

INCOMING OFFICIAL MAIL
(From Spain)

On March 16, 1854, a Spanish Royal Decree (Madrid) was issued that resulted in the creation of four special stamps for official mail. The denominations were indicated by weight: 1/4 onza, 1/2 onza, 1 onza, and 4 onzas. Official stamps were required on all official mail, which were supplied free of charge to the senders – thus creating a free franking privilege. The stamps were issued in Spain on January 1, 1855, and shortly after in the Philippines. The use of these stamps was discontinued in Spain on July 4, 1866, but may have been in use in the Philippines as late as September 1866.

ONLY A FEW INCOMING OFFICIAL COVERS KNOWN



1865 (March 20) Alicante, Spain to Manila via Madrid (April 2, 1865) with two Una onza official stamps.