

PHILIPPINES

1947 SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMP



Original Pencil Drawing of Unadopted Design of Central Vignette on Thin White Wove Paper
By Earl Hansen, American Bank Note Co. Designer
Only Example Recorded

This traditional-style exhibit documents the design of and various uses of the first Special Delivery stamp issued by the Republic of the Philippines after the Philippine Islands gained its independence after nearly five centuries of foreign rule. The Philippines officially became a separate nation on July 4, 1946. Along with independence came the obligations associated with self-rule, including the preparation of stamps necessary to move the mails for the Philippine citizens living on 7,107 separate islands. The first postage stamps of the new Republic were issued on that first day of independence. Seventeen months later, the first and what turned out to be one of only two Special Delivery stamps ever prepared by this country, was issued December 22, 1947. This stamp served its function alone for 15 years, until the second and final Special Delivery stamp was issued in 1962.

This exhibit begins with archival material prepared during the creation of the stamp, including original drawings, a large die proof of the final design and specimen stamps, and then offers examples of the issued stamp and its use on a wide range of covers showing different postal rates. Special Delivery service was available only on domestic mail and mail to the United States and its Possessions.

Of particular note is use of Special Delivery service accompanying postal rates which rarely utilized that service, including post cards and postal cards, printed matter, third class mail, circulars, commercial papers and paquebot mail. The exhibit also shows seldom-seen examples posted to several United States Possessions, including a cover to Saipan, a trust territory/insular possession, for which Special Delivery service was not authorized. The exhibit concludes with the only recorded cover which utilized the Special Delivery stamp as regular postage.