



Postal History of the Spanish Philippines and the Philippine Rebellion

This exhibit provides a journey into the development and use of the domestic and overseas mail services in the Philippines during the Spanish period, including stampless mail, stamped covers, official mail, postal cards and military mail.

The first classic stamp issue of the Philippines was introduced in 1854 in a design, featuring Queen Isabella, similar to the stamp issue of Spain. At least mail within the Philippines and to Spain could thus be franked with stamps. The further stamp issues reflected the political changes of the Kingdom of Spain, which also had a steady influence on the Philippines.

In 1877 the Philippines joined the Universal Postal Union. This led to the standardization of postal rates and an increase in the volume of mail sent to other countries. Bilateral treaties on the exchange of mail or the diversion of mail franked with British Asian stamps via British colonies were no longer necessary.

In 1898, Spanish rule over the Philippines came to an end. Even before that, the rule had already been challenged by the Philippine Rebellion, which led to the establishment of the short-lived First Philippine Republic under President Aguinaldo.

