revenue stamps issued by the Republic of the Philippines subsequent to the publication of Arnold H. Warren's Fiscal Stamps of the Philippines: Handbook-Catalogue, 1956 to Date was attempted by the authors. Emphasizing that theirs was a "proposed" listing, readers were urged to submit comments, corrections, additions and changes. No responses have been received concerning the Internal Revenue stamps; however, it is a pleasure to report that a major correction has been submitted by Donald L. Duston (I-516) of Peru, Illinois.

In the listing cited above, four (4) types of Science Stamps were proposed. The first two types were on paper without security fibers, one reported as being watermarked and the other as unwatermarked. Don's report is as follows:

"I have studied the watermark on these and firmly believe the Type A (unwatermarked) and Type B (watermarked) are from the same sheet. The watermark appears to be a sheet watermark (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) with a large Coat of Arms over "official". Some stamps show only traces of the letters or Coat of Arms, only on the edges of the stamps, indicating that it is a sheet watermark. This, of course, can be verified by anyone with a sheet or large multiple."

Not until we tried to find a full sheet or large multiples did we fully realize how scarce they are. Full sheets and large pieces of the later Types C and D are moderately plentiful, but the best we could find of the type printed on paper without the security fibers were several pairs and a very few blocks of 4, 6 and one irregular block of 8. Nevertheless, we were able to reconstruct a portion of a full sheet, originally consisting of 100 subjects (10 x 10), selvage 4 sides, no straight edges, rouletted. Our reconstruction is of 36 positions in a lower left corner block, as shown in the reduced-sized rough sketch in Figure 1.

From the few pieces available, the vertical separation of the watermarks is depicted accurately in the sketch, but the lack of sufficient samples did not permit determination of the horizontal separation. Further, the relative positions of the watermarks will vary with each printed sheet, so the illustrated example is typical only of a particular sheet.

Nevertheless, enough data have been presented to confirm Don's discovery that both types on paper without security fibers, one reported to be watermarked and the other watermarked, are from the same sheet. In the illustrated example, it can be seen that positions 41, 46, 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 75, 76, 81, 86 and 96 are completely void of any trace of the watermark, and positions 51, 85, 86 and 91 display such small traces that examination of singles would lead one to believe them to be unwatermarked. Therefore, roughly half the positions, if examined as singles, would quite logically be described as unwatermarked.

Type A. Watermarked "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY /REPUBLIC of the PHILIPPINES" (Figure 1), without security fibers.

Type B. Watermarked "REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES" (Figure 2), with artificial silk security fibers.

Type C. Watermarked "BIR" (Figure3), with artificial silk security fibers.



Figure 1.

In the three years since the proposed listing was published, examples of the P3.00, P5.00, P10.00, P20.00, P50.00 and P100.00 values of the Type C stamps have not been reported. On November 26, 1976, "Revenue Regulation No. 9-76" declared all documentary and science stamps with denominations of P10.00 and above "without value and withdrawn from circulation". During the eleven years of mandatory use, the stamps underwent numerous printings. It is therefore presumed that the last printing(s) of the science stamps, Type C, did not include the values of P10.00 and above. The possibility exists that the P3.00 and P5.00 might have been printed, but neither has been reported; it is logical but speculative to presume that both probably were not printed.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Fig 4

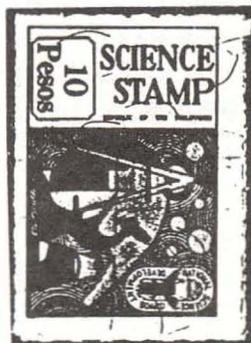


Fig 5

1969-1978. 25mm x 37mm and 37mm x 25mm. Sheets of 100 (10x 10); rouletted; no straight edges. Lithographed on white paper, some with security fibers as noted. Watermarked. Printed by Bureau of Printing, Manila. Ordered by Misael P. Vera, Commissioner of Internal Revenue in "Republic Act No. 5448" and clarified in "Revenue Memorandum Order No. 52-68" dated December 9, 1968 requiring that "science stamp taxes imposed under Sections 211 to 235 of the National Internal Revenue Code. The science stamp taxes imposed shall be of the same amount of the regular documentary stamp taxes . . .". Use of the science stamps was discontinued with the repeal of Act No. 5448 dated August 24, 1978.

The Earliest Known Dates of Use (EKU) of the three types are as follows:

- Type A. — January 5, 1969
- Type B. — January 28, 1970
- Type C. — January (?), 1972

The definitive listing, therefore, follows below; centavo values are as shown in Figure 4 and peso values in Figure 5:

	Type A.	Type B.	Type C.
0.02 red and black	\$0.15	\$0.20	\$0.30
0.04 blue and black	0.15	0.20	0.30
0.05 orange and black	0.15	0.20	0.30
0.10 brown and black	0.15	0.20	0.30
0.20 lawn green and black	0.20	0.30	0.40
0.50 red violet and black	0.40	0.50	0.75
1.00 orange and black	0.30	0.40	0.50
2.00 aqua and black	1.00	1.50	3.00
3.00 green and black	35.00	35.00	—
5.00 red and black	1.50	2.00	—
10.00 brown and black	3.00	4.00	XXX
20.00 maroon and black	4.00	5.00	XXX
50.00 yellow and black	10.00	12.00	XXX
100.00 violet and black	6.00	8.00	XXX

Editor in Chief
Philippine Philatelic Journal

Dear Sir:

In **PPJ Volume XVI, No. 1, First Quarter 1994**, in the 1937 article "The Aguinaldo Stamps of the Philippine Islands" by J. F. McGee, he is quoted (p. 19) as observing:

"The identification of 'Januay' undoubtedly would be a lead as to which other island . . ."

There is a municipality of JANIUAY in the Province of Iloilo on the Island of Panay. According to the 1897 Census reported in the 1902 Pronouncing Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary of the Philippine Islands, it had a "total population of 25,743, combining residents present and residents absent, native and Spanish", making it the most populous municipality in the province at the time.

Perhaps someone with access to histories of the "Philippine Insurrection" can carry this further.

C. M. Nielsen, Salt Lake City, Utah

**SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS WITH THE
PHILIPPINES OVERPRINT**

1901 - 1907

by Joseph M. Napp

There are three basic United States Special Delivery stamps with the PHILIPPINES overprint which produced four collectible issues: the 1901 Running Messenger (Scott's No. E-1); the 1901 Running Messenger with the 'Dots in the Frame' (Napp's No. E-1A); Running Messenger with Red Bandholtz O B (Coughlin No. OBSD-BA1-R) and the 1907 Bicycle Messenger (Scott's No. E-2A).

Two shipments of the 'Running Messenger' stamps were made to the Philippines. F. L. Palmer recorded the one known shipping date in his 1904 book and the two receiving dates in his 1912 book. J. Leonard Diamond (USPPS #27) has supplied copies of the personal correspondence from H. H. Bandholtz to F. L. Palmer indicating the "quantity destroyed or used for official purposes" and thus not available to collectors. Table I reflects the best available information known to this author at this time.

TABLE I

Printing No.	Date Shipped	Date Received	Quantity
1	09-06-01	10-15-01	50,000
2	??	03-10-02	100,000
Total Shipped.....			150,000
Destroyed and Official Use			135,002
Maximum Available for Collectors Mint or Used Postage			14,998
Likely Quantities:			
Scott No. E-1 No "Dots"			11,249
Napp's No. E-1A "Dots" Gobie Type II, Napp No. E-1A.....			3,749
U.P.U. Specimens			730
Bandholtz Overprint with OB in RED INK.....			50

The 'Running Messenger' Special Delivery stamps of the U. S. Series of the U. S. Series of 1894 are known to have been printed from plates 880-881-882-883. It has been a long recognized Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP) practice to group four first press printing plates in one press to make a production run. Plates 880-881-881-883 have identical dates of use - "Sent To Press" and "Dropped from Press" - August 2nd - 20th, 1901. I assume that equal quantities of each plate number were printed.

My research at the BEP indicates that a second group of four special delivery plates (1257-58-59-60) were used in December 1901 and COULD have been used for part or all the Second Philippine shipment of 100,000 stamps which arrived in Manila on March 10, 1902. However, the last four plate numbers have NOT been reported with a PHILIPPINES overprint.

Henry M. Gobie (USPPS #724) discovered a new a special delivery type in 1973 known as the "Dots in the Frame" (Gobie's Type II) for the seven ink dots in the 'curved door frame arch' above the running messenger's head. Henry Gobie's extensive research has established that the "Dots" variety were printed exclusively from BEP plate #882. (The author suggests a new name - "Dots in the Arch" which would assist collectors in locating the "Dots" since there are several frames in the stamp design.).

However, the story of the "Dot" stamps begins with the American Banknote Company (ABC) who produced the first U. S. special delivery stamps (Scott U. S. No. E-1) as well as the Master Die No. 33 from which all future stamps were basically copied. This die was surrendered to the BEP in the summer of 1894 when the BEP assumed production of all U. S. postage stamps. The BEP immediately modified its first Transfer Roll by adding "Lines under the TEN and CENTS" as well as other highlights which were intended to indicate BEP produced stamps (Scott U. S. No. E-4). Similar quick visual checks were added to the ordinary values in the form of "Triangles" in the upper corners.

In the fall of 1894, the BEP made a new roll transfer and then modified the design by removing the "Dots in the Frame" creating Scott U. S. No. E-5. Most of the U. S. special delivery printing plates were made from this first roll transfer including plates 492-880-881-883 - all of which are known with various Possession overprints as well as plates 1257-60 which COULD exist with a PHILIPPINES overprint.

Another NEW roll transfer was made in 1899 and eventually used to create plate #882 in June 1899. The new roll transfer contained the original "Dots" from the ABC's die. There were faithfully copied onto plate #882. A person might speculate that by 1899 everyone had forgotten about the 1894 'Dot Removal' modification and thus plate #882 (with the "Dots") is unique. All of the other special delivery plate proofs were exhaustively examined by Henry Gobie at the Smithsonian and have been determined to be 'without the Dots'.

The "Dots" stamps have now been given the minor variety status in Scott's Catalogue. However, different roll transfers created the Type II printing plates for the 10¢ and \$1 Ordinaries. These denomination have been given major variety status - Philippine Nos. 217A and 223A. If you believe the Ordinary Type IIs are deserving of major catalog status (-A), then surely the Special Delivery "Dot" stamps should be similarly listed (Napp's No. E-1A).

We thank Henry Gobie for his keen eye and his research. The preceding information has been condensed from his book: THE SPEEDY - A History of United States Special Delivery Service.

I believe it is reasonable to assume the finished production in the first Philippine special delivery shipment had ratio of 75% - No Dots (from plate 880-881-883) and 25% - "Dots" (from plate 882). I assume the basic 75/25 ratio existed in at least the first Philippine shipments as well as in Scott Guam No. E-1. The same ratio could have existed in the second Philippine shipment, however, its composition is unknown since most if not all were destroyed.

Most catalogs assign varying dollar premiums to Possessions Area "Dots" stamps, however, a knowledgeable purchaser and an informed seller can often negotiate fair price without insulting anyone's intelligence or causing the buyer to file for personal bankruptcy. The Philippine and Guam "Dot" stamps normally exist in a 75/25 ratio. The Cuba E-1s with the "Dots" are a special overprinting and are very rare.

In addition to the two shipments to the Philippines, the BEP shipped 730 "Specimen Purpose" stamps to the Universal Postal Union in Berne, Switzerland in FYE 1903. The UPU Specimen stamps may not have been were handstamped with the Type E "Specimen" handstamp which had been used in prior years on other Specimen Purpose stamps. The UPU shipment is the last known shipment of the "Running Messenger" stamps with the PHILIPPINES overprint. In all

likelihood, these stamps were printed from plates 1257-60 which were the only "Running Messenger" plates in service during FYE 1902 and 1903.

Beginning on January 1, 1906, the Manila authorities abolished the free franking privilege and required the various government departments (19 bureaus and 40 provincial governments) to use postage stamps for the transmission of official mail. Many departments utilized "O.B." handstamps in various sizes and configurations to indicate their official mails. In May 1907, the Director of the Bureau of Printing experimentally applied the letters O B to the stamp inventory of the Philippine Constabulary commanded by General H. H. Bandholtz, a know collector of that day. Fifty copies of the "Running Messenger" design received the additional Bandholtz type O B overprint in red ink.

The last U. S. Special Delivery stamp with the PHILIPPINES overprint is the 'Bicycle Messenger' stamp of the U. S. Series of 1902 (Scott No. E-2A). Apparently two full panes of 50 stamps each were overprinted in May 1907 to create the 100 stamps recorded as "1907 Specimens" in the Bureau Records. These stamps were NEVER shipped to or issued in the Philippine Islands. All copies known to this author are unused and without any type of government applied Specimen handstamp.

J. M. Bartels received a letter from the Bureau of Insular Affairs (American Colonial Affairs Office) dated August 29, 1913 which states "These stamps were printed at the suggestion of the United States Post Office Department (USPOD) for the purpose of supplying requests, which were then frequent, for specimen Philippine stamps".

A Special Overprinting was required because Washington had failed to retain reserve copies for sale to stateside collectors and because all of the overprinted postage stamps on hand at the Manila Post Office were destroyed on February 13 and 14, 1907.

Completely overlooked was the fact that a complete set of the Second Bureau stamps with the PHILIPPINES overprint (Scott's Nos. 226-240) should not have included any special delivery stamp. The Running Messenger Stamps (Scott No. E-1) are part of the overprinted "First Bureau Issues" and all of the older 'Running Messenger' plates had been destroyed in 1903. The only U. S. special delivery stamps in the BEP's 1907 inventory were the 'Bicycle Messenger' type. In my opinion, the application of the PHILIPPINES overprint to

the Bicycle Messenger stamp must have been a bureaucratic blunder which created a wonderful conversation piece.

Many questions arise concerning the Special Overprinting of 1907. Was it truly made for its stated purpose? Why was its existence hidden from the majority of collectors for six years? It must have been unknown to Palmer as late as 1912 because he published his second book in that year without mentioning it. In 1913, Bartels was confronted with the existence of a genuine bicycle special delivery stamp with genuine PHILIPPINES overprint and yet this very knowledgeable gentleman was not aware of the 1907 special overprinting. Research indicates the USPOD requested seventy-five copies for sale to stateside collectors - what happened to the other twenty-five? Were they forwarded to the Governor-General of the Philippines to be dispensed by him as complimentary copies? Why were the seventy-five USPOD copies still unsold after six years in 1913? Only when the same 75 sets were transferred to the National Museum in 1913 was Bartels and the public made aware. At that time, J. M. Bartels examined the entire inventory and he noted the ink shades and plate numbers of the denominations in the National Museum. In 1978, the W. Parson Todd Collection was auctioned off by Robert Siegel Inc. (Sale #531) and it contained both possible positions of plate blocks for the 8¢ and 10¢ Ordinaries of the 1907 Special Overprinting. This indicates to me that some of the National Museum's "75 duplicates" must have been declared surplus, exchanged or sold. Hopefully, some member can supply some additional information and write a follow up article for IPPS Journal.

Presently, only one bottom plate number (#1774) block of eight (rejoined and with extra vertical pair at left) is known to me, along with an arrow line block and many singles. Another plate block is rumored to exist and could possibly exist. The centering is less than perfect on many copies. If you desire a copy, remember that perfection is nice to have but you may have to settle for something less - a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

I wish to acknowledge the major contribution of information by Henry Gobie. Paul Meyer, J. Leonard Diamond, Geoffrey Brewster and Gilbert Plass have assisted in many ways over the years.

A similar article by the author has been published by the author in the POSSESSIONS Journal (Whole No. 40) in July 1988.



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