



Synopsis

Special Delivery is a less ventured collecting field in Philippine Philately not because of disinterest but perhaps due to scarcity of recorded local information and the difficulty of sourcing related materials. This exhibit will present **only the regular** special delivery emissions of the Bureau of Posts with samples of actual usage, from its evolution until eventual transformation into express mail service (EMS) handled by the government and the private sector.

What is Special Delivery? An expedited form of mail handling delivery to intended addressee performed for an added fee. **Why Special Delivery?** For time-sensitive and essentially-delicate letters/mail matters requiring immediate dispatch. **Was it effective?** Yes, special delivery mail receives priority processing and handling with a dedicated messenger assigned to perform the service.

SPECIAL DELIVERY Emissions of the PHILIPPINES: 1901 - 1945

With the coming of the Philippines under U.S. Administration after the 1898 Treaty of Paris, when Spain ceded the islands to the United States of America, ending almost 400-years of Spanish rule. Under the Americans, a new era in Philippine postal history began. Regular, special and even some commemorative postal and revenue emissions of the United States Postal Service (USPS) were introduced and were decreed for use in the Philippine Islands.

American occupation forces needed to be in constant communication with their superiors and families back in the mainland and regular mail service has to be instituted in areas where most of the American forces are stationed. As early as August 1898, U.S.P.I. postal stations were set-up in Cavite and then transferred to Manila after the last groups of Spanish forces left the famed Walled City and sailed for Zamboanga.

U.S. postal and similar mail service systems were set into place. A new featured innovation in mail delivery was also introduced – the **Special Delivery** dispatch - in newly occupied or recently acquired American territories and islands in the West Indies and the Pacific, including the Philippines.



United States Scott No.E5 currently in use on the U.S. mainland were overprinted in **RED** with the new colonies' name such as **Cuba**, **Guam**, except Puerto Rico, and the **Philippines** (all in capital letters).

The Philippines' first ever special delivery stamp



September 25, 1901, the arrival of the first batch (about 15,000) of the overprinted U.S. No. E5 issues, the special delivery dispatch in the Philippines was formally inaugurated, this became the country's very first Special Delivery stamp – the **E1**. The service in October 15, 1901, was opened to U.S. service personnel, no formal record of first day issue, very few examples bearing the Philippine's E1 are known. It was not so popular and the balance of unsold E1 inventory were recalled and destroyed.