

1898 ISSUE

OVERSEAS MAIL VIA HONG KONG
MAY – AUGUST 1898

Following the defeat of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay on May 1, 1898, the Manila post office remained under Spanish control until August 13, when U.S. forces entered the city and closed the Spanish-run post office. Foreign businesses in Manila continued to place Spanish Philippine stamps (primarily the 1898 issues) on their overseas mail, but rarely brought the mail to the Spanish-run Manila post office. Instead, such mail was hand-carried to a private non-Spanish ship en route to Hong Kong, where it was posted at the Hong Kong post office. On rare occasions, such Manila mail first went to Singapore or Saigon. From Hong Kong, west-bound mail was usually carried by British or French packets, and east-bound mail was usually carried by private U.S. ships. Although mail was still being processed at Cavite, the earliest known cover from the Manila post office was dated August 19, and at that time, resumed through the Manila post office. A number of Philippine 1898 stamps exist with Hong Kong cancels, dated from May through August 1898.

ONLY A FEW COVERS KNOWN
(with Philippine stamps cancelled at the Hong Kong PO)



1898 (about May 26) Manila to Bremen, Germany, via Hong Kong at the 8 centavos single-letter overseas rate. From El Oriente Fabrica de Tabacos (Spanish firm). Cancelled May 30, 1898, at the Hong Kong post office, with a July 6, 1898, receiving cancel on reverse.