

Because the 5 Centimos de Escudo stamp was used on most interior as well as overseas mail, a shortage of this value developed in late 1871 at some places. The Government authorized that some withdrawn stamps be reissued at 5 Centimos de Escudo, equal to 4 Cuartos de Plate Fuerte or 2.5 Centavos der Peso, in a decree by the Chief Civil Government of the Philippines, on November 15, 1871. The decree was announced in the Gaceta de Manila on November 17, 1871, so everybody would know.

According to this decree previously been invalidated stamps were not marked with the new denomination but were overprinted by the "HABILITADO / POR LA / NACION." handstamp which was already used since 1868.

The stamps produced under this decree can only be distinguished on cover from those overprinted and issued with the same overprint as early as December 1868 by means of the date.



This cover was sent from Manila on December 10, 1871 to Ronda, Spain. It shows the usage of a 3^{1/8} Centavos de Peso stamp revalued at 5 Centimo de Escudo which was used in conjunction with a 20 Centimo de Escudo stamp. An arrival postmark from Ronda was applied on January 23, 1872.

The stamps paying for single cover rate to Spain, weighting up to 4 Adarmes. This rate applied from February 18, 1871.

Only **three covers are known** in which, according to the decree of November 15, 1871, a stamp formerly of 3^{1/8} Centavos de Peso of the 1864 issue was used as a stamp with a revalued denomination. Provenance: Geoffrey Lewis