

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISING THE SPANISH  
PHILIPPINE LISTINGS IN THE SCOTT CATALOGUE**

by

Don Peterson

Like most catalogues, the Scott Catalogue contains inaccuracies. Some are a result of typographical errors that are often corrected the following year. Others are a result of incomplete, outdated, or incorrect interpretations of philatelic data which remain in the catalogue for many years.

For the past three years, I have been assembling the necessary documentation to substantiate changes to the Spanish Philippine listings in the Scott Catalogue. On June 17, 1987, data on eight recommended changes were submitted to Mr. Marty Frankevicz of the Scott Publishing Company, Sidney, Ohio, for his consideration. Previous discussions with Mr. Frankevicz indicated that substantive documentation was needed before any changes could be made. In most cases, at least four primary references were provided (by photocopy) for each recommended change.

The recommended changes submitted to Mr. Frankevicz are summarized as follows:

1. The currency rate in 1854 should be changed to "1 real = 20 cuartos". The current catalogue indicates "1 real = 8 cuartos", which is incorrect for the Philippines. It was, however, the correct currency conversion for Spain at that time.

2. The identification of Scott Nos. 12, 13 and 14 should be revised. The current dependence on the presence or lack of a dot or colon after "CORREOS" is an unreliable/inconsistent identification feature. The identifying features should be as follows:

Scott #12 - large "FRANCO"  
Scott #13 - small "FRANCO", coarse network  
Scott #14 - small "FRANCO", fine network

3. The date of issue for Scott Nos. 39-42 should be 1871, not 1870.

4. Scott No. 62A should be changed to 62a, because it is merely a color variation of the same issue/printing.

5. Scott No. 90 should be deleted as it is a forgery or bogus issue.

6. Scott No. 123 should be listed as two entries to show the existence of two different "8c" types. Those entries should be as follows:

123 R1 (d+e) 2r red on 8c pale red on 2r  
bl ('81)  
123A R1 (d+d) 2r red on 8c pale red on 2r  
bl ('81)

7. Scott No. 138 should be revised to reflect two entries, as follows:

138 1c gray green (88)  
138a 1c yellow green (89)

8. Scott Nos. 184 and 186 should be footnoted to indicate that they are from the same printing and differ in color due to the amount of ink applied to the surcharge (Scott No. 186 could be deleted); and that, although surcharged in 1897, they were actually released in 1899, after the end of the Spanish period.

A positive response to those recommendations was received from Mr. Frankevicz, in a letter to me dated June 29. He indicated that because of the production schedule, some suggested changes might not appear until the 1989 Volume 4.

Additionally, Mr. Gene Garrett, IPPS International Operations President, wrote Mr. Frankevicz on July 12, 1987, to endorse the recommended changes. More importantly, in his letter, Mr. Garrett initiated a challenge to the members of IPPS (and all serious collectors of Philippine philately) to provide recommended changes to all periods of the Philippines to the Scott Publishing Company. Mr. Garrett's constructive comments are reproduced (in part) below:

"A secondary purpose of my letter is to advise that among our members are others who are and have been serious workers in the field of Philippine philately, not only of the Spanish Period, but also of the U.S. Administration, the Commonwealth, and of the Japanese Occupation. If you are amenable to receiving studies similar to that submitted by Mr. Peterson, I will encourage others in our Society, through our Society publications, to prepare such submissions for your consideration."

Mr. Garrett should be applauded for trying to open the door to much needed changes to the Philippine listings in the Scott Catalogue.

The Scott Publishing Company is cautious in making changes to its catalogue. Generally, recommendations without sufficient documentation are seldom considered. For obvious reasons, I concur with that approach. However, their speed in making changes to the catalogue once adequate documentation has been provided has been disappointing, at least in the past. Hopefully, that situation can be improved.

Mr. Garrett and I encourage all serious Philippine collectors to respond to this challenge and to provide recommendations and ample documentation to the Scott Publishing Company. It is time to rectify those inaccuracies, some of which are 75 years old.

If anyone would like a copy of the above-mentioned recommendations and documentation of changes to the Spanish Philippine listings, please contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20012.