

TYPE 17 SURCHARGE ON COVER



Manila to **Anvers, Belgium**, March 3, 1888. Rec. April 8th.
Endorsed "Por Vapor Saigon" with Red French paquebot transit mark, Mar. 14th on front.
8c single weight rate to overseas destinations, up to ½ oz.

POSTSCRIPT

The DECREE OF MARCH 22, 1889, read: "Beginning with the first of next August (August 1, 1889) there will be withdrawn from circulation, with absolute prohibition of admission for current use, all stamps of every class whatever on which a stamped design or legend in form of surcharge exists."

The Spanish Crown confirmed the decree even more forcibly by issuing Royal Order No. 127 on February 17, 1896: "The Superintendent of the Treasury is responsible, and shall see that no more stamps now in stock are surcharged; neither shall any postal stamps hereafter be surcharged for telegraphic purposes, nor any telegraph stamps be surcharged for postal, fiscal, or any other purposes unless such surcharge is duly authorized by the Crown. In case of urgent need this permission may be obtained by telegraph."

In 1890, Spain provided the Philippines with new stamps depicting King Alfonso XIII as an infant, what is referred to now as the "Baby Head" stamps. The stamp shortage in the Philippines was remedied by regular shipments of stamps, in amounts sufficient to satisfy the needs of both postal and telegraph use.

The Surcharge Era had officially ended.