

# PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Volume XIX, No. 3



Third Quarter, 1997



## SMITH, BELL AND COMPANY: A BRITISH BUSINESS FIRM IN THE SPANISH PHILIPPINES 1847-1898

by Don Peterson

*This is the last of a four-part series on the history of four major business firms in the Spanish Philippines. This article addresses the British business firm of Smith, Bell and Company. The three previous articles addressed the firms of Peele, Hubbell and Company (PPJ, 1992), Russell, Sturgis and Company (PPJ, 1993), and Ker and Company (PPJ, 1996).*

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE FIRM

The origins of Smith, Bell and Company can be traced back to Liverpool, where on June 16, 1846, the parent firm of Smith, Constable and Company was formed by James Adam Smith of Liverpool, Henry Constable of Glasgow, and Lawrence R. Bell - all Scotsmen. Mr. Smith had been in Manila since 1838, as agent for the British firm of Jardine, Matheson and Company of Canton. In early 1847, the firm chose Robert P. Wood of Liverpool to go to Manila to establish a branch office of Smith, Constable and Company. Mr. Wood and a Benjamin James Bell arrived in Manila on April 12, 1847. The firm officially opened for business in Manila on April 17, 1847, and called itself Constable, Wood and Company.

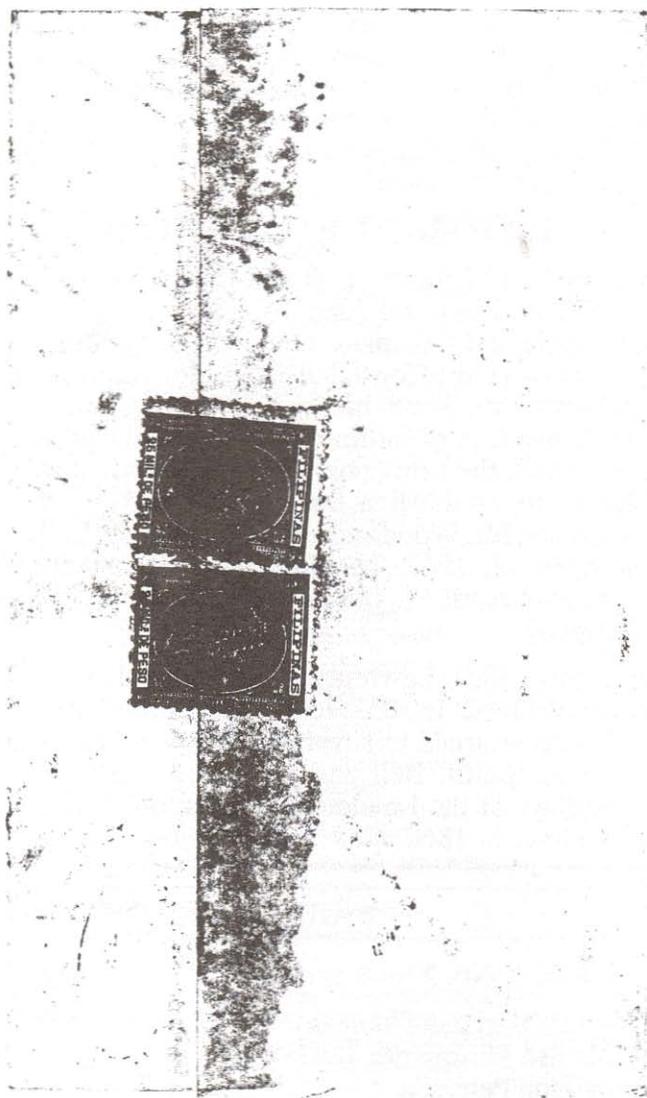
In 1850 or 1851, Lawrence R. Bell arrived in Manila and directed the firm until 1862. In 1853, John Knox Smith joined the firm and Robert P. Wood returned to Liverpool. Also in 1853, the firm changed its name to Smith, Bell and Company, although it functioned as a subsidiary of the London and Liverpool firm of Smith, Wood and Company. In 1860, Neil MacLeod joined the Manila firm, and his

---

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Vol. XIX No. 3	Third Quarter, 1997
Smith, Bell and Company: A British Business Firm in The Spanish Philippines 1847-1898 by Don Peterson	Page 1
Manila Mark Applied in Mexico by Geoffrey Lewis	Page 11
Scott 042 — Does It Exist? by Richard D. Miggins	Page 18



**Figure 1.** 1879 Manila to Cebu letter, carried via the inter-island steamer from the Spanish firm of Ychausti y Compania in Manila to the firm

Mr Sorsogon  
S. B. Jahrling  
Cebu



SORSOGON, owned by Smith, Bell and Company. The letter was written of Valerio Jahrling in Cebu.

brother, Alexander Stewart MacLeod, joined in 1864. A branch office was opened in Cebu in 1867. In 1870, Neil MacLeod, then head of Smith, Bell and Company in Manila, left the firm to form MacLeod, Pickford and Company of Manila. A branch office was opened in Iloilo in 1876.

In 1875, documents still show the occasional use of the firm's previous name of Constable, Wood and Company. Initially, the firm handled general merchandise. Later, it developed a substantial shipping and insurance business and constructed the first large rice mill on the Islands. In 1875, the firm was the agent for Commercial Union Assurance Company of London, Imperial Fire Insurance Company, Netherlands-India Sea and Fire Insurance Company, China and Japan Marine Insurance Company of Shanghai, Eastern and Australian Steamship Company, and Oriental and Australia Maritime Company. In the 1870s (and probably through 1898), this firm owned several steamships involved in the Manila-Hong Kong run and in inter-island trade. For example, the firm's steamship FORMOSA was involved in the Manila-Hong Kong run from 1872 through 1875; and the steamship SORSOGON was involved in inter-island trade between Manila, Cebu, and other ports from 1875 through 1879. Mail was frequently carried on these steamers. (FIGURE 1).

In the late 1870s, Henry C. Hoskyn was with the firm in Manila. In 1880, a J.M. Wood was known in Manila; however, any relationship to this firm is not known. In the 1880s, George Shelmerdine, of British background, was head of the branch office in Iloilo. He was also the U.S. Consular Agent in Iloilo from June 1, 1886, through August 1887; and from December 14, 1893, through January 7, 1897. In the 1880s, Ralph D. Wilson, an American, was a clerk at this firm in Iloilo and apparently was the only American businessman in Iloilo in 1889. In Iloilo, Mr. Wilson was also the U.S. Acting Consular Agent from September 1, 1889, through October 14, 1889 and U.S. Consular Agent from October 15, 1889, through December 1, 1893. In 1895, the firm took over the hemp business from the American firm of Peabody and Company of Manila. In 1898, Smith, Bell and Company opened branch offices in Legaspi, Tabaco, and Lagonoy. This firm was present in the Philippines into the 20th century.

## POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FIRM

### Letters

Letters to and from Constable, Wood and Company in Manila (scarce) are known from 1847 through 1853, when the firm changed its name to Smith, Bell and Company. Letters to and from Smith, Bell and

Company from Manila (common), Iloilo (uncommon), and Cebu (scarce) are known from 1853 through 1898, and into the 20th century. One letter, dated in 1875, still referred to the firm as Constable, Wood and Company.

### Forwarding Agent Handstamps

Two forwarding agent handstamp types are known to have been used by this firm, covering the period from 1865 through the 1880s. Neither handstamp is listed by Rowe (1984). According to Rowe (1984), a forwarding agent is a "person or firm who undertakes to see that the goods or correspondence of another are transported without himself acting as a carrier." Correspondence carried in this manner was usually marked by a handstamp, referred to as a forwarding agent handstamp. Forwarding agent handstamps usually contain the words "forwarded by". The two types are described as follows.

**TYPE 1** Double-lined rectangle with rounded corners. Words in three lines composed of **FORWARDED BY** on the top line, **Smith Bell & Co** in the center, and **MANILA** on the bottom. Sans serif letters. Color: black. Size: 15mm by 45mm. Not listed by Rowe (1984). Only one example known. Found on Manila cover to Spain, dated January 8, 1865. Very rare. Not illustrated.

**TYPE 2** Single-lined rectangle with rounded corners. Words in three lines composed of **FORWARDED BY** on the top line, **SMITH, BELL & Co** in the center, and **MANILA** on the bottom. Sans serif letters. Color: black. Size: 14mm by 32mm. Not listed by Rowe (1984). Found on 1880s postal stamps. Rare (**FIGURE 2**).



**FIGURE 2.** Forwarding agent handstamp Type 2 on Scott #83.



**FIGURE 3.** Perfin Type 1 on Scott #52.

## Perfin

One perfin type is known to have been used by this firm in the 1870s and 1880s, and sporadically in the 1890s. The perfin type is described as follows.

**TYPE 1** Hole-punched S.B. on top and & Co on the bottom. No period after the "B". Also occurs inverted. Found on Scott #52, 56, 81, 78-80, 87 (with circular cancel, dated 1887), and 201. Rare (**FIGURE 3**).

## Business Handstamps

Business handstamps were commonly used by Smith, Bell and Company from Manila (common) from the 1870s through 1898, and into the 20th century; and from Iloilo (uncommon) and Cebu (scarce) from the 1880s through 1898, and into the 20th century. Business handstamps were used as a return address, for advertising purposes, or as a "control" to prevent the theft of stamps (when applied directly over the stamp). Many types of business handstamps are known from this firm. The following are descriptions of 13 business handstamp types used by Smith, Bell and Company.

**TYPE 1** Double-lined rectangle with rounded corners. Three lines composed of a curved SMITH, BELL on top, & CO in the center, and MANILA on the bottom. Sans serif letters. Color: black. Size: 12mm by ? Earliest handstamp of this firm. Only known example on Scott #71. Rare (**FIGURE 4**).

**TYPE 2** Straight-lined SMITH, BELL & CO. Sans serif letters. CO oval. Color: violet. Size: 4mm by ? Only known example on Scott #87. Rare. Not illustrated.

**TYPE 3** Straight-lined SMITH, BELL & Co. Serif letters. Color: magenta. Size: 3mm by ? Only known example on Scott #88. Rare. Not illustrated.

**TYPE 4** Oval with single outer line and single inner line. SMITH, BELL & Co. on top, blank in the center, and ILOILO on the bottom. Sans serif letters. Color: black. Size: ? Only known example on Scott #85. Rare (**FIGURE 5**).

**TYPE 5** Straight-lined SMITH, BELL & Co. Serif letters. Color: violet/blue. Size: 4mm by ? Found on 1880s postal stamps. Scarce (**FIGURE 6**).

**TYPE 6** Straight-lined SMITH, BELL & Co. Serif letters. Color: magenta. Size: 5mm by 58mm. Found on 1880s postal stamps. Scarce (**FIGURE 7**).



Figure 8. Business handstamp Type 7 on giro revenue stamp.



Fig. 4  
Type 1



Fig. 5  
Type 4



Fig. 6  
Type 5



Figure 7. Business handstamp Type 6 on Scott #88.

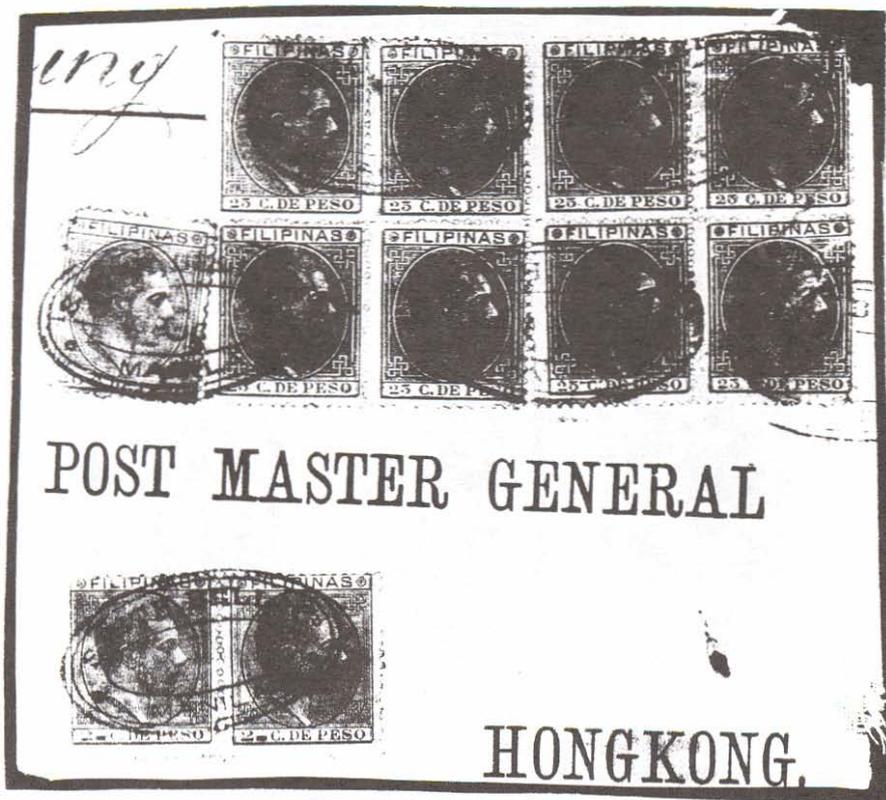


Figure 9. Business handstamp Type 8 on Scott #76, 87, and 88.

- TYPE 7 Straight-lined SMITH, BELL & Co. Sans serif letters. Co rounded. Color: magenta or violet. Size: 3mm by 42mm. Found on 1880s and 1890s postal and revenue stamps. Scarce (FIGURE 8).
- TYPE 8 Oval with double outer line and single inner line. SMITH, BELL & Co on top line in serif letters, blank in the center, and MANILA (common), ILOILO (scarce), or CEBU (rare) on the bottom line in sans serif letters. Small circle on each side of the oval. Color: black, blue/ violet, or magenta (rare). Size: 21mm by 35-37mm. Found on 1880s and 1890s postal stamps. Common (FIGURE 9).



**Figure 10.** Business handstamp  
Type 9 on Scott #174.



**Figure 11.** Business handstamp  
Type 10 on giro revenue stamp.

- TYPE 9** Oval with double outer line and single inner line. SMITH, BELL & Co (or Co) on the top line, date in the center, and MANILA (scarce), ILOILO (common), or CEBU (rare) on the bottom. Star in the corners of the oval. Sans serif letters. Color: black, violet/blue, or bluegreen. Size: ? Found on 1880s and 1890s postal stamps. Common (FIGURE 10).
- TYPE 10** Oval with single outer line and single inner line. SMITH, BELL & Co. in serif letters on top, blank in the center, and MANILA in sans serif letters on the bottom. Large star on each side of the oval. Color: blue, blue-green, or magenta. Size: 25mm by ? Inner oval 13mm wide. Found on 1890s postal and revenue stamps. Scarce (FIGURE 11).
- TYPE 11** Oval with single outer line and single inner line. SMITH, BELL & Co. in serif letters on top, date in the center, and MANILA in sans serif letters on the bottom. Small star on each side of oval. Color: violet or purple. Size: 25mm by ? Inner oval 15mm wide. Found on 1890s revenue stamps. Scarce. Not illustrated.

- TYPE 12 Same as TYPE 11, except blank in the center. Scarce. Not illustrated.
- TYPE 13 Oval with single outer line and single inner line. Both ends squared. SMITH, BELL & Co. on top, blank in the center, and MANILA on the bottom. Star on each side of the oval. Serif letters. Color: blue or bluegreen. Size: ? Found on 1890s postal stamps. Scarce. Not illustrated.

My thanks to Dr. Geoffrey Lewis for reviewing the handstamp types and for his helpful suggestions. If anyone has any additional information about this firm and its postal history, contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20012.

### REFERENCES

Hodsell, Frank. "Britains in the Philippines". *The Journal of History*. Vol. VI. Nos 2 and 3. 1958. Manila.

Peterson, Don. "History of Four Major Business Firms and Their Mail from the Spanish Philippines: Peele, Hubbell and Company (American), 1822-1887". *PPJ*. Vol. XIV. No. 1. First Quarter 1992. Eden, NY.

Peterson, Don. "History of Major Business Firms and Their Mail from the Spanish Philippines: Russell, Sturgis and Company (American), 1828-1876". *PPJ*. Vol. XVI. No. 2. Second Quarter 1993. Eden, NY.

Peterson, Don. "Ker and Company - A British Business Firm in the Spanish Philippines: 1827-1898". *PPJ*. Vol. XVIII. No. 2. Second Quarter 1996. Eden, NY.

Peterson, Don. "Major Private Business Firms and Their Markings of the Spanish Philippines". Unpublished. 1997. Washington, DC.

Powell, Ifor B. "The Nineteenth Century and the Years of Transition: The origin of the Firms". *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection*. Vol. 9. April-June 1981.

Quirino, Carlos. "The Spanish Colonial Period". *Filipino Heritage - Making of a Nation*. 1978. Manila.

Rowe, Kenneth. *Postal History of the Forwarding Agents*. 1984. Louisville, Kentucky.

## MANILA MARK APPLIED IN MEXICO

by Geoffrey Lewis

I have been fascinated by an 1841 cover from Manila to London (**Cover**) ever since I first saw it at the London 1990 Exhibition in Fred Stubens' wonderful postal history collection of the Hong Kong area.

The black straight-line MANILA cancellation is not known on any other cover from the Philippines to England. In fact, very few covers to England have any mark applied in the Philippines.

The cover arrived in London on 6 May 1842. The contents of the letter reveal that it was written some time in the second half of 1841.

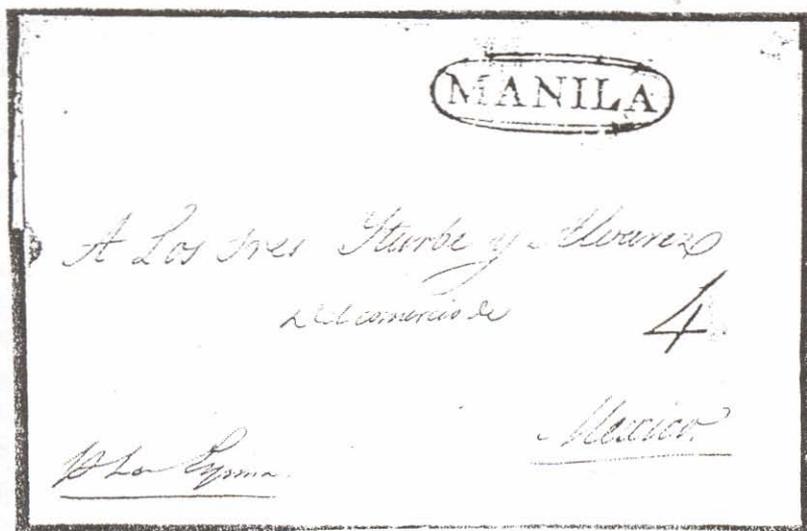


Fig. 1

### Other Manila straight-line marks.

Three 1845 covers are known with a straight-line MANILA mark, all in black.

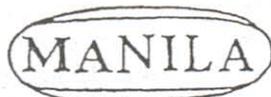
- Manila to Macao (Sorer & Llach, Lot 1496, March 1994)
- Manila to Bulacan, Philippines (Galeria & Torres, Lot 295, February 1992)
- Manila to Spain (Galeria & Torres, Lot 25, January 1991)

Another handstamp is known with MANILA in an oval. There are three known examples, all covers to the same firm in Mexico (City) in 1819 and 1820. The 1819 cover is illustrated in **Figure 1** (Sorer & Llach, Lot 2289, June 1991).

**THE STRAIGHT LINE MANILA HANDSTAMP**

Actual Size

Plus 40%



A T-G #5

To Mexico 1819-1820 three recorded



B Same oval removed

To Mexico 1819-1820 three recorded



C Improved

Unimproved To London late 1841



D T-G #8



E Improved

Unimproved To Bulacan 1845



F

To Spain 1845

**Figure 2.** Comparison of "Manila" postmarks, showing similarity of lettering on 1819-20 ovals and 1841 straight-line. Reproduced from *Prefilatelia Española* by Manuel Tizon and Jorge Guinovart. (Barcelona, 1983).

By enlarging the photocopies of these marks (**Figure 2**), Fred came to the conclusion that the lettering on the 1841 cover is quite distinct from the 1845 covers, yet appears to be the same as the mark on the 1819-20 covers.

We were unable to think of any satisfactory explanation.

### **The Trans-Pacific Swap**

Fred (Fred Stubens, a specialist in Hong Kong postal history) and I specialize in the postal history of Hong Kong area, and the Philippines, respectively. The fields are closely related, and over the years we have shared much information through correspondence.

We each had accumulated some covers more appropriate to the other one's collecting interest, and we eventually arranged a swap. This Australia-Canada trade had a trans-Pacific flavour, as one of the covers I sent Fred was an 1842 cover from Macao to Chile. The cover I received is the subject of this article, and we shall see that it also travelled across the Pacific over 150 years earlier.

### **Translation**

Upon receiving the cover, the first thing I did was to get it translated from Spanish (see Appendix) with the assistance of Ted Howard.

The letter bears the signature of a gentleman with the surname Marcaida. There is a correspondence to Huth in London in the early 1840s from a Manila merchant called Juan Marcaida.

The first two paragraphs relate to settlement of accounts for postage. This was unexpected in a letter from a merchant. A closer look at the letter revealed that it was written by another (possibly related) person, Francisco Maria de Marcaida.

### **The Administrator of Posts**

Encarnacion lists Francisco Marcaida as the first "Administrator of Posts" for the Philippines, serving from October 1838 until 1842. From 1783 to 1838, the Governor General of the Philippine Islands was officially in charge of Posts, therefore, Marcaida was the first "Postmaster-General" of the Philippines.

His successor, Gregorio de Borjas y Tarrus, served from 1844 to 1849.

This letter from Marcaida announces that de Borjas will act in this position until his return from Mexico. The signatures of both men appear at the bottom of the letter (**Figure 3**).

*tantos por sus mas afines talentos. J. J. J. M. B.*

*Francisco Marcaida*

*Gregorio de Borjas*

**Figure 3.** End of letter signed by Francisco Marcaida, Administrator of Posts in the Philippines in 1841, and Gregorio de Borjas, his temporary replacement.

### Routes from Manila to England

In the early 1840s, mail from Manila to England travelled by two routes.

- The faster route was via India, then by steamer to Suez, and across Egypt to Alexandria. Such letters have an entirely different set of markings from this cover.
- The slower route was by sailing ship, round the Cape of Good Hope.

### Via Mexico

Two copies of this letter were made, and this is the duplicate (Type "D"). Marcaida says he is about to sail for Mexico in three or four days. Is it possible that this copy went via Mexico travelling on the same ship?

If anybody had the power to authorize a ship to carry mail, it would be Marcaida, in his position as Administrator of Posts.

The MANILA handstamp, has the same lettering as the marks on the 1819-20 covers to Mexico.

Until the early 1800s, mail from Manila to Europe was frequently carried aboard the fabled Galleon from Manila to Acapulco. Letters were then carried overland via Mexico City to the port of Veracruz, and from there to Spain (Lewis).

### Arrival in England

The next step to confirm the Mexican route was to investigate ships arriving in England.

The letter has three English marks:

- a barely legible strike of INDIA LETTER / EASTBOURNE in black.
- a London red circular date-stamp of 6 May 1842.
- manuscript 8, representing 8 pence due, the single uniform ship letter rate. This rate does not depend on the origin or the route.

Eastbourne, in southern England, was not often the British arrival point. Although there were no port facilities, there was protection from gales for sailing ships. From these ships, mail was landed and handled by the Post Office at Eastbourne (Robertson).

The Shipping column of the *Times of London* on Monday 9 May 1842 reported the arrival in the Downs of the *Marion* from Mexico. The Downs is the coastal region of Sussex extending to Eastbourne.

The markings and dates on the cover are consistent with it being carried by the *Marion* from Mexico. I checked the Times for other arrivals in the April-May period to see if there were any other possibilities.

**Eastbourn/Downs.** The only other ship reported to arrive here came from Antwerp, which is not consistent with this cover.

**Manila.** One other ship, the *Minstrel*, arrived in London on 7 May, having stopped at Cork in Ireland on 21 April. If the cover had been carried by this ship it would have marks from Cork and certainly not Eastbourne.

**Mexico.** No other ship arrived from Mexico. This was a time of confrontation between Mexico and Texas.

### Where was MANILA applied?

Having established that the cover went via Mexico to England, I now claim that the Manila mark was applied not in Manila, but in Mexico.

The four known covers with this lettering are the only four Philippine covers of this period known to travel through Mexico.

There are many examples in the Spanish world of "marks of arrival". The Post Office in the arrival port applied a handstamp with the name of the place where the letter originated. Such a marking distinguished the letter from a letter originally posted in the port town. This enabled the rate to be correctly calculated at a later point in the letter's journey.

The three 1819-20 letters were addressed to Mexico City. I believe the MANILA in oval was a "mark of arrival" applied in Mexico; at the port of arrival, Acapulco. On the Pacific coast there is only one substantial port, Acapulco, and it had strong historic and economic connections with Manila.

By 1841-42, it is plausible that the oval part of the cancelling instrument had either worn or been removed. We know that letters to England usually left Manila with no markings. The Acapulco Post Office stamped it with MANILA to distinguish it from letters originating in Acapulco. It also confirms that Marcaida posted it originally in Manila and not in Mexico.

### Appendix

*Translation from Spanish, by Edward G Howard*

Frederic Huth & Co

Duplicate

London

My dear Sirs

I have in front of me your very esteemed letter of the 4th of May, in which were you duplicate to me that of the 4th of January. From the first I note that my correspondence up to the dates indicated are said to be received and which were presented (to you) by Senor Don Vicente Ramos, having franked yourselves for the account of this Administration the correspondence carried which amounted to 3 pound 12 shillings, which was annotated into my account and which I will credit (settle) when you produce the usual annual (account).

In the mentioned (letter) of the 4th of January, you tell me that you placed for my account at the General Ministerial Department of Posts in Madrid [Madrid General Post Office] Rvn 17140 [Reales vellon is the Spanish currency: 20 reales = 1 peso] equivalent to the credit of 857 pesos (to which you) referred. In this same (letter) you noted (debited) me 8 pound 12 shillings 6 pence, which to that date had satisfied the forwarding and postage for the correspondence which had been directed to this Administration, which amount I have reimbursed to Messrs Russell Sturgis & Co [the most important Manila trading firm at this time], whose receipt is dated 24th of July of this year [1841].

A commission placed at my care with the authorization of Government of these Islands, allows me to leave temporarily my present position which I hold, in order to travel to the Republic of Mexico. To perform such, and until my return is verified, will remain in charge of this Administration Senor Gregorio de Borjas Tarrus, Director of same, who will have the honour to communicate with yourselves on the subjects related to the service, covering in the same way as myself the outlays that you make. So that you have knowledge of his signature, which I recommend for your consideration, the present letter will go in duplicate signed also by myself.

From the Republic of Mexico for where I must leave within three or four days, I will have the satisfaction of sending to you my next letters, copying me meanwhile (with your correspondence). Remaining yours (Formal greetings.)

[Signatures of]

Francisco Maria de Marcaida

Gregorio de Borjas Tarrus

### References

- Encarnacion, Emmanuel.* "The Philippine Postal Service until 1877". *IPPS Philippine Philatelic News, Manila, November 1987.*
- Galeria Filatelica de Barcelona & Antonio Torres.* Auction catalogues. *Barcelona.*
- Lewis, Geoffrey.* "The Postal History of the Philippines in the Last Quarter of the Eighteenth Century". *N.S.W. Philatelist, Sydney, May 1991.*
- Robertson, A.W.* "A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles". *England, 1951.*
- Soler & Llach.* Auction catalogues. *Barcelona.*
- Stubens, Fred R.* "Anatomy of a Research: An 1842 Letter from Macao to Chile". *Postal History Journal, USA, June 1996.*

## SCOTT 042 - DOES IT EXIST?

by Richard D. Miggins

At the meeting of IPPS members at SESCOAL, the Los Angeles show in October 1996, one of the topics of discussion was the existence of Scott 042, the handstamped "Victory" overprint on the 20c. light olive green official, Scott 022. The members of the audience, including some very advanced collectors and dealers, were polled, and none had an example. In fact, no one had seen an example. That response prompted the logical follow-up inquiry: Does 042 exist? As you may recall, the results of the IPPS Survey of scarce and rare Philippine stamps published in the Newsletter yielded no examples of 042.

Peter Harradine, in his 1987 book, "Philippine Postage Stamp Handbook 1854-1982" indicated that for Scott 042 and 043, there are "71 known - both types." It is not clear if that is meant to imply 71 total overprinted, or 71 copies "known." The former seems the more likely conclusion. And that conclusion is supported by other sources on the subject.

In "Possessions", the Journal of the USPPS, Vol. 1, No. 1, Whole No. 1, Third Quarter, 1978, Geoffrey Brewster discussed the "flood" on the market of Scott Nos. 041 and 043. Brewster noted 55 different copies of 041 and 11 different copies of 043 offered in auctions for the preceding year. On the instant issue, Brewster stated: "And, if there are so many copies of Scott No. 043 around, what about Scott No. 042 - why doesn't it show up? In fact, does Scott No. 042 exist; and if so, how many copies are there? I do not record even one copy of that stamp (the one in the Superior Stamp & Coin Co., Inc. of Beverly Hills, Calif auction of April 25, 1978, in my opinion is counterfeit.)"

In a subsequent "Possessions", Vol. 5, No. 1, Whole No. 15, First Quarter, 1982, Dr. Gilbert Plass listed the known numbers of the rarer "Victory" stamps. No copy of 042 was noted in his records, and none sold at auction in the survey period 1978-1981. Dr. Plass stated: "For Nos. ... 042 ... no copies have been sold at auctions covered in my record during the last four years. Further I have never been able to record a genuine copy of No. 042...." Dr. Plass noted that William S. Meyerson, a philatelist, was in Leyte at the time the stamps were overprinted and Meyerson made a record of most of the numbers overprinted. Those figures were also used in an article published in the "Collectors Club Philatelist" by Idus Murphree. Meyerson gave a total of 71 for both 042 and 043. (The same figure quoted in Harradine.) Dr. Plass broke down that total in his table listing as 51 copies of 042 and 20 copies of 043. That distribution between the two

stamps was attributed to Sidney F. Barrett. In the article, Dr. Plass stated: "As pointed out by Geoffrey Brewster the quantity of No. 043 in the record and sold in the last four years is remarkable. Auction catalogues have often quoted a figure of 20 as the number issued for this stamp which is clearly not correct, since a total of 50 are in my records. I wonder if any genuine copies of 042 exist. If none do, then perhaps 71 is the correct total for No. 043." (Dr. Plass did not have a copy of 042 in his collection when sold in July, 1993 by Ivy Shreve & Mader Philatelic Auctions; also, the 1993 Philstamps auction of the Aldaba collection which included hundreds of "Victory" stamps, including a plate number block of 12 of 043, had no example of 042.)

What new information can be offered to the discussion? After the meeting, I went home and checked my auction catalogues. I remembered seeing an 042 offered, and sure enough I found one in the Robert Siegel auction of March 6-7, 1990. (**FIGURE 1.**) That auction included a magnificent run of "Victory" overprints including the 1 peso, Sc. 484. The 042 was described as "without gum, handstamp on reverse shows faintly at T., o/w Fine & scarce stamp, with P.F. Certificate." Priced at \$3,500, the stamp opened at \$1,750 and was hammered down at \$4,750, excluding buyer's fee. (NOTE: The 1 peso, Sc. 484, an attractive bottom margin copy, of which 21 are reported as having been issued, and which the Siegel auction listed as "only six known," sold for the same price as the 042. Parenthetically, Dr. Plass's record showed 10 known of Sc. 484.)

Subsequently, in a telephone discussion with Richard Pounder in New Jersey, I mentioned the topic. Rich took it upon himself to go to the Philatelic Foundation and check their cross reference for examples of a genuine 042. He found two genuine examples.

Rich provided photocopies of 10 stamps which had been submitted for expertization as 042's. (Permission to reproduce the photocopies herein has been graciously provided by William T. Crowe on behalf of the Foundation.) Two copies were genuine 043's, misattributed by their owners. One stamp was initially described as genuine, and then determined to be fraudulent in a subsequent certificate. Four had counterfeit overprints. (Rich noted that the cross reference system is valuable but not infallible. It is entirely possible his search did not exhaust the items referred for opinion.)

The two stamps determined by the PF to be genuine 042's are depicted here. (**FIGURES 2 and 3.**) Although, perhaps, not clear in the photos reproduced herein, it is my opinion the stamp in Certificate No. 129477 (**FIGURE 3**) is the same stamp sold in the Siegel auction. (**FIGURE 1.**) If correct, then arguably, there are at least two genuine

copies of 042 in existence. If my comparison is wrong, and as Rich noted, the search could have missed a stamp, then we would have at least three copies of 042 certified as genuine.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

One could make an argument that a determination of genuineness by the PF does not make it so. But the Foundation earned its respect long ago. Given the reference material at its disposal, the high-tech equipment analyzing inks, etc., and the experts who examine the material, due deference must be given the opinion of genuineness absent some overwhelming contradictory evidence.

Mercer Bristow, Director of Expertizing at the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX), graciously agreed to search his records and provide copies of all stamps submitted for expertization as 042s. Mr. Bristow informed me by letter that his search revealed APEX has never received a Scott 042 for review.

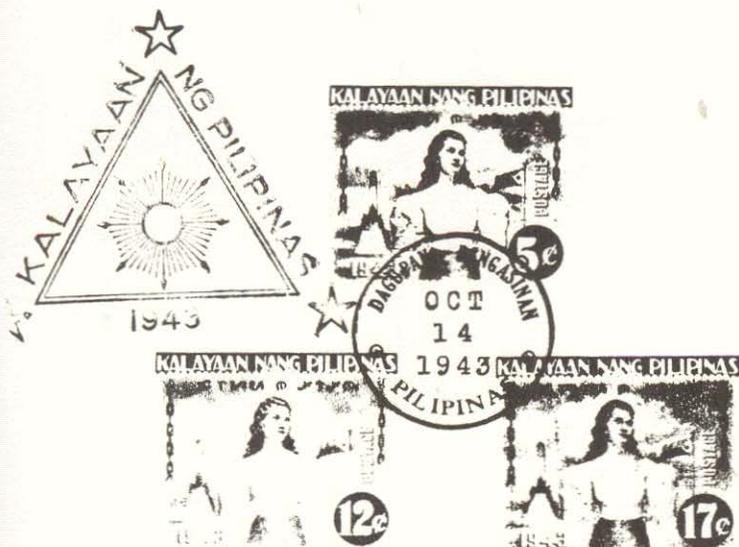
Similarly, J. Randall Shoemaker, Chairman of the Board of Consultants of Professional Stamp Expertizing (PSE) ran a computer search at my request and determined no stamp had been submitted as an 042, and no certificates have ever been issued for an 042.

In conclusion, it appears that genuine examples of 042 do exist. While not as scarce as hen's teeth, 042 is a legitimate rarity in world philately. Scott prices the stamp in the upper echelon of Philippine stamps - \$6,000.

Any information regarding the existence of genuine 042's should be directed to the author for future reference in the Journal or the Newsletter.

ALBUM PAGE

Republiká ng Pilipinas  
 Kághawarán ng Gáwaing-Bayan at Páhatiran  
 Káwanihan ng Páhatiran  
 Maynilá—1943



*Mis sueños cuando apenas muchacho adolescente,  
 Mis sueños cuando joven ya lleno de vigor,  
 Fueron el verte un día, joya del mar de oriente,  
 Secos los negros ojos, alta la tierra frente,  
 Sin ceño, sin arrugas, sin manchas de rubor.*

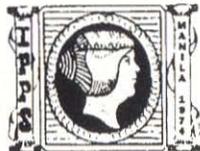
(Iknapat na tatlatù ng Huláng Pnalam ni Gut Jose Rizal)

It is reported that five sets of these souvenirs sheets were prepared with different provisional cancels, similar to the related stamp issue.

# International Philippine Philatelic Society

---

*(A non-profit, non-stock, educational organization incorporated in the  
City of Manila, Philippines, on September 24, 1974 as per  
SEC Registration #58004.)*



P.O. Box 94  
Eden, N.Y. 14057

*Address Correction  
Requested*

First Class