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Philippine Philatelic Journal

UNITED STATES MILITARY STATIONS: THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF CEBU

by Nestor C. Nuñez and Alfred F. Kugel

(Third in a series. The first part appeared in No. 3, 3rd Quarter, 1996 and the second in No. 2, 2nd Quarter, 1997.)

After occupying the town of Iloilo (Panay Island) on February 11, 1899, the instruction of Gen. Marcus Miller (of the 1st Separate Brigade of the 8th Army) (1) was to proceed to the town of Cebu (Cebu Island) and similarly occupy it. To this end, the *Petrel* was sent there from Iloilo. As in the case of Iloilo, resistance was expected, but the occupation of the town was achieved without bloodshed.

The situation in Cebu at that time, as related by the German consul to Faust (2): "There was a stormy meeting of the townspeople on February 17 upon hearing of the approach of the Americans. The young men advised the burning of the town and fighting to the bitter end, but the older men advised calmer councils. There was a second meeting at noon and the wiser heads prevailed. On February 21, the *Petrel* was seen, and prominent local persons Llorente, Majie, Garardo, Qui and Climaco, leaders of Cebu, went out to meet her. When told by Mr. Sidebottom, English Consul, who was acting for the American government about the intentions of the Americans, Majie said that "the people of Cebu, finding themselves abandoned by the Spaniards, have joined the Filipino republic." The Commander of the *Petrel* gave them until eight o'clock on February 22 to surrender. A great many were in favor of burning the town, but at seven o'clock on the night of February 21, it was agreed under the influence of Majie and Llorente, to yield to superior force and to give up the town, but under

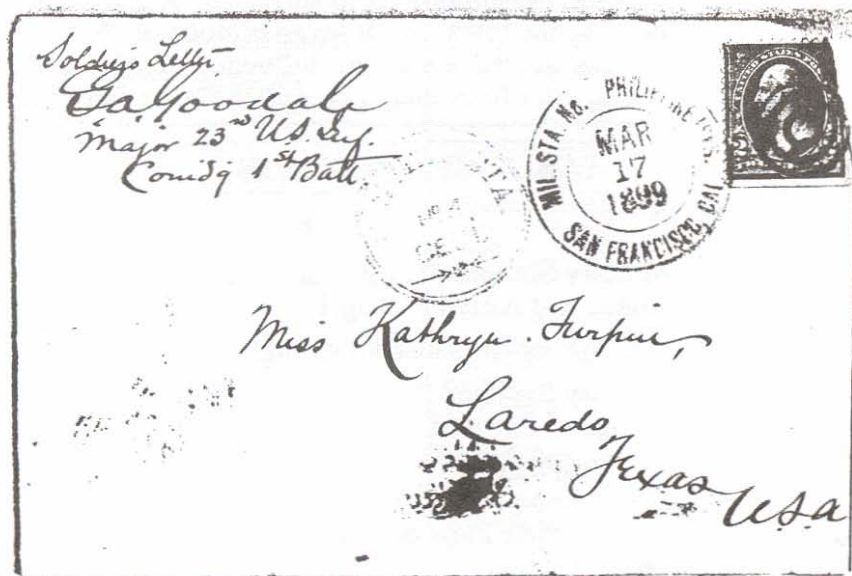
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protest, stating that they had no order from Aguinaldo to that effect (3). At 8:30 a.m. on February 22, they sent word to the commander of the *Petrel*. At 9:30 forty sailors were landed, and at 9:40 the Stars and Stripes were hoisted over Cebu.

On February 28, the 1st Battalion of the 23rd Infantry under Major George S. Goodale left Manila for Cebu, arriving on March 1. To quote Goodale: "We left Manila for Cebu on only a few hours' notice and possibly there was no time for a postal agent to accompany us. However, one arrived soon thereafter. In the interim all mail was handled by the military authorities. The post office was opened May 1, 1899" (4). In the Hoge (5) photocopy archives is a cover sent by Goodale to Colfax, California with a Manila small steel postmark of March 8, 1899. At the back of the cover is this notation in manuscript: "From Cebu before it was Military Station No. 4." This cover gives a likely indication that the first mails from Cebu might have been sent to Manila without local processing. Local military personnel would have processed mail shortly thereafter, as the Cebu DS1 and US1, have been recorded as early as March 17, 1899. It is reasonable to assume that Cebu became a military postal station on May 1, 1899 (date of opening of the post office per Goodale).

Cebu was the 2nd District Headquarters of the Department of the Visayas, United States Army, in March 1900. Col. Hamer of the Idaho regiment was initially the military governor. Civil government was established April 18, 1901; restored to the military July 17, 1901; and restored to civil government January 1, 1902 (6).



The following are the recorded postmarks of Cebu, including postage due and auxiliary markings.



DS1. Double-ring rubber cancel-ler with "1" deleted. This device was first used in Manila, which was Military Station No. 1. (7). Seen used in Cebu always with US 1, but similar devices (also with "1" deleted) were also used in Iloilo and in Bacolod as stand alone postmarks. This combination has also been seen as a receiving mark (earliest March 17, latest April 10, 1899). Struck in black or blue black.

Earliest: March 16, 1899
Latest: May 1, 1899



DS2. Single-ring rubber datestamp 29 mm, with three horizontal bar killers 16 mm wide. Struck in purple or red purple or black (March 6, 1900 usage). Also used as a receiving cancel.

Earliest: May 6, 1899
Latest: September 1, 1900



DS3. Single-ring steel datestamp 29 mm. Eight bar barrel killer. "Standard" type of civil government postmarks. Seen with year slug inverted (June 19, 1900). Struck in black.

Earliest: April 3, 1900
Latest: used well beyond July 4, 1902



US1. Undated double-ring stamp, used as postal station identifier together with DS1, or as an early receiving stamp. In his article (4), Goodale mentioned a "cover from California to Cebu with a Manila postmark of April 10, 1899" and this postmark (US1) as a receiving mark (8).

Earliest: March 16, 1899
 Latest: May 1?, 1899



RC1. Single-ring rubber datestamp 30 mm, with "REC'D" at bottom of dial. A cover in the Kugel collection shows this mark used as a canceller on July 5, 1900, on registered mail to Leipzig on July 5, 1900, with RG1. Struck in purple (per Goodale) or black, or blue black.

Earliest: May 25, 1899
 Latest: November 20, 1900

REGISTERED

MAR 6 1901
 Military Station No. 4,
 Cebu, Phil. Islands.

RG1. Four-line registration stamp of mixed seriffed and non-seriffed capital and small letters 4 to 5 mm tall, lines 39 to 41 mm long. Generally used with dumb killers obliterating the stamps. Color unknown.

Earliest: June 2, 1899
 Latest: December 11, 1901

R

RG2. Thick, non-serif capital letter "R" sometimes used with RG1, and preceded or followed by the registration number in Cebu. (Registered letters normally also receive another registry control number in Manila). Color of strikes unknown.

Earliest: June 2, 1899
 Latest: December 30, 1899



RG3. Double-circle registered cancel, civilian government type, 30 mm outer circle diameter. Seen used with indistinct obliterator, which look like AX3.

Earliest: May 9, 1902

POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS.

PD1. State I. "POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS" in capital Roman letters 3 mm tall, 62 mm long. Appears to be made from rubber. Presumably, there was more than one device of this type (see State II, recorded used before the latest recorded use of State I). Struck in black.

Earliest: June 6, 1899

Latest: October 19, 1901

POSTAGE DUE CENTS.

PD1. State II. As in State I, but with "TWO" excised, creating a space for manuscript marking of the postage due charge.

Earliest: October 12, 1899

POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS.

PD2. "POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS" in capital Roman letters 3 mm tall, in a wavy line 60 mm long (horizontal length). Appears to be made of rubber. The wavy line does not appear to be the result of distortion of the rubber in hot weather, as the letters are of even height, and are in upright position even when at the wave curve. Used concurrently with PD1. Struck in black.

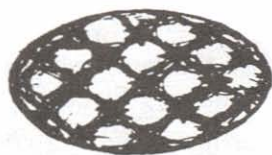
Earliest date: October 15,
1900

Latest date: December 21,
1900

POSTAGE DUE, 2 CTS.

PD3. "POSTAGE DUE, 2 CTS." in non-serifed capital block letters 5 mm tall, 60 mm long. Appears to be made of rubber. The single impression seen (9) show significant deterioration in the letters, and the illustration has been enhanced for clarity. Struck in Violet.

Earliest date: April 3, 1900.



AX1. "Parilla" or oval grill dumb obliterator used during the early years of the Spanish colonial stamp period, used as canceller with RG1. While the usage seen is late in the military period, this mark is listed first due to the device's earlier existence. Probably struck in black.

Latest: March 6, 1901



AX2. Diamond segmented killer, cut from a circular block 24 mm in diameter and sliced into 20 diamonds. Used in conjunction with RG1. Struck in blue black.

Earliest: November 13, 1899

Latest: June 13, 1901



AX3. Twelve uneven solid bars, 16 x 14 mm in the aggregate, probably made from solid irregular rubber and cut into sections. Seen used with RG1 on December 11, 1901.

Earliest: December 11, 1901

Collectors of this area and other readers are encouraged to look into their collections with a view of adding types not included in this article, and/or extending the earliest or latest dates. Information should be sent to the authors at P.O. Box 12, San Mateo, CA 94401. Postage and photocopy (preferably color) costs to be reimbursed, and credits to be attributed. (Copyright reserved by the authors).

Soldiers letter:-
 Aunt Martha
 1 - St. 19 Inf.
 Cebu, P.I.



PHILIPPINES.

Dr. A. R. Allen,
 Carlisle, Cumberland Co.,
 Pennsylvania.
A. R. Allen

DS2 Cancellation on cover to Pennsylvania

POSTMARK LIST CONCORDANCE

Núñez/Kugel	Goodale (4)	Baker (10)
DS1	—	—
DS2	A-2	C-2
DS3	A-3	—
US1	A-1	CA-2
RC1	RC-1	CE-2
RG1	RG-1	SR-2
RG2	—	—
RG3	—	—
PD1 S.I	—	—
PD1 S.II	—	—
PD2	—	—
PD3	—	—
AX1	—	—
AX2	—	—
AX3	—	—

ENDNOTES:

1. According to Faust (see endnote No. 2), the "Separate Brigade" was created by Gen. Elwell Otis "within the meaning of the 73d Article of War and designated as the 1st Separate Brigade of the 8th Army Corps." The brigade was initially sent to Iloilo in December 1898, remaining in the transports at Iloilo Harbor until February 11, 1899 when it took possession of Iloilo after bombardment of Filipino positions.
2. Faust, Karl Irving, *Campaigning in the Philippines*, The Hicks-Judd Publishing Company, San Francisco, 1899.
3. Prior to the coming of the American forces, the islands of Panay, Negros and Cebu (locations of the major towns of Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu) formed the "Visayan Republic," a step into independent self government after the collapse of Spanish authority. Based on the earlier incident in Iloilo, where the local officials refused permission to the American expeditionary force to land without orders from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, and the comments of the local leader Majie in Cebu, this "Visayan Republic" recognized the government of Aguinaldo as the legitimate national government.
4. Goodale, George S., "U.S. Military Postal Stations in the Philippines (1898-1904)," *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks*, edited by Delf Norona, Quarterman Publications, Lawrence, MA, 1975.
5. Correspondence of March 5 1997 from Robert C. Hoge, whose covers and photocopy archives have been enormously helpful in developing this article. The authors would like to acknowledge the help from other Philippine specialists, especially the opportunity to view actual covers or photocopies of the collections of Capt. Weston Burnett, Wolfgang Haberland, Fritz-Walter Lange, the late Lynn Warm-Griffith, and Robert F. Yacano.
6. Dates are from Goodale. While the occupation of the city of Cebu was accomplished without bloodshed, the pacification of the island of Cebu did not come easily. This is probably the reason why the government had to be restored to military rule for some six months in 1901. Faust went to Cebu in the course of writing his book, and notes that in Cebu "the insurgents have become active again, and at the date of the publication of this volume [1899], is fighting going on with what results cannot yet be ascertained."

7. Nuñez, Nestor C., *Philippine-American War: "Island Hopping"?* of a U.S. Military Cancel: Additional Notes, unpublished manuscript which makes additional comments on the use of the DS1 device which was the subject of an article by Haberland, Wolfgang, *American Philippine War 1899-1902, Island Hopping by a US Field Post Cancel* (translated by C.A. Richmond from "Rundbrief USA"), Possessions, published by the United States Possessions Society, Vol. 17 No. 1, Whole 59, First Quarter 1994. It is curious that Goodale did not include this datestamp among his list of postmarks (see Endnote 8). The Nuñez collection has a cover from Goodale sent to Laredo, Texas with US1 and DS1 dated March 17, 1899. The Kugel collection also has these combination uses in a postcard to Zurich postmarked March 20, and as receiving marks, dated March 17, 1899.
 8. The Hoge photocopy archive has a U.S. One Cent Grant postal card with paid reply, which was sent from Grass Valley, CA on February 23, 1899 to Goodale (addressed to Manila). The card was evidently forwarded to Cebu (where Goodale was stationed from March 1) and postmarked on receipt on April 10 (DS1 and US1 strikes). This is most likely the "cover" that Goodale referred to, and he mistakenly supposed that the DS1 strike was a Manila receiving mark.
 9. Correspondence from Capt. Weston D. Burnett, August 27, 1997.
 10. Baker, Philip E., *Postal Markings of United States Military Stations, 1898-1902*, 1963.
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CEBU BISECTED STAMPS

By Col. Gustavo C. Ingles

Bisected stamps are stamps which are cut into halves to allow usage of part, normally fifty (50) percent, of its face value. (COVER) This mode of payment for postal charges is authorized in some countries in case of shortage of stamps of the required denomination. Its employment has never been authorized by the Postmaster General of the Philippines. There was an instance, however, when it was employed in Cebu City in the Philippines after 1945 due to extreme shortage of stamps of the required denomination.

Cebu City was the second largest city in the Philippines after World War II. It was forced to use bisected stamps early in 1948 due to the absence of the necessary two-centavo stamps for its domestic mail service.

As early as the middle of 1947, the acting Postmaster, Mr. Andres Abella noticed that the supply of two-centavo stamps received from Manila was very much lower than the quantity requisitioned. Repeated requests to the central post office to increase his supply remained unheeded. His supply of two-centavo stamps was depleted during Christmas 1947 and with the advent of the New Year his stock was practically zero.

To keep the Cebu Post Office functioning, he authorized the use of half of the four-centavo stamp with the Rizal Monument design (to check Scott #50) starting January 5, 1948. At the beginning he took pains to sign all envelopes with the bisected stamps. However, later, when the volume of the mail increased, he stopped this practice. The postal service of Cebu continued the use of bisected stamps until it was stopped by the Postmaster General. Mr. Abella was severely reprimanded administratively. Since Mr. Abella felt that his action was for the good of the service, he took the case to the local court.

The presiding judge not only absolved Mr. Abella but commended him for his initiative and dedication to his duty. The initiative of Mr. Abella has been the subject of diverse opinion up to the present. It also created a unique situation in Philippine philatelic history.

Very few philatelists in Cebu saw the significance of the "bisected" stamps. Among the philatelists with foresight were Don Bitong Reyes and Dra. Acela Franco who made first day covers.

A young collector then, Mr. Philip Liap helped these two collectors by cutting the stamps and mounting them on the covers. Stamp collector/dealer Mr. Rodrigo Velez also made first day covers. Between the three of them, around four hundred covers; single double and block or four bisects were prepared. Foreign collectors in Cebu, at that time, were paying at least five dollars per piece for used commercial covers.

There is no record available as to the duration the bisected stamps were used. One cover in my possession was cancelled May 31st 1948 on a PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone) window envelope.

UNITED STATES MILITARY STATIONS: THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF BACOLOD

by Nestor C. Nuñez and Alfred F. Kugel

While Manila and the Central Plain of Luzon are considered the heartland of the Philippines, the Visayan Islands at the time of the Philippine-American War was an equally important part of the country in terms of population and mercantile activities. More importantly from a military viewpoint, these islands were also a hotbed of revolutionary fervor. Prominent in this island group are the islands of Panay, which had the provinces of Antique, Capiz, Iloilo and Concepcion (this province was later incorporated into Iloilo); Negros, divided into Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental; and Cebu, an island province. The major towns, now cities, in these islands are Iloilo, Bacolod, and Cebu. These three islands had a total population of 1,666,000 (1), compared to that of Luzon of 3,563,000. Iloilo (473,000) and Cebu provinces (504,000) had more population than the province of Manila (400,000) (2).

With the collapse of Spanish authority as a result of the Spanish-American War and the resumption of the Philippine revolution after Aguinaldo's return from exile in Hong Kong, a "Visayan Republic" was set up, composed principally of these three islands. The capital was Iloilo city, after its capture from the Spanish in December 1898 (3). After the Spanish surrendered Manila on August 13, 1898, the Spanish forces there retreated to Iloilo. In the interim period, American and Spanish delegates met in Paris to negotiate the terms of the peace treaty. During this period, it became evident that the U.S. wanted to obtain possession of the entire country.

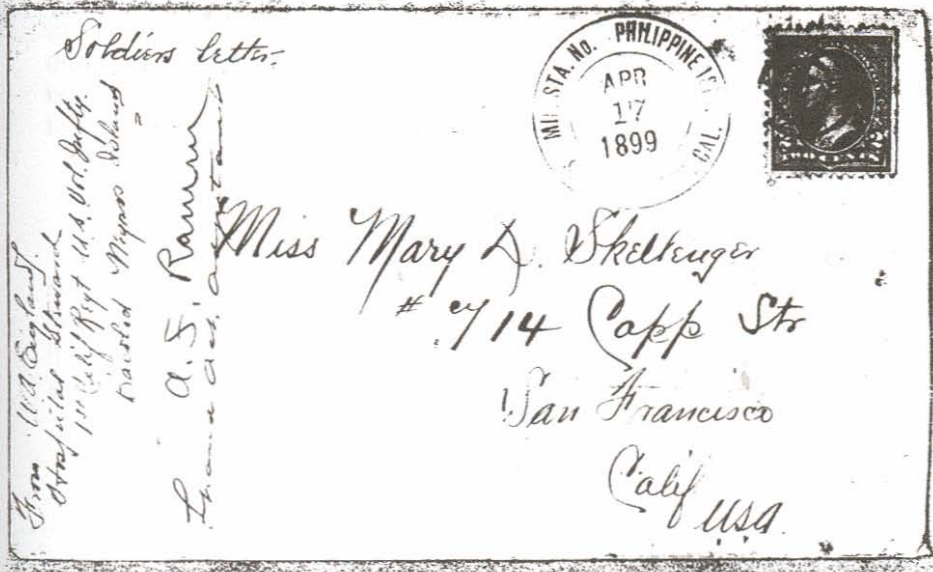
Back in Panay Island, the Spanish forces were beleaguered by the Filipino revolutionists to the point where the Spanish commander in Iloilo had to send a message to Gen. Elwell Otis that he could no longer hold out against the insurgents. Otis responded by creating a Separate Brigade (4), which proceeded to the Iloilo on December 26, 1898. After the signing of the Treaty of Paris on December 10, the Visayan Islands became a logical target for American occupation. Thus, sending an expeditionary force to these islands was a sound military move as well, since American occupation would presumably snuff the revolutionary fervor there, thereby ensuring that not many troops would need to be diverted from Luzon, which presented a greater military problem with the then uneasy relationship with Emilio Aguinaldo's revolutionary army.

The occupation of the town of Iloilo was delayed by the unfriendly reaction of the local population, and was only forcibly accomplished on February 11, 1899 following the start of hostilities between the Americans and Filipinos on February 4. Occupation of the town of Cebu followed on February 28 without bloodshed. The occupation of the the town of Bacolod came about in a different fashion, and was probably influenced by the earlier events leading to the American takeover of Iloilo and Cebu.

The following is essentially summarized from Faust (5): The local authorities in Negros were more amicable and more in hearty accord with American domination than those of Panay and Cebu. The inhabitants had earlier been in revolt against, and had practically overturned Spanish authority. On November 12, 1898, a provisional government made up of thirty six deputies had been established with Aniceto Lacson, President and Jose Luis Luzurriaga, President of the native congress. A cabinet was also created with functions "similar to that in all republican governments." Preceding American occupation, a deputation of these officials, including Lacson, approached Gen. Otis with their desire for amicable establishment of American rule in the island. Thus the coming of the Americans was a welcome event, "rather than a reluctant submission of a defeated people." Col. (later Gen.) James H. Smith of the California Volunteers was appointed by Gen. Elwell Otis (6) to be the military governor. Smith, with the 1st Battalion of the California Volunteers under Maj. Hugh T. Sime, proceeded with the transport St. Paul from Manila, and landed in Bacolod on March 4, 1899. Largely due to the welcome manner of its takeover, the Americans strove to give the people of Negros the "largest liberty compatible with the military occupation" by the United States. Gov. Smith took exclusive control of customs, post office, telegraph and police functions while all other civil affairs were left in the hands of Filipinos (7).

According to Goodale (8) Bacolod was the 3rd District Headquarters of the Department of the Visayas, U.S. Army, in March 1900. Civil government was established in Negros Occidental on April 20, 1901. Goodale noted that the Bacolod military post office was a small one, as there was not more than a company of infantry being stationed there at a time.

The following are the recorded postmarks of Bacolod, which was military postal station number five.



DS1 cancellation on cover to California.



DS1. Double-ring rubber cancel-
 ler with "1" deleted. This devise
 was first used in Manila, which
 was Military Station No. 1. Simi-
 lar devices, with "1" excised,
 were used in Iloilo and Cebu (9).
 Usage in Bacolod (10) is proven
 by the sender's address, or use by
 a military unit known to be in
 Bacolod or Negros Island at the
 postmark date. Struck in black or
 purple.

Earliest: March 15, 1899

Latest: May 9, 1899 (with La
 Carlota two-line "cachet")

DS2. Single-ring rubber
 datestamp 30 mm, with three
 horizontal bar killers 18 mm wide
 (11). Struck in black.

Earliest date: May 3, 1899

Latest date: May 24, 1900



DS 3. Single-ring rubber datestamp 35 mm. Similar to DS 2, but larger, with letters 4 mm tall, with three thick horizontal bar killers 15 mm wide. First reported by Howell (10).

Earliest: February 12, 1900
Latest: July 10, 1900



DS4. Single-ring steel datestamp 29 mm, with eight bar barrel killer. "Standard" type of civil government postmarks. Struck in black.

Earliest: January 12, 1901
Latest: used well beyond July 4, 1902



RC1. Single-ring rubber datestamp 30? mm. with "REC'D" at bottom of the dial. Struck in black.

Earliest: May 12, 1899
Latest: October 29, 1899

REGISTERED
FEB 28 1902
Military Station No. 5.
BACOLOD. P. I.

RG1. Four-line registration rubber datestamp postmark in non-serifed block capital and small letters, with maximum width 42 mm. Seen used as receiving mark (January 31, 1902). Struck in violet or purple.

Earliest: October 17, 1899
Latest date: February 28, 1902

POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS.

PD1. "POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS." in capital Roman letters 3 mm tall. Postmark made of rubber. Struck in violet?

Earliest date:

May 27, 1899

Latest date:

October 6, 1899



AX1. Seen used with RG 1. Struck in violet

Earliest date: October 17, 1899

AX 2. Eight bar ovalled rubber obliterator, seen used with RG1. Struck in purple.

Earliest date: February 28, 1902



Howell (10) illustrated a two-line "cachet" (struck in blue) used by the California Volunteers on mail from La Carlota, which is 18 miles south of Bacolod. While it may have used in connection with posting of letters, this was not included in the listing, as usage is inconclusive, and it is not strictly a Bacolod military station cancellation. Earliest date seen: May 2, 1899 (with DS1 dated May 6); latest: May 27, 1899 (with DS2 dated May 29).



Goodale notes that a few covers are known which passed through territory controlled by the Filipino insurgent government, and lists his F-1 type cancel, reproduced at left (illustration not exact per Goodale).

Prior to the arrival of American forces in Negros island, revolutionary mail bearing the postmark illustrated at left was sent from there to Iloilo. "COMUNICACION Y TELEGRAFIA" means Communications (Post) and Telegraphs. The cover received an Iloilo DS1 arrival mark of February 28, 1899, and was recently sold at the Philstamps auction in June 1997 (Lot 428A).

Collectors (12) and other readers of this area are encouraged to look into their collections with a view of adding types not included in this article, and/or extending the earliest or latest dates. (Copyright reserved by the authors).



DS2 and PD1 postmarks on unfranked cover

POSTMARK LIST CONCORDANCE

Nuñez/Kugel	Goodale (4)	Baker (10)
DS1	—	—
DS2	A-1	C-2
DS3	—	—
DS4	—	—
RC1	RC-1	—
RG1	—	SR-5
PD1	—	—
PD1	—	—
AX1	—	—
AX2	—	—
—	F-1	—

ENDNOTES:

1. Population figures are from Faust (Endnote 5).
2. Under the Spanish system of political subdivisions, Manila was a province with population mainly in the suburbs, which included Binondo, Santa Cruz, Quiapo, San Miguel, and Tondo.
3. After losing Iloilo, which became the Spanish capital in the Philippines following the fall of Manila, the Spanish forces retreated to the garrisoned city of Zamboanga, or to Jolo, where they remained until repatriation in May 1899 or relieved by American forces in November 1899.
4. See "United States Military Stations: The Postal Markings of Iloilo," second article in this series, *Philippine Philatelic Journal*, Vol. XIX, No. 2.
5. Faust, Karl Irving, *Campaigning in the Philippines*, The Hicks-Judd Publishing Company, San Francisco, 1899.
6. Maj. Gen. Elwell Otis became the military commander of the American forces in late August 1899, following the return of Maj. Wesley Gen. Merritt to the United States. Merritt only stayed some three weeks in Manila. He disagreed with his superior, Maj. Gen. Nelson Miles, army chief, on the military strategy over the islands.
7. While the takeover of Bacolod was without bloodshed, the rest of the population did not necessarily welcome the American authority. Faust lists several armed clashes with "unsubdued class of brigands," including the fight in the capture of Labzid by Lt. Col. Victor D. Duboce, an action at Bobong resulting in 115 local insurgents killed, and a sharp engagement at Tibunan, with 19 insurgents dead.
8. Goodale, George S., "U.S. Military Postal Stations in the Philippines (1898-1904)," *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks*, edited by Delf Norona, Quarterman Publications, Lawrence, MA, 1975.
9. Nuñez, Nestor C., *Philippine-American War: "Island Hopping" of a U.S. Military Cancel: Additional Notes*, unpublished manuscript which makes additional comments on the use of DS1 devise which was the subject of an article by Haberland, Wolfgang, *American Philippine War 1899-1902, Island Hopping by a US Field Post Cancel* (translated by C.A. Richmond from "Rundbrief USA"), Possessions, published by the United States Possessions Society, Vol. 17 No. 1, Whole 59, First Quarter 1994.
10. Howell, David D., *Postal Markings Used in Isle de Negros, 1899-1902*, War

Cover Club Bulletin, Vol. XVIII, No. 6, Aug.-Sep. 1978, published by the War Cover Club (now Military Postal History Society). Howell's article led many collectors and students of this period to believe that the DS1 device was only used in Bacolod. The Haberland article mentioned in Endnote 9 arrived at different conclusions, but were being corrected by the unpublished Nuñez article.

11. Goodale's illustration of this postmark (his A-1) shows a four-bar killer.
12. The authors would like to acknowledge the help from other Philippine specialists, especially the opportunity to view actual covers or photocopies of the collections of Capt. Weston Burnett, Wolfgang Haberland, Fritz-Walter Lange, the late Lynn Warm-Griffith, Robert F. Yacano and particularly Robert C. Hoge, who also supplied some of the earliest/latest dates.
13. Baker, Philip E., *Postal Markings of United States Military Stations, 1898-1902, 1963*

(Fourth in a series. The first part appeared in No. 3, 3rd Quarter 1996, the second in No. 2, 2nd Quarter 1997 and the third part in this issue)

TWELFTH MAJOR ERROR REPORTED OF THE SPANISH PHILIPPINE 1890-1897 ISSUE: SCRATCHED PLATE FLAW ON THREE SCOTT #150 POSITIONS

by Don Peterson

Eleven major errors of the 1890-1897 issues have previously been reported (Philippine Philatelic News, Vol. XI, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 1989; and Philippine Philatelic Journal, Vol. XVII, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 1995). To qualify as a major plating error, the error must be clearly observable to the average collector, reoccurring or "constant", and must occur on the same position on the pane from one pane to another.

Although scratches are occasionally seen on the 1890-1897 issues, until now, none were known to reoccur on a regular basis of any issue from one plate to the next. Recently, through the keen observations of Philippine collectors Craig Chartrand and Sebastian Baldassarre, a new error (actually three errors) surfaced on Scott #150, the olive gray 2-4/8 centavos 1892 issue. The errors consist of vertical (slightly diagonal) scratches on three different positions on the full pane of this issue. Scott #150 was printed in sheets of 150, comprised of three panes of 50 (5 x 10), each separated by a gutter. The scratches occur on the right side of position 4, the left side of position 19, and the center of position 39 of each pane (FIGURE 1). Several complete panes were inspected and the errors were found on each of the three panes in the same locations.

Although the errors are known to occur on different sheets, I do not believe they were present on the entire printing. This is because the frequency of stamps with errors found is less than would be observed if they had occurred during the entire printing. Therefore, the total number of errors is estimated, and thus, remains subject to future adjustments. This error has not been previously reported in the philatelic literature. The following is a description of the error in the format of the previous articles.

Description of Error	On Scott No.	Total No. of Issue Printed	Total No. of Errors	Relative Scarcity
12. Scratched Plate Plate (3 positions)	150	6,000,000	60,000 (est.)	S

* Relative scarcity based on standards set in the 1989 article.

If you have any information on this error, please contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20012.



Position 4
(right side)



Position 19
(left side)



Position 39
(center)

FIGURE 1. Three Positions of Scratched Plate Error on Scott #150.

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