

Both stamps of the 1855 issue were printed in Spain and distributed to the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Since the early Philippine designs did not meet with favour in the eyes of the Spanish authorities, they appear to have been determined to produce beauty in terms of design as well as uniformity for all island possessions.

The Governor's Decree of May 30, 1855 allowed the use of stamps on outbound mail as of July 1, 1855. This decree also put into effect the postage rates enacted by the Royal Decree of December 18, 1854.

For every 8 Adarmes, a postage of 1 Real de Plata Fuerte was payable on a prepaid cover to Spain. A reduction in weight units went into effect on January 1, 1859, allowing only 4 Adarmes per 1 Real de Plata Fuerte.

The Adarme is an antiquated Spanish unit of mass, equivalent to 1/16 Ounce or 1.8 Grams.



Cover sent from Manila March 19, 1858 to Bilbao, Spain. The strip of three was tied by Parilla cancels. Furthermore, the cover was stamped on front by the large Baeza circular cancel "MANILA / 31 / ISLs. FILIPIS.". The cover was sent via Suez and arrived in San Roque on May 3, 1858. According to the receiving cancel, it reached Bilbao on May 10.

A total of 3 Reales de Plata Fuerte paying triple weight, up to 24 Adarmes, to Spain.

During the period between July 1, 1855 and December 31, 1858, 1 Real de Plata Fuerte had to be prepaid for every 8 Adarmes on covers to Spain.

Provenance: Fritz-Walter Lange