



Printed matter circular, "Circular impresa", sent from Manila October 8, 1856 to Madrid, Spain. Stamps tied by circular dotted cancel. The cover was sent via Suez and arrived in San Roque on January 5, 1857. It reached Madrid on January 10. It was franked with a pair of the 1855 issue. **Only 10 covers with this issue are known.**

According to Royal Decree of December 18, 1854 as well as Governor's Decree of May 30, 1855 the postage for printed matter was "one half of the corresponding rate of letters". A circular to Spain was therefore 10 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte. This postage rate was effective from July 1, 1855.

This circular is the **first recorded printed matter in Asia** to be franked for a special circular postage. Nevertheless, the postage was not accepted at the post office in Manila and postage due at the rate of an ordinary cover was charged, as marked "4R⁵". The background for this procedure were Royal Orders from Madrid, dated September 1, 1854, as well as May 30, 1855 which had the consequence that all stamps on correspondence leaving the Philippines had to be produced in Spain. The first stamps produced in Spain were issued by 1855. However, stamps produced in Spain at a lower denomination, suitable for printed matter to Spain, were not issued until 1864.

Provenance: Lars T. Amundsen, John R. Boker Jr., Nestor Jacob and Fritz-Walter Lange

Circular sent from Manila to Bilbao, Spain. The locally produced stamp at 5 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte was issued 1858.

The pair from the upper margin was cancelled by a blue small Baeza cancel on August 4, 1859.

The item was sent via Suez. From Alexandria it was transported to Gibraltar by the ship *Pera*, heading towards Southampton. After it reached San Roque on September 27, the printed matter was delivered in Bilbao on October 3.



As no lower value stamps were produced in Spain and sent to the Philippines, locally produced stamps were also tolerated on printed matter from about 1859 onwards. **Earliest known use under this scheme.**