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Philippine Philatelic Journal

NEW SPANISH PHILIPPINE "MUESTRA" VARIETY DISCOVERED, UP-DATED LIST OF GENUINE "MUESTRA" TYPES, AND DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN "MUESTRA" FORGERIES

by Don Peterson

In recent years, Spanish Philippine postal stamps overprinted with several forms of MUESTRA, meaning "specimen," have become increasingly popular with Philippine collectors. The last update of these types was by Peterson (1990). For information on the production, history, and use of specimens, refer to Peterson (1988).

This article describes the discovery of a new MUESTRA variety, updates the description and list of genuine types on postal and newspaper issues, and describes known forgeries of the MUESTRA overprint.

New Muestra Type 1 Variety Discovered

In September 1993, Bob Yacano obtained several specimens from a collection that closely, but did not exactly, fit the description for Type 1. Through Mr. Yacano, I had the opportunity to purchase several of these stamps. The key difference between the new type with Type 1 is that some of the lines in the word MUESTRAS in the new type are distinctly thicker. This variety of Type 1 is considered genuine because the overprint is identical in size and color; and the ink appears identical to the original when the reverse sides are compared under strong light. Since it is similar to Type 1, it is named Type 1A. Table 1 describes these differences in more detail.

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Up-Dated List Of Genuine Muestra Types

Table 1 is an up-dated description of specimen types of the Spanish Philippines. It includes Type 1A and revisions to other types since the 1990 article. Table 2 is an up-dated list, since 1990, of known occurrences of specimen types on postal and newspaper issues of the Spanish Philippines. It also includes revisions to the relative scarcity indicators. Following Table 2 are illustrations of each of the specimen types.

Table 1
Description of Specimen Types of The
Spanish Philippines

Type 1. Handstamped "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR MUESTRAS" in two lines. The top line, "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR," has san serif letters. The bottom line, "MUESTRAS," has serif letters. 15mm by ?mm. Blue. Usually with no gum. Found on 1871-1879 issues.

Type 1A. Similar to Type 1, except that some of the lines in "MUESTRAS" are thicker. For example, the left vertical line of the "U" is 1mm. wide, instead of 3/4mm. wide, as in Type 1. The vertical line of "E" is 1 to 1-1/4mm. wide, instead of 1/2 to 3/4mm. wide, as in Type 1.

Type 2. Handstamped "MUESTRA" with sans serif letters. 2mm. by 14mm. Red. With gum. Found on 1886-1896 issues.

Type 3. Handstamped "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR MUESTRAS" in two lines. The top line, "MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR," has serif letters. The bottom line, "MUESTRAS," has sans serif letters. 17mm. by 42-1/2mm. Violet. With gum. Found on 1890-1896 issues.

Type 4. Typeset "MUESTRA" with sans serif letters. 1 to 1-1/2 mm. by 10-1/2mm. Violet. With gum. Found on 1897 issues.

Type 5. Typeset "MUESTRA" with sans serif letters. 3mm. by 13mm. Violet. With gum. Found on 1897-1898 issues.

Table 2
Known Occurrence Of Specimen Types On
Postal And Newspaper Issues Of The
Spanish Philippines

Scott No. 1	1A	2	3	4	5	
39 (cardstock)	VR					
40 (cardstock)	R					
41 (cardstock)	VR					
42 (cardstock)	VR					
43 (blue color proof)	R					
44	R					
45 (imperf proof)	VS	VS				
46 (rose color proof)	R					
47	R					
	VS					
48	VS					
49	VS					
50	VS					
51	R					
52	VS					
54	VS					
56	VS	VS				
57	VS					
58	VS					
64	VS					
140			S	VS		
141			S	VS		
142				VS		
143			VS		VS	VS
144			S	VS		
145			S	VS		
146			S			
147				VS		
148			S	VS		
149			S			
150			S	VS		
151			S	VS		
152		S				
153		S	VS			
154 (pref. proof) *			VR			
155			VS			
156		S	VS			
157		S	VS			
158		S	VS			
159		S				
160			S	VS		
161			S			
162			S	VS		
163			S			

Scott No. 1	1A	2	3	4	5	
164			S	VS		
165			S	VS		
166			S	VS		
167			S			
168			S	VS		
169			S	VS		
170			S	VS		
171				VS		
172			VS	R		
173			S			
174			S	VS		
175			S	VS		
176				VS		
177			S			
178			S	VS		
179			VS		VS	
180					R	
192						S
193						S
194						S
195						S
196						S
197						S
198						S
199						S
200						S
201						S
202						S
203						S
204						S
204 (Imperf. proof)						VR
206						S
207						S
208						S
209						S
210						R
211						R
P1			S			
P2			S			
P3			S			
P4			S			
P5			S			
P7				VS		
P8				VS		
P9			S			
P11				VS		
P12			S	VS		
P13			S			
P15				VS		
P16				VS		
P17			S			
P18			R	R		
P19				VS		
P20				VS		

* Scott #154 was delisted from the 1994 Scott Catalog, but was included as a footnote.
 Note: Relative dearcity is indicated by S=scarce, VS=very scarce, R=rare, and VR=very rare.
 4:4/4



Type 1 on #45



Type 1A on #45



Type 2 on #153



Type 4 on #143



Type 3 on #171



Type 5 on #143

Unfortunately, the examples accompanying Don Peterson's article reproduced poorly. It was too late to correct the Journal, so we have inserted a new page 5. Our apologies.



Type 1 on #45



Type 1A on #45



Type 2 on #153



Type 4 on #143



Type 3 on #171



Type 5 on #143

Muestra Forgeries

Since 1990, four different forgeries of specimen overprints have been identified. These include one of Type 1, one of Type 2, and two of Type 5. Only one (referred to as the First Type 5 Forgery in this article) had been previously described in the philatelic literature (refer to Agustin and Peterson, 1991). Collectors should use caution when purchasing specimens, unseen, through the mail. The following is a description of each of the known forgery types.

Type 1 Forgery

This forgery was found on Scott #177, an 1890 issue. It is described as follows.

Genuine

1. Occurs on 1871-1879 issues only.
2. Overprint color blue.
3. Overprint ink fairly solid and the letters are well-defined.

Forgery

1. Occurs on 1890 issue.
2. Overprint color blue-green.
3. Overprint ink and letters blotchy.

Type 2 Forgery

This forgery was first discovered in 1993, but is believed to be an earlier forgery. Found on 1890s issues. It is described as follows.

Genuine

1. Slim "A" with small triangle.
2. Overprint color red.
3. Ink slightly blotchy when reverse side observed under light.
4. Overprint 14 mm. long.
5. Top bottom circles in "S" are approximately the same size.
6. Applied by handstamp.

Forgery

1. Broad "A" with large triangle.
2. Overprint color red-brown.
3. Ink more constant (solid) when reverse side observed under light.
4. Overprint 15 mm. long.
5. Bottom circle of "S" slightly larger than top circle.
6. Appears to have been applied by typeset.

First Type 5 Forgery

This forgery was described by Agustin and Peterson (1991). It is believed to be a recent forgery, first discovered in 1989 or 1990. Found on 1898 issues. Refer to the above article for more details. It is described as follows.

Genuine

1. Overprint 13 mm. long.
2. Well-formed letter "M".
3. Short leg of "R" arches downwards.
4. Slim "A" with small triangle.

Forgery

1. Overprint 14 mm. long.
2. "M" with crude half-serif at inside bottom of right leg.
3. Short leg of "R" extends diagonally to the right.
4. Broad "A" with large triangle.

Second Type 5 Forgery

This forgery, although discovered in 1993, is believed to be an earlier forgery. Found on 1898 issues. This is a very deceptive forgery. It is described as follows.

Genuine

1. Overprint 13 mm. long
2. Slim "A" with small triangle.
3. Ink slightly blotchy when reverse side observed under light.
4. Applied by typeset.

Forgery

1. Overprint 12.75 mm. long.
2. Slimmer "A" with slimmer triangle.
3. Ink more constant (solid) when reverse side observed under light.
4. Appears to have been applied by handstamp.

If you have any additional information on Spanish Philippine specimens or forgeries of specimens, please contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20012.

References

- Agustin, S., Jr., and D. Peterson. "Bogus MUESTRA Overprinted King Alfonso XIII Stamps of 1898." *Philippine Philatelic Journal*. Vol. XIII. No. 1 First Quarter 1991. Eden, NY.
- Peterson, D. "Specimens of the Spanish Philippines." *Philippine Philatelic News*. Vol. X. No. 2. April 1988. Eden, NY.
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PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL POSTAGE STAMPS
1910-1936, Part III
by Arnold Warren

This request was not granted, but the Post Office suggested that an overprint be used, similar to the overprint being used by the Rambler Shoe Company and the Howard Lux Company. Brias Roxas agreed and on May 26 of the same year began using overprinted stamps. The overprint on the stamps used by Brias Roxas consisted of "Manila P.I." in capitals and lower case letters, instead of capitals alone." Mr. Catala does not list the denominations to which this overprint was applied.

The writer has never seen a stamp bearing this overprint. It is possible that the overprint actually supplied to Brian Roxas was exactly the same as the overprint (Type 7) supplied to the Rambler Shoe Company and the Howard Lux Company.



Type 8. Overprinted A MANILA p. I., in three lines of capitals. - Mr. Catala states: "The sporting goods firm of C. L. Alkan, Inc., placed an order for stamps over-printed with the letter, A, and MANILA P. I., in three lines, on March 10, 1926. The values overprinted for the first order consisted of the 2c, 4c, 10c, 20c, 30c, and 1 peso. In 1931 this company was absorbed by the Heacock interests and the stamps were consequently with-

drawn from circulation." This overprint occurs upon stamps of the 1917-25 issue. In addition to the denominations listed by Mr. Catala, it also occurs upon the 16 centavos (Dewey) of the 1923 issue.



Type 9. Overprinted H MANILA P. I., in three lines of capitals. - Mr. Catala states: "On May 5, 1926, the department store, H.E. Heacock Company, placed with the Bureau of Posts an order for a new type of overprint with the initial "H" above the lines MANILA and P. I. The following values were included: 2c, 4c, 10c, 20c, and 30c." This overprint occurs upon the 2c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 20c, 30c, and 1-peso denominations of the 1917-

25 issue. Mr. Catala lists the 2-centavos with inverted overprint. The writer has not seen the inverted overprint. This overprint remained in use until it was superseded, probably in 1929, by the overprint,

HEACOCK'S MANILA (Type 12.)



Type 10. Overprinted "C S" MANILA P. I., in three lines of capitals. - Mr. Catala states: "On June 6, 1927, the Camera Supply Company began using stamps overprinted "C S" MANILA P. I., in three lines. The values included the 2c, 4c, 20c, 30c and 1 peso." This overprint occurs upon stamps of the 1917-25 issue. In addition to the denominations mentioned by Mr. Catala, it also occurs upon the 6c, 8c, and 10c of the 1917-25 issue, and upon the 16 centavos (Dewey) of the 1923 issue. The use of this overprint was discontinued when the business of the Camera Supply Company was liquidated after the owner died. The writer does not recall the year in which the Camera Supply Company ceased to operate, but he believes that it was 1928 or 1929. This overprint occurs only upon the lilac shade of the 6 centavos, which was exhausted by 1928. Several of the denominations of this overprint are rare.



Type 11. Overprinted RAMBLER MANILA, in two lines of capitals. - Mr. Catala states: "The Rambler Shoe Company later used a new type of overprint which consisted of the words, RAMBLER MANILA, in two lines, this type being the rarest because it was used only in 1929, the year when the Company closed its business." Mr. Catala does not list the denominations upon which this overprint occurs.

The writer has seen this overprint only upon the 12-centavos denomination of the 1917-25 issue. He recalls, however, that a philatelist in the United States, prior to the second World War, reported the occurrence of this overprint upon the 6-centavos denomination.



Type 12. Overprinted HEACOCK'S MANILA, in two lines of Gothic capitals - This overprint, in two lines of Gothic capitals, was used by the H. E. Heacock Company and superseded the earlier overprint, H MANILA P. I., which was used by the same company. Mr. Catala does not give the date of issue of the overprint, HEACOCK'S MANILA. The writer believes that it was issued in 1929, the year in which the similar overprint,

RAMBLER MANILA, was issued. It remained in use until 1935.

The overprint, HEACOCK'S MANILA, occurs upon the 26-centavos denomination of the 1911-13 issue, upon the the 2c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 16c, (Dewey) 20c and 30c denominations of the 1917-25 issue, and upon the the 2c and 20c denominations of the 1935 regular issue.

In 1935 the overprint, HEACOCK'S MANILA, was the only commercial overprint still remaining in use. Mr. Charlie Stocking, who was both a philatelist and an executive of the H.E. Heacock Company, informed me late in 1935 that a few days after the 20-centavos of the 1935 issue overprinted HEACOCK'S MANILA was delivered to the H. E. Heacock Company an order was received from the Bureau of Posts, prohibiting further use of the Overprint, HEACOCK'S MANILA, and demanding immediate return to the Bureau of Posts of all unused stamps bearing this overprint. Mr. Stocking said that the unused remainder of these stamps was returned to the Bureau of Posts on the same day that the order was received, and that he was not informed until after the stamps were returned. As a result, he had no opportunity to obtain a supply for philatelic purposes of the 2 centavos and 20 centavos denominations of the 1935 issue overprinted HEACOCK'S MANILA.

Since the 20 centavos denomination of the 1935 issues overprinted HEACOCK'S MANILA was in use only a very few days before it was withdrawn by the Bureau of Posts, this stamp is the rarest of the commercial overprints.

Check List of Philippine Commercial Postage Stamps

The list which follows of Philippine Commercial Postage Stamps may be incomplete. The writer invites fellow philatelists to report to him any varieties of these stamps which are not listed.

Philippine Commercial Postage Stamps

A. Perforated Initials

Stamps upon which the user, as a means of identification in case of theft or unauthorized use, perforated its initials after the stamps were obtained from the Bureau of Posts. Prior to 1925, this practice, although not specifically authorized, was permitted by the Bureau of Posts. Early in 1925, the Director of Posts issued an order prohibiting the use of postage stamps bearing perforated initials. But one user,

believed to be the American Red Cross, continued to use postage stamps bearing its perforated initials until sometime in 1926.

1912-26(?). Postage stamps bearing the perforated initials A R C. It is believed that these stamps were used by the Manila office of the American Red Cross. (Type 1).

On stamps of the 1911-14 Regular Issue - Perforation 12. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS.

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 261)
- 4c carmine (on Scott's No. 262)
- 6c deep violet (on Scott's No. 263)
- 8c brown (on Scott's No. 264)
- 10c blue (on Scott's No. 265)
- 12c red orange (on Scott's No. 266)
- 26c blue green (on Scott's No. 269)
- 1p pale violet (lilac) (on Scott's No. 271)
- 30c gray (on Scott's No. 275)

On Stamps of the 1914-23 Regular Issue - Perforation 10. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 276)
- 20c orange yellow (on Scott's No. 283)

On Stamps of the 1918-26 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 285)
- 8c light brown (on Scott's No. 287A)
- 10c dark blue (on Scott's No. 288)
- 16c light olive green (on Scott's No. 289)

On Stamps of the 1917-25 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Unwatermarked

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 290b)
- 6c lilac (on Scott's No. 292a)
- 8c yellow brown (on Scott's No. 293)
orange brown (on Scott's No. 293a)
- 10c deep blue (on Scott's No. 294)
- 12c red orange (on Scott's No. 295)
- 16c light olive green (Sampson) (on Scott's No. 296)

- 20c orange yellow (on Scott's No. 297)
- 26c blue green (on Scott's No. 298a)
- 30c gray (on Scott's No. 299)
- 16c olive bistre (Dewey) (on Scott's No. 303)
- olive green (Dewey) (on Scott's No. 303a)

On Stamps of 1926 Legislative Palace Issue - Perforation 12. Unwatermarked

- 16c olive green & black (on Scott's No. 321)
- 20c orange & black (on Scott's No. 323)

1912-22 (?). Postage stamps bearing the perforated initials C B I. It is believed that these stamps were used by the Manila Branch of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. (Type 2).

On Stamps of the 1911-14 Regular Issue - Perforation 12. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 261)
- 8c brown (on Scott's No. 264)

On Stamps of the 1914-23 Regular Issue - Perforation 10. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 276)

On Stamps of the 1917-25 Regular Issue - Perforated 11. Unwatermarked

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 290b)
- 10c deep blue (on Scott's No. 294)
- 16c light olive green (Sampson) (on Scott's No. 296)
- 20c orange yellow (on Scott's No. 297)

1923-25 (?). Postage stamps bearing the perforated initials P E Co, in two lines. These stamps were used by the Philippine Education Company of Manila. (Type 3).

On Stamps of the 1917-25 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Unwatermarked.

- 2c green (on Scott's No. 290b)
- 4c carmine (on Scott's No. 291)

- 10c deep blue (on Scott's No. 294)
- 20c orange yellow (on Scott's No. 297)
- 30c gray (on Scott's No. 299)
- 1p lilac (on Scott's No. 300)
- 16c olive green (Dewey) (on Scott's No. 303a)

B. Imperforate Postage Stamps

In 1925, the Philippine Bureau of Posts issued for the exclusive use of the Lambert Sales Company of Manila a series of imperforate postage stamps. These stamps were printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C., from the same plates as were then in use for printing the current series of perforate postage stamps. The 1925 imperforates may be distinguished by their colors from a similar series of imperforate postage stamps which was issued in 1931. Some used specimens of the 1925 imperforates bear cancellations which identify the stamps as used prior to 1931. The quantity issued includes 100 stamps of each denomination sent to the Bureau of Posts, Manila, as samples. What disposition was made of the samples is not known. The list of plate numbers was furnished by Mr. Louis Stefan of Philadelphia.

1925 (May 5). Types of the 1917-27. Imperforate. Unwatermarked. (Type 4).

Denomination, Color, Etc.	Plate Numbers	Quantity Issued
2c green (Scott's No. 340).....	84678, 84679	50,100
4c carmine rose (Scott's No. 341a)	44873, 44874	25,100
6c deep violet (Scott's No. 342).....	21972	5,100
8c orange brown (Scott's No. 343a).....	21973	5,100
10c deep blue (Scott's No. 344)	34792	2,100
12c deep red orange (Scott's No. 345a)	21974	2,100
16c olive bistre (Dewey) (Scott's No. 346).....	89998	2,100
20c deep orange yellow (Scott's No. 347a)	21986, 21999	2,100
26c blue green (Scott's No. 348).....	21991	2,100
30c gray (Scott's No. 349)	21993	2,100
1p lilac (Scott's No. 350)	22000	2,100
2p violet brown (Scott's No. 351)	22001	600
4p deep blue (Scott's No. 352).....	22008	300
10p deep green (Scott's No. 353)	22010	200

SPECIAL DELIVERY

20c violet blue (Scott's No. E6a)	22620	2,100
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C. Commercial Handstamps

1924-25 (?). Stamps of the 1911 to 1925 issues handstamped R.S. within a single-line rectangular frame, 20mm x 22mm. used by the Rambler Shoe Company of Manila. (Type 5). This handstamp was superceded on June 20, 1925, by the overprint, MANILA P.I. (See Type 7.)

On Stamps of the 1911-14 Regular Issue - Perforation 12. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

12c red orange (violet handstamp) (on Scott's No. 266)
red orange (Blue handstamp)
red orange (black handstamp)

On Stamps of the 1914-23 Regular Issue - Perforation 10. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

30c gray (blue handstamp) (On Scott's No. 284)

On Stamps of the 1918-26 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

30c gray (black handstamp) (on Scott's No. 289C)

On Stamps of the 1917-25 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Unwatermarked

2c green (black handstamp) (on Scott's No. 290b)
4c carmine (black handstamp) (on Scott's No. 291)
6c lilac (blue handstamp) (on Scott's No. 292a)
10c deep blue (violet handstamp) (on Scott's No. 294)
12c red orange (blue handstamp) (on Scott's No. 295)
26c blue green (violet handstamp) (on Scott's No. 298)
30c gray (violet handstamp) (on Scott's No. 299)
gray (blue handstamp)

1929 (?). Stamps of the 1917-25 issue handstamped HEACOCK'S MANILA in two lines of Gothic capitals between two horizontal lines 11.5mm apart and about 17mm long. Used by the H.E. Heacock Company of Manila during a very brief period when its supply of the 2c and 20c denominations overprinted H MANILA P. I. was exhausted and these denominations bearing the new overprint

HEACOCK's MANILA had not yet been received from the Bureau of Posts. (Type 6).

On Stamps of the 1917-25 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Unwatermarked

2c yellow green (violet handstamp) (on Scott's No. 290)

20c orange yellow (violet handstamp) (on Scott's No. 297)

D. Commercial Overprints

Philippine postage stamps bearing commercial overprints are not "pre-cancelled" stamps. The commercial overprint was applied solely to enable the user to identify its stamps in case of theft or unauthorized use. The postage stamps bearing these commercial overprints were issued by the Philippine Bureau of Posts for use exclusively by certain specified users. The overprint was applied by the Bureau of Printing (Manila) prior to delivery of the stamps by the Bureau of Posts to the authorized user. The stamps bearing commercial overprints were cancelled in the usual manner when mail bearing these stamps passed through the post office.

1925 (June 20). Overprinted in black MANILA P. I. in two lines of capitals between two parallel triple lines, 19mm long. Each triple line consists of a heavy line between two thin lines. The overall height of the overprint is 14.25 mm. (Type 7) Used by the Rambler Shoe Company and the Howard Lux Company, both of Manila. This overprint was superceded in 1929 by the overprint RAMBLER MANILA. (See Type 11).

On Stamps of the 1914-23 Regular Issue - Perforation 10. Wmkd. Single-line PIPS

1p lilac (on Scott's No. 284A)

On Stamps of the 1917-25 Regular Issue - Perforation 11. Unwatermarked

2c green (on Scott's No. 290b)

4c carmine (on Scott's No. 291)

6c lilac (on Scott's No. 292a)

8c orange brown (on Scott's No 293a)

12c red orange (on Scott's No. 295)

20c orange yellow (on Scott's No. 297)

- 26c blue green (on Scott's No. 298)
30c gray (on Scott's No. 299)
16c olive green (Dewey) (on Scott's No. 303a)

1926 (May 26). Overprinted in black Manila P. I. in two lines of capital and lower case letters. Mr. Ramon Catala states: "On February 24, 1926, Brias Roxas, a large mail-order house (of Manila), inquired from the Post Office if it could be allowed to use its trade name, "BRIROX," on its stamps. This request was not granted, but the Post Office suggested that an overprint be used, similar to the overprint being used by the Rambler Shoe Company and the Howard Lux Company. The overprint on the stamps used by Brias Roxas consisted of 'Manila P. I.' in capitals and lower case letters, instead of capitals alone." Mr. Catala does not list the denominations to which this overprint was applied. His information was obtained from the records of the Bureau of Posts. The writer has never seen a stamp bearing this overprint. (Type 7a). It is possible that the overprint actually supplied to Brias Roxas was exactly the same as the overprint (Type 7) supplied to the Rambler Shoe Company and the Howard Lux Company. In going over the records of the Bureau of Posts and of the Bureau of Printing (Manila), the writer encountered several cases of alterations of the instructions originally issued by the Bureau of Posts, alterations which may have been authorized verbally, since the records of the Bureau of Posts contained no mention of the alteration.

1926 (April). Overprinted in black A MANILA P. I. in three lines of capitals between two horizontal triple lines, 19mm long. Each triple line consists of a heavy line between two thin lines. The overall height of the overprint is 17.5 mm. Used by C.L. Alkan, Inc., of Manila until this company was absorbed by the H.E. Heacock Company in 1931. (Type 8).

Continued Next Issue...

**COLLECTORS CLUB EXHIBIT
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS NIGHT AT A WELL ATTENDED
MEETING OF THE CLUB**

Notes by Charles J. Philips

A large number of members and visitors to the Collectors Club had a great treat on Wednesday evening, April 2nd when Mr. Ferrars H. Tows exhibited his matchless collection the Philippine Isles.

Mr. Tows has been a collector since 1885 and about ten years ago decided to specialize in the U.S. Possessions, and was good enough to bring to the Club his eleven volumes of Philippine Islands and give us a first-rate

talk on them.

After an inspection of this fine collection it was the general opinion that the catalogue lists of this country required re-writing in toto, and if any responsible cataloger wants to undertake the job I am sure that Mr. Tows would gladly help, as this is an important group of stamps of a great U.S. Possession that should be properly written up while the material is available.

Space at my disposal will only allow of a few brief notes, whereas many pages would be occupied in a proper description of these stamps.

1854 - 5c orange, with fine and coarse lines, about a dozen unused, including one on thick ribbed paper which is believed to be unique.

5c used several on covers with various cancellations, a block of four and an extraordinary block of 37 used.

10c pale rose. An unused block of four, very rare in this colour in a block, and a number of singles.

10c carmine. Large number of unused and used in singles, pairs and blocks and a reconstructed sheet of the 40 types.

1rl. These are divided into three groups of colors, the slate-blue, blue and ultramarine, fine lot of shades and reconstructed sheets in what Mr. Tows thinks are the first and last printings. There is also a wonderful uncut sheet of the 40 types, used, an extraordinary item to find thus preserved.

2 rls. green. A beautiful page of unused in a perfect gradation of shades, 29 copies in all. Also a reconstructed sheet of the 40 types used.

It should be noted that in this grand lot of the rare 1854 issues every stamp is perfect, no thin spots or tears. Those who have handled many of these stamps well know how difficult it is to form a large collection of perfect copies.

1855 - 5c broken circle. Nine copies with the four types plated.

5c re-engraved. A fine unused pair believed to be unique.

1856 - A number of the Cuba design stamps used in the Philippines in blocks of four and six and many copies on letters with all known cancellations.

1859 - 1863 - Many pages of these in all varieties of color, shade, paper and gum and all in groups of 4 types and some in full sheets. In one setting of the 10c Mr. Tows drew attention to No. 38 on the sheet which is without

period after the 10.

In the thin paper group of the 5c he pointed out that one setting has a frame line round each group of 4 stamps, and another one without this frame line.

In regard to the scarce 1 r1 violet and 2 rls blue it was pointed out that the 2 reales was printed first, then the figures "2" in the groups of 4 were removed and "1's" were inserted in order to print the 1 real.

In the 2 rls. blue Mr. Tows has a block of 4.

1868 - The issue with "HABILITADO" & c., is a wonderful lot with the overprint in every possible position except on the backs of the stamps.

1864 - 1879 - issues include a large number of essays and also "printer's waste."

1875 - 1876 - and later issues. Mr. Tows drew attention to the fact that all these can be made up in two distinct sets, the one with yellow and the other with white gum.

1877 - 1879 - The provisionals are a grand lot with all varieties and errors. Mr. Tows specially drew attention to the blue surcharges which he has found very rare. The genuine are in bright blue, those usually sold are in a dull color and are forgeries. The originals are very rare.

From 1878 to 1882 most of the stamps come in very clear impressions and in colors markedly different to the regular and common issues. Mr. Tows believes that these are Special Printings, probably only one or two sheets of each, that were printed off for some Spanish Royalty and some of which have got into circulation.

In the 1879 he drew attention to the error "COREROS" which comes in a pair side by side in the sheet, and he also showed the rarer error CORZOS which was once catalogued but for some reason has now been dropped out.

1882 issue includes the rare 25c green in a block of four.

The provisionals of 1881-88 are a wonderful part of the collection with many large blocks, and almost all of them double and inverted. Here Mr. Tows drew our attention to uncataloged varieties which he had found on the 2nd and 3rd re-engraving of the 24/8c ultra-marine. Among many rarities in this issue I can only note:

Un real in black on 2c carmine, the only copy known without the hole punched in it.

Un real in green on 8c on 2c carmine, not catalogued by Scott.

8c on 10c bistre in a pair, one surcharge inverted.

In the 1889 Recargo provisionals a rare variety is the error 11 4/8 on 5p for 11 2/8.

There is a fine lot of all varieties issued in 1899 by the Republic, unused, used and on covers.

Of stamps issued under American Dominion, there is a most remarkable lot and one that cannot be duplicated in any collection. They include all printings in blocks, shades and plate numbers in strips of three.

In 1900 issue Mr. Tows showed the special surcharges for the Paris Exhibition, also the Postage Dues.

In 1904, at the time of the St. Louis Exhibition, Mr. J. M. Bartels who had been appointed Special Agent to prepare and arrange the exhibit, asked for some stamps to complete it. A special printing was made and a sheet of 100 each of the 2c (Flag), 6c, \$1, \$2 and \$5 was sent, from which five copies had to be selected for the exhibition and the rest returned to the Bureau.

Of the 6c there is a strip of three, the right hand stamp has a broad diagonal bar across it indicating that the plate had been cancelled for destruction prior to use.

The Special Printing of the \$5 is the only impression ever made from plate 288, the ordinary number being 85. Mr. Tows showed this rare \$5 with the plate number which is unique.

In the 1903 issue he showed two pairs and a block of four of the 10c, one in each with and one without the surcharge and all penstroked. Mr. Tows mentioned that only one vertical row of this error ever existed.

In the 1903-04 set and the Postage Dues there are also Special Printings of the surcharges, only one sheet being printed of each value.

The O.B. stamps are an almost complete series in many sets of different types of the letters. They were shown in pairs with and without O.B. With the O.B. double, also in red and in black on same stamp, handstamped - and with MSS surcharges.

Mr. Ams moved a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Tows for the fine collection he had shown and the interesting description of it that he had given.

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* No. 1 and No. 2 of 1993 are incorrectly marked volume XVI. Should be Vol. XV.

International Philippine Philatelic Society

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