

Beginning in the 1880's, the Philippine Islands were plagued by a shortage of stamps resulting from delayed shipments from Spain, and greatly increased usage of stamps for both postage and prepayment of telegraph services. The shortage was remedied by surcharging existing stamp stock with the denominations most needed for those services.



Registered cover mailed from the consulate of the Swiss Confederation in Manila to Schwanden, Switzerland. The cover was sent at the end of March 1883. The stamps were tied by the framed registration marking "CERTIF". Furthermore, the circular date stamp of Manila was stuck in black on the front.

The further journey of this cover can be well documented by the cancels applied on both sides of the envelope. It was transported on the French Ligne N from Asia via the Suez Canal route to Europe. This transport on a ship named *Iraouaddy* was documented by a Paquebot cancel which was applied on April 3.

The cover was unloaded in Italy as requested by the sender. It was sent on to France and transported there by rail post, as the red cancel "MODANE A PARIS" on the front shows. On the same date, April 30, it arrived in Switzerland and on May 2, 1883 it reached its destination.

The cover was franked with a 2 Centavos de Peso and two  $2\frac{4}{8}$  Centavos de Peso stamps of the third series of King Alfonso XII. Furthermore, it was franked with two stamps that have been revaluated to 1 Real de Plata Fuerte, equaling each  $12\frac{4}{8}$  Centavos de Peso. **Only recorded cover with this stamp.**

The 32 Centavos de Peso franking was paying the triple UPU letter rate including 8 Centavos de Peso registration rate.