

# THE AQUINALDO REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN LUZON

Bob Yacano

On Nov. 2, 1898, a decree was issued formalizing the Revolutionary postal and telegraph service. (Fig. 1) While a telegraph service was established with appropriate adhesives being issued, no one has yet reported an identifiable telegraph form of the period. One would expect to find a form similar to those used during Spanish control, but none have as yet surfaced.

A set of three stamps was prepared: two for postal use, and a third to be used for telegraph service, (Fig.1) closely followed by specific stamps for specific services: i.e., for newspapers, registered letters (Certificado), telegraph services, and a "receipt stamp". All of the issues have been used interchangeably for postage, special services, tax payments, and other service fees. (Fig 3,4,5,6).

The design of Types I and III are credited to Marcelino Gomez and printed by his company, Lithografica de Gomez, Sta Cruz, Manila. Printing quantities give are: Type I, 1,500 pieces, Type III, 10,000 pieces. Type II, a reworked version of Type I, was also done by Mr. Gomez and his firm. The printing number is said to be 50,000 pieces.

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Printing numbers for the other issues are as follows: Certificado : 7,200 pieces. Newspaper stamp: 50,000 total for both imperforate and perforate. Some authors have claimed that the stamps were first issued imperforate with a second issue being perforated. Others feel that all are one issue, with the perforating machines breaking down during the process, resulting in the two forms. No numbers are available for the 10c tax stamp. Telegraph stamps: 19,000 copies of each were printed

Stamps were often used interchangeably. The various stamps used on revenue documents to denote payment are relatively easy to find. What is much more difficult is these same stamps postally used. Given the reasons outlined in the previous article( Filipino War: The Federated State of the Visayas, PPJ, Third Quarter 2002, Vol. XXIV No. 3), stamps on cover are the scarcest of all; If one also requires that the covers bear postally correct rates, then the hunt is truly difficult! (Figures 7,8,9 and 10)

While the decree to establish the postal system (Fig 1) does not address the issue in this portion, the free franking privilege was extended to government officials (Fig. 11) and clerics (Fig. 12) at every level. While these also are difficult to find at times, The most difficult search is for the actual adhesives on cover.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.  
Communications.  
Decree.

On the recommendation of my Secretary of War, and with consent of the General Directorate of Communications, I decree the following:

Article 1: There is opened to the public from this date the telegraph service, and from the tenth inst the postal service, both for the territory of Luzon which is embraced in the jurisdiction of the Revolutionary Government, and whose tariffs are:

Telegraph.

Rate for the first series of 15 words .....\$.50  
For each word in excess .....02

Telegrams of correspondents of periodicals, half rate  
 Telegram with acknowledgment of receipt will pay  
 the surtax-of a plain telegram.  
 The dispatcher of telegrams may demand the  
 corresponding receipt upon payment .....\$...06

Posts.

Franking of ordinary, letters, for each 15 grains . . . . . \$...01  
 For the interior of each province or locality, for  
 whatever weight.....02  
 Newspapers, for each 30 grams . . . . . 01  
 Printed matter and books, for each 30 grams . . . . . 02  
 Samples without value, for each 250 grams . . . . . 02  
 Registered letters . . . . . 08

Article 2. Telegrams will be accepted in plain language only, written in latin characters, in the seven European languages of the international convention, and all the dialects of the country.

Article 3. Letters not stamped, or insufficiently so, will be delivered only upon the payment by the addressee of double the amount of the postage or that which is lacking, in stamps which will be attached to the same, and cancelled by the administration or the post office of destination.

Article 4. It is prohibited, under the penalty of one dollar for each letter to conduct closed correspondence without bearing attached the stamps which represent the postage, cancelled by the office of origin. There are excepted from this disposition. letters coming from a point where there are no stamps for sale and will be delivered to be franked.

Article 5. Neither may correspondence circulate by means of vessels if postage has not been first paid and the stamps been cancelled in a post office. The correspondence apprehended shall be destined to be burnt, if the addressees, who must be notified in writing, do not promptly remit the stamps necessary to pay the postage.

Article 6. The person who uses for postage on any correspondence stamps already used, shall be punished by a fine of from one to five dollars for each stamp, and in case of repeated offense, double, or be turned over to judicial authority for punishment according to law, after formulating of charges in conformity with instructions of the service.

Article 7. Letters retained on account of ignorance of their addressees, or change of residence, shall be advertised in the newspapers and placed on

the list for the space of three months, after which they shall be returned to the place of origin, as "surplus correspondence," to be delivered to their senders and for which purpose it would be well to place on the back of the envelope a note or memorandum of the fact.

Article 8. Of this decree acknowledgment will be given to the Assembly of Representatives of the Nation. Given In Malolos. November 2, 1898.-  
Emilto Aguinaldo.- The Secretary of War. P. A., Antonio Luna.

A true copy of File 18, in part.  
Office of Military Information  
Headquarters. Philippine Department. Manila, P. I.

Figure 1



Type I



Type II



Type III

Figure 2



Certified Mail



Tax Receipt



Newspaper

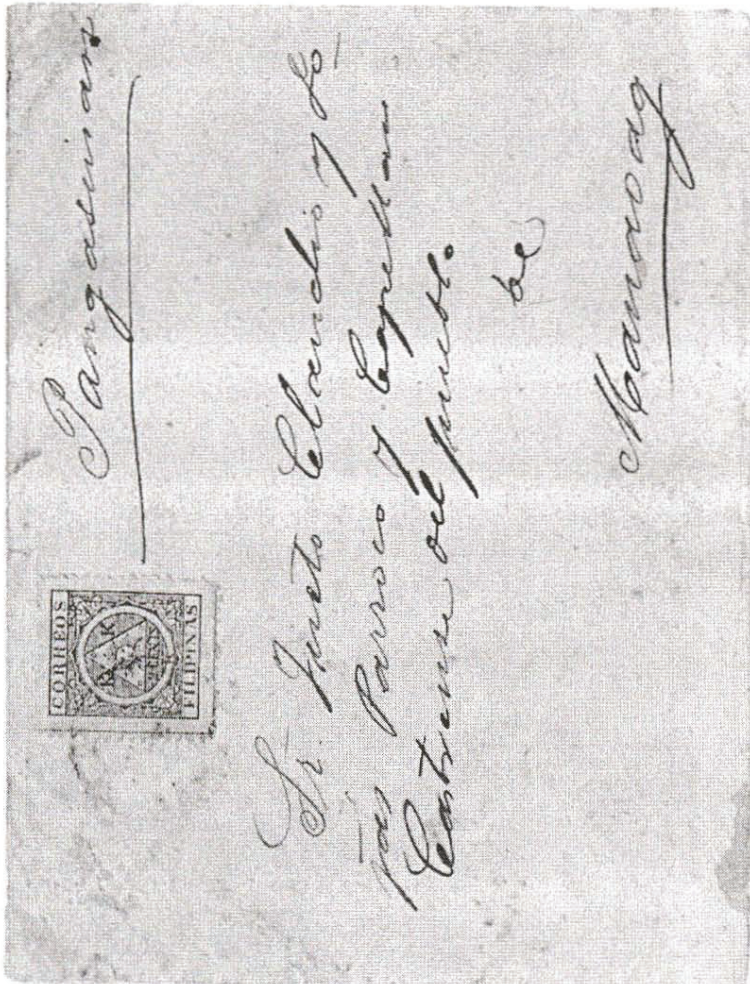


Telegraph



Telegraph

Figure 3



*Pangasinan*



*Dr. Fructo Clavich y Co.  
Pais Parroco y Capellan  
Cantón del Puerto.*

*de*

*Manoag*

Figure 4  
Type I Postage Stamp

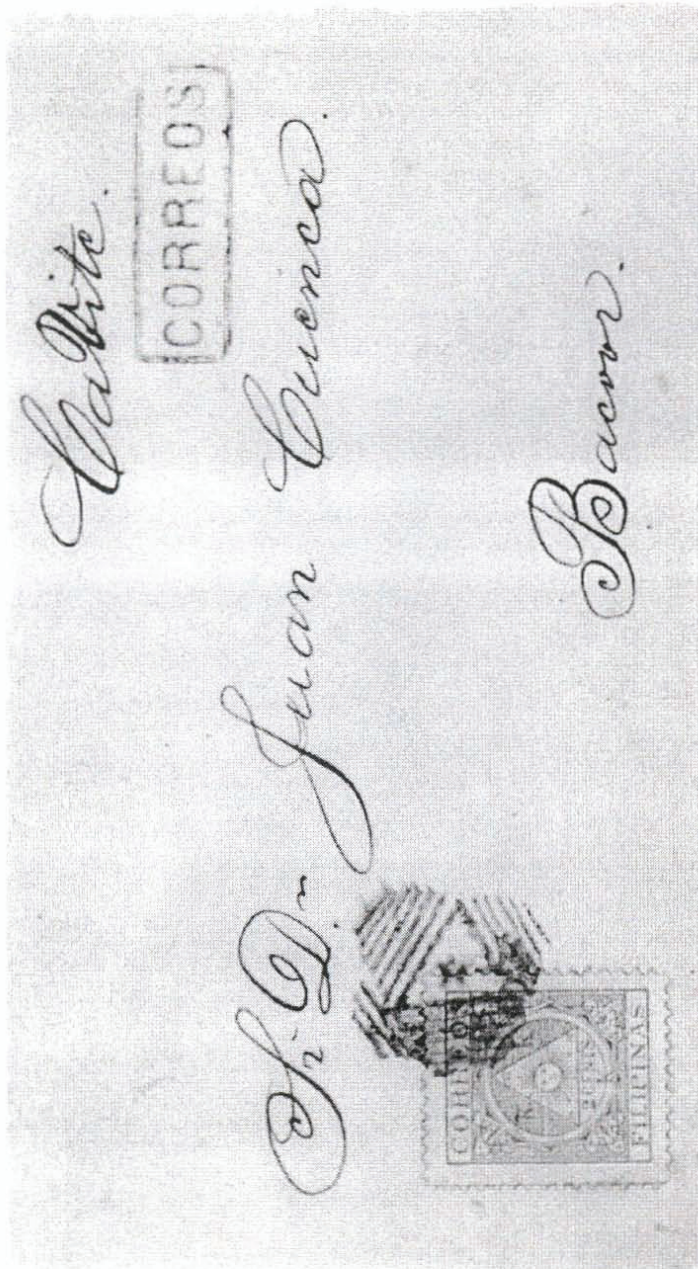


Figure 5

Type II Postage Stamp

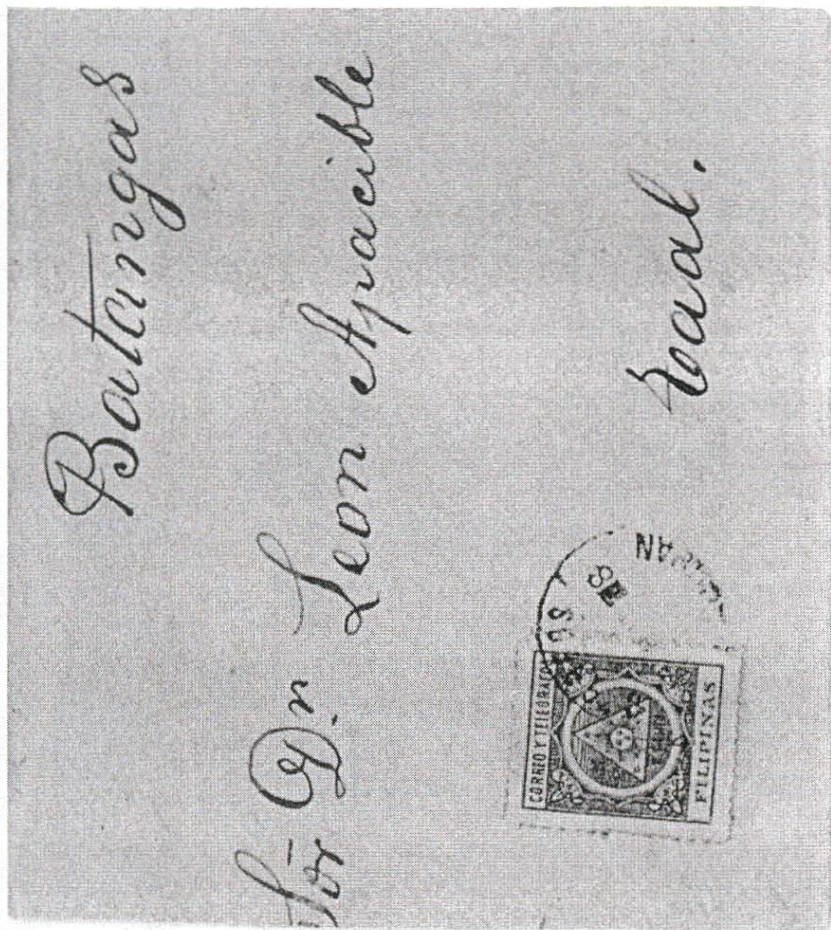


Figure 6

Type III Telegraph Stamp used as postage



Figure 7

8c Certificado Stamp used with Type II 2c postage stamp





Figure 8

10c receipt (tax ) stamp used to pay 8c Certification rate and 2c postal rate.



Figure 9

2c telegraph stamp used with Type II 2c postage stamp.



Figure 10

50c telegraph stamp with Type II 2c postage stamp

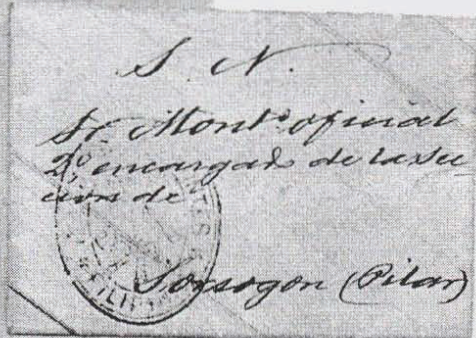
mente al Jefe inmediato y  
al Distrito que corresponde y  
nada a esta "inspección"

Lo que transcribo a V. para  
su conocimiento y exacto cum-  
plimiento

Dio que a V. mt. el Carabak  
14 de Julio de 1899



El Jefe  
*[Signature]*  
H



Sr. Montañeros ofl 2: encargado de la  
Sección de Zamboanga - Pilar

Figure 11

Official Mail required no postage

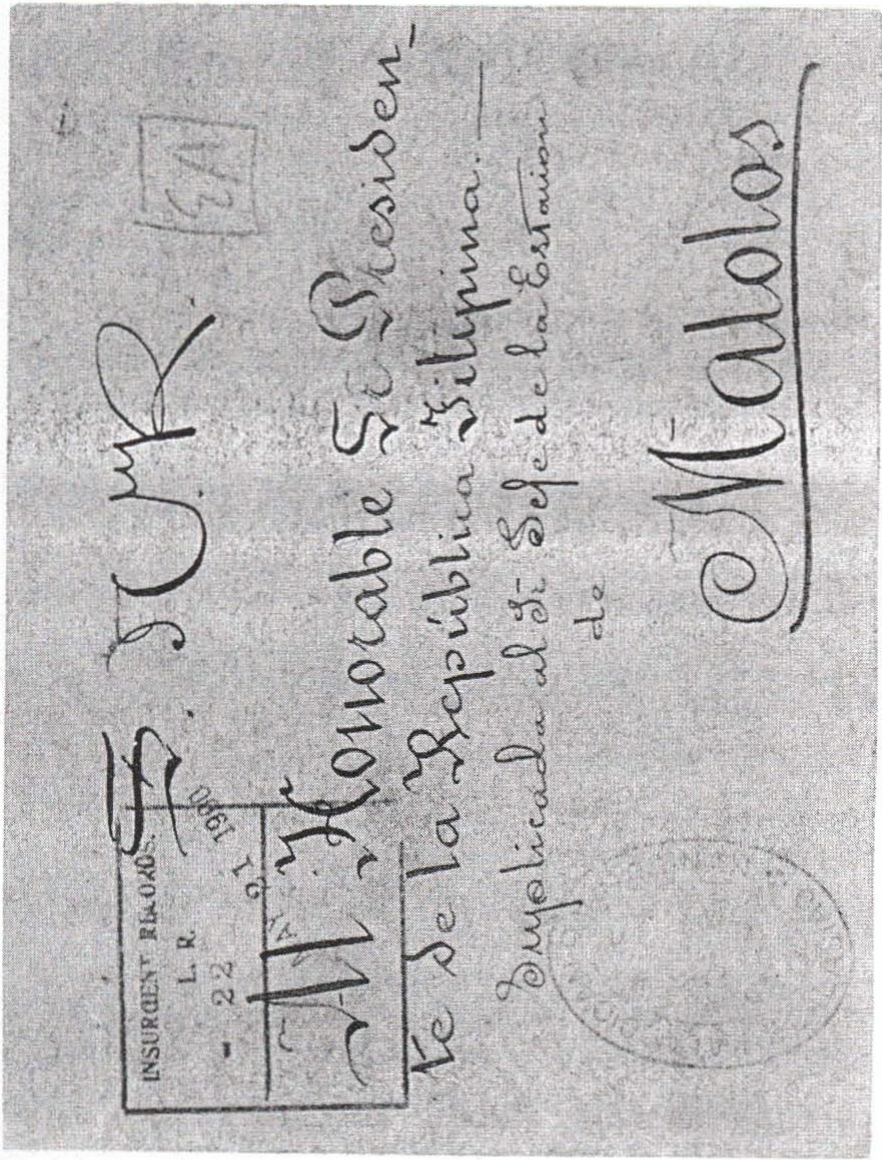


Figure 12

Official mail included the clergy