

1898

“ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT” (AR) OF REGISTERED MAIL

Although “Acknowledgement of Receipt of Registered Mail” or *Aviso de recibo de un objeto certificado* (AR) may have been a UPU service available in the Philippines for registered mail since the late 1870s, only a few receipts are known, and no Spanish period AR cover has yet been found. After July 1, 1892, UPU required the AR fee to be paid at origin by affixing additional stamps to pay the AR fee and “AR” on the cover. Upon delivery, an AR form was prepared by the receiving post office with the signature of the addressee, and was returned to the sender, requiring no additional postage by the addressee. All indications are that the use of AR in the Spanish Philippines was a rare occurrence.

ONLY 3 “ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPTS” KNOWN

The three known AR forms are dated in 1897-1898, all to overseas destinations. The Philippine AR fee was 5 centavos for originating mail to overseas destinations, and would have been affixed on the front of the originating Philippine cover.

COMUNICACIONES

ADMINISTRACIÓN DE *Agente francés*

NÚMERO DEL CERTIFICADO *536*



Aviso de recibo de un objeto certificado

EL que suscribe (1) *Eliseo Hidalgo*

declara que un certificado impuesto en (2) *Paris*

el día *6* de *Mayo 98* con el número de origen anotado

anteriormente, le ha sido entregado con esta fecha por la oficina de (3) *San Fernando de La Union*

San Fernando de Junio de 1898

Although stamps were not required on the AR, the added Philippine surcharged stamp and cancel on this receipt are forgeries and were likely added later.

1898 (May 6, 1898) Paris, France to San Fernando, La Union. AR form received in June 1898. The AR fee would have been affixed with Philippine stamps on the originating Philippine cover sent to France. San Fernando, a seaport town and capital of La Union Province, was under Spanish control until taken by General Tinio of Aguinaldo's forces in July 1898. The U.S. military station post office opened in January 1900.