

THE 1897 FIRST BUREAU ISSUE USED IN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

History: By the late 1800's the United States believed they should be a major world power such as Germany, Great Britain, Spain and France. In order to do this they felt they needed to have influence in other, distant parts of the world. Their opportunity came with the sinking of the battleship "Maine" in Havana harbor. They blamed Spain and declared war on them. They quickly defeated Spain and acquired many of their possessions including Guam, the Philippines and Samoa. The US earlier had a Postal Agency in Shanghai, China and during the Boxer Rebellion they established post offices in other parts of China to provide mail service to their embassies and the military personnel protecting them.

In 1897 the US Post Office changed the color of some of their regular issue stamps so that they would be the same color as other UPU equivalent rates. The issue consisted of the 1 cent which was changed from blue to green, the 5 cent which was changed from brown to blue, the 10 cent which was changed from green to brown and the 15 cent which was changed from blue to olive green. Three more values were issued at the same time with minor changes to their colors, the 2 cent, the 4 cent and the 6 cent.

The exhibit. Examples of these color changes will be shown on large pieces and covers from Samoa, China, Guam and the Philippines showing various different usages.

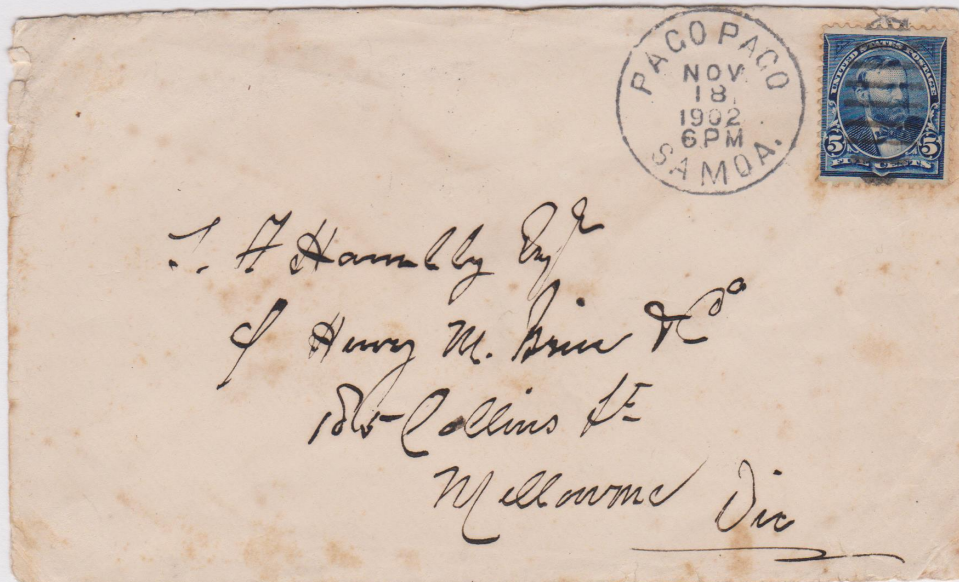


Samoa became a US protectorate on December 2, 1899. The above registered cover from Pago Pago to the US shows examples of all the stamps of the 1897 issue except the 15 cent stamp plus the previously issued 3 and 8 cent stamps.

SAMOA



Pago Pago, Samoa to the US via Special Delivery



5 cent UPU rate from Pago Pago to Melbourne, Australia

CHINA

From the 1860's until 1922 the United States had a Postal Agency in Shanghai, China. A few examples of different uses of the 1897 issue will be shown.



Mixed franking of Chinese and US stamps with some Chinese stamps repaired and replaced. The US postage includes three 15 cents 1897 issue stamps and five 2nd bureau stamps paying the 8 cent registered and 30x2 cent book rate.

CHINA

Shanghai: There were 4 registry labels used in Shanghai, 2 black and 2 red. Shown are the 2 red labels on covers to the US.



Three 5 cent blue, one 1cent green and one 2 cent red paying the 8 cent registry rate and the 5 cent UPU rate with a red registry label.



In 1903 mail from Shanghai to the US began to be charged 2 cents instead of 5 cents. The above cover is franked with a pair of 5 cent blues which paid the 2 cent rate to the US plus the 8 cent registry fee and a red label.

CHINA

Military Stations: Below are shown 4 different Military Station postmarks on covers franked with 2 cent red stamps from the 1897 issue.



CHINA

Military Stations: Below is shown a cover with a LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ PEKIN, CHINA corner card and franked with a 2 cent stamp, canceled by a Military Station postmark



1 cent green 1897 issue stamp overprinted Philippines sent from Manila to a military address in Peking, China. It was received and backstamped FEB 22, 1901. It was ADVERTISED and struck with a Military Station cancel dated MAR 5, 1901. When no one responded to the advertising it was canceled with another Military Station postmark dated APR 22, marked RETURN TO SENDER, a pointing hand pointing at the originating address was drawn and the cover was returned to Manila, arriving MAY 10.

GUAM

Guam is the southernmost island of the Marianas Islands. It was ceded by Spain to the US at the end of the Spanish-American war. Guam had overprinted stamps to use well as unoverprinted.



All mail from Guam went first to the Philippines and was then sent to it's final destination. Shown is a large piece containing printed matter sent from Guam to the US. It is franked with nine 5 cent blue, five 4 cent brown and one 1 cent green overprinted stamps paying the 8 cent registry fee and the 2 cent x 29 printed matter rate. It was registered and mailed in Guam, then canceled with 2 registry marks in the Philippines and sent to the US.

GUAM

Early Mail: The rate to the US from Guam initially was the UPU rate of 5 cents. The following 2 covers show that rate.



Five 1 cent green stamps overprinted GUAM canceled in the Marianas paying the 5 cent rate to the US. Even after the Northern Marianas were ceded to Germany overprinted US stamps were allowed to pay postage.



A double rate cover from Guam paid 10 cents by two 2 cent red, one 1 cent green and one 5 cent blue overprinted GUAM going to the US.

GUAM

Special Delivery



As well as regular issue stamps special delivery stamps were overprinted for use in Guam. Above are an overprinted 10 cent and a special delivery stamp used on a cover from Guam to the US.



A cover franked with an overprinted 2 cent red from Guam to Michigan. Upon reaching Michigan it was forwarded from Elk Rapids to Petoskey with a special delivery stamp added to speed delivery.

GUAM

Registry



Cover bearing 10 cent stamp overprinted GUAM registered to the US. Canceled in the Ladrone Islands, transiting Agana and going on to the US.



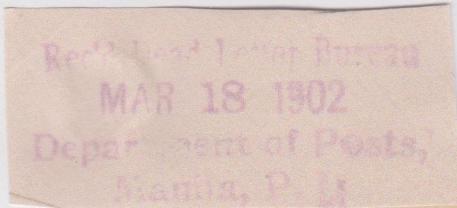
Cover from Agana, Guam franked with a 2 cent red and a pair of 4 cent brown overprinted GUAM marked with a Philippines registry cancel and sent to the US where it was forwarded from Troy to Putnam Nation, New York.

GUAM

Registered and Guam to the Philippines



Registered cover from the Guam Naval Station to Mt. Vernon, Ohio franked with five overprinted 2 cent reds paying the 2 cent rate to the US and the 8 cent registry fee.



Cover franked with overprinted 2 cent red to Cavite, Philippines. The addressee had died and the cover was sent to the DEAD LETTER BUREAU in Manila. The enlarged marking is shown in the upper left. It reads Received Dead letter Bureau/MAR 18 1902/Department of Posts/Manila P. I.

PHILIPPINES

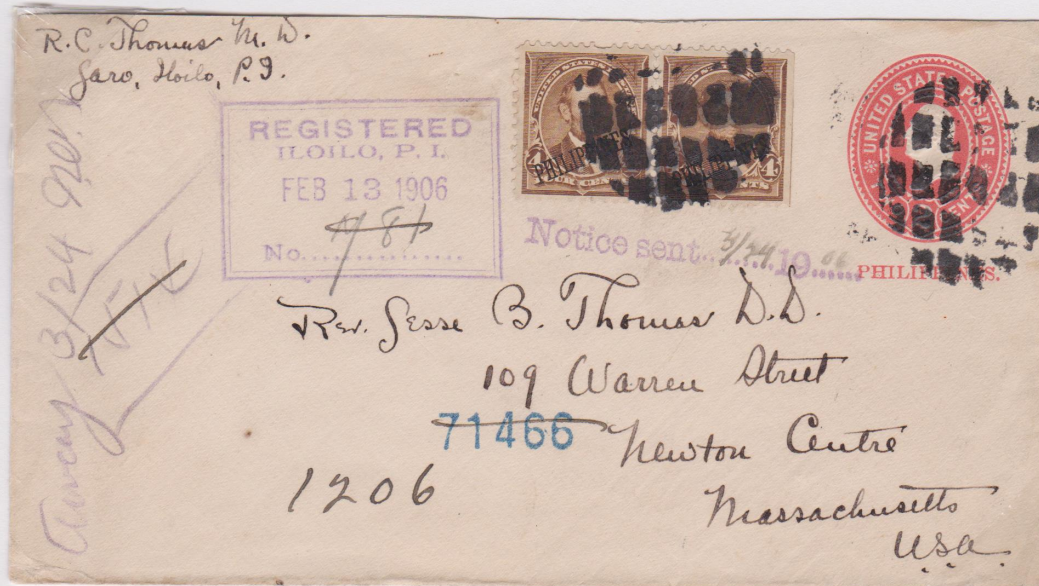
Registry



Parcel piece franked with overprinted 2 cent red, 5 cent blue and a pair of 15 cent green stamps sent to California. It is marked Government Employees Mail and registered in Manila. It is marked in blue pencil 37, indicating the postage 8 cents for registry and 29 cents for the regular postage

PHILIPPINES

Registry



2 cent overprinted envelope additionally franked with a pair of overprinted 4 cent brown stamps paying the 2 cent rate to the US and the 8 cent registration fee. Late use from Iloilo, P. I.



Registered cover from Manila to the US franked with overprinted 2 cent red and 10 cent brown paying the 8 cent registration fee and double rate postage of 4 cents. Also canceled by Manila's M in a circle.

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Registry



Registered cover to Mexico franked with overprinted 2 cent and 10 cent stamps. Also an El Paso Registry label showing the registry transit into Mexico.

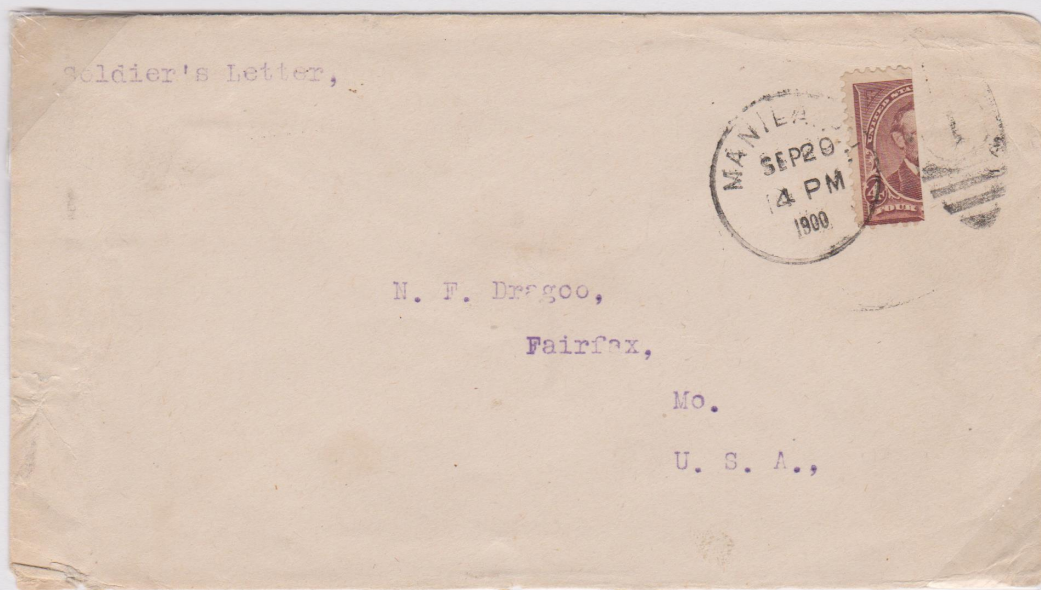


Registered soldier's letter from Manila to Honolulu. Franked with overprinted 1 cent green, 2 cent red, 3 cent purple, 5 cent blue and 10 cent brown on a 2 cent envelope erroneous paying the 3 x's the 5 cent UPU rate instead of the soldier's concession rate of 2 cents thereby overpaying the 14 cent rate (3x2 + 8 cents registry) by 9 cents.

PHILIPPINES



Cover franked by strip of three overprinted 5 cent blue going via Singapore to Saipan, German Marianas. Sent NOV 24 1899 and received 8/21/00, almost 9 months in transit.



Unauthorized unoverprinted 4 cent brown bisect accepted at Manila for postage to US (backstamped Fairfax, Mo. OCT ?, 1900)

PHILIPPINES

Patriotic covers



"REMEMBER THE MAINE" patriotic cover to the US franked with unoverprinted 2 cent red canceled by a straightline US MIL. STA. NO. 1 S.F. Cal/CAVITE P.I. Oct. 6 98.



11th Cavalry, U.S.V. banner patriotic cover franked with an overprinted 2 cent red stamp to the US. The stamp is canceled with a star cancel and the cover postmarked with an ornate NUEVA CACERES cancel.