

1870 "HABILITADO POR LA NACION" HANDSTAMPED ISSUE

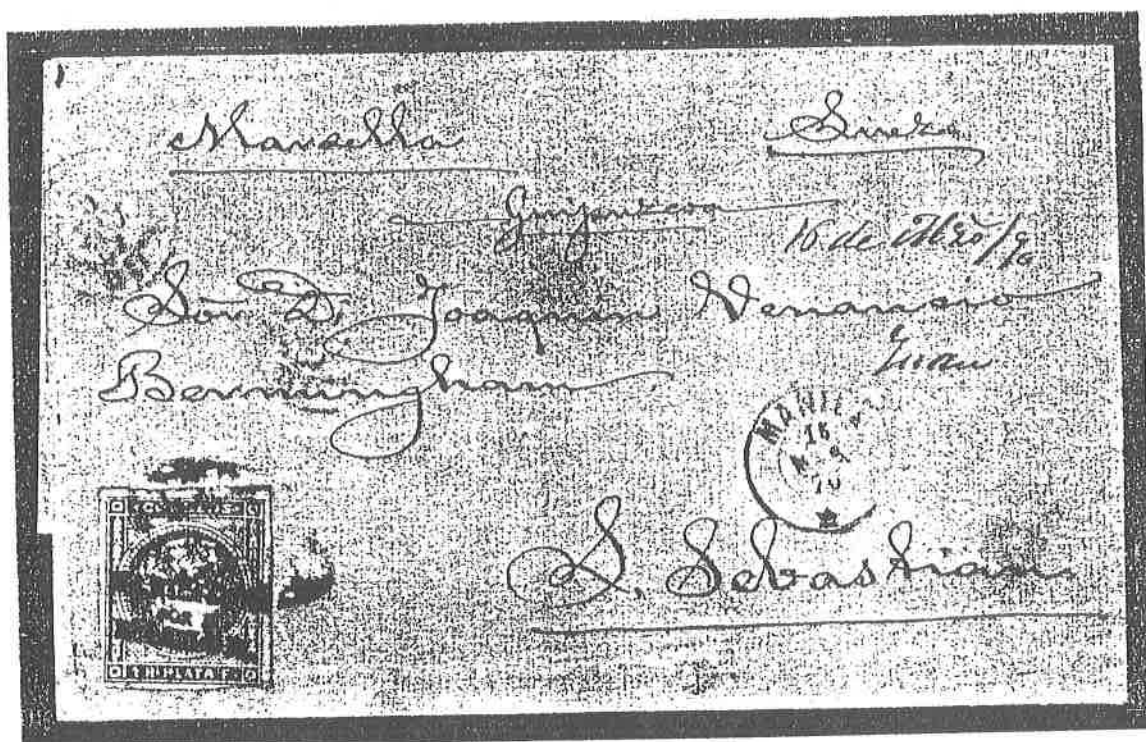
For foreign mail, on March and October 1863 Queen Isabella II issues. Still under Spain's First Republic. Imperforates.

April 12, 1870

1 Real
Gray Green
In Black.



1 Real
Green
In Black.



1870, March 15 - Manila-San Sebastian, via Isthmus de Suez to Marseilles, showing 1 Real Plata "Habilitado por la Nacion" stamp, for single letter rate to Spain.

EARLIEST KNOWN USAGE

The actual date of issue for these stamps is still debatable, with the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue showing April 12, 1870, Palmer & Bartels in their book "Postal Issues of the Philippines" as September 6, 1871, and, Juan Mencarini in his book "Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas" as September 6, 1870. However, the above cover repudates all these dates to show March 15, 1870 as the earliest known usage.