DERECHO JUDICIAL (JUDICIAL FEE)

Judicial Fees were in addition to the requirement that all documents presented in any judicial action, as well as the judicial record of the action, must be executed upon a Papel Sellado (Documentary Stamped Paper). A Judicial Fee was charged, not only for every official act of the Judge, but also for every official act of every subordinate official of the Court.

1856 - 1864

These stamps were first issued in 1856 for use in Cuba and Porto Rico, with use extending to the Philippines in 1860. They were printed in Spain and the Superintendent of Finance of each Colony was required to make requisition for quantities of these stamps as considered necessary. The denominations ordered for use in the Philippines were determined by the tariff of judicial fees promulgated by the Royal Audencia (Supreme Court) of the Philippines. This tariff did not establish any judicial fee in excess of 5-reales. Hence the 10-reales and 100-reales denominations were not required for use in the Philippines.

It is believed that a new series of Derecho Judicial stamps were issued for each of the five biennium's from 1856-57 to 1864-1865, and that each denomination was printed in a different colour for each biennium. Given the use of these stamps was not extended to the Philippines until 1860 accounts for the fact that not more than three different colours of one denomination are known to have been used in the Philippines. Each series of the stamps remained valid until the supply was exhausted. Thus, the requisitions submitted by Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines required only three printings of the 1-real stamp, of which only two printings were used in the Philippines.

