

PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC CLUB

DECEMBER 8, 1944

MINIATURE ALBUM

PAGE 18

PHILIPPINES

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE
First Anniversary... Fall of Bataan & Corregidor

JAPANESE OCCUPATION ISSUE

IN observance of the First Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor, on May 7, 1943, the Bureau of Communication issued a set of 2 commemorative stamps with 2 and 5-centavo denominations. The 2c value is printed in red, and the 5c in green. Both stamps bear the same design. Vignette of the stamps shows a coastline of Bataan and Corregidor, plus a Japanese soldier, a warship, an aeroplane, and the flag of the Rising Sun. Inscribed in Japanese characters on the upper panel of the stamps are the words, "HITO YUBEN," it means "Philippine Postage." On top of the design, the legend, "BATAAN CORREGIDOR—KANLAKU ITUNEN KINEN," is inscribed in Japanese characters. Translated into English, it reads: "FIRST ANNIVERSARY—FALL OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR." Below the design, the Japanese characters "SHOWA JU HATI NEN GO GUTSU" are written, the equivalent of which, in English, is, "May 7, 1943." Total issue of these commemorative stamps was 1,000,500 copies for each value. However, 15,000 copies of each value were purchased by the Department of Communications, in Japan, for Japanese collectors. One of the known varieties on this issue is a "white dot" in the figure "5" of the 5-centavo value. First-day covers franked with these commemorative were treated with a special cachet used by the Bureau of Communications.

PAGE 19

PHILIPPINES

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE
350th Anniversary... First Printing Press In The Philippines

JAPANESE OCCUPATION ISSUE

HAD it not been for a Manila stamp collector, the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the first printing press in the Philippines would have passed unnoticed in our philatelic world. Pablo M. Esperdion, secretary of the Elizalde Stamp Club, wrote an open letter in the "Public Pulse" column of the Manila Tribune of March 17, 1943, suggesting the issuance of a commemorative stamp in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the first printing press in the Philippines. Giving an enlightening information on his suggestion, Esperdion wrote:

*The Editor
The Tribune, Public Pulse Column,
Manila*

Sir:—The printing press in the Philippines saw its dawn in 1593 and with the present year, it completes its 350th anniversary. To record 350 years of life of the printing press in our country is something to celebrate about, and perhaps our postal authorities could commemorate it, at least, by issuing a commemorative stamp in honor of its 350th anniversary for the sake of history.

The history of the printing press in the Philippines reads like romance and is jaded with interesting glimpses. Witness to this are the different printing processes introduced in this country namely, xylography, typography, and lithography. Then, too, there are the different languages which were introduced in the history of our printing press, such as Spanish, Tagalog and other native dialects, Chinese, and English.

It is interesting to note that, sharing in the early history of our printing press, there were six Filipinos, three Chinese and one Japanese.