



Apparently, in 1911, the Special Delivery stamps were overprinted OB with the same plate of 100 subjects used for the regular definitive stamps. This printing resulted in two OB overprints appearing on each Special Delivery stamp because of its larger size. Thus, horizontally repeating OB-OB combinations or split letter combinations were created. It is important to note that in 1907, the Philippine Constabulary was able to make another plate consisting of 50 subjects for their 1901 and 1906 Special Delivery issues with single red OB overprints. Likewise, the plate of 50 OB overprints was also used on the 1911 Special Delivery stamps with single red OB overprints. Why did the Bureau of Printing use the plate of 100 OB overprints on other 1911 Special Delivery stamps? My two cents worth suggests that one of the two possibilities occurred during the creation of the Special Delivery OB overprints: man-made errors during the printing operations at the Bureau of Printing; or the OB overprint varieties were deliberately made. (Joseph M. Napp, personal communication)



Left margin arrow block of 4 with black OB overprints in the left selvage. This block came from a left-side pane of 50 Special Delivery stamps that was placed on the press where the overprint alignment control device was on the left side of the press. Hence, the OB overprints were not properly applied.



Inverted Black OB-OB and Split Letter Combinations

Right- and left-sided panes of 50 Special Delivery stamps were shipped to Manila in packages or pads. It has been reported by Joe Napp that the panes in those pads could have alternating left- and right-sided panes with selvages oriented to one side. This was usually done so that the staples used to hold the pad together would go through the selvage areas and not the printed areas of the stamps. If the Bureau of Printing staff did not notice this packaging characteristic, then some panes would be produced with inverted OB overprints.