

die by the Bureau of Printing. They have a special plate for sheets of regular postage stamps but same does not fit the Special Delivery sheets. Some samples for your information. (signed 'HHB' – Harry Hill Bandholtz).” Apparently, the Bureau of Printing made up individual metal dies for the “O” and “B”. From this, they overprinted the Special Delivery stamps one stamp at a time in the printing press. This must be a tedious and time consuming manual operation. The poorly printed letters are possibly due to the difficulty of this printing process. These overprints are definitely printed and are not handstamped, as can be seen under high magnification – the ink is forced to the outside of the letters by the pressure of the metal die and a raised impression of the OB overprint can be seen on the back side of many of these stamps.



**Double OBs: left Special Delivery stamp has additional handstamped small blue OB; right Special Delivery stamp has one OB overprint inverted.**



**April 29, 1910: BAGUIO, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE to MANILA**

Using a 2-centavo Rizal blue postal stationery envelope (PSE) issue of 1908 (UPSS# OB2) franked with 20-centavo 1906 Special Delivery issue (with black OB overprint) and 4-centavo McKinley and 20-centavo Washington definitive issues of 1906 (both with handstamped small blue OB).

#### **LESS THAN 5 RECORDED E2 COVERS WITH BLACK BANDHOLTZ OB OVERPRINT**

Note: The number of copies listed as only 9 (Gilbert Plass, *Possessions*, 1985) is apparently erroneous. Including the above stamps, my current tally for E2 with black OB overprint is at 21 stamps. Moreover, with several shades of ultramarine color appreciated in Special Delivery stamps used, there could be at least 150 copies issued.