

THE BANDHOLTZ OB OVERPRINT OF 1909: ITS USAGE IN PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY MAILINGS

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This article updates my previous article regarding this unknown set of Bandholtz OB overprints (PPJ, 4th Quarter, 2016). 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 260, 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. It had long been thought that these OB overprints were primarily reserved for the personal mailing use of General Bandholtz. However, my recent acquisition of several Philippine Constabulary official covers actually also showed the usage of the Bandholtz OB overprints in the Philippine Constabulary official mailings. The 1909 Bandholtz OB overprints on covers are very scarce.

