

TYPE 12 SURCHARGE ON TELEGRAPH RECEIPT



Telegraph Receipt - Manila to **Barcelona**, via Suez
17 stamps paying the rate of 21 Pesos, 33 cmos.

Surcharge Errors

Type 12- **Inverted Surcharge**, pos. 8, 9, 10

The 10 cuartos surcharge employed a currency which was discontinued in 1864, the peso duro or peso plata. The currency employed between 1881 and 1889 was the Peso. As such, 10 cuartos equaled 6.5 centimos (or centavos) de Peso. The telegraph operator likely confused the 10 cuartos for 10 centimos. If the surcharge is figured as 10 centimos, the stamps used pay the full rate of the cable. However, the actual value of the surcharged stamps resulted in an underpayment of 14 centimos. Why the surcharge was expressed in an outdate currency is unknown. It is theorized the device prevented forgery by confusing the potential forger. Unfortunately, the result was confusion for the public and the telegraph operator, many of whom were not alive when the older currency was employed.