

MAJOR ERRORS OF THE SPANISH PHILIPPINE 1890-1897 ISSUE

by Don Peterson

General Comments

Numerous plating errors occur on the Spanish Philippine 1890-1897 issue. Many of these errors were first described by Bartels et al. (1904), and later by others (Palmer, 1912 and Harradine, 1987). However, none of these references adequately describe the errors. Further, other major plating errors were omitted.

This article describes 10 major plating errors of this issue. The year of issue, location on the pane, quantity printed, and relative scarcity are addressed. To be considered a major error for the purposes of this article, the plating irregularity must be clearly observable to the average collector and it must be reoccurring or "constant." Generally, the error occurs in the same position on the pane from one pane to another. Finally, I have personally inspected each of the major errors, including a few as they occur in full pane configuration.

An attempt is made to determine the relative scarcity of the errors. The relative scarcity, based on the total number of possible stamps with the error, is as follows: VVR (very very rare) — 1 to 599, VR (very rare) — 600 to 1,999, R (rare) — 2,000 to 9,999, and S (scarce) — 10,000 or more. From personal observation, stamps listed as VVR and VR are difficult to obtain and should command a high price in the stamp market.

Description of Major Plating Errors

The following is a description of the 10 major plating errors of this issue.

1. Blur Between "5" and "C" (Figure 1)

An irregular-shaped colored blur occurs on all of the 1890-1896 5c issues (Scott # 151-156), including the three 1897 5c surcharged issues (Scott # 181, 185, and 187). The error occurs in position 37 in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). Although it has not been verified for Scott

154 (perforated proof), it undoubtedly occurs on that issue as well. The occurrence of the error on Scott # 154 and 156 and on the three 1897 surcharged issues (Scott # 181, 185, and 187) is considered VVR (less than 600 for each). The error was described by Palmer (1912) for some of the issues. Bartels et al. (1904) did not list it.



Figure 1



Figure 2

2. Dot (High Position) Between "A" and "S" of "FILIPINAS"
(Figure 2)

The position of the colored dot (i.e., circle) occurs between the upper halves of the "A" and "S" of "FILIPINAS." It is found on all of the 1892-1897 1c issues (Scott # 140-143). For Scott # 140 and 141, it occurs in position 14 in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). For Scott # 142 and 143, the error occurs in position 17 in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). This error is described by both Bartels et al. (1904) and Palmer (1912).

3. Dot (Low Position) Between "A" and "S" of "FILIPINAS"
(Figure 3)

The error is similar to number 2 above, except that the dot occurs between the lower halves of the "A" and "S" of "FILIPINAS." It is found on all of the 1892-1896 15c issues (Scott # 169-171) and on the three 1897 15c surcharged issues (Scott # 182, 188, and 191). No information is available on its position in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position in the pane. The occurrence of this error on the three 1897 15c surcharged issues (Scott # 182, 188, and 191) is considered VVR (less than 600 for each issue). Neither Bartels et al. (1904) or Palmer (1912) list the error.



Figure 3



Figure 4

4. Vertical Dash After "S" of "FILIPINAS" (Figure 4)

A vertical dash of color occurs to the right of and from the top to the bottom of the "S" of "FILIPINAS." The error occurs on all of the 1892-1897 1c issues (Scott # 140-143) in position 28 in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). The occurrence of the error on Scott # 140-143 is considered VVR (less than 600 for each issue) due to the low number of stamps printed. The error is described by both Bartels et al. (1904) and Palmer (1912).

5. Blur in Lower Loop of "8" (Figure 5)

A small blur or bubble of additional color occurs on the left side of the lower loop of the "8". The error occurs on the 1894 8c issue (Scott # 162). No information is available on its position in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position in the pane. Although Palmer (1912) described the error on the 1894 printing, he did not indicate it occurred on the 1896 printing of that same issue. Harradine (1987) stated that it was corrected in the 1896 printing. Bartels et al. (1904) did not list it.

6. Colon Instead of Period After "C" (Figure 6)

The error occurs on the 1896 8 c issue (Scott # 162). No information is available on its position in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position in the pane. Although Palmer (1912) described the error on the 1896 printing, he did not indicate it occurred on the 1894 printing of that same issue. However, I have observed the error on the 1894 printing. Bartels et al. (1904) did not list it.



Figure 5



Figure 6

7. Dot Between "I" and "L" of "FILIPINAS" (Figure 7)

A colored dot occurs about midway between the "I" and "L" of "FILIPINAS." The error occurs on the 2c issue (Scott # 144). Palmer (1912) describes two printings of this issue — 1890 and 1894. No information is available on its location in the pane of 100 (two panes of 5 x 10 or one pane of 10 x 10). However, based in its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position in each of the two pane configurations for the two printings. Neither Bartels et al. (1904) or Palmer (1912) list the error.



Figure 7



Figure 8

8. Colorless Chip in "P" of "FILIPINAS" (Figure 8)

A colorless chip (missing color) occurs in the center of the left side of the "P" on "FILIPINAS." The error occurs on the 1890 and 1892 2 4/8c issues (Scott # 149 and 150, respectively). No information is available on its position in the pane of 200 (two panes of 10 x 10 separated by a gutter) of Scott # 149, or in the pane of 150 (three panes of 5 x 10, each separated by a gutter) of Scott # 150. However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs in two positions in each

issues' pane configuration. Neither Bartels et al. (1904) or Palmer (1912) list the error.



Figure 9



Figure 10

9. Colored Tracks Across "INAS" of "FILIPINAS" (Figure 9)

The error occurs on all of the 1892-1896 15c issues (Scott # 169-171) and on the three 1897 15c surcharged issues (Scott # 182, 188, and 191). No information is available on its position in the pane of 100 (10 x 10). However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position on the pane. The occurrence of this error in the three 1897 15c surcharged issues (Scott # 182, 188, and 191) is considered VVR (less than 600 for each issue). Neither Bartels et al. (1904) or Palmer (1912) list the error.

10. Colored Arrow "↓" Below "F" of "FILIPINAS" (Figure 10)

This is a curious error in that, although it always occurs in the exact location for a given issue, that location varies slightly between issues (i.e., either below "F" or below and slightly to the right of "F" of "FILIPINAS"). Also, interestingly, unlike other errors which tend to occur on stamps of the same denomination, this error occurs on several, but not all, of the 2c, 6c, and 10c denominations. Specifically, the error occurs on the 1890 and 1894 printings of the 2c issue (Scott #144), the 1892 2c issue (Scott #145), the 1892 6c issue (Scott # 157), the 1894 6c issue (Scott # 158), and the 1896 10c issue (Scott # 166).

For Scott # 144, the error always occurs on the stamp with the Type II cliché' (see Peterson, 1984, for a description of the cliché'). Based on Palmer (1912), the error would occur only on the left 5 x 10 pane of the two-pane setting, or on the left half of the 10 x 10 pane. For Scott # 145, the error always occurs on stamps with the Type II cliché'. Based on Palmer (1912), the error would occur only on the center 5 x 10 pane of the three 5 x 10 pane setting. For Scott # 157, I have observed that the error occurs on position 75 in the pane of 100

(10 x 10). No information is available on the location of the error on the pane of 100 (10 x 10) for Scott # 158.

Except for Scott # 157, the exact location of this error on these other issues is not known. However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position on each issue's pane configuration. Neither Bartels et al. (1904) or Palmer (1912) list the error.

Table 1
**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ON MAJOR ERRORS
 OF THE SPANISH PHILIPINE 1890-1897 ISSUE¹**

Description of Error	On Scott No.	Total No. of Issue Printed	Total No. of Errors	Relative Scarcity
1. Blur Between "S" and "C"	151	620,000	6,200	R
	152	120,000	1,200	VR
	153	980,000	9,800	R
	154	500	5	VVR
	155	400,000	4,000	R
	156	30,000	300	VVR
	181	53,385	533	VVR
	185	20,000	200	VVR
	187	Not Known	Not Known	VVR
2. Dot (High Position) Between "A" and "S" of "FILIPINAS"	140	100,000	1,000	VR
	141	5,000	50	VVR
	142	40,000	400	VVR
	143	5,000	50	VVR
3. Dot (Low Position) Between "A" and "S" of "FILIPINAS"	169	200,000	2,000	VR
	170	200,000	2,000	VR
	171	200,000	2,000	VR
	182	12,000	120	VVR
	188	11,690	116	VVR
	191	Not Known	Not Known	VVR
4. Vertical Dash After "S" of "FILIPINAS"	140	100,000	1,000	VR
	141	5,000	50	VVR
	142	40,000	400	VVR
	143	5,000	50	VVR
5. Blur in Lower Loop of "8"	162	400,000	4,000	R
6. Colon Instead of Period After "C"	162	650,000	6,500	R
7. Dot Between "I" and "L" of "FILIPINAS"	144	7,020,000	70,200	S

8. Colorless Chip in "P" of "FILIPINAS"	149	6,000,000	60,000	S
	150	6,000,000	80,000	S
9. Colored Tracks Across "INAS" of "FILIPINAS"	169	200,000	2,000	VR
	170	200,000	2,000	VR
	171	200,000	2,000	VR
	182	12,000	120	VVR
	188	11,690	116	VVR
10. Colored Arrow Below "F" of "FILIPINAS"	191	Not Known	Not Known	VVR
	144	7,020,000	70,200	S
	145	6,000,000	60,000	S
	157	180,000	1,800	VR
	158	100,000	1,000	VR
	166	1,000,000	10,000	S

- ¹ The total number of stamps printed for each issue is based on information in Bartels et al. (1904), Palmer (1912), and Harradine (1987). The total number of errors was extrapolated from the above references, based on the observed or presumed occurrence of the error on the pane configurations.

Summary Comments

Table 1 summarizes the information in the article, including the total number of stamps printed and the number of possible stamps of each error. Data gaps still exist, however, such as the exact position on the pane of some of the errors. Additionally, there does not appear to be any information in the philatelic literature regarding the size of the printing of Scott # 187 and 191; thus, making it difficult to determine relative scarcity of errors of those issues. Hopefully, this article will inspire other Philippine collectors to assist in filling in the blanks.

One final observation is that, with as few as 5 to 50 total possible stamps printed for some of the errors, collecting these errors poses an interesting challenge to the Philippine philatelist.

If you have any additional information on these errors, please contact IPPS or Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012.

REFERENCES

- Bartels, J.M., F.A. Foster, and F.L. Palmer. The Postage Stamps of the Philippines. Boston. 1904
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