

First Spanish Republic, 1870s

1870s, to Bayambang
1879, Manila to Surigao

The Spanish Republic of 1873 came into existence to fill the political vacuum created by King Amadeo's abdication on February 11, 1873.

New stamps were received from Spain and put on sale on the Philippines. The stamps, an allegorical representation of the Republic, portray a seated woman, extending the olive-branch of peace, with the Arms of Spain appearing in a shield at her left. The type is similar to the corresponding issues of Spain or the Spanish West Indies, except that the upper label reads "Filipinas" instead of other labels for the other territories of the Spanish Empire. The stamps were designed by Eugenio Julia Jover, printed by the Fabrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre, Madrid and issued in sheets of hundred stamps.

Mourning envelope sent to Bayambang (Pangasinan). It was franked with a 12 Céntimos de Peseta stamp, issued 1874. While not indicated, the stamp's exact equivalent is 12.5 Céntimos de Peseta or 4 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte.

The stamp was tied with a circular dotted cancel, most likely applied at non-Manila origin.



Envelope sent in Manila November 5, 1879 to Surigao. It was franked with a 25 Céntimos de Peseta stamp, issued 1874. The franking equals 8 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte. According to the handwritten note, the cover arrived on or before November 12.

Four covers with this stamp are known, only recorded single usage of this stamp.

For each four Adarmes or fraction thereof a rate of 4 Cuartos de Plata Fuerte was charged. The upper cover was franked for single interior rate, up to 4 Adarmes. The cover with a 25 Céntimos de Peseta stamp was franked for double interior rate, 4 to 8 Adarmes. This postage rate applied from February 18, 1871 (decree of February 7). It was terminated by decree of the local government on November 10, 1884, published on November 14. By that decree, the rates for mail within the Spanish territories were adjusted to metric weights.