

At the beginning of 1872 there was still a shortage of stamps in the denomination of 4 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte. Thus, more stamps were marked with an "HABILITADO / POR LA / NACION." overprint and thereby identified as stamps at 4 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte. The decree of January 24, 1872 states that red stamps which were withdrawn from circulation are to be used for this purpose. This refers in the first instance to the stamps issued in 1863 at the face value of 5 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte. The decree was published on January 26.

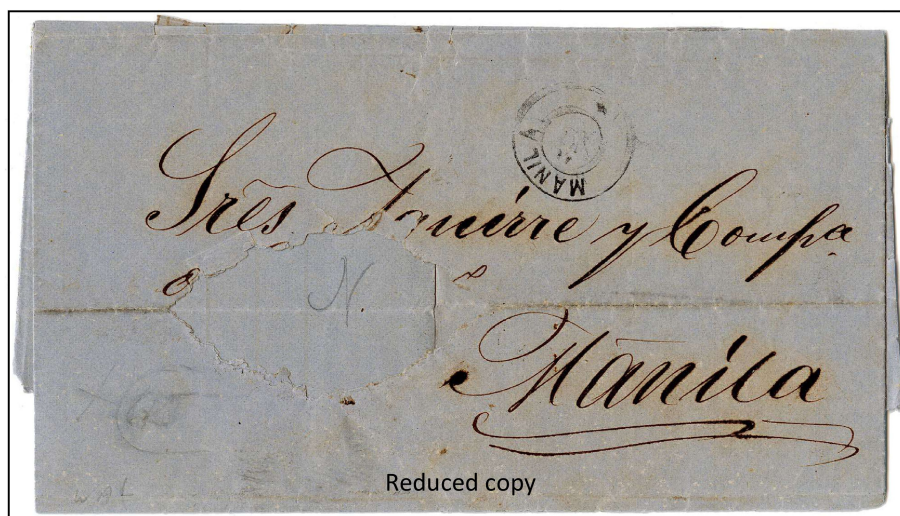
These stamps were overprinted for the first time.



Letter datelined April 9, 1873 in Daet (Camarines) sent to Manila. The stamp overprinted for use as 4 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte was cancelled in Daet by a circular dotted cancel. The letter was transported overland and arrived in Manila on April 17, 1873. **Five covers of that provisional issue are known, of which this is the only interior usage.**

For each 4 Adarmes or fraction thereof a rate of 4 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte was charged. This postage rate applied from February 18, 1871 (decree of February 7) and it was terminated by a decree of the local government on November 10, 1884, published on November 14.

Provenance: Geoffrey Lewis



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