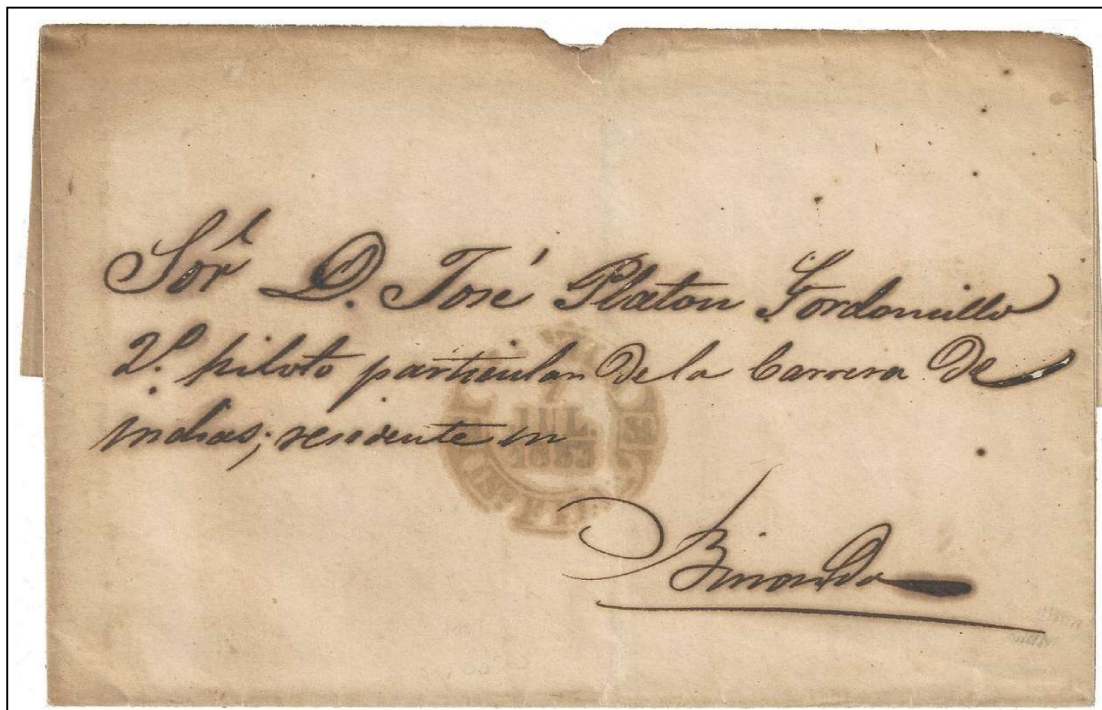


Interior mail stamped in Manila November 22, 1852 to Calumpit, Bulacan. Stamped with small Baeza circular date stamp. At that time major communities on Luzon, such as Calumpit, received once a week mail from Manila.



This envelope was sent to Binondo, the oldest Chinatown in the world, established as a settlement near Intramuros but across the Pasig River. It might be assumed that the cover was sent in Manila (Intramuros). The cover was postmarked by the post office of Manila with the small Baeza circular date stamp on July 7, 1853.

Mail within the archipelago was free of charge until the issue of stamps in 1854. However, records from 1838 show that the options of payment by the sender or a fee of 2 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte, payable by the recipient to the local mail carrier, were assessed.