

## TIMBRE MOVIL (DOCUMENTARY STAMP)

### UNITED STATES CUSTOM HOUSE

During the first seven days immediately after the occupation of Manila on August 13, 1898, a provisional US Military Government was established to carry on the functions of government in those portions of the Philippines which were under American Control, which, prior to the fall of Manila, had been exercised by the Spanish authorities.

On August 16, 1898, the Administration of the Customs and Internal Revenue Departments was taken over by the US Military Government. An official military government order issued by Command of Major-General Merritt (US Military Governor of the Philippines) appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Albert Whittier (1840-1908) as Collector of Customs. Additionally, Lieutenant-Colonel George Radcliffe Colton (1865-1916) was appointed Deputy Collector and Captain Taylor appointed as Captain of the Custom House Guard, with company "L" and the Lieutenants as assistance. In this role, Whittier was responsible for administering customs functions at the Port of Manila, including enforcement of customs rules, registration of arrivals and departures, and issuance of necessary certificates, all carried out under the authority of the US military government. On October 21, 1898, Colton was promoted to Collector of Customs at the resignation of General Whittier, with Taylor assigned as Deputy Collector.



Charles Frederick Mudgett

Captain Charles Frederick Mudgett (1868-1950), Lieutenant Charles Samuel Haughwout and Lieutenant Charles H Sleeper were appointed as Customs Officers assigned to the Port of Manila. These officials took charge of the revenue stamps and stamped paper, which were found in the warehouse of the defunct Treasury Department which was previously under Spanish rule.

It was felt that a surcharge of some sort should be affixed to the stamps and stamped paper before they were offered for sale, in order to indicate the change of sovereignty and to avoid any possible loss of revenue to the newly created US Military Government from the use of any unused stocks of those revenue stamps and stamped paper which might have been in private hands at the time of the surrender of Manila. No dies for this purpose were at hand and there was urgent need for the immediate release of the stamps and stamped paper. Therefore, on August 20, 1898, the Collector of Internal Revenue began to use some of the remainder Spanish-

Philippine revenue stamps and stamped paper surcharged with the initials of the Customs Officers Charles F Mudgett (CFM), Charles S Houghwout (CSH) and Charles H Sleeper (CHS). These initials were handwritten on the stamps and stamped paper in red ink, as follows:



"CFM"

C F Mudgett



"CSH"

C S Haughwout



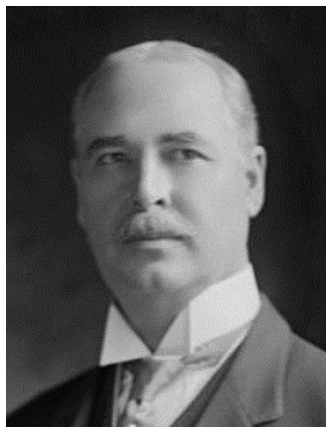
"CHS"

C H Sleeper

The initials of only one of these officials was applied to each stamp. Revenue stamps and stamped paper bearing these handwritten initials remained in use until around the end of January 1899. From around February 1899, rubber stamped surcharges was applied to the existing Spanish-Philippine stamped paper prior to its use. These surcharges were applied, not only to the stamped paper of the current biennial period of 1898 - 1899, but also to any obsolete stamped paper, which was available.

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#### GEORGE RADCLIFFE COLTON

George Radcliffe Colton, from the First Nebraska Volunteers, was appointed Deputy Collector from August 16, 1898. On October 21, 1898, Colton was promoted to Collector of Customs at the resignation of General Whittier, holding that position until May 24, 1899. He was later appointed as Collector of Customs in Iloilo. Between September 16, 1907 and October 31, 1909 Colton was appointed Collector of Customs in Manila, overseeing tariff collection and customs operations at the Philippines principal port under US colonial government. Majority of the surviving customs documents for the period up to January 1899 were signed by Colton.

#### CUSTOMS HEADS - PORT OF MANILA (1898 - 1910)

Period	Official	Notes
<i>Aug 16 – Oct 20, 1898</i>	Lieut. Col. C. A. Whittier	Appointed while U.S. forces still under military government; first inspector/collector post-capture.
<i>Oct 21, 1898 – May 24, 1899</i>	Lieut. Col. George R. Colton	Early U.S. customs official; later served as Collector in Iloilo and Manila.
<i>May 25 – Sep 18, 1899</i>	Lieut. Col. J. D. Miley	Transitional military customs administrator.
<i>Sep 20, 1899 – Oct 7, 1900</i>	Lieut. Col. William P. Spurgin	Continued customs under military authority.
<i>Oct 8, 1900 – Jun 14, 1901</i>	Brig. Gen. James F. Smith	Military government collector before civil service establishment.

#### PHILIPPINE CUSTOMS (1898 - 1910)

Name	Position	Port	Years
C. A. Whittier	Collector	Manila	1898 (military government)
George R. Colton	Collector	Iloilo	~1900–1907
George R. Colton	Collector	Manila	1907–1909
W. Morgan Shuster	Insular Collector	Manila	1902–?
Henry B. McCoy	Collector	Manila	1909 onward
Charles Houghwout	Customs Officer	Manila	early 1900s
Charles Sleeper	Customs Officer	Manila	early 1900s
Captain Charles Mudgett	Customs Officer	Philippines	early 1900s