

CATALOG

by Bill Oliver

PHILIPPINES**COMMERCIAL OVERPRINTS****INTRODUCTION**

Commercial Philippine postage stamps with commercial overprints look similar to United States precanceled stamps, but unlike precanceled stamps they are required to go through the regular mail and be canceled. They were in use from 1924 to 1935.

Philippine businesses wishing to use commercially overprinted postage stamps were required to apply to the Philippine Bureau of Posts in Manila for permission to use postage stamps bearing an overprint by which their postage stamps could be identified in case of theft or unauthorised use. The Bureau of Posts required full payment for the postage stamps at the time they were ordered and would then place the order with the Philippine Bureau of Printing. When the printing was completed, the Bureau of Posts would deliver the overprinted stamps to the customer.

It seems only five businesses in Manila took advantage of using postage stamps with commercial overprints. This may have been because the Bureau of Posts and Bureau of Printing were also located in Manila. Although, there were two different times when two businesses purchased postage stamps and applied their initials or name on the postage stamps using a rubber handstamp until the Bureau of Posts provided them with overprinted postage stamps.

The records for the denomination of stamps purchased by each company and the quantities of each value overprinted, have never been recorded in the philatelic press, as the Manila Post Office and all their records were destroyed during World War II.

By 1935, the H. E. Heacock company was the only Philippine business continuing to use postage stamps with commercial overprints. In October 1935, this company received an order from the Philippine Bureau of Posts prohibiting further use of the overprinted stamps, and demanded the return of all remaining stamps bearing the overprint; thus ending the use of commercial overprints.

*** * Acknowledgements * ***

My thanks to Craig Eggleston and Tommy Sim for their time, effort and expertise in critically reviewing the manuscript, and in developing the prices for this catalog.

My gratitude also to Don Peterson for his suggestions and editing, and to Ron Maineri, John Hunt and Jim Callis who supplied additional information.

Pricing:

Pricing the first catalog of the Philippine commercial overprints has been difficult as there is no adequate market data for these stamps.

At the time these stamps were in use, it seems many collectors had very little interest in them and did not collect them, or gather information about them. Some information did become available during World War II, when Mr. Ramon Catala did some research at the Bureau of Posts and provided Mr. Arnold Warren with a copy of his notes. Mr. Warren's copy of those notes are the only records of the commercial overprints that survived the war, as the Manila Post Office was destroyed near the end of the war.

There is no record of the quantities printed of each denomination and the information about when they were ordered, printed and delivered is inconsistent. The values for stamps provided in this catalog have been obtained from a number of sources, including auction prices realised, internet sales and personal purchases.

Prices are for sound collectible stamps. Mint stamps are normally more difficult to obtain and should be valued accordingly. Although, sometimes the used stamp for some issues may be the more difficult to find.

A dash in the value columns indicates little information is known for establishing catalog prices. No dash, or no price in the value column indicates none recorded.

Note: Only color varieties shown in the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue are included in this catalog.

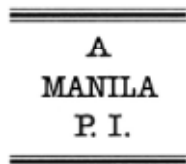
The box below is provided to estimate the value of pieces larger than a single stamp.

<p>Pairs or strips; use the value of each stamp, multiply by the number of stamps and multiply by 1.25</p> <p>Blocks of four; use the value of each stamp, multiply by 4 and multiply by 1.50</p> <p>Blocks of six and larger; use the value of each stamp, multiply by the number of stamps and multiply by 1.75</p>

At the present time the number of stamp collectors collecting Philippine commercial overprints is increasing. This catalog is produced to help guide both the collector and dealer.

PHILIPPINES

COMMERCIAL OVERPRINTS



Warren's Type 8

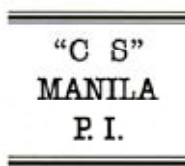
C. L. Alkan, Inc. of Manila

On March 10, 1926, the sporting goods firm of A. L. Alkan, Inc. placed an order with the Philippine Bureau of Posts for stamps overprinted **A / MANILA / P. I.** in three lines of capital letters.

In 1931, this company was absorbed by the H. E. Heacock company and the stamps were withdrawn from circulation.

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint	Value U. S. Dollars		
				Single Line	No Wmk		Black	Mint	Used
A - 1	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x	x	---	5.00	
A - 2	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x	---	5.00	
A - 3	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x	---	10.00	
A - 4	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x	x	---	15.00	
A - 5	16c Olive Bister	303	11		x	x	---	25.00	
A - 6	16c Olive Green	303a	11		x	x	---	25.00	
A - 7	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x	x	---	15.00	
A - 8	30c Gray	299	11		x	x	---	15.00	
A - 9	1p Pale Violet	300	11		x	x	---	40.00	
A - 10	1p Red Lilac	300a	11		x	x	---	40.00	

Note: A dash in the value columns indicates little pricing information is known for establishing a catalog value.



Warren's Type 10

Camera Supply Company of Manila

June 6, 1927, the Camera Supply Company of Manila began using stamps overprinted **"C S" / MANILA / P. I.** in three lines of capital letters.

The Camera Supply Company was liquidated in 1928 or 1929, after the owner died.

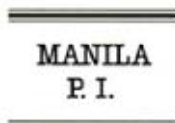
Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint	Value U. S. Dollars		
				Single Line	No Wmk		Black	Mint	Used
CS - 1	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x	x	---	15.00	
CS - 2	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x	---	15.00	
CS - 3	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x	---	25.00	
CS - 4	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x	x	---	35.00	
CS - 5	6c Lilac	292a	11		x	x	---	35.00	
CS - 6	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x	x	---	35.00	
CS - 7	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x	x	---	50.00	
CS - 8	8c Orange Brown	293a	11		x	x	---	50.00	
CS - 9	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x	x	---	50.00	
CS - 10	16c Olive Green	303a	11		x	x	---	75.00	
CS - 11	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x	x	---	50.00	
CS - 12	30c Gray	299	11		x	x	---	50.00	
CS - 13	1p Lilac	300	11		x	x	---	50.00	

Warren's Type 5
(handstamp)**Rambler Shoe Company** of Manila

It is thought the Rambler Shoe Company initiated the use of a rubber handstamp in 1924 to identify their postage stamps. The handstamp had the letters **R. S.** enclosed within a single line box about the size of the postage stamp design. These handstamps continued in use until the Bureau of Posts delivered the overprinted stamps June 20, 1925.

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint			Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk	Blue	Violet	Black	Mint	Used
RS - 1	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x					
RS - 1a	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x		x			_____
RS - 1b	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x			x		_____
RS - 2	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x					
RS - 2a	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x					
RS - 2b	2c dark Green	290a	11		x			x		_____
RS - 3	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x				_____
RS - 3a	4c Carmine	291	11		x		x			_____
RS - 3b	4c Carmine	291	11		x			x		_____
RS - 4	4c Light Rose	291a	11		x					
RS - 4a	4c Light Rose	291a	11		x					
RS - 4b	4c Light Rose	291a	11		x			x		_____
RS - 5	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x	x				_____
RS - 5a	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x					
RS - 5b	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x					
RS - 6	6c Lilac	292a	11		x	x				_____
RS - 6a	6c Lilac	292a	11		x		x			_____
RS - 6b	6c Lilac	292a	11		x			x		_____
RS - 7	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x					
RS - 7a	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x					
RS - 7b	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x			x		_____
RS - 8	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x					
RS - 8a	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x		x			_____
RS - 8b	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x					
RS - 9	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x					
RS - 9a	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x		x			_____
RS - 9b	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x					
RS - 10	12c Orange	266	12	x		x				_____
RS - 10a	12c Orange	266	12	x			x			_____
RS - 10b	12c Orange	266	12	x				x		_____
RS - 11	12c Red Orange	295	11		x	x				_____
RS - 11a	12c Red Orange	295	11		x		x			_____
RS - 11b	12c Red Orange	295	11		x			x		_____
RS - 12	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x					
RS - 12a	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x		x			_____
RS - 12b	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x					
RS - 13	26c Green	298	11		x					
RS - 13a	26c Green	298	11		x		x			_____
RS - 13b	26c Green	298	11		x					
RS - 14	30c Grey	283	10	x		x				_____
RS - 14a	30c Grey	283	10	x						
RS - 14b	30c Grey	283	10	x				x		_____
RS - 15	30c Grey	289C	11	x		x				_____
RS - 15a	30c Grey	289C	11	x			x			_____
RS - 15b	30c Grey	289C	11	x				x		_____
RS - 16	30c Grey	299	11		x	x				_____
RS - 16a	30c Grey	299	11		x		x			_____
RS - 16b	30c Grey	299	11		x					

Note: X's in the Color of overprint columns are verified colors. Blank spaces are for expected color finds. The values for the R. S. handstamp overprints are in the process of being developed. No mint stamp has been reported.



Warren's Type 7

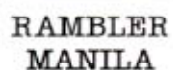


Rambler Shoe Company and Howard Lux Company: both of Manila

An order for postage stamps overprinted **MANILA / P. I.** in two lines of capital letters was placed with the Bureau of Posts, May 27, 1925. They were delivered to the Rambler Shoe Company and its sister organization, the Howard Lux Company on June 20, 1925.

This overprint remained in use until 1929

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint		Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk	Black	Mint	Used	
RS - 30	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x	x	—	2.00	
RS - 31	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x	—	2.00	
RS - 32	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x	—	5.00	
RS - 33	4c Light Rose	291a	11		x	x	—	5.00	
RS - 34	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x	x	—	10.00	
RS - 35	6c Lilac	292a	11		x	x	—	10.00	
RS - 36	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x	x	—	10.00	
RS - 37	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x	x	—	15.00	
RS - 38	8c Orange Brown	293a	11		x	x	—	15.00	
RS - 39	12c Red Orange	295	11		x	x	—	15.00	
RS - 40	16c Olive Green	303a	11		x	x	—	40.00	
RS - 41	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x	x	—	10.00	
RS - 42	26c Green	298	11		x	x	—	40.00	
RS - 43	26c Blue Green	298a	11		x	x	—	40.00	
RS - 44	30c Gray	299	11		x	x	—	10.00	
RS - 45	1p Pale Violet	284	10	x		x	—	35.00	



Warren's Type 11

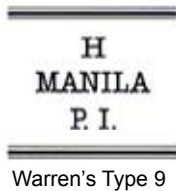


Rambler Shoe Company

In 1929, The Rambler Shoe Company placed an order with the Bureau of Posts for a new type of overprint **RAMBLER / MANILA** in two lines of capital letters and it was used only in 1929, the year the company closed the business

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint		Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk	Black	Mint	Used	
RS - 50	2c Green	290	11		x	x	110.00	—	
RS - 51	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x	110.00	—	
RS - 52	12c Red Orange	295	11		x	x	140.00	—	

Note: Used stamps of the two values are more difficult to find than mint stamps.



H. E. Heacock Company of Manila

May 5, 1926, the department store H. E. Heacock Company placed an order with the Philippine Bureau of Posts for the overprint of **H / MANILA / P. I.** in three lines of capital letters.

These stamps were used until about 1929, when the current overprint stock was running low and stamps with a new overprint were ordered.

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint	Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk		Black	Mint
H - 1	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x	x	—	5.00
H - 2	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x	—	5.00
H - 3	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x	—	5.00
H - 4	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x	x	—	10.00
H - 5	6c Lilac	292a	11		x	x	—	10.00
H - 6	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x	x	—	10.00
H - 7	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x	x	—	15.00
H - 8	8c Orange Brown	293a	11		x	x	—	15.00
H - 9	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x	x	—	15.00
H - 10	16c Olive Bister	303	11		x	x	—	70.00
H - 11	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x	x	—	10.00
H - 12	30c Gray	299	11		x	x	—	15.00
H - 13	1p Lilac	300	11		x	x	—	70.00

HEACOCK'S
MANILA

Warren's Type 12



H. E. Heacock Company of Manila

The supply of **H / MANILA / P. I.** overprinted stamps was about depleted and the H. E. Heacock Co., in 1928 received permission from the Philippine Bureau of Posts to use the overprint **HEACOCK'S / MANILA** in two lines of capital letters.

These overprints were also used by the C. L. Alcan Co. which merged with the H. E. Heacock Co. in 1931.

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint	Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk		Black	Mint
H - 20	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x	x	—	2.00
H - 21	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x	—	2.00
H - 22	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x	—	3.00
H - 23	4c Light Rose	291a	11		x	x	—	3.00
H - 24	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x	x	—	5.00
H - 25	6c Red Violet	292b	11		x	x	—	5.00
H - 26	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x	x	—	8.00
H - 27	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x	x	—	10.00
H - 28	16c Olive Bister	303	11		x	x	—	30.00
H - 29	16c Olive Green	303a	11		x	x	—	30.00
H - 30	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x	x	—	10.00
H - 31	26c Blue Green	269	12	x		x	—	40.00
H - 32	30c Grey	299	11		x	x	—	10.00

**HEACOCK'S
MANILA**

Warren's Type 6
(handstamp)



H. E. Heacock Company of Manila

Early in 1935, some values of the “HEACOCK’S / MANILA” overprints were about depleted and the Philippine Bureau of Posts were not able to replace them timely. A rubber handstamp, similar to the overprint used by the Bureau of Posts, was acquired locally and applied to seven different values.

Note: Little is known about the history of this handstamp and this catalog is merely reporting what has been pieced together from a number of different sources. Few mint copies are known and only the used 2c and 20c have been recorded

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark			Color of Overprint		Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk		Black	Mint	Used	
H - 40	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x		x	—		
H - 41	4c Carmine	291	11		x		x	—	—	
H - 42	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x		x	—		
H - 43	6c Lilac	292a	11		x		x	—		
H - 44	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x		x	—		
H - 45	8c Orange Brown	293a	11		x		x	—		
H - 46	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x		x	—		
H - 47	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x		x	—	—	
H - 48	30c Grey	299	11		x		x	—		

**HEACOCK'S
MANILA**

Warren's Type 12



H. E. Heacock Company of Manila

In 1935, the Philippine Bureau of Posts delivered the new 2c definitive issue overprinted “HEACOCK’S / MANILA” in two lines of capital letters.

Some time later, the Philippine Bureau of Posts also delivered the overprinted 20c of the new 1935 issue.

A few days after the 20c overprinted stamps were delivered to the H. E. Heacock Co., an order was received from the Philippine Bureau of Posts, prohibiting further use of the overprinted stamps and demanded the return of all stamps bearing the overprint. The unused remainder of the overprinted stamps were returned to the Philippine Bureau of Posts the same day.

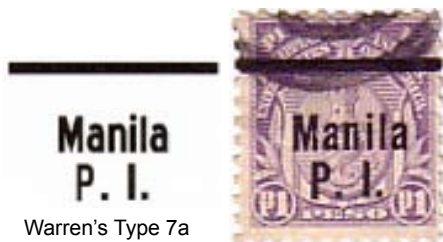
In 1935, the H. E. Heacock Co. was the only commercial business continuing to use overprinted stamps for their internal control.

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark			Color of Overprint		Value U. S. Dollars	
				Double Line	Single Line	No Wmk	Black	Mint	Used	
H - 50	2c Rose	383	11			x	x	—	30.00	
H - 51	20c Olive Green	390	11			x	x	150.00	—	

There are a few mint copies of the 2c and a few copies of the 20c recorded.

Brias Roxas, Inc. of Manila

Brias Roxas Inc., a large mail-order business in Manila, requested overprinted stamps for their internal control. On May 26, 1926, the Philippine Bureau of Posts delivered the stamps which were overprinted **Manila / P. I.** in two lines of upper and lower case letters with a single 1.5 mm thick bar 4.2 mm above the "M" in Manila. These are the only Philippine commercially overprinted stamps in upper and lower case letters.



Warren's Type 7a

The "I" of P. I. is 0.25 mm higher than the "P".

Note:

Mr. Ramon Catala researched the records of the Philippine Bureau of Posts during WW II for information concerning the Commercial Overprinted stamps and in 1942 shared that information with Mr. Arnold Warren. Mr. Catala was later executed by the Japanese and the records of the Manila Post Office were destroyed in 1945, so Mr. Catala's notes could not be verified. Some collectors believe these stamps were printed privately, but Mr. Warren quotes Mr. Catala's information about the Type 7a Commercial Overprints. I have used the information provided by Mr. Warren.

Cat. No.	Denomination & Color	Scott Cat. No.	Perf.	Watermark		Color of Overprint		Value U. S. Dollars	
				Single Line	No Wmk	Black	Mint	Used	
BR - 1	2c Yellow Green	290	11		x	x		120.00	
BR - 2	2c Dark Green	290a	11		x	x		120.00	
BR - 3	4c Carmine	291	11		x	x		120.00	
BR - 4	6c Deep Violet	292	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 5	8c Yellow Brown	293	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 6	10c Deep Blue	294	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 7	16c Olive Bister	303	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 8	16c Olive Green	303a	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 9	20c Orange Yellow	297	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 10	30c Gray	299	11		x	x		120.00	
BR - 11	1p Pale Violet	284	10	x		x		100.00	
BR - 12	2p Violet Brown	301	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 13	4p Blue	302	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 14	4p Dark Blue	302a	11		x	x		_____	
BR - 15	10p Deep Green	274	12	x		x		100.00	

References:

Arnold Warren:

The American Philatelist
 "Philippine Commercial Postage Stamps 1910-1936"
 Vol. 63 - No. 10 (July 1950)

Philippine Philatelic Journal
 "Philippine Commercial Postage Stamps 1910-1936"
 Vol. XV, No. 3 (1993)
 Vol. XV, No. 4 (1993)
 Vol. XVI, No. 1 (1994)

Warren Zahler:

Possessions
 "Philippine Commercial Overprint Type 7a"
 Vol. 6, No. 1, #19 (1983)
 Vol. 7, No. 2, #24 (1984)
 Vol. 7, No. 3, #25 (1984)

John M. Hunt:

Undated pamphlet
 "Philippine Commercial Handstamps & Overprints"

Georg Klein:

Undated check list
 "Philippine Commercial Postage Stamps"

Geoffrey Brewster:

Possessions
 "Commercial overprint discovery"
 Vol. 4, No. 2, #12 (1981)
 "Type 7a "Precancels"
 Vol. 6, No. 3, #21 (1883)
 Philippine "Precancels Type 6"
 Vol. 10, No. 4, #38 (1987)
 "Precanceles" Type 6 Update"
 Vol. 11, No. 4, #42 (1988)

Internet Web Site:

<<http://philippinephilatelist.net>>
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 Commercial Security Stamps

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