

1898 ISSUE

POST-DEWEY COMMERCIAL MAIL TO SPAIN

Although the Spanish fleet was destroyed on May 1, 1898, by Commodore Dewey, Spanish and other commercial business firms quickly renewed operations, including sending mail through the Spanish-run post office in Manila. The Spanish garrison at Manila surrendered to U.S. General Wesley Merritt on August 13 and the Spanish Post Office was closed on that date. The post office re-opened under U.S. control on August 14. Due to Dewey's blockade of Spanish ships and mail to and from Manila, overseas mail from Manila was directly delivered to non-Spanish ships. Franked Spanish commercial mail is scarce during the interim period from May 1 through August 13, 1898.

LAST KNOWN SPANISH PERIOD COMMERCIAL COVER
THROUGH THE SPANISH-CONTROLLED MANILA POST OFFICE



1898 (August 10) Manila to Cartagena, Spain with receiving cancel on the reverse. The commercial letter was posted at the 6-centavos single-weight overseas rate to Spain. Posted at the Manila post office and delivered to a non-Spanish ship. The Spanish controlled the Manila post office for three more days, until the U.S. Army closed it on August 13.