

Queen Isabela II on First Philippine Stamps
Printed by Plana, Jorba y Comapaña, Binondo, Manila, February 1, 1854



**5 Cuartos
orange**



**10 Cuartos
carmine**



**10 Cuartos
pale rose**



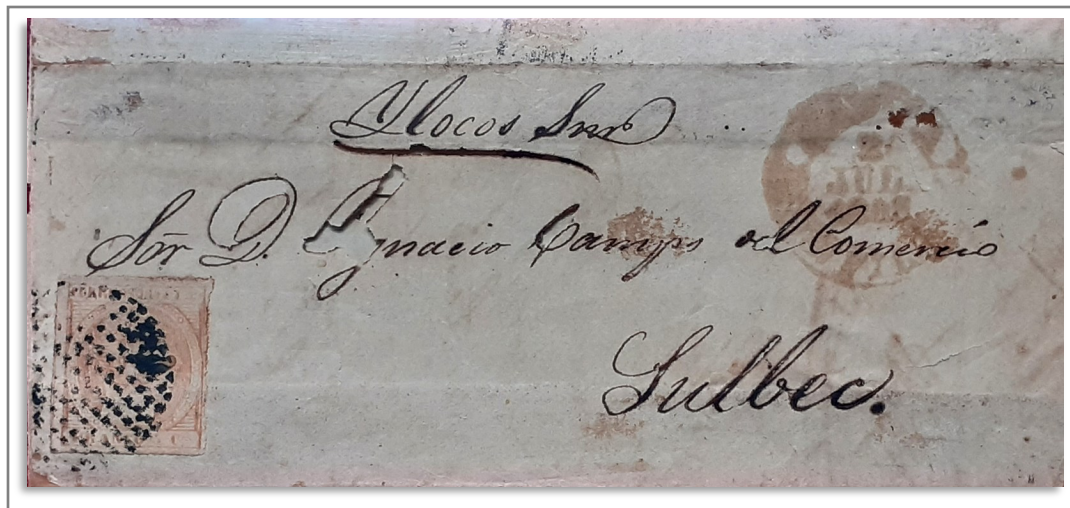
**1 Real
ultramarine**



**1 Real
slate blue**



**2 Reales
yellow green**



5 cuartos, Manila to Sulbec, Ilocos Sur, Jul 2, 1855



**HABILITADO POR LA NACION
abdication overprints**

As a colony of Spain, the Philippines was one of the first countries in the continent to use postage stamps in 1854; four years after Spain issued its first stamp.

In the tradition of British stamps featuring reigning monarchs, the first Philippine stamp issued in 1854 depicted an effigy of Queen Isabela II of Castile, and succeeding stamps featured various poses and crowns of the Queen until her abdication in 1868.

Three years later, the first perforated stamps featured the portrait of a crowned woman as an allegory for the New Spanish Republic. In 1872, stamps featuring the portrait of King Amadeo de Savoy were issued along with the first inscription of "Filipinas".



Amadeo de Savoy