

THE 10c GREEN ISSUE (SCOTT #84)

by Don Peterson

The 10-centavos green issue (Scott #84) is a scarce Spanish Philippine stamp (FIGURE 1). Instead of being released like most issues, nearly the entire supply of this stamp was held and surcharged with a magenta 2-4/8 centavos handstamp, to become Scott #111 (FIGURE 2). This article describes the unsurcharged 10-centavos green stamp and its forgeries.



FIGURE 1. 10-centavos Green Issue (Scott #84) (Don Peterson collection).



FIGURE 2. Scott #111 (Surcharged Scott #84) (Don Peterson collection).

Issuance of the Stamp

Several early catalogers indicate the 10-centavos green stamp (perforated 14) was issued on April 19, 1880 (Cotter y Quinto, 1895; Mencarini, 1896, and Bartels et al. (1904)). However, Hanciau (November 30, 1905) and Palmer (1912) explain that this is incorrect, and that the stamp was actually released in late 1887 or early 1888

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. XX No. 1	First Quarter, 1998
The 10c Green Issue (Scott #84) by Don Peterson	Page 1
United States Military Stations: The Postal Markings of Malolos and San Fernando (Pampanga and La Union) by Nestor C. Nuñez and Alfred F. Kugel	Page 5
The Two Designs of the 1890-1897 Philippine "Babyhead" Issue by Don Peterson	Page 18

(January). The earliest catalog to indicate an 1888 date is Lopez (1890). Although the Scott Catalogue still adheres to the 1880 date, Edifil and Minkus state the latter dates. The strongest support for the 1888 date comes from the Moens Catalogue. No mention is made of the 10-centavos green issue in the 1883-84 catalogue, whereas it is listed in the 1888-89 catalogue as an 1888 issue. Stanley Gibbons (1903) listed the stamp as having been issued in 1888-89; however, the 1975 catalogue listed the stamp as an 1880 issue. Based on my review of the references, I believe the issuance date of the 10-centavos unsurcharged stamp was in 1888, but prior to September 29, 1888, as discussed below.

Another peculiarity of the 10-centavos green issue is that, although it was issued in 1888, the medallion is not the third retouch, as are the other 1887-88 unsurcharged issues (Scott #137-139). The 10-centavos green issue medallion always occurs in the original state. Refer to Bartels et al. (1904) for a description of the original and three retouches of the medallion.

The 10-centavos green stamps were printed in Spain and shipped to the Philippines. However, Philippine postal authorities apparently did not plan to release the stamps. Perhaps there was miscommunication between Spain and the Philippines on the intended use of this stamp. In any event, the stamps were surcharged in the Philippines and were released on September 29, 1888, affixed with a magenta 2-4/8 centavos surcharge.

A number of stamps, however, were not surcharged and were released as such. Palmer (1912) states:

“As the unsurcharged 10 c. green is known in block[s] of four as well as in single copies, it is probable that a few sheets escaped the surcharge altogether as well as (perhaps) a few stamps on the sheet which were surcharged.” (Page 41-42)

Based on the limited availability of these stamps today, I estimate that between 2 to 4 sheets (200-400 unsurcharged stamps) were released in the Philippines.

Color Variations and Cancellation Types

Most authorities indicate the stamp color was bright green or bright yellow green. However, it also occurs in green. Canceled stamps with genuine postmarks are much scarcer than mint stamps, although most

catalogues, including Scott, value the mint stamps higher. FIGURE 3 shows a stamp canceled with a black oval net obliteration (padilla). To date, no surviving covers are known affixed with this stamp. Any such covers, which should have existed, would be rare. Some bogus cancellations also exist, apparently applied to create "used" stamps.

Forgeries

There are two forgeries known of this issue. The two forgeries are described as follows.

Forgery #1

Characteristics:

- Listed by Bartels et al. (1904) as #C81.
- Stamp same as Scott #111 (original issue with surcharge)
- except the surcharge is chemically removed.
- Stamp blue-green in color, or faded shades of green.
- Cancels on the stamp are usually genuine.
- Peterson Forgery #84-F1 (unpublished).

Forgery #2

Characteristics:

- Segui forgery. Listed by Graus (1983).
- Right frame line is missing in right vertical white-lined ornament.
- Space between ear and side-burn resembles an upright pip'
- Mint stamps are usually without gum.
- Cancels on the stamp are usually bogus or forged.
- Forgeries perforated 14 (same as the genuine stamps), or imperforate (FIGURE 4).
- Peterson Forgery #84-F2 (unpublished).



FIGURE 3. Used 10-Centavos Green Issue (Scott #84) with black oval net obliteration (padilla). (Scott #84) with black oval net.



FIGURE 4. Peterson Forgery #84-F2 (unpublished). Mint perforate and imperforate Segui forgeries.

References

- Bartels, J.M., and F.A. Foster and F.L. Palmer. *The Postage Stamps of the Philippines*. Boston. 1904.
- Cotter, Balbino y Quinto, Francisco de. *Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas*. Manila. 1895.
- Edifil. Spain. 1991.
- Graus Fontova, Francisco. *Manual de Consulta de Falsos de Espana. Serie IX*. Barcelona, Spain. December 1983.
- Hanciau, L. "The Postal Issues of the Spanish Colony of the Philippines." *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*. London November 30, 1905.
- Lopez, Leopoldo. *Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos de Espana sus Colonias*. Madrid. 1890.
- Mencarini, Juan. *Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas*. Manila. 1896.
- Minkus Catalog. New York. 1974-75.
- Moens, Jean-Baptiste Phillipe Constanto. *Catalogo Prix-Courant de Timbres-Poste...Fiscaux Essais...* Brussels. 1983-84 and 1988-89.
- Palmer, F. L. *The Postal Issues of the Philippines*. New York. 1912.
- Peterson, Don. Stamps from personal collection.
- Peterson, Don. *Forgeries of the Spanish Philippines*. Washington, DC. 1998. Unpublished.
- Scott Catalogue. New York. 1998
- Stanley Gibbons Catalog. London. 1903 and 1975.