

State Payment Documentary Stamped Papers 1879-86

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If you have been following this series of articles, this was to be Part III dealing with state papers used during the US Military Government. However, that installment will be delayed for one journal issue due to late breaking news. During the first two series, I received more collector feedback and additional information than during any other series that I have authored. This included acquiring the Robert H. Shellhamer Spanish era collection of stamped papers.



In Part I, the issues of 1886 to 1898, I alluded that the lettered series was a new test. Research shows that the lettered series began with the Reintegros (restitution's) issue of 1853-78 that preceded all of the Pagos Al Estado designs. Warren observed Series C and I have series B, D and E (one dated 1867). Next, we now have a definitive answer to the absence of any Series A documents on any of these three rate periods (1853-1898). I have a Series A document, 5 centavos, full uncut mint sheet, of the 1887-1898 design series. It is the same as that illustrated in Part I, except the stamp and top inscriptions differ. In both places, Filipinas is replaced with Puerto-Rico. I think it is safe to state that Series A was reserved for the Spanish Colony of Puerto Rico. In Part II, I reported that for the 1887-1898 designs, we now have observed 16 of the 20 possible examples. The listing now is 18 of 21 as shown in **Table I**. Added to the list was series H for the first design series. This example was one of about 20 Pagos Al Estado documents I obtained from the Shellhamer collection. I have not listed a series H for the second design series but it might exist too.

19/22 20/23

PROBABLE ISSUE SEQUENCE		
Series Letters (read left to right)	Inscription Location	1898-99 Date
A B, C, CH*, D, E, F, G, H, I	Top	No
B, C, CH, D, E, F, G	Middle	No
G, H, I, B*, C*, CH	Middle	Yes
* Not observed but probably exists (3 total)		
Table I		

Also in that collection were 7 documents belonging to the 1879-86 series that was never observed by Warren. They basically look the same as the 1887-1898 issues. There are three ways to tell them apart. First, certain values were unique to each series as shown in **Table II**. For values under 50 centimos, the values differ per issue. **Figures 1 and 2** show the 125 milésimas and 25 centimos values respectively of the 1879-1886 issue. Some of my 1879-1886 examples show under inking and color splotches within the stamps. Some documents also have the stamp partially printed onto the border. The printing did improve with time with the Pagos Al Estado stamps; however, the poorer printing of the earlier issues is not always a sure method of identification. The second method of identification to tell the two issues apart refers to the four peso values common to both issues that ranges from 1 to 50 pesos. The value within the bottom tablet is displayed differently for each series. For the older 1879 issue, the value uses the left and right portion of the tablet with an open space between the number and the word peso. For the newer 1886 issue, there is a button ornament at the left and right of the value designation with a closed space between the elements. The ornament is usually a circle surrounding a dot but sometimes it is a beaded circle (illustrated). **Figure 3** compares the one-peso stamps of each issue showing this difference (1886 left, 1879 right). As can be seen in this figure, the ornaments

cause the values to be a smaller size with the 1886 issue. The 50 centimos values of each issue look the same and the only positive way to determine which one is which is by a dated document (third method). However, this small set of examples indicates that the 1879, 50 centimos value has intense dark brown borders somewhat over inked. So far, this color border has not been reported for the 1886 issue. At the same time, only this one 1879 example, series D, 50 centimos value has been observed.

State Payment Issues		
Value	1879(?) - 1886	1887-1898
 3/4c 6c (5m)	✓ X	
125m	X	
2.5c		✓ 
5c		X
10c		X
15c		X
20c		X
25c	X	
50c*	X*	X*
P1	X	X
P5	X	X
P25	✓	X
P50	✓	X
P250	✓	
P500	✓	
Total	10	10
Key: X = Observed ✓ = Authorized not observed ◆ = Assumed not printed * Same stamp design, 1879 issue has dark brown borders.		
Table II		

Since these are the first and only reported examples of the 1879-1886 issues, **Table III** presents all known examples. The earliest date is 1883. Warren believed that the issue might not have been available for use until 1880. The Shellhamer collection had 7 examples. Once I knew the hint on identifying peso values, I found an 8th example on a 3½ by 7-inch piece in my collection. This piece was used but the date is missing. The different colors of the one-peso stamp on the same lettered series with different color borders indicate that some values were printed more than once. There are five known letters from B to F and higher letters may exist. **Figure 4** shows the one document that was re-valued.

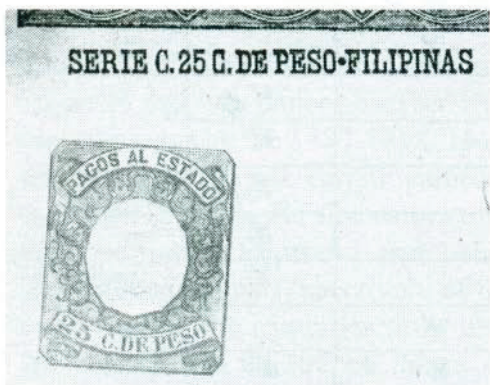


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

1879-1886 Pagos Al Estado Known Examples				
Value	Series	Position	Borders	Date
125m Rose	B	Bottom	Dark Blue	27 Jan 1888
25c Green	C	Bottom	Dark Blue	11 May 1887
50c Rose	D	Bottom	Dark Brown	17 Nov 1886
P1 Pink	E	Bottom	Dark Brown	8 Nov 1884
P1 Green	E	Bottom	Dark Blue	7 Jun 1886
P1 Green	E	Piece	Dark Blue	None
P5 Lt Brown	F	Bottom	Dark Brown	3 Apr 1883
Re-valued P5 on 25c Green	C	Bottom	Dark Blue	29 Sep 1886
2/4c (5m)	A	TOP	GREEN	11 SE 1890

Table III

SERIE C. 25 C. DE PESO • FILIPINAS
HABILITADO PARA 5 PESOS



*Este
siguen de
para exhibir*

Figure 4

Readers are urged to contact me at dlehmann@erols.com if you own additional examples of this issue.

Great News!

We finally have an index of previous IPPS publications and articles!

Thanks to an outstanding effort by Don Peterson, with Bill Oliver's able assistance, we will have an easy to use reference for the information that has been published over the years. IPPS Journal, the last issue of this year, will contain the entire listing and should be in member's hands by the end of the year.

Many thanks to both Don and Bill for their yeoman's efforts.