



PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC NEWS

Volume IX No. 1



January 1987

PHILIPPINES PHILATELIC NEWS

Official publication of

International Philippine Philatelic Society
Dedicated to the Study and Advancement of Philippines Philately

American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 54
American First Day Cover Society Chapter No. 24
Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation (FIAP)
International Federation of Philately (FIP)

Volume IX No. 1

Jan. 1987

1986 IPPS Officers

President	
Philippine Operations	Gustavo C. Ingles
President	
International Operations	Eugene A. Garrett
Vice President	Ray L. Coughlin
Secretary	Antonio Mendoza
Treasurer	Mario Que

Membership Fee	Philippines Residents	Foreign Residences
Regular Membership	P100.00	US \$10.00
Contributing Membership	P150.00	US \$15.00
Sustaining Membership	P250.00	US \$25.00

Editor

Robert F. Yacano
P.O. Box 94
Eden, N.Y. 14057

The Philippine Philatelic News is published quarterly by the International Philippine Philatelic Society. A non-profit, non-stock, educational organization, the IPPS was incorporated in the City of Manila on Sept. 24, 1978, as per SEC registration No. 58004. PPN PURPOSE: "to publish, on a quarterly basis, original and reprinted material pertaining to the philately of the Philippines. Manuscripts and submissions should be typed and double spaced on one side of the page only. Illustrations should be black and white photographs or very clear photocopies. Send all material to the Editor.

THE HANDSTAMPED VICTORY ISSUES OF THE PHILIPPINES

by R. C. Williams

I. The Rubber Stamp Used

The original rubber stamp used for this issue was hand made by an amateur craftsman, and when brand new, was no work of art. The rubber used was of inferior quality, so it quickly spread and rounded off on the edges as it was used. The quantity of ink on the pad was poorly controlled and often was overinked, resulting in an even worse impression.

Early in use, the rubber stamp ruptured, or broke, between the letter C and T. In an effort to repair it, a common pin was driven into the stamp along the left side of the T. One side of the head of the pin cut into the vertical bar of the T. From this point on this rupture showed on each impression, getting worse as time went on. The other permanent damage was the separation of the VIC from the TORY so common on the majority of the stamps. Because of the many differences between the original stamp and the damaged, repaired version, it has been said there were two different rubber stamps, something that would be very easy to believe. However, official records show only one and nothing has even been discovered or recorded to show otherwise.

There is nothing recorded to show exactly when the rubber stamp broke and was repaired. We know it was early in the game, and there are those who would say it was before even the first day covers were done. This is likely, because some covers of this day had stamps with undamaged impressions, while others did not. We do know some stamps are around, unused, showing good straight impressions. It would seem more logical then that the stamps were overprinted prior to or on this first day and at some point here-in the damage occurred. The stamps were then applied to the covers at

EDITOR'S NOTE: The outstanding block of four on the cover illustrates the types I & II overprints. The right vertical pair is type I; the left vertical pair is type II.



Before Damage



After Damage

random; some damaged, some not. We might even point out that there is no assurance that all of these undamaged impressions were sold the first day. They could very well have been mixed with damaged impressions and sold at a later date. If we assume this was possible, we can not declare as fake a cover with a later date cancellation bearing a stamp with a straight impression.

When most of us use a rubber stamp, we press it down firmly and perhaps give it a slight roll to leave the best impression. The clerks at the Tacoblan post office were in an emergency situation and had no time to carefully make each imprint, so you can bet they bounced rapidly from inkpad to stamp making a good, fair, or the normal, miserable imprint. It is possible we should assume the worse the imprint the more likely it is to be genuine.

From all bad comes some good. We can find this in the poor rubber stamp itself, particularly after it was damaged and repaired. It has been a tough one to fake because of the many individual characteristics of each letter. Such fake stamps could not be made by your local rubber stamp manufacturer, even if the type used was the same as the original. Remember, this rubber stamp was carved by hand and, unlike type, the letters and spacing between were imperfect. To add to the woes of a forger was the damage to the rubber stamp and the wear experienced by usage. He may be able to do one or several letters just fine, but somewhere along the line he is going to slip up. On any stamp with a reasonably good impression, an experienced eye can pick out a fake from the real McCoy.

II. Forgeries in the Handstamped VICTORY Issues

TYPE "A"



All letters are higher than genuine by about 1/4 mm.

- V** Left side much thicker than right rather than slightly thicker. Right side straight or curves to the right rather than to left as often seen in genuine. Definite bulge apparent at top of left side with top left corner coming out to a sharp point. Usually slightly worn, rounded look when compared to the genuine.
- I** Too thin on most copies.
- C** Curve at top does not come around far enough and forms a perfect oval. Width of line stays the same. In genuine, letter breaks suddenly downward at top curve, giving a squeezed appearance, and widens out at tip. Same appearance to both curves. Different look to both curves in genuine.
- T** Vertical line usually whole and if there is any break in it at all, it is below the center and is very slight. After split between VIC and TORY, all stamps had strong evidence of damage to vertical T bar. Horizontal bar thicker on left side than on right, opposite of genuine.
- O** Very rough and crude. Line all around a bit too thin.
- R** Straight bar a little too straight. Same with leg. In genuine, leg appears to curve slightly to right. Curve same thickness all around, where it becomes thinner as it joins leg on genuine stamp.
- Y** Leg leans to right. Right ear about same thickness as left ear and bar. On genuine, right ear usually thinner.

FOR A QUICK CHECK:

Look at the C and T. The even appearance of the C and the lack of real damage and wrong taper to the bar at top of the T are the outstanding features of this forgery.

TYPE "B"



A very poor forgery. The only two things you need to look for are the undamaged T with a very even bar across the top with a thin vertical bar and the very decided curve or bulge to the leg of the R.

Bad Workmanship!

III. Possible Forgery in VICTORY Overprint



If this is a forgery, and I think it is, it is a very good one. In a single stamp, it likely would get by many experts, although there are a few things that could make any of them ponder and possibly render a "no opinion."

1. The short right bar in the "V" with a sharp clear cut appearance at top.
2. "C" does not have the even curve at the bottom as does the genuine and does not extend out further than the top curve.
3. The damage to the "T" is very neat..almost too much so. The top bar is the same thickness all the way through. On the genuine, the left side is generally tapered from left to right.

More than anything else, it is the sameness of the handstamp on all six copies that makes these suspect. One stamp came out with the first issues November 8th, and likely more of them were over stamped at later dates, also. The C-63 airmail came out in late November with a total of only 122 copies. Very possibly, some of these were also over stamped at later dates. Three of the stamps appeared for the first time on December 5th when the rubber stamp had been used considerably and was beginning to wear rather badly.

This cover seems to have a genuine Tacloban cancel of Jan. 17th. It shows all six overprints that are almost identical, so we must assume all six were overprinted at the same time; yet, supposedly, the last batch were overprinted in late December. By this time, the rubber stamp was in very bad shape. The overprints on this cover are sharp and clear; very much as they appeared just after the stamp was damaged.

There are several possible explanations:

1. The purchaser of the stamps may have bought them in one batch just after they were overprinted on December 5th, and just before they were discontinued for postal use (Jan. 19th). He decided to put them on cover. (Those are fine cancels for stamps that came out December 5th).
2. Some stamps were left not overprinted and were done the day the letter was mailed. (Not too likely. The stamp was in bad shape by this time).
3. The stamps and cover are both forged. (Doesn't seem too likely, but very possible).

SAN FERNANDO MILITARY STATION CANCELS

by Warren L. Zahler

The military postal station at San Fernando, like other such stations, was established to serve troops during the initial American occupation of the Philippines, and covers cancelled at these stations are an area of active philatelic interest. The postal history of the military stations in the Philippines has been summarized by Goodale, including an extensive listing of station cancels. Additional cancels have been illustrated by Baker in his systematic study of station cancels. From the questions raised by these articles, it is clear that the story of the San Fernando station is incomplete. Two covers in my collection, one purchased at Ameripex, offer some answers and some new information on this station.



Fig. 1

The San Fernando cancellation illustrated by Goodale is a circular device with the wording "Mil. P. Sta. San Fernando, Phil. Isl'ds." and "Rec'd." around the circle and the date in the center. The presence of "Rec'd." would normally indicate a transit marking used to backstamp covers on arrival; however, in this case the device was apparently used to cancel outgoing mail as shown by the cover illustrated in figure 1.

A second cancellation from San Fernando is illustrated by Baker, who does not mention the one listed by Goodale. Baker's cancel, shown in Figure 2, is typical of the Military Station Cancels of the period used at many stations.



Fig.2

Figure 3 illustrates a third cancel from San Fernando, not reported by either Goodale or Baker. The circular devise contains the wording SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA, P. I. on the outside with the date JAN 20, 1901, 1 PM in the middle. Since, according to Goodale,

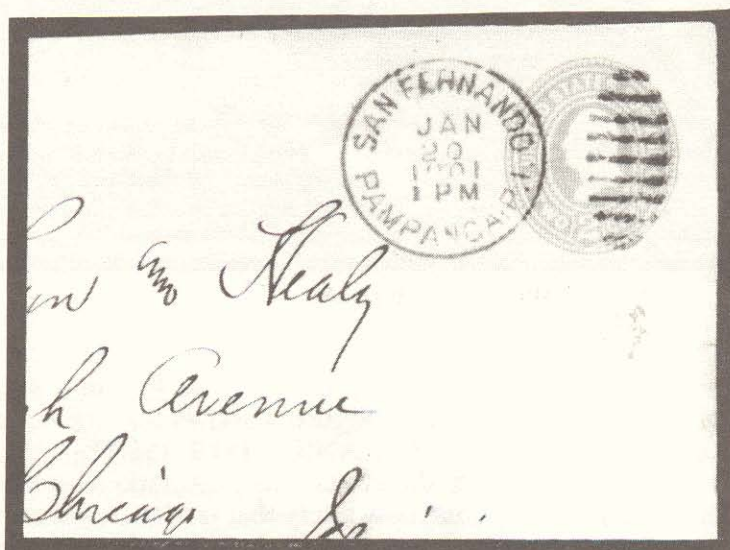


Fig.3

Pampanga was the first province to receive civilian government (On Feb 13, 1901), the cancel in Figure 3 is properly included among the military station cancels.

Of the three cancels*, only the last indicates a province, Pampanga, in the cancel. This is important, since there are two towns with the name San Fernando in the Philippines; San Fernando, Pampanga, about 30 km north of Manila, and San Fernando, La Union, some 180 km farther north on the Lingayen Gulf. According to Goodale, both had post offices in 1902 under civilian rule, and presumably both had military postal stations. In discussing the San Fernando Station, Goodale left open the question of location. Baker, however, only listed San Fernando, Pampanga, among the Military Stations, implying this location without addressing the question directly.

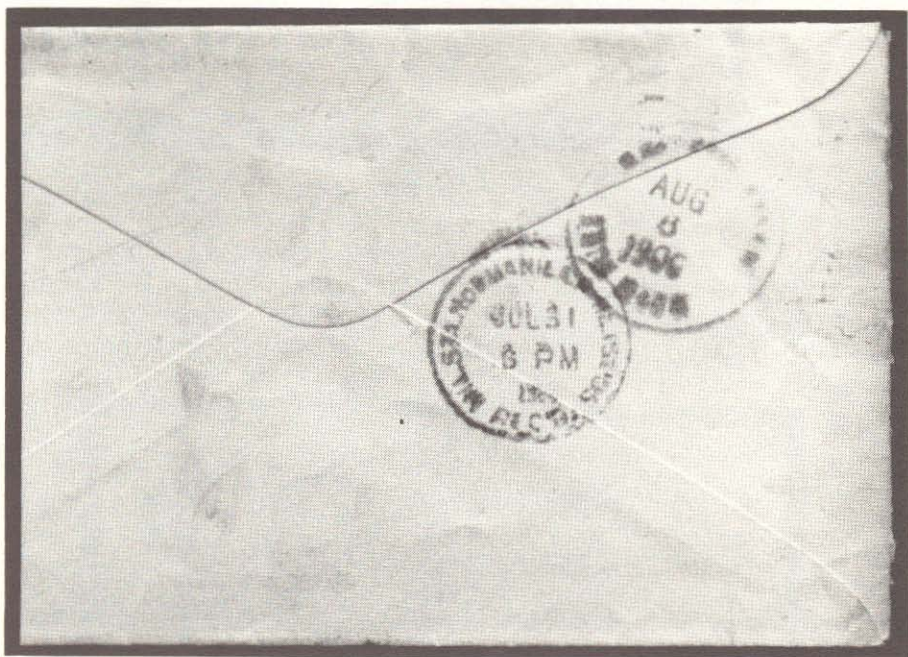


Fig.4

The transit markings on the back of the cover in Figure 1 may help answer the question of location. Figure 4 shows that the cover was backstamped MIL. STA. No. 1, MANILA PHIL ISL'DS. REC'D on JUL 31, 5 PM, 1900. Since the cover was postmarked on the same day at San Fernando, it seems most likely that the letter was mailed in Pampanga, close to Manila, rather than in the more distant La Union.

Further, the letter is addressed to Aparri, in Cagayan province on the northern coast of Luzon. Since La Union is located on the sea route between Manila and Aparri, it would also seem likely that mail from La Union to Cagayan would be sent directly without passing through Manila. Thus, the cancel in Figure 1 can be assigned to San Fernando, Pampango with reasonable certainty.

What then should we make of the cancel in figure 2? If it was used in Pampanga, why was a backstamp also used there? The cancel illustrated by Goodale, identical to the one in Figure 1, is dated JAN 18, 1900, indicating extended usage of this backstamp device. Were both used over the same period, or was the standard cancelling device lost?

The neat solution is to assign the Baker cancel to San Fernando, La Union. However, before this can be done with any certainty, additional evidence is needed.

REFERENCES

Goodale, George S. 1933 and 1935. "U.S. Military Postal Stations of the Philippines." in Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History. (Delf Norona, Ed.).

Baker, Philip E. 1963. Postal Markings of United States Military Stations 1898-1902. Cuba, Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, with China and Samoa. Allendale, N.J.

Footnote

**In addition to the three cancels shown here, Bob Hoge has two covers with a fourth Military Station cancel from San Fernando. The cancel on these covers, dated JUL 29, and DEC 15, 1899, is similar to Baker's type C2 shown in Figure 2. It differs in having the abbreviation ISL'DS. instead of ISLANDS.*

COLOR ERROR DISCOVERED ON SCOTT #109

by Don Peterson

I recently purchased a mint Scott #109, an inexpensive stamp, with a **blue** surcharge, instead of the normal magenta surcharge. Disregarding the color of the surcharge, the stamp appeared quite genuine. However, nowhere in the philatelic literature could I find any reference to a blue surcharge on this stamp.

Over the years, I have probably examined hundreds of these stamps, and similar issues with the magenta surcharge. They include Scott #'s 105-111, 130-131, and 136. Occasionally, one of these issues will show a dark magenta surcharge, which I consider uncommon. I also have in my collection a used Scott #106 with a carmine surcharge, which I consider scarce. However, until now I have never seen or heard of a blue surcharge.

If anyone has any additional information on the surcharge colors of these issues, please contact the Editor, IPPS, or Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20012.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Vol. IX No. 1 is in your hands, and the next issue is already in the works! It is appropriate at this time to say "thank you" to the IPPS Officers who were willing to entrust this important task to me, and to those authors who were willing to "take a chance on my editor's pen" with their literary efforts. That confidence has been the key in getting the first two issues under my editorship to you on schedule.

The next issues are scheduled for April and July: assuming the flow of publishing material continues. To date, we have concentrated on new material. We want to continue that concept, but we also want to take a look at the excellent material already published with an eye to updating the information and making it available to our members. Help and suggestions along these lines are welcome.

Bob Yacano

UNLISTED (SCOTT) SURCHARGES OF THE 1881-1888 PERIOD

by Don Peterson

(Continued from previous issues (PPN Vol. VIII, No. 1))

BLUE SURCHARGE ON REVENUE ISSUES

29. blue (m) on 10 cuartos bistre (R1)

Bartels listed this stamp (# 82). Harradine listed this stamp (#S147), and indicated it was "VS". Both Bartels and Harradine indicated it was issued in January 1881. The 1903 edition of the Scott catalogue listed it, although the current edition doesn't. Mencarini listed the stamp (# 133), and Galvez listed the stamp (# 94) and indicated it was issued in 1881, Lopez listed the stamp (# 92). This issue is listed in the current Stanley Gibbons catalogue (\$ 128), which indicates it was issued in January 1881.

30. 1r black (d) on 8c black (d) on 12 4/8c gray blue (R1)

Not listed in any catalogue; however, one mint stamp was in the Tows Auction (lot # 653) where it was listed as "very rare".

31. 1r black (d) on red (m) on 1r green (R1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Harradine listed this stamp (# S150) and indicated it was "VR".

32. 1r black (d) on 2 4/8c black (j) on 10c bistre (R1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Harradine listed this stamp (# S145) and indicated it was "R".

33. 2r red (d) on 8c pale red (e) on 2r blue (R1)

34. 2r red (d) on 8c pale red (d) on 2r blue (R1)

On Scott # 123, the "8c" surcharge is listed as Scott surcharge type "j" (PARA CORREOS). This is incorrect. There are no records or any examples of this type known. Instead, the "8c" surcharge occurs in two forms--as Scott type "d" and "e". Additionally, the Scott catalogue does not indicate that the "8c" surcharge is pale red, differing in color from the "2r" surcharge, which is red. No catalogue has correctly described this issue. One of the earliest catalogues, Lopez, does not list this issue. Mencarini only lists the "8c" (e) issue (# 122a), but indicates that the "8c" value is "roja" (red), the same color

as the "2r" value. Bartels only lists the "8c" (d) issue (# 129). Harradine (# S146), Stanley Gibbons (# 134), and Scott (# 129). Harradine (# S146), Stanley Gibbons (# 134), and Scott (# 123) all list the "8c" value as Scott type (j). Hanciau (p. 47) only lists the "8c" (e) issue. He indicates the "2r" value is carmine, and the "8c" value is red. Both types, "8c" (d) and (e), are commonly present, mint and used. Used copies of both types (#'s 33 and 34) are in D. Peterson's collection. These stamps have also been described in another article (Peterson, 1985).

35. 1r red (d) on 1r black (d) on 1r green (R1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Mencarini listed this issue (# 121a).

36. 2 4/8c magenta (h) on 8c (color?) (type?) on 20c green (R2)

Not listed in any catalogue; however, one mint stamp was in the Tows Auction (lot # 695) where it was referred to as the "rare (20c green) color error". Warren listed two 20c issues of "R2" -- a 20 c yellow-brown issue (# W62), and a 20c dull lake issue (# W63); but not a 20c green issue.

BLACK SURCHARGE ON TELEGRAPH ISSUES

37. 1r black (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D91.2). Harradine listed this stamp (# S159) and indicated it was "VS". Both Bartels and Harradine indicated that 15,000 stamps were issued in October 1883. Mencarini listed this stamp (# 113). Galvez listed the stamp (# 141), and indicated it was issued in 1883.

YELLOW SURCHARGE ON TELEGRAPH ISSUES

38. 20c yellow (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D 104.1); but also listed Kohl and Friederich as references. Harradine listed this stamp (# S158) and indicated it was "R". One used and one mint stamp were in the Tows Auction (lots # 702-703) where they were listed as "rare". This issue is listed in the current Stanley Gibbons catalogue (# 145).

RED SURCHARGE ON TELEGRAPH ISSUES

39. 1r red (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D91.3). Harradine

listed this stamp (# S160) and indicated it was "VS" with 10,000 issued in October 1883. Mencarini also listed this stamp (# 109). Galvez listed the stamp (# 130), and indicated it was issued in 1883.

40. 8c red (d) on 1 peso maroon (T1)

Mencarini listed this stamp (# 112) and indicated that 15,000 were issued on October 27, 1881. Galvez listed the stamp (# 147), and indicated it was issued in 1885.

VIOLET SURCHARGE ON TELEGRAPH ISSUES

41. 2 4/8c violet (h) on 1c bistre (T2)

Not listed in any catalogue; however, two mint blocks of four were in the Tows Auction (lot # 713) where they were listed as "scarce".

GRAY SURCHARGE ON TELEGRAPH ISSUES

42. 2r gray (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D 106.3). Mencarini listed this stamp (# 117) and indicated it was issued in February 1883.

TWO SURCHARGES ON TELEGRAPH ISSUES

43. 1r black (d) on 20c black (?) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D104.2); but incorrectly listed Mencarini as a reference. Mencarini did not list this issue.

44. 1r red (d) on 20c red (?) on 250 m ultramarine (T1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D104.4); but incorrectly listed Mencarini as a reference. Mencarini did not list this issue.

45. 1r red (d) on 20c brown (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Harradine listed this stamp (# S163c) and indicated it was "VR" and was "probably caused by mixed inks". It is similar to Scott # 135, which has a 20c black surcharge instead of 20c brown surcharge.

46. 2r black (d) on 20c black (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D106.2). Mencarini listed this stamp (# 115a). Galvez listed the stamp (# 140) and indicated it was issued in 1883. One mint stamp was in the Tows Auction (lot # 705) where it was listed as "rare".

47. 2r red (d) on 20c black (?) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Bartels listed this as a stamp of doubtful status (# D106.1); but listed Kohl and Friederich as references.

48. 1r red (d) on 2r black (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Listed in only one catalogue. Harradine listed this stamp (# S164) and indicated it was "R" and was issued in October 1883.

49. 2r red (d) on 1r black (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)

Harradine listed this issue (# S165) and indicated it was "R" and "very dubious". Mencarini listed this issue (# 113c) and indicated it was issued in October 1883.

Conclusion

Based on the data summarized in this article, there is sufficient evidence to add ten 1881-1888 surcharged issues and to correct 3 existing listings in the current Scott catalogue. These issues and their proposed Scott catalogue numbers are listed on the next page...

EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone has any of these 49 issues in their collection, or has any additional information about these issues, please contact IPPS, or Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20012

Reference Number In Article	Description	Proposed Scott Cat. Number
4	10c black (f) on 2 4/8c ultramarine (78)	89A
5	1r black (d) on 2 4/8c ultramarine (78)	93A
6	2r black (d) on 2 4/8c ultramarine (78)	94 (replacement)
9	16c red (d) on 2 4/8c ultramarine (78)	102 (replacement)
10	1r red (d) on 20c bistre brown (87)	104A
13	8c green (e) on 1r green (d) on 2c rose (76)	99A
29	blue (m) on 10 cuartos bistre (R1)	129A
33	2r red (d) on 8c pale red (e) on 2r blue (R1)	123 (replacement)
34	2r red (d) on 8c pale red (d) on 2r blue (R1)	123A
37	1r black (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)	134A
38	20c yellow (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)	135B
39	1r red (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)	132A
46	2r black (d) on 20c black (d) on 250m ultramarine (T1)	135A

References

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

Friederich, F. Die Postwertzeichen Spaniens und Seiner Kolonien.
Berlin. 1894.

Galvez, M. Gatalogo Galvez: Sellos de Correos y Telegrafog.
Segundo Edicion, 1900-1901. Madrid. 1900.

Hanciau, L. "The Postal Issues of the Spanish Colony of the Philippines".
Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal. September 30, 1905. London. Page 47.

Harradine, P.W. A. Philippine Postage Stamps. Handbook, - Section One, - Spanish Period, 1854 - 1898/9. London. 1977.

Jacob, Jester. Philippine Islands, 1854-1898. Unpublished.
(photocopy of collection). 206 pages. Madrid. 1979.

Kohl, P. Freimarken Katalog. 1902-1903.

Lopez, L. Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos de Espana Sus Colonias. Madrid. 1890.

Mencarini, J. Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas. Manila. 1896.

Peterson, D. J. "Scott No. 123 -- A Mis-Described Issue of the Spanish Philippines". Philippine Philatelic Society, Journal. Vol. VIII. No. 2. August 1985. London

Scott Publishing Company. Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. New York. 1903 and 1985.

Stanley Gibbons. Catalogue of Postage Stamps of the World. American Edition. New York. 1903 and 1975.

Tows, F. H. Auction. New York. November 10-13, 1948.

Warren, A.H. "Fiscal Stamps of the Philippines: Handbook- Catalogue, 1856 to Date." American Philatelist. Vol. 81. No. 1. October 1967. Page. 60

THE "BANDHOLTZ" O B OFFICIALS

by R. C. Williams



Beginning on January 1st, 1906, by order of C. M. Cotterman, Director of Posts, officials of government offices were allowed to overprint stamps used for government business with the letters OB to indicate "Official Business". The order was a very loose one, so the overprints appeared in many and various shapes, sizes and forms. Some were done with pen and ink or typewriter, others "OFFICIAL BUSINESS" Or "OFFICIAL MAIL" in two lines. By far, the majority were done with assorted types of rubber stamps made locally. Many colored ink pads were used, and this, combined with the many stamps of different kinds overprinted (into the Republic issues), provides a collector with an endless task in attempting to complete a collection.

In 1907, a Colonel Bandholtz, Director of Constabulary, requested and obtained permission for the experimental use of a printed overprint using a printers' type. The purpose of this was to supply

his subordinates with stamps from his office and thus control the postal expenditures. In June 1907, the definitive issue of 1906 were overprinted with the letters O B with no period after the letters. They appeared in colors of black, red, blue, yellow and green with the black and blue being the most common.

When stamp collectors became aware of these overprints, the Director of Posts was flooded with orders which he promptly relayed to the Director of Constabulary, who directed that the orders be filled until the supply of stamps was exhausted.

At least one more printing of these was made on at least a portion of the "change of color" issue of 1909, which appears to have been overprinted in black ink only.

Few of these stamps appear in collections or auctions, giving the impression that few came into collectors hands. Neither Scott nor Gibbons have cataloged them, most likely because they have been classed as a local issue rather than one available to all branches of the government, i.e., they classed them with the other O B types as described above.

Black	Red	Blue	Yellow	Green
#241 X				
#241aX } 18,000	X 100	X 800	100	500
#242 X	X			
#242aX } 8,000	X 500	X 500	100	300
#243 X 4000	500	X 500	100	200
#244 X 4000	X 500	X 400	100	200
#245 X 2000	X 500	X 400	100	100
#246 X 2000	X 500	500	100	100
#247 X 1500	X 500	X 500	100	100
#248 1500	X 500	X 500	100	100
#249 2000	X 500	X 500	100	100
#250 X 1500	X 500	X 500	100	100
#251	X			
#252 X	X 150			
#253	X 100			
#254	X 100			
#255				
#256				
#257				
#258				
#259 X				
#260 X				
#260a				
#263 X				
#265 X				

#242 exists inverted (X) and double overprint in red & black

THE 1878 "0.0625" DE PESO ISSUE

by Don J. Peterson

On January 1, 1878, a "0.0625" de peso stamp was issued in Manila along with four other values depicting the effigy of King Alfonso XII of Spain. Expressing the value of that stamp as a decimal was unusual in that it was the only such case on a postal issue during the Spanish period (decimal values were common on some revenue issues, however). The "0.0625" de peso value was equivalent to 62 1/2 *milesimas de peso* or 6 2/8 *centavos de peso*. In the Scott current catalogue, this stamp is listed as #62 and # 62A, to distinguish a difference in color; gray and lilac, respectively.

Should there be two listings in the Scott catalogue? The fact that Scott lists the lilac issue as #62A rather than 62a suggests that Scott considers it more than just a color variation. A review of the literature, however, indicates that the listing of two separate issues may not be warranted and that the gray and lilac colors were probably only color variations of the same issue.

Two of the earliest catalogues, Argilies (1879) and Duro (1881), list only one issue -- lilac. However, Lopez (1890) was the first to list two issues -- one lilac and the other *violeta*. From then on, the cataloguers cannot agree. Some catalogues list one issue, (or one issue with a variation) such as Cotter and Quinto (1895), Bartels et al. (1904), and Hanciau (1905). In fact, the 1902 Scott catalogue differs from the current catalogue by listing it as gray (#45) with a lilac variation (#45a). Others such as Mencarini (1896), Galvez (1900), Palmer (1912), and Harradine (1977) list two issues. In all of these catalogues, the date of issue was listed as either 1878, or January 1878. In no case has any catalogue indicated that there was more than one printing.

Based on this review of the literature, there does not appear to be sufficient evidence to support the listing of two separate issues. Rather, the gray and lilac colors and other shades appear to be color variations of the same issue; in fact, of the same printing. Bartels et al. (1904) aptly attests to this diversity by listing a single issue in five color variations -- pale dull lilac, pale grayish lilac, pale lilac-gray, deep gray, and lilac slate.

I suggest that the Scott catalogue change "62A" to "62a", as listed in the 1902 Scott catalogue, to clearly reflect that the lilac and gray colors and other shades are merely color variations of the same issue.

Also, it does not appear important as to which color, lilac or gray, should be listed as the variation. Both colors appear to be equally prevalent.

One further note on current catalogues. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue is consistent with my suggestion, in that it lists a #68 lilac and a #68a gray. The Edifil Espana catalogue simply lists one entry -- a #37 gray.

If anyone has any comments on this matter, please contact IPPS, or Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 22012.

REFERENCES

Argiles, E. Apuntes Para La Historia y Descripcion De Los Sellos De Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales Emitidos En Espana y Sus Posesiones De Ultramar. 1879. Zaragoza, Spain.

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

Cotter, B. and Francisco De Quinto. Catalogo Descriptivo De Los Sellos De Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales De Las Islas Filipinas. 1895. Manila.

Duro, A. F. Segun La Resena Historico Descriptiva De Los Mismos. 1881. Madrid.

Galvez, M. Catalogo Galvez: Sellos de Correos y Telegrafos. Segundo Edicion, 1900-1901. Madrid. 1900.

Hanciau, L. "The Postal Issues of the Spanish Colony of the Philippines". Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal. September 30, 1905. London.

Harradine, P.W.A. Philippine Postal Stamps, Handbook, Section 1, Spanish Period, 1954-1898/99. 1977. London.

Lopez, L. Catalogo Descriptivo De Los Sellos De Correos De Espana Sus Colonias. 1890. Madrid.

Mencarini, J. Catalogo Descriptivo De Los Sellos De Correos y Tarjetas Postales De Las Islas Filipinas. 1896. Manila.

Palmer, F. L. The Postal Issues of the Philippines. 1912. New York.

FROM THE PAST....Reprints from days gone by that have been important to the philately of the Philippines.

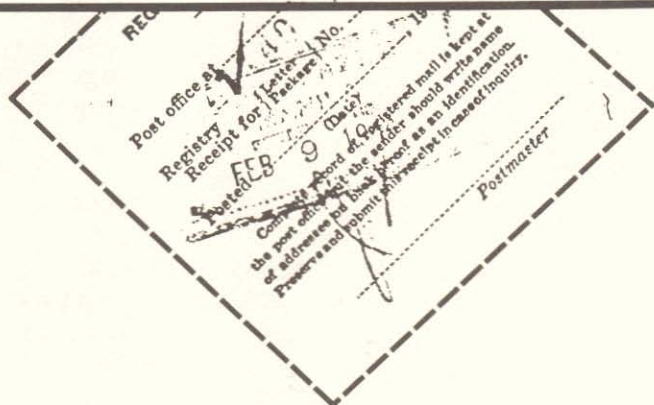


Sometimes even a humble cover such as illustrated above has its charms. The envelope is UPSS No. 25 (Scott No. U17), the 1-cent Franklin green on white with a "socked-on-the-nose" cork cancel, and the stamp is Scott No. 241, the 2-centavos deep green. It is addressed rather grandiloquently in Spanish "To the Honorable Fiscal General of these Philippine Islands/Manila", postmarked November 20, 1906, at Caramoan, Ambos Camarines. George Sloane had this sort of cover in mind when he wrote the following in his "Sloane's Column", October 24, 1942:

Philippine Two-Currency Covers

It is not often, in the stamp issues of any country, that covers are seen franked with stamps of two currencies, yet in the period about 1906 to 1910, Philippine covers are occasionally seen which are stamped with the U.S. overprinted issues of 1899-1904 in combination with some of the Philippine designs which went into use in 1906. The U.S. overprinted issues were sold and used on a dollar and cents basis, while the Philippine designs were valued in centavos and pesos, a centavo valued at 1/2¢ American, a peso (100 centavos) at 50¢. Letters were so franked from the Philippines as often as sizable stocks of some values of the U.S. overprinted issues remained in island post offices, and until these stocks were entirely superseded by the permanent Philippine designs. All values of the Philippine issue did not issue at the same time and many offices used stocks of both issues concurrently. Such covers showing mixed franking are always interesting.

"The Album Page"



An unusual usage: A first day cover of the souvenir sheet was mailed on a postal card and sent registered.

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