



SPANISH PERIOD CORNER

Don Peterson



Inventory of Scott #25 and #25A

Without a doubt, two of the most difficult Spanish Philippine postal issues to find are Scott #25 and #25A – the Queen Isabela imperforate 1 real and 2 reales issues of 1854 overprinted HABILITADO POR LA NACION (Figure 1). This article provides an inventory of recorded examples (Table).

I recently embarked on an effort, a voyage so to speak, to purchase these stamps for my collection. As a result, I now have Scott #25 mint and used and Scott #25A mint. Truly, they are hard to find. Given their scarcity, most collectors in the late 19th and early 20th century were not even aware of them, or considered the few they did see, as bogus issues. Thus, it is understandable why these issues sailed under the forger’s radar. The forgers must have thought them to be of little potential value to bother with.

Thus, there are few forgeries of these high-valued overprinted issues. Additionally, as described in *The American Philatelist* by Peterson (2010), unscrupulous activities in Spain in the early 1890s resulted in the production of reprints (or forgeries, as some believe) of the HPLN-overprinted issues, including #25 and #25A. However, even the reprints are quite scarce (I have a reprint of Scott #25 mint). Notwithstanding the existence of a scant few forgeries and reprints, there’s no doubt as to the existence of genuine mint and used HPLN-overprinted 1 Real and 2 Reales issues with the same HPLN overprint type (referred to as the Viscayas type) found on more common HPLN-overprinted issues, such as Scott #35-38. To learn more about these interesting issues, I recommend Hanciau (1905) and Palmer (1912).



Figure 1. 1Real (Scott #25) and 2 Reales (Scott #25A) Mint Stamps (Don Peterson Collection)

With the help of Rick Miggins, Nestor Nunez, Nigel Gooding, and others; and following an extensive review of auction catalogs, and other records in my philatelic library, I have assembled a list of recorded stamps (Table). It is reasonable to assume that I have not included all of the existing stamps in this inventory. Certainly, a few more must exist in collections in Spain, the Philippines, and elsewhere in the world, and, for the time being, remain hidden from view. None the less, the inventory portrays a good picture of the scarcity of these overprinted stamps, including their provenance, as far as I can surmise. Each entry in the table below is a different stamp with a photo record. I have been careful to not include any forgeries or reprints in the inventory.

In summary, it is not surprising that the number of recorded

mint and used stamps in the inventory decreases from a peak of 13 different mint Scott #25 to only two recorded used Scott #25A. Until the admission of the Philippines in the Universal Postal Union (then called the General Postal Union) in 1877, Philippines stamps were not permitted to be used on overseas mail, where the postage rates would have been higher. Using the 1 and 2 reales overprinted values, reportedly issued in 1874, on interior mail would have been a rare occurrence. It is also noteworthy that I have recorded two even rarer “CORROS” error overprinted stamps, both on mint Scott #25 (position 26 on the sheet of 40). Given the scarcity of recorded Scott #25 and 25A stamps, I concur with Palmer (1912) and Hanciau (1905) that it is likely, but not absolutely certain, that only remaining loose stamps of these two issues were individually overprinted, rather than a full sheet of 40.

| Inventory # | Description | Source/Provenance |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Scott #25 mint (1r) | | |
| 1. | Graus Cert., partial HPLN | --- Galeria Filitelica de Barcelona, 7-9 March 1989, Lot 3459 --- Antonio Torres Auct., 17 Feb 1992, Lot 312 |
| 2. | Nick on top left border; COMEX Cert., 1997 APES Cert. 105753 | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 19 June 2007, Lot 2422 --- Currently in Richard Miggins collection |
| 3. | Graus Cert., missing UL corner | --- Ex Nestor Jacob collection, but before UL corner was missing --- S&L Auct., 25 Feb 1997, Lot 864, but with UL corner missing |
| 4. | Graus-CEM Certs., faded stamp | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 22 May 2002, Lot 2035 |
| 5. | Graus Cert. | --- Illustrated in Palmer (1912) --- Soler y Llach Auct., 22 May 2002, Lot 2036 --- Ex Nestor Nuñez collection --- Currently in Don Peterson collection |
| 6. | COMEX Cert., no photo available | --- Currently in Nestor Nuñez collection |
| 7. | Graus Cert.; double overprint; 1995 APES Cert. | --- Filatelica Llach Auct., 1988 --- In Nigel Gooding website --- Currently in Richard Miggins collection |
| 8. | CORROS error, Philatelic Foundation Cert. | --- Ray Coughlin Auct., January 1986, Lot 423 --- Philstamps Auct., 21 May 1988 --- In Nigel Gooding website |
| 9. | 1993 APES Cert. | --- Currently in Richard Miggins collection |
| 10. | | --- Filatelica Llach Auct., 3 Nov. 2005, Lot 1065 |
| 11. | | --- Tows Auct., 10-13 Nov. 1948, Lot 327 |
| 12. | CORROS error | --- Tows Auct., 10-13 Nov. 1948, Lot 330 |
| 13. | Left margin stamp, signed | --- On eBay 2012 --- Currently in Welson Chu collection |
| Scott #25 used (1r) | | |
| 1. | Inverted HPLN, only known example of inverted HPLN | --- BCCI Auct., 28 May 2006, Lot 2 --- BCCI Auct., 27 May 2012, Lot 4 --- Currently in Don Peterson collection |
| 2. | Graus Cert. | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 6-7 March 1990, Lot 2579 |
| 3. | COMEX Cert | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 30 Oct. 2001, Lot 420 --- In Abe Luspo website |
| 4. | Missing right ½ HPLN, only known very fine printing | --- Ex Boker collection --- Ex Nestor Jacob collection --- Filatelica Hobby Auct., 20 Dec. 1979, Lot 137 --- Soler y Llach Auct., 20 Feb. 1992, Lot 3179 (1) --- In Abe Luspo website |
| 5. | | --- Ex Boker collection --- Ex Nestor Jacob collection --- Filatelica Hobby Auct., 20 Dec. 1979, Lot 138 --- Soler y Llach Auct., 20 Feb. 1992, Lot 3178 |
| 6. | | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 20 Feb. 1992, Lot 3180 --- In Abe Luspo website |
| 7. | Faded HABILITADO PARA | --- Tows Auct., 10-13 Nov. 1948, Lot 328 |
| 8. | | --- Tows Auct., 10-13 Nov. 1948, Lot 329 |

| Inventory # | Description | Source/Provenance |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 9. | Double overprint | --- Tows Auct., 10-13 Nov. 1948, Lot 331 |
| 10. | 1935 Monge Cert. | --- Ex Jesus Cacho collection --- Richard Wolffers Auct., 3-5 Sep. 1980, Lot 955 |
| 11. | COMEX Cert. | --- Philippine Philatelic Society (London) Auct., June 1988 --- Currently in Nigel Gooding collection |
| 12. | Damaged, poor condition | --- On eBay, July 2012 |
| Scott #25A mint (2r) | | |
| 1. | Graus Cert. | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 30 Oct. 2001, Lot 421 |
| 2. | | --- Soler y Llach Auct., 20 Feb. 1992, Lot 3181 --- In Abe Luspo website |
| 3. | Graus Cert. | --- Galeria Filatelica de Barcelona, 7-9 March 1989, Lot 3460 --- Soler y Llach Auct., 6-7 March 1990, Lot 2580 |
| 4. | Graus Cert., double overprint, 1997 APES Cert. | --- Filatelica Llach Auct., 1988 --- In Nigel Gooding website --- Currently in Richard Miggins collection |
| 5. | 1989 APES Cert. 109474 | --- Charles Russ Auct., May 1987 --- Currently in Richard Miggins collection |
| 6. | | --- Ex Richard Miggins collection --- Currently in Don Peterson collection |
| Scott #25A used (2r) | | |
| 1. | Signed Colson and Bartels, bold dotted cancel, 1996 APES Cert. 104791, | --- Currently in Richard Miggins collection |
| 2. | | --- Stamp pictured in photocopy of private collection. Owner/origin unknown. |

If you have a Scott #25 or #25A that you believe is not listed in the table, or are not sure, please send me a scan. If you would like photocopies of any of the table entries, please contact me at: dpeterson4526@gmail.com

New Procedures at PHILPOST Benefit Collectors and IPPS by

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In 2012, the Philippine Philatelic Corporation, referred to as PHILPOST, began submitting new issue stamp notices to **Hans Werner-Becker**, Editor of the *Philippine Philatelic Journal (PPJ)* on a regular basis, which he incorporates into the "New Stamp Issues" section of the PPJ. This information is also being conveyed to **Doug Lehmann** for inclusion on the IPPS website. Credit for this goes to **Elenita D. L. San Diego, Chief**, PHILPOST Department of Philately. Her actions are helping increase stamp sales at PHILPOST and accessibility of new issues to Philippine collectors. Additionally, it is bringing more collectors to IPPS. Thank you Leny.