



Introduction of Special Delivery service and Early usage ***Forerunner issues***

The E1. The Philippine's first-ever Special Delivery stamps were produced from an allocation in stocks inventories of the U.S. Scott's E5 with the Bureau of Printing and Engraving (BEP). The U.S. Scott E5 first printed in August 1895 on watermarked (USPS 191), has had several re-printing orders over the last 15 years (with several shades produced) that from the stock inventories of re-printings made, two batches of the dark blue type I and four batches of the deep blue type II were overprinted with "**PHILIPPINES**" in red, after taking out misprints and spoilage, the BEP in June 1901 was able to produce *about 3,500 and 11,500 pieces of the two color types respectively.*



E1. Dark Blue type I



E1. Deep Blue type II

The first of two batch shipments of the E1 arrived in Manila in September 1901 and the second shipment by November 1901 with majority of stocks delivered as type I and very few sheets of the type II variant. The balance of the type II inventory was withheld by BEP for future requisition orders.

The Special Delivery dispatch service was launched to the mailing public on the morning of October 15, 1901. There was no first day cover reported yet but the earliest reported usage (ERU) on cover bears a postmark October 18, 1901.