

PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC CLUB

DECEMBER 8, 1944

MINIATURE ALBUM

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PHILIPPINES
JAPANESE OCCUPATION ISSUE

(COMMEMORATIVE... CONTINUATION)

Interestingly enough, the first printing press in the Philippines was invented and not imported. Accordingly, the 350th anniversary of the printing press in the Philippines is worthy of recording, and our postal authorities can do so, both in the interest of history as well as philately.—PABLO M. ESPERIDION, Elizalde Stamp Club, Manila.

TAKING into consideration the above letter, the Bureau of Communications issued on June 20, 1943, a commemorative stamp in commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the First Printing Press in the Philippines. Stamp used was of the 20-centavo (Juan de la Cruz) Common-wealth regular issue, but overprinted with black bars and surcharged with "12" centavos. Overprinted on this commemorative stamp is the legend, "LIMBAGAN—1598-1943," in two lines. The word "Limbagan" is printed in italics. "Limbagan" is the Tagalog word for "Printing Press," and "1593 1943" overprinted below the word "Limbagan", stand for 350 years. The Bureau of Communications used a special cachet on First-Day Covers framed with this commemorative stamp. It was applied in green ink. The stamps were printed at the Bureau of Printing, Manila, and on the First-Day Sale, June 20, 1943, several varieties were discovered. Most outstanding of these varieties is shown on a sheet with several stamps bearing a "double transfer" on the overprint "LIMBAGAN" visible in different stages... Thus, amidst war and suffering, the Philippines was able to do honor, philatelically, to the 350th anniversary of its first printing press, with Pablo M. Esperidion distinguishing himself as the "father of the idea."

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POSTAGE
Regular Issue

FROM April 1 to September 16, 1943, or within a period of 169 days, 13 regular postage stamps of the Philippines had a holiday, so to speak. This series of regular postage was issued by the Bureau of Communications, Manila, in five different "installments." These stamps were printed at the Cabinet Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Japan. They are perforated 13-1/2x13 and 18x13-1/2 and bear a watermark with curved wavy lines: the same perforations and watermark as those of the regular postage stamps issued in 1937-1939, in Japan. Designs of the stamps portray native scenes of the Philippines. On the upper panel of the design, the Japanese characters, which, in Romanzi, read "HITO YUBEN," are inscribed. It means "Philippine Postage." At the ends of the lower panel, the figures "9" and/or "5" are printed. Between these figures, the word "CENTAVO" and/or "PESO" are written in Katakana or Japanese characters. Denominations, total quantities printed of each value, and the dates of issue of the stamps in this regular postage series are as follows: