

THE 1909 BANDHOLTZ OB OVERPRINT: THE FORGOTTEN ONE

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This article presents an unknown set of Bandholtz OB overprints as well as illustrates their differences from other Bandholtz official overprints. Sometime in 1909, Brigadier General Harry H. Bandholtz, the Chief of the Philippine Constabulary, maintained a small portable printing press machine in his office and at the same time, began printing "O.B." overprints on Philippine definitive stamps. The stamps are of the 1906 issues with the exception of the 1-peso stamp, being a 1909 issue. These "O.B." overprints are press printed using either navy blue or red printer's ink. The letters are thicker and shorter than the more common 5 mm handstamped "O.B." overprints and have square periods after each letter. It is interesting to note that this set includes all denominations through the 1-peso, but each value apparently exists with only one color of overprint. This "O.B." overprint has been found in navy blue ink on the following denominations: Scott No. 241, 2c; 242, 4c; 244, 8c; 246, 12c; and 248, 20c. It is also found in a red overprint on: Scott No. 243, 6c; 245, 10c; 247, 16c; 249, 26c; 250, 30c; and 251, 1-peso. An interesting variety of the "O.B." overprint is a round instead of square period after the letter "O". This variety has been reported on all denominations and sometimes occurs in pairs with the normal overprint.

