

King Alfonso XII, 1870s – 1880s

1880, Manila to Tudela, Spain
1884, Manila to Hamburg, German Empire

The Philippine changed to the new Universal Postal Union rates and procedures after joining the UPU in 1877. As a result, two stamps and a postcard of the second series of King Alfonso XII were surcharged "UNIVERSAL DE / CONVENIO / CORREOS / HABILITADO" with a corresponding value in black. They were issued in 1879.



Envelope sent in Manila March 1880 to Tudela. Carried by the steamer *Cadiz* of the firm Compañía Transatlántica Española.

The stamps, a stamp with UPU overprint at 8 Centavos de Peso and stamps of the third series of King Alfonso XII at 2 and 2½ Centavos de Peso were tied by Parilla cancels.

The cover arrived on April 28 in Tudela.

The purpose of the stamp with UPU overprint was to cover the single weight rate to all UPU countries except Spain, however usage to Spain was allowed. This cover is the **only known usage of the stamp to Spain. Earliest known usage** for the stamps of the third series of King Alfonso XII at 2 and 2½ Centavos de Peso.

The 12½ Centavos de Peso is paying the single rate to Spain.

Postcard sent from Manila to Hamburg, German Empire. It was cancelled in Manila by a small circular date stamp on January 13, 1884. It is a relatively late usage of this card.

The postcard was carried by the French vessel *Ava* from Southeast Asia to Naples, Italy. Further transport was overland through Europe. The card arrived in Hamburg on February 16.

These cards were used parallel to the postcards of the third series of King Alfonso XII issued from 1881 onwards.



Postcard rate to all UPU countries except Spain was during the whole Spanish period 3 Centavos de Peso.