



Cavite to Barcelona, Spain, January 4, 1886.

**Inverted Surcharge** - right stamp

30c triple weight rate to Spain, 1-1½ oz. Spanish Registration Fee of 15c.

If the intent was to pay for a triple weight letter, then this cover is technically underpaid 7½ centavos. The postage rate to Spain was 12½ centavos per one half ounce. However, as indicated, it was not an unusual occurrence for registered covers to Spain to be paid at the reduced rate of 10 centavos per one half ounce. Figured as such, the 45 centavos correctly paid the triple weight registered rate. If the letter weight was one half to one ounce, and the double weight was the correct rate, then the correct postage rate would have been 40 centavos, making the 5 centavos stamp superfluous. Given that so many customers were compelled to post covers at a cost exceeding the correct rate, it is less likely the postal customer would have added a completely unnecessary stamp when it wasn't necessary.