

1984

ESPAÑA '84 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION OVERPRINTS

Each of the four stamps of the España '84 Perforated and Imperforate Souvenir Sheets issued on April 27, 1984 were overprinted to commemorate different events. The overprinting was carried out by the Government Printing Office, Manila. The Perforated Souvenir Sheets were overprinted in Black whilst the Imperforate Sheets were overprinted in Red. Each Souvenir Sheet was intended to be cut to produce four individual stamps. Each of the stamps were issued over a four month period as follows:

1. July 17, 1984 – National Children's Book Day (Lower Left Stamp)
2. August 3, 1984 – Philippine-Mexican Friendship, 420th anniversary (Upper Right Stamp)
3. September 1, 1984 – Our Lady of Holy Rosary Parish, 300th Year (Lower Right Stamp)
4. October 5, 1984 – National Museum Week (Upper Left Stamp)

A total of 5,000 Souvenir Sheets were supposed to be overprinted. However, due to strong demand a second printing of a further 1,000 sets had been authorised in 1985 which was also partially used to fill the standing order of the British agent, Southern Stamp Services. When these additional Souvenir Sheets were sent to the printer, they forgot that the Imperforate Souvenir Sheets should receive the red overprint and were incorrectly overprinted in black, creating a new variety on the Imperforate stamps. Also, all of the 750 sets sent to England were in intact, uncut sheets rather than four single stamps as intended. The sheets from the second printing were issued on July 19, 1985.

The second printing comprised 1,040 perforated and 960 imperforate Souvenir Sheets, but 26 and 21 copies respectively were spoiled, reducing the final overprinted numbers accordingly.

The second printing can only be distinguished on the Our Lady of Holy Rosary Parish overprint in that the first '0' in '300' comprises a solid black circle, compared to that in the original printing which has a clear centre. Given the distinguishing feature only exists on one stamp, only uncut Souvenir Sheets are possible to determine which printing they are from.

A printing error was noticed and later corrected on the Our Lady of Holy Rosary Parish stamp where the bottom text reads 'O.L. LADY ROSARY' instead of 'O.L. HOLY ROSARY'.

After the fourth and last stamp was sold on October 5, 1984, the custodian at the Central Post Office found nothing wrong with selling the few remaining intact and uncut Souvenir Sheets. It is estimated that less than 50 sets from the first printing, plus about 20 with the 'O.L. LADY' error exist. Based on the large quantity sent over to Southern Stamp Services, majority of the second printing exist in intact and uncut sheets.

Summary of quantities issued:

	Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3	Issue 4
Black on Perf Stamp (1st Printing)	-	-	3,500	-
Black on Perf Stamp (O.L. Lady Error)	-	-	1,500	-
Black on Perf Stamp (2nd Printing)	-	-	1,014	-
Black on Perf Stamp (1st & 2nd Printings)	6,014	6,014	-	6,014
Red on Imperf Stamp (1st Printing)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Black on Imperf Stamp (2nd Printing)	939	939	939	939