OFFICIAL FDCs — some members have inquired about "official FDC" being made by the Philatelic Section of the Bureau of Posts, in that same cachet but in different colors are made which really hurts the pocketbook of specialized collectors. The collectors do not mind, if cachets are different, but the same cachet in different colors only? That is something. Although the Press Bulletin of the Bureau of Posts says that "FDCs will be serviced inside Door 203 of the Manila Post Office" and that "each illustrated envelope cost 25s," we would like to point out that the Philatelic Section of the Bureau of Posts does not make official FDCs. Illustrated envelopes mentioned is actually made by a dealer; any dealer, for that matter, can make his own FDC cacheted envelopes.

OBSCURE POSTMARKS/VERBOTEN COVERS — member **Roy Vansickle** writes: I have several covers in my Japanese Occupation collection with apparent "Obscure" postmarks. Gene Garrett defines "Obscure" postmarks as "covers postmarked on many special occasions important to them (Philippines), most of them pro-American, without the Japanese realizing what was going on." Some of these covers in my collection are:

1) April 17, 1942 — commemorating the bombing of Tokyo by Doolittle.
2) October 20, 1944 — commemorating the Leyte Landing.
3) August 19, 1943 — commemorating the 65th Birthday of Pres. Manuel L. Quezon.
4) August 1, 1946 — Second Death Anniversary of Pres. Manuel L. Quezon.
5) June 12, 1944 — commemorating the First Republic of the Philippines declared by Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Roy however has the following covers that need identification: April 11, 1943, Oct. 18, 1943, Jan. 22,1945. (We have contracted Don Pablo Esperidion and Mr. Enrique San Jose to identify these dates, which we will publish as soon as we get them. Don Esperidion says that in his personal collection — he calls them VERBOTEN COVERS.)

AGUINALDO STAMPS FOR THE AGUINALDO MUSEUM — our friend **Manny Encarnacion** paid a visit recently to the Aguinaldo Museum located in Cavite, and was surprised to learn that they do not have any stamps — let alone complete sets — of the Aguinaldo stamps issued in 1898. Manny suggests that why don't we call on IPPS members who would be willing to donate stamp and covers for the Aguinaldo Museum. IPPS will receive them first and as soon as a decent collection is gotten, will see to it that proper framing is done with correct write up and list of donors . . . . I'm leaving this up to the members — all I can say is — why don't we make this a project for 1977-78 and present the said collection to the Aguinaldo Museum on March 22, 1979, the 110th birth anniversary of Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo?

FILIPINO ARTIST STAMPS — Member Mario Que has a very good idea. Why not come out with a series of stamps featuring the works of famous Filipino artists, such as Luna, Tolentino, Amorsolo, etc. . . Seems to be a much better idea than all those schools (some private), buildings, seals, etc. . . that are coming out . . .

PHILIPPINES NO. 1 NOT ISSUED FEB. 1, 1854? — Mario also reports that he saw recently from a Manila dealer a Block of Four of Philippines No. 1 — Queen Isabella II stamps with a postmark right at the center bearing the date January 21, 1854. Is it possible that Feb. 1, 1854 then is not the first day of issue of the said stamps. Further to Mario's contention is an article published with the PJP Sept-Oct 1951 (Vol. IV No. 1) found on p. 18 which is entitled "Brief History of the Philippines as Portrayed On Its Stamps" by Don Pablo Esperidion. According to Don Pablo, Philippines No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were issued January 16, 1854. May we hear readers comments on this please . . . .

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENE GARRETT — for receiving the 1976 Second Place/UPSS Literature Award. Gene's article on the Philippines was selected from 35 other articles. Laurels and kisses from (me) Gene . . . .

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO ROY S. VASICKLE. At the Fort Hood Stamp Fair held last Nov. 20, his 4 frames of 26 Japanese Occupation Commemorative Covers won First Place in the foreign exhibits, Best of Show Exhibit, and Second Place for Most Popular . . . .