

# BANDHOLTZ OB OVERPRINT ON SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUES OF 1901-1911

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## Introduction

In early May 1907, the Director of the Philippine Constabulary, Brig. Gen. Harry H. Bandholtz, requested permission from the Director of the Bureau of Posts for the experimental use of printed "OB" on 1899 – 1904 overprinted "PHILIPPINES" issues. His main reason was to control and reduce the postal expenses of his department. In granting the permission, the Director of the Bureau of Posts, Mr. C. M. Cotterman, wrote a letter to the Director of the Bureau of Printing, dated May 25, 1907, requesting the Bureau of Printing "... to overprint with the letters OB such unused Philippine postage stamps as may be delivered to you by any government bureau or bureaus for such purpose; the cost of this printing to be charged to the Bureau of Posts ...In the first lot, it may be advisable to make trials of several colors of ink to determine the most suitable, but it is requested that the letters OB be uniform throughout, and the selection of type is left to your superior judgment." Apparently, only the Philippine Constabulary availed itself of the granted permission. The resulting OB overprinted stamps are now known as the BANDHOLTZ OB OVERPRINTS. The overprint was without period after "O" and "B" on the 1906 – 1911 Philippine Definitive issues and on the 1906 and the 1911 Special Delivery issues.

Due to the limited availability, collecting Special Delivery stamps surcharged with official markings is a challenge and more so with special delivery issues on official covers. They are deemed scarce to exceedingly scarce or rare. This presentation highlights these Bandholtz OB Special Delivery issues and their usage in the official mailings of the Philippine Constabulary during the covered period.

### A. Special Delivery Issue of 1901 (Scott # E1)



50 pieces issued



November 20, 1907: MALOLOS, BULACAN to MANILA

Official cover bearing 10 cents overprint "PHILIPPINES" Special Delivery issue of 1901 with printed Bandholtz red OB together with pair of 4-centavo McKinley (with inverted black OB overprints) and 12-centavo Lincoln (with navy blue OB overprint) definitive issues of 1906.

**ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE OF 1901 SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUE WITH BANDHOLTZ OB ON COVER**