

Fritz-Walter Lange Collection

Large Gold Medal with Felicitations
Singapore '95 World Philatelic Exhibition (F.I.P. Patronage)

1776 – 1877 POSTAL HISTORY

With the Spanish Postal System being unreliable the majority of the pre-philatelic period outbound mail was carried by foreign flag vessels or coursed through forwarding agents doing business in the Philippines. The issuance of the first postage stamps on February 1, 1854, resulted in a more reliable domestic mail service, which previous to this date, was virtually non-existent.

As a Spanish colony and not a member of the Universal Postal Union, mail destined to countries where Spain had no postal treaties were franked with 1860s Queen Victoria issues of the East India Company, Strait Settlements and Hong Kong. In some instances the letters were posted stampless even during the philatelic period.

Each of the four sections of this exhibit cover a defined period of Spanish Philippines postal history, inclusive of related specifics such as postal markings, rates and routes, and where present, the forwarding agents involved.



POSTAL MARKINGS, 1776 - 1853

Except for color varieties, this section illustrates the complete postmarks employed for the specific period. The highlight is a 1776 Belletti letterset with an encircled red "MA / NILA" postmark. This is the earliest recorded Philippine postmark on cover. There is a very strong possibility that this postmark that immediately identify the origin of the letter is the earliest for the entire Asia as well (the Bishop mark of India was employed much earlier but it is only a date marking). It is significant to note that its usage some seven years before Governor General Joseph Basco formally organized the postal system in the Philippines.

PRE-PHILATELIC PERIOD OVERSEAS MAIL, 1797 - 1853

- THE MANILA - ACAPULCO ROUTE
- THE MANILA - CAPE OF GOOD HOPE ROUTE
- THE MANILA - OVERLAND GIBRALTAR ROUTE
- THE MANILA - OVERLAND MARSEILLES ROUTE
- THE PERSIAN GULF ROUTE
- THE FAR EAST - PACIFIC OCEAN ROUTE

THE PHILATELIC PERIOD, PRE-UPU 1854 - 1876

- FOREIGN ISSUES PRE-PAYING MAIL TO OTHER COUNTRIES WITH NO POSTAL TREATIES WITH SPAIN
- OUTBOUND MAIL RENDERED STAMPLESS DURING THE PHILATELIC PERIOD.

INBOUND MAIL, 1805 - 1872

- Mail from different countries subjected to local postal charges upon arrival.

*This presentation is a selection of the collection shown at the 1995 Singapore World Philatelic Exhibition.
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