

HISTORICAL NOTES

The stamp pictured in **FIGURE 1**, is Scott No. 25, the unique 1 Real ultramarine "Corros" error overprinted "Habilitado Por La Nacion" in black. The stamp was sold as Lot No. 330 in the auction of the Ferrars H. Tows Collection of Philippines, conducted by Carl E. Pelander in New York in November of 1948. The stamp was properly described, and brought a hammer price of \$290.00, a substantial figure for that time.

The stamp was later sold in the November 1979 auction of US, British Empire and Foreign stamps conducted by Sotheby Parke Bernet Stamp Auction Co. The stamp, Lot 1191, was properly listed as Scott 25 and had a P.F. Certificate. However, the fact the stamp also contained the "Corros" error was not included in the description, although the stamp was pictured in the catalog. The stamp realized only \$550.00, less than a 100% increase after the passage of 31 years.

Most recently, the stamp was offered in the May 21, 1988 mail auction of Stamps and Covers of the Philippines conducted by Philstamps. The stamp, Lot 10, was accurately described as being on the "Corros" error. The final realization was \$13,200.00, a 2,400% increase in just nine years.

This unique stamp, one of the "Kings" of Philippine Philately currently resides in the collection of Mario Que, and is one of the many highlights of his award winning exhibit "Philippines 1780s-1877 (pre-UPU Era)."

Also in the Tows Collection sold in 1948 was another gem of Philippine Philately, purportedly the only known unused multiple of the redrawn 5¢ vermilion stamp of 1855, Scott 7. (**FIGURE 2**.) The stamps, Lot 188, sold for \$188.00.

Fifty years later the stamps, also identified as the only known pair, were sold in the February 1988 public auction conducted by Galeria Filatelica de Barcelona in Spain. (**FIGURE 3**.) The stamps, Lot 3560, realized 1,250,000 Spanish Pesetas, plus the 15% buyers fee, or approx. \$14,300.00

A comparison of the photographs from both auction catalogues, leads your editor to the opinion they are not the same. Aside from the differences in the margins and either the presence or absence of spots or marks which might be attributed to the poorer quality black and white photograph in the Tows catalogue, there is a more compelling difference. There is only one variety of Scott 7, as compared to four varieties of Scott 6. However, the stamps were not necessarily located on the plate in perfect alignment.



FIGURE 1

As the reader can clearly see in the enlargement (**FIGURE 4**), the right stamp is higher in relation to the left stamp. This is most easily seen in the stamps horizontal lines at the top and bottom of the stamps, and especially those above and below the FRANCO 5Cs. at the bottom of the stamps.

However, the pair from the Spain auction, shown enlarged in **FIGURE 5**, is just the opposite. A comparison of the horizontal lines in the top and bottom tablets shows the right stamp is lower in relation to the left stamp.

What this means is each pair, both described as a unique multiple, is not. There are at least two pairs of this very rare unused stamp.

The 1998 Scott Catalogue currently lists Scott 7 at \$8,000 for a single unused example.



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5