

From 1880 onwards, a new design appeared upon a new series of stamps, the third series of stamps showing the Spanish King Alfonso XII. The stamps were engraved by Eugenio Julia Jover, whose name appears on the bottom of the bust. They were typographed by the Fabrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre in Madrid and printed in sheets of 100. The same plates were also used for the contemporary issues of other Spain colonies. Some of the plates were retouched during their usage.



Registered cover sent from Manila December 10, 1881 to Quingua in the province Bulacan. The cover was franked with eleven stamps at 2<sup>1/2</sup> Centavos de Peso of the third series of King Alfonso XII. These stamps were issued from 1880 onwards. The stamps were tied by the framed registration marking "CERTIF". Furthermore, the circular date stamp of Manila was stuck in black on the cover.

The cover was signed on the upper right by the addressee "Recibi Anacleto Constantino" and sent back to the sender's post office. The sender then exchanged this cover for the registered mail receipt - otherwise the cover would have been destroyed after a storage period. There is no doubt that domestic registered mail is rare as a result of this procedure. Mostly these items have been destroyed by the postal authorities.

In accordance with the rates in effect since February 18, 1871 (Decree of February 7), the cover was franked with 25 Centavos de Peso, the equivalent of 2 Reales de Plata Fuerte, for the registration fee and 2<sup>1/2</sup> Centavos de Peso for a domestic cover weighing less than four Adarmes.

**Highest recorded number of this stamp on a cover.**