



SPANISH PERIOD CORNER

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New 1880s Surcharge Discovered

In my book, *“Unlisted Scott Catalogue Surcharged Stamps of the 1881-1888 Spanish Philippine Period”* (1997), 107 mostly unlisted surcharged stamps were described, of which 19 were forgeries [Note: there are also forged surcharges of some of the genuine unlisted stamps]. Most of the genuine unlisted surcharged stamps were produced as “favors”, and were not authorized postal issues. As such, they should not be included in the Scott Catalogue. However, as a result of that study, 8 new qualifying stamps were added and one stamp was deleted from the Scott Catalogue. Since the 1997 edition, an additional 16 unlisted genuine surcharged stamps have been recorded, all of which are believed to have been produced as “favors”. One of the new unlisted surcharged stamps discovered since the 1997 edition is shown below:



8c magenta (g) on 50m bistre (Scott #137)

This stamp was discovered, as many have been, buried indiscreetly in a Philippine collection, with no bells or whistles denoting the stamp. The surcharge type was confirmed to be a genuine Bartels et al. (1904) surcharge type XXXV. It is not listed by any other authority, and is the only stamp known of its kind. Like many others, it likely was produced as a “favor”. I like to refer to these stamps as “quietly leaving the back door of the post office” when they were produced in Manila in the 1880s. It is now listed as #28C in my records.

The 1997 edition of the “Unlisted . . .” book is still available for \$20.00, which includes color plates of many of the genuine surcharged issues. I will also include with the order an unbound up-to-date 2008 edition. Check the “Philippine Philatelic Book Store” in the *Philippine Philatelic Journal* for details.