

# PHILIPPINE ISLANDS SPECIAL DELIVERY

## “Running Messenger” Design 1906-1946

### The Longest Use of a Non Definitive Postage Stamp Design of the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE:** Examine the design and use of the so called “Running Messenger” special delivery stamp of the Philippine Islands. This design was used from September 8, 1906 until Philippine independence on July 4, 1946. This period represents the longest usage of any design printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing for any non definitive U.S. or U.S. Possessions postage stamp.

**BACKGROUND:** Following the conclusion of the Spanish American War in 1898, the Philippine Islands came under the administration of the United States. At that time, the current issues of U.S. postage stamps became valid for postage in the Philippines. Beginning on June 30, 1899, current U.S. postage stamps overprinted “Philippines” were issued for use. On September 8, 1906, these U.S. overprinted issues were replaced with a new series of stamps designed specifically for the Philippines, including the “Running Messenger” Special Delivery stamp.

**SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE:** This service allowed a letter to be sent from the receiving post office immediately upon arrival, instead of waiting for the next scheduled delivery. The special delivery fee of 20 Centavos (US 10 Cents) was due in addition to the regular required postage.

#### ORGANIZATION OF EXHIBIT:

- Essays
- Large Die Proofs
- Small Die Proofs
- Regular Issue - Chronological, including Specimens, Official Business and Usages
- 1947 Special Printing

#### EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Copies of the 2 known essays - each of which is the only recorded copy.
- Copies of the 2 known large die proofs - each of which is the only recorded copy.
- Copies of all 4 known small die proofs, one of which is the only recorded copy.
- Various specimen overprints, two of which are the only recorded copies.
- All 9 types of the Bandholtz OB (Official Business) overprints, plus errors.
- 1925 issue on cover - one of three recorded copies.