

New postage stamps were issued on 1 January 1898. The issue of 1898 was produced in Madrid, Spain. These stamps, like the previous stamp issue, show the young Alfonso XIII.

The use of these stamps was only possible until the Spanish-American War. The Manila post office, for example, was handed over to American soldiers on 13 August 1898. However, the stamps were also used after this date, for example by the insurgents or on the Mariana Islands.

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On 1 January 1898, along with the issue of the stamps, a new Royal Decree, dated 8 October 1897, came into effect. By means of this decree, various postage rates for domestic mail and to mail to Spain were revised.

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Cover sent from Manila to Cartagena, Spain. The cover was sent on 3 January 1898. It was franked with a stamp at 6 Centavos de Peso of the King Alfonso XIII series, issued at the beginning of 1898.

The stamp was cancelled by the worn "CORREOS / MANILA" cancel. On 4 January it left Manila with the Spanish postal vessel *Elcano* via Marseille towards Cartagena.

The postage rate for covers to Spain was lowered to 6 Centavos de Peso per 15 grams by the Royal Decree of 8 October 1891. The rate went into effect on 1 January 1898.

Provenance: Geoffrey Lewis