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ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
THE RIZAL MARTYRDOM POSTAL CARD . . . but were afraid to ask
(Turn to page 3)

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ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE RIZAL MARTYRDOM POSTAL CARD

... but were afraid to ask.

by Eugene A. Garrett

In deed, this article may contain MORE than you really wanted to know! But when an in-depth study is made, even of an apparently ordinary postal card, finding the answer to one question inevitably leads to another question, then another, and pretty soon a full-blown book will result, if one is not careful. But fear not; this is not going to be a "book," but you should be warned that it leaves more questions unanswered than answered.

Any study of the overprinted Rizal Martyrdom postal card must begin with an examination of the original issue, which was made during the earliest days of the Liberation, under the Joint Military/Commonwealth Government, while Manila was still under Japanese Occupation. The first day of issue was at Tacloban, Leyte, on January 19, 1945; however, both Scott's Specialized Catalogue and the Bureau of Posts recognize only the "second first day of issue" at the reopening of the Manila Post Office on May 16, 1945. The official Bureau records indicate a total of 1,092,000, but the record is silent as to whether that total includes the earlier release at Tacloban. So here we encounter the first unanswered question: what was the exact total printing of the "VICTORY" postal card?

The original card is listed in various catalogs as Scott's #UX23 (2 varieties); Higgins & Gage #46 (3 varieties); and UPSS #S27 (8 varieties). Briefly, the UPSS catalog describes the varieties as (1) the normal card with the black "VICTORY" overprint evenly spaced, letters with serifs; (2) "close IC" in "VICTORY", letters with serifs; (3) evenly spaced, but letters "IC" sans serif; and (4) "close IC" letters, sans serif. All four of those varieties occur with "short dividing line," making the total of eight varieties. This writer is not completely satisfied with the present listing of the varieties in the very fine UPSS catalog; we are troubled by the fact that many examples do not seem to fit neatly into any of the four major varieties. For example, we have many cards with abnormally thin letters "IC," sans serif, with the adjacent letters "V" and "T" partially sans serif, suggesting the possibility that all four letters were subject to progressive wear and deterioration during the printing process, rather than being a separate type setting of distinctively different style. We have made inquiries of the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C., but have not yet received an answer — and there is question #2.



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 6



FIGURE 7

When the independent Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated on July 4, 1946, the "VICTORY" postal card was the only card then valid for postal use, and it remained in use for several years. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Jose Rizal on December 30, 1946, 150,000 of the "VICTORY" cards were overprinted in red as illustrated in Figure 1. A special "Manila Post Office" cancel, in black, and official rubber-stamped cachet, in purple, were applied on the first day of issue (Figure 2). It has been reported unofficially that about 20,000 FDCs were prepared.

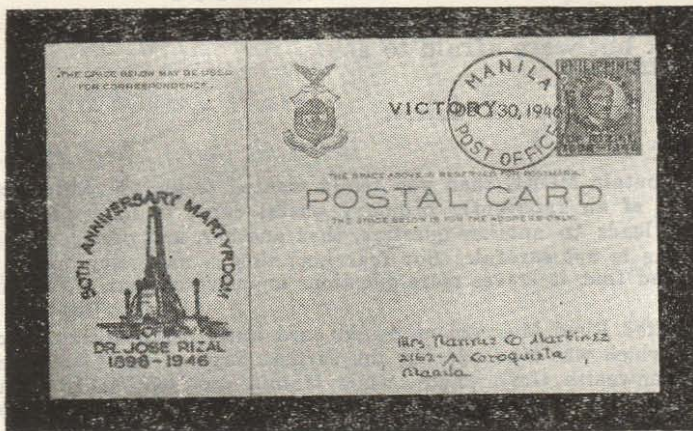


FIGURE 2

For many years, it was generally believed in the US that only the "normal" card ("VICTORY" overprint with evenly spaced letters, with serifs) had been selected for the Rizal Martyrdom overprint; normal cards with "short dividing line" represented the only variety. But unconfirmed rumors have circulated which suggest that some, many or all of other six varieties had been found with the December 30, 1946, overprint, and had changed hands at fabulous prices. Recently, an example of the "close IC," letter with serifs, surfaced in the US and was illustrated and described in the UPSS journal, "Postal Stationery," May-June 1974, pp. 107-8, but none of the other varieties has been confirmed. As you have already guessed, that is unanswered question #3: was the Bureau of Posts indeed highly selective in selecting only the normal cards for overprinting? If so, were some or all of the other varieties overprinted mistakenly or illicitly?

The example illustrated in Figure 3, only the second we have seen of the "close IC," was sent to us for examination by Linda Stanfield, Editor of this Newsletter. This card was used as the vehicle for the first day of Scott's "515, the Manuel L. Quezon souvenir sheet released November 28, 1947, at NAPEX," the big stamp show sponsored by the Philippine Philatelic Club. This card illustrates the common practice of "enhancing" interesting examples of postal stationery with various adhesives and special-event cancels and cachets which have no relationship with the original card or envelope. The practice of adding embellishment delights some collectors, but is a source of despair to others, especially the "purist" postal stationery collector. Fortunately, there is plenty of room in our hobby for both schools of collecting.

Although we are certainly not an "expert", nor do we have any sophisticated measuring devices, we examined Linda's card with great care; compared it with known genuine examples and with known forgeries (more about that subject later); measured it in all directions; and, frankly, it appears to us to be perfectly genuine. However, Linda's letter raises another disturbing question; the overprint on her card is in a distinctively light shade of red or pinkish-red, almost "carmine," and a knowledgeable dealer has advised her that the "color variety" brands the card as a fake!

In an effort to check this out, we examined all the Rizal Martyrdom cards in our modest collection, a total of 74. Statistically, that is much too small a sampling to permit the luxury of jumping to any conclusions, but a total of 9 cards was found with the "carmine" or light pinkish-red overprint, and all the rest with the "normal" darker shade of red, the latter in several very slightly different shades, perhaps due to inking or to fading. We also note a 1968 reference (about which more later) which states, in describing a known forgery, "... not all reddish-pink overprints are fake." Having examined all of our cards until very nearly cross-eyed; finding them all to look quite OK, regardless of the color shade of the overprint; and not being capable of resolving the matter with certainty, we therefore pose question #4: were two (at least) different shades of red ink used in the overprinting of the Rizal Martyrdom postal card?

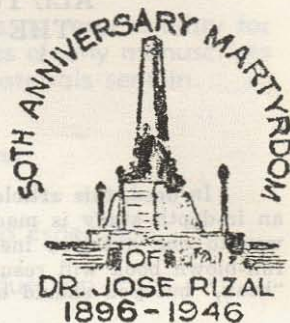


FIGURE 5



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 3

Thus far in this narrative, we have left the reader with four unanswered questions, but we will now provide some answers. For some time, we had heard vague reports that a very clever forgery of the Rizal Martyrdom postal card was in circulation, but we were unable to pin down any solid evidence. Then our good friend Linda sent us a copy of "Popular Philippines Magazine," published in Manila by Mr. Ted V. Reyes, then a prominent Manila dealer. It is too bad that magazine survived only a few issues; it contained some excellent philatelic articles, as well as others of general interest. An article by Justin Vasquez on pp. 26-27 of Vol. 1, No. 1, July, 1968, provides a detailed description of a quite dangerous forgery of the card, which this writer promptly paraphrased and published in the May-June, 1976, issue of "Postal Stationery," pp. 94-95. Then in September, 1976, Mr. Severino N. Luna, during a business trip to the US, presented us with two examples of the forgery, one unused and one with first day cancel and cachet. So thank to the kind generosity of Don Severino and Linda Stanfield, we can now describe the fake with some authority.

The article relates how the fake was first identified by a sharp-eyed Manila stamp dealer, the aforesaid Mr. Ted V. Reyes, who submitted examples to the Questioned Documents & Laboratory Section of the Bureau of Posts. Mr. Vasquez reports what followed:

"After an analysis of the item in question, the laboratory in a report numbered 56-313-46, dated March 13, 1964, signed by Mr. Hermelio Battad, Senior Document Examiner, stated in part as follows:

'Laboratory examination of the specimens submitted disclosed that the questioned two-centavos postal card is genuine. However, there are indications that the overprint inscription . . . appearing over the printed two-centavo postage stamp was not printed from the same inscription on the standards submitted.'

In plain English, therefore, the laboratory found the original postal card to be genuine, but with fake overprint.

Seen by itself, the fake is quite difficult to detect, but with a genuine example at hand for comparison, close examination will quickly expose the fake. In regard to the overprint, there are a number of discernible differences between the genuine and the fake, but the following are the most significant:

1. The "Y" in "MARTYRDOM" has virtually no tail and looks like a "V" on the fake, while the letter is well formed on the genuine.
2. The "D" in "MARTYRDOM" is misshapen on the fake.
3. The "4" in "1946" has virtually no tail on the fake.
4. The "6" in "1896" is much narrower on the fake.
5. The entire overprint is slightly (about 0.5 mm.) smaller in both directions on the fake.

6. The original article stated the overprint to be "... generally rough and of bright reddish-pink (although not all reddish-pink overprints are fake.)" Both of our cards have the bright red overprint, but one is somewhat darker than the other, so we can't confirm that the color characteristic is proof positive of the fake.

Both the black postmark and the purple cachet were applied by hand-stamp, so the impressions will naturally vary from over — and under-inking; the force applied; etc. Not all strikes, therefore, will exhibit all the characteristics described below; it is necessary to select cards with good, clear strikes for comparison. In regard to the first day postmark, the following defects are found in the fake (Figure 4) as compared with the genuine (Figure 5):

1. The space between "MANILA" and the circular outer frame line is narrower on the fake (1 mm. or less) than on the genuine (about 2 mm.).
2. The "6" in "1946" has a grossly distorted top stroke in the fake.
3. The "3" in "30" is not evenly curved in the fake.
4. The "0" in "30" is tilted to the right in the fake.
5. The "S" in "POST" gives the appearance of being inverted in the fake.

The cachet, a depiction of the Rizal Monument in Luneta Park in Manila, also has many tiny defects in the fake (Figure 6), of which the following are the most visible when compared with the genuine rubber-stamp impression (Figure 7):

1. The figure of Jose Rizal is more to the left-hand side of the monument in the fake.
2. There is a "vacant space" without horizontal lines under the left lamppost in the fake.
3. The letters "AR" in "ANNIVERSARY" are narrower in the fake, wider and rather poorly drawn in the genuine.
4. The letters "RS" in "ANNIVERSARY" are set apart in the fake, joined in the genuine.
5. The "T" in "50TH" has a short cross stroke in the fake.

The sensational-appearing invert illustrated on the cover of this issue is a classic example of the counterfeiter letting himself be carried away by his greed. Not only are the overprint, postmark and cachet fakes, but the inverted overprint is impossibly placed directly over the indicia instead of in the lower left-hand of the card, and the original card is a relatively scarce variety, UPSS #S28a, with sans serif letters "IC" in "VICTORY", a variety unknown with the Rizal Martyrdom overprint. It was the latter two anomalies which first raised the suspicion that the card is a fake: another case of the perpetrator's greed leading to his ultimate exposure.

We are grateful, dear reader, that you stayed with us during this over-long dissertation; but if you really want to see gratitude, just provide the answers to any or all of the questions we have asked!

April 7, 1943 Issue, cont. . . . (fr. p. 7)

Chances are that Prof. San Jose received his allotment of one FDC, one single and one block of four of the new Officials, as did all the other AFF members. Continuing the speculation, he probably purchased his allotment at the Manila Central Post Office and returned to Malolos, about one hour distant from Manila. The absence of a censor mark almost certainly indicated that Don San Jose prepared this cover. The application of a censor mark was an absolute requirement on all postal matters dated prior to June 30, 1943. Gene Garrett states "San Jose is the only person I know of who got away with this: it seems unlikely that the practice came to the attention of the Japanese Military Administration, as it clearly contravened the censorship laws."

In recent correspondence between Gene Garrett and San Jose, San Jose stated "the philatelic covers without contents need not go to the Manila Post Office, hence the absence of censor marks. However, all Malolos cancelled ordinary covers had to be coursed to Manila for censorship." Since Don Enrique was quite friendly with the Malolos postmaster, this no doubt explains the absence of the censor mark on my cover.

I intend in no way to discredit Don Enrique's excellent history. Most JapOcc specialist I correspond with look upon his articles as the most accurate and complete published to date. However, I feel inconsistency should be pointed out.

In checking my limited reference materials which includes Yang Siu-Chong's "A Specialized Catalogue of Stamps of the Philippine Islands Under the Japanese Occupation, 1942-1945," Afran Stamp Company's "1945, Catalog and Album of Stamps of the Philippines issued under the Japanese Occupation," Severino M. Luna's "Philippine Standard Stamp Catalog of Stamps Issued During the Japanese Occupation" plus San Jose's article, I come up with no concrete information concerning the origin of the cover. It is authentic and perhaps unique. I feel that Don Enrique perpetuated all the confusion.

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Killeen, Texas 76541



ILLUSTRATION No. 1

The history surrounding the issuance of the First day Covers for NO1, NO3 and NO4 (April 7, 1943) will have to have an additional page added. Several months ago, I acquired an FDC of NO1, NO3, NO3b and NO4 from a dealer in Manila, who will remain anonymous, refuting some of the information contained in Enrique P. San Jose series, "Stamps Are History" published in the Philippine Journal of Philately, Vol. III: No. 1, Sept-Oct 1950.

Don Enrique states "The stamps were not sold to the general public. However, by special request and arrangement with the postal authorities, the Association Filatelica de Filipinas was able to acquire a limited quantity of the stamps . . .". "The AFF, which had about 150 registered members at the time of the issuance of these stamps, was permitted to secure "special covers" franked with sets in singles of these Officials." "The sender made to appear was the Philippine Executive Commission, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Local Governments, in compliance with the Bureau of Communications. On the top right hand corner, the official rubber stamp bearing both the Japanese and the Romanized text of the name of the sender, and the English words "OFFICIAL MAIL," was applied in purple ink. The addressee was, of course, "Association Filatelica de Filipinas — P.O. Box 711, Manila." The three stamps were arranged, looking at them from left to right, as follows: 16 ctvs., 5 ctvs., and 2 ctvs. They were cancelled by hand steel canceller in black ink and the time of cancellation on most of the covers was either "4 P.M." or "5:30 P.M."

Illustration No. 1 is a photograph of the (FDC) in my collection. Other than 3 of the 4 stamps on the cover, there is no other feature that corresponds with the description given by Don Enrique. The principal differences are as follows:

- a) The envelope size is 6 1/2" instead of 6 3/4".
- b) The addressee is PHILMA not Association Filatelica de Filipinas.
- c) The return address is Philippine Executive Commission, Office of the Auditor, instead of Department of Interior.
- d) It was postmarked with a rubber hand stamp and not a hand steel canceller.
- e) It was postmarked at 5 P.M. instead of 4 P.M. or 5:30 P.M.
- f) NO3b is not mentioned in Don Enrique's description.
- g) There are no Japanese characters on the cover.

But regardless of what critics would say, the Bureau of Posts is still the ubiquitous link that connects the people of the Philippines through its mail services. What private messenger service would dare to venture into such far flung towns as Siocon or Sitangkai or Cagayan de Sulu?

The topography, and at times the recurring collision of the Christian and Islamic cultures coupled with the problems of under development of the region pose a great obstacle to the Bureau of Posts' mail operations.

Like the regional office, the Mail Distribution Center of Postal Region IX is located at Zamboanga City. The choice of The City of Flowers as this region's MDC is understandable and valid. First, Zamboanga City is strategically located at the center of Region IX. Second, she is the region's biggest city, territorially and demographically speaking, making her the center of commerce, trade, and industry.

As the mail distribution center, Zamboanga City receives the bulk of mails intended for the region and those that are to be sent out to different places of the Philippines and abroad for sorting distribution. Mailbags by the hundreds every day are brought here by ships, launches and planes from different points of the archipelago. On the other hand, the post office facilities of Dipolog and Pagadian are utilized as sub-mail distribution centers so that mails that can be sent directly there are brought in like manner as at Zamboanga City MDC. In these cities, mail sorters and laborers of the bureau are busy everyday except Sundays, sorting all kinds of mail matter and their respective destinations.

Sorting at the MDC and Sub-MDC is just the second or third phase of our mail's voyage. The first phase is its journey from the post offices where we drop them. When sorting is done, the mailbags are sealed, dispatched and transported to their addresses.

From the airmail section of the MDC and the Sub-MDC, airmail matter is prepared for its plane flights to its destinations. The Philippine Airlines is the Bureau of Posts' prime airmail contractor. Within and outside Postal Region IX, PAL flies mail from Zamboanga City to Manila and vice versa. Ditto with PAL flights from Zamboanga to Cebu, Zamboanga-Dipolog, Zamboanga-Pagadian, Zamboanga-Jolo, Dipolog Dumaguete, Dipolog-Ozamis, Dipolog-Butuan via Cebu, Dipolog-Manila via Cebu and all other airmail that can be practically loaded in planes with minimum of transshipment. Soon to be inaugurated with Philippine Aerotransport planes are airmail services from Zamboanga to Ipil and vice versa. Also, Zamboanga-Siocon, Zamboanga-Cagayan de Oro, Dipolog-Ozamis, and again, all other airmail that can be practically loaded in planes with minimum of transshipment.

The transportation of surface mail is made possible by different shipping companies which maintain mail service contract with the Bureau of Posts. From Zamboanga City MDC, mail that is intended for delivery in the post offices of Lamitan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi provinces is carried by passenger motor launches. The same motor launches also bring mail from these post offices to Zamboanga mail distribution centers. Another passenger launch that plies the coastal waters of Zamboanga del Sur ferries mailbags from Zamboanga City MDC to Malangas, Zamboanga del Sur and from there brings mail from Dipolog and Pagadian and all the other post offices of the two Zamboanga provinces.

Until the first week of February 1975, mail from and for the twin Zamboangas and Misamis Occidental was carried by Lito Transportation Co. But last November 1974, the manager of Lito Trans signified his company's intention to sever mail service contract with the Bureau of Posts by writing letters to the Director of Postal Region IX and then to the Postmaster General.

With the impending severance of mail service contract, Director Cesar L. Juan, then caretaker of Postal Region IX (now director of Postal Region X), upon instruction from Postmaster General Felizardo R. Tanabe, called on then Regional Chief of Mail Operation Gaudencio H. Bengal and MDC Chief Marcial P. Regencia to help him formulate a workable plan for Postal Region IX to transport the overland surface mail within the two Zamboangas. After some careful deliberation, a feasibility study followed. The result was the birth of a new system of mail transportation baptized as the cloverleaf system. Thus, Lito Trans was released of its obligation last February 1975.

The Cloverleaf System works this way: Three Isuzu mail trucks are based in Zamboanga City, Pagadian, and Dipolog. Twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday, they are loaded with mail and start as early as 6:00 in the morning for Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, their converging point. Like a cloverleaf, the three mail trucks meet and disengage from one point.

On the way to Ipil, the Dipolog mail truck drops and picks mailbags in the post offices of Katipunan, Roxas, Boulevard, Sindangan, Salug, Liloay (also dropping and picking mailbags from and for Labason), before crossing the provincial boundary to the post office of Titay, Zamboanga del Sur, and before proceeding to Ipil. The Pagadian City mail truck does the same thing at post offices in the towns of Zamboanga del Sur before it reaches Ipil.

The Zamboanga City based mail truck practically goes non-stop to Ipil. Eighty six kilometers of her rugged northward route to Ipil is Zamboanga City territory. The next town, Tungawan, as of this writing has no post office and is serviced by the Ipil post office. Because Ipil is almost equidistant from the three cities, the three mail trucks arrive here with just a few minutes interval before or after 12:00 noon. A quick but sure exchange of mailbags is done by the mail clerks who accompany the drivers. After an hour's rest they leave Ipil for home base and are expected there before 7:00 in the evening.

Last August 1975, Director Beatriz B. Alaán, new caretaker of Postal Region IX, saw fit to transport mail within the Zamboangas every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The increase of mail transport frequency from two to three times a week resulted, however, in the scrapping of the Zamboanga Ipil and Pagadian-Ipil routes in favor of another viable system. Only the Dipolog-Ipil route was retained.

Director Alaán's plan is for the mail to be ferried by a passenger motor launch to and from Zamboanga MDC and Malangas, Zamboanga del Sur. The Zamboanga based Isuzu mail truck was transferred to Malangas for loading of mail from the quay, bringing to Ipil the mailbags intended for the northern towns and exchanging them with the mail from the Dipolog mail truck that converged with it there. The Pagadian mail truck now only goes to Malangas to bring and get mail from this town.

Along the eastern Zamboanga del Norte route another Dipolog-based mail truck passes by the eastern towns reaching Calamba, Misamis Occidental where it converges with the Oroquieta City-based mail truck for exchange of mailbags as agreed by Region IX and Region X officials. Still another mail truck goes out from Pagadian three times a week for mail delivery routine in the Zamboanga del Sur towns east of that city.

Such mail operations, undertaken every day by Postal Region IX are the assurance that everybody can avail himself of the postal service, wherever he might be and keep contact with friends and relatives living within our republic and beyond.

WANTED

Philippine Stamps and covers, all eras, revenues, unlisted O.B.'s and Perfins. Selling via Private Treaty Sales?

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6150 Crittenden Ave.
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LIPAD BAYAN — RURAL AIR SERVICE

By Mario Que

The Bureau of Posts has contracted in 1975, the Philippine Aerotransport, Inc. (PAI), a new government airline, to provide air service for delivery of mail to various areas covered by Aerotransport's Rural Air Service Program dubbed as "Lipad Bayan" (Country Flight). According to Armand B. Davila, Traffic Sales Manager of PAI, the mails to be carried by Lipad Bayan should bear only the local ordinary postage rate charged by the Bureau of Posts (in other words, not Airmail rate) of 15s and beginning 1st of January 1977, 30s. Since the Bureau of Posts is determined to provide faster mail service, a contract was signed to the effect that mails going to places being serviced by Lipad Bayan will now go by air, instead of the usual "truck" or "van" deliveries.

The Lipad Bayan project was designed to ferry commuters and cargoes to and from small and medium-sized towns and cities. These towns and cities are not being serviced by Philippine Air Lines (PAL), nor by any other airline. PAI, a subsidiary of the government owned Philippine Aerotransport Development Corp., is utilizing a BN Islander aircraft (a nine-seater plus one pilot aircraft with a cargo capacity of around 1000 lbs.), which has been found to be efficient for short landing and short haul conditions.

Lipad Bayan in Manila serves the following routes: Manila-Calapan, every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at 6:00 and 7:00 a.m., Manila-Iba, every Friday and Sunday at 3:00 and 4:05 p.m.; Manila-Baler every Monday and Friday at 12:00 and 1:05 p.m.; and Manila-Wasig every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 and 11:20 a.m.

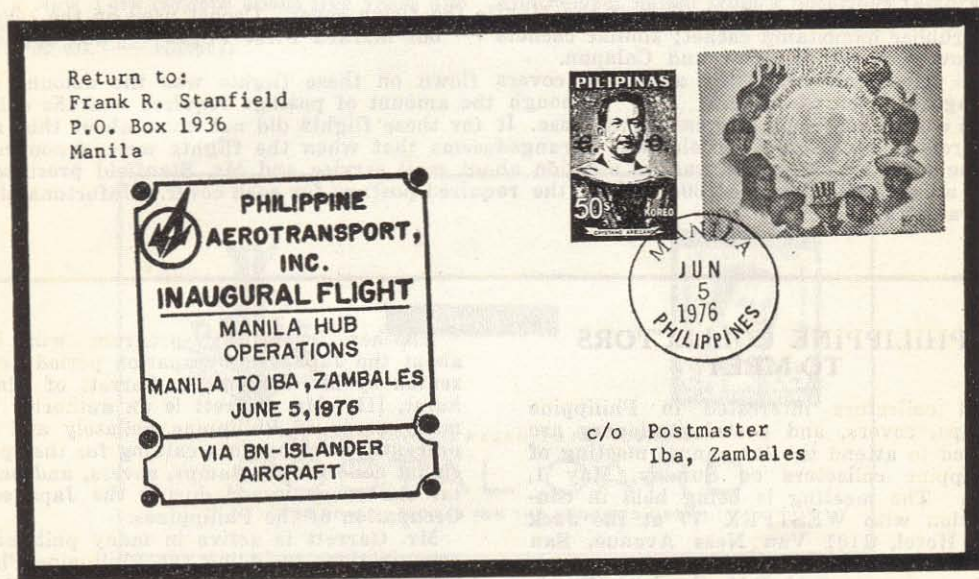


FIGURE 1

The Lipad Bayan project operates on the basis of using one major center as the hub, from where PAI will operate rural services. PAI also introduced the Lipad Bayan program in Zamboanga and Cebu. Areas served in the Cebu Hub are: Tacloban, Catarman, Guian, Catbalogan, Toledo, Hilongos, Camiguin, San Carlos, Bacolod, Siquijor, Surigao, Tandag, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, and Ormoc. Areas served in the Zamboanga Hub are: Cagayan de Sulu, Sibutu, Siasi, Sanga-Sanga, Iligan, Malaybalay, Kabasalan, and Ozamis.

The Manila Hub operation was inaugurated on June 5, 1976, with a flight to Iba, Zambales. The Flight was FLT 305/306 with Capt. Nicanor Castillo and took 50 minutes. Twenty-five (25) covers were arranged to be privately flown on this Inaugural Flight. Postmarked June 5, 1976, Manila, said covers were received and backstamped the same day in Iba, Zambales (Fig. 2).



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4

Two first flights out of Manila Hub were also inaugurated: Manila-Baler and Manila-Calapan flights were made on June 7, 1976 with Capt. Martinez and Tony Cruz, on FLT 303/304 and 301/302, respectively. The flight to Baler took 30 minutes while to Calapan, 45 minutes. Likewise, 25 covers were arranged to be privately flown on each flight. Postmarked Manila, June 7, 1976, covers flown to Baler were backstamped Baler, Aurora-Sub Province, June 7, 1976 (Fig. 3); and covers flown to Calapan were backstamped June 7, 1976, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro (Fig. 4).

Figure 1 is an illustration of the Manila-Iba flown cover. Cachet used on the cover is a rubber handstamp cachet; similar cachets — but marked First Flight — was applied on covers flown to Baler and Calapan.

One significant thing about the covers flown on these flights was the amount of postage used on the covers: 60s. Although the amount of postage required was 15s only, when confronted — he expressed innocence. It for these flights did not know about this, as apparently, Mr. F.R. Stanfield, who arranged seems that when the flights were announced in the local papers, there was no mention about mail service and Mr. Stanfield presumed that an airmail charge of 60s will be the required postage for each cover. Unfortunately, he was wrong!

PHILIPPINE COLLECTORS TO MEET

All collectors interested in Philippine stamps, covers, and postal stationery are invited to attend the 1st annual meeting of Philippine collectors on Sunday, May 1, 1977. The meeting is being held in conjunction with WESTPEX '77 at the Jack Tar Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Beginning at 3:00 P.M. Sunday, May 1, there will be interesting programs by some of the nations prominent Philippine specialists.

Mr. Bob Payne of Thousand Oaks, California, will present a program about the rare Provisional Stamps of La Union Province of the Philippines. Mr. Payne is a member of the United Postal Stationery Society which is the participating group at Westpex this year.

Mr. Payne's collection of La Union Provisionals is probably the finest in the world and he will bring some examples to illustrate his talk.

Another interesting program will be about the Japanese Occupation period presented by Mr. Eugene A. Garrett of Elmhurst, Ill. Mr. Garrett is an authority in many areas of Philippine philately and is presently working on a catalog for the specialist collector of stamps, covers, and postal stationery issued during the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines.

Mr. Garrett is active in many philatelic organizations including the Philippine Philatelic Society, England as a committee member and is presently Vice-President of the International Philippine Philatelic Society, Manila, P.I.

The meeting hours are from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Sunday, May 1. The first portion of the meeting will be prepared programs with question and answer periods. The second portion being a fellowship time to meet and visit with the speakers and other collectors. All attending are invited to show other members.

bring some of their Philippine items to

BILL OLIVER REPORTS
from Sacramento, California

OVERPRINTED "PHILIPPINE STAMPS" — I have heard and read about the U.S. stamps overprinted "Philippines" having the overprint counterfeited. About a month ago, at a stamp club meeting, I was going through a member's duplicates and found one with an obvious counterfeit overprint. By the time I got through all his duplicates, I have found five of the counterfeit. About four days later, I was at a stamp show for about two hours one afternoon and found four more counterfeits. The overprints seem to be applied with a rubber stamp. I have noticed the different ink lines along the top edge of "Philippines" as well as the variety of angles of the overprint.

(Recently, browsing through my philatelic journals, I came across a 1912 issue of the Philatelic Gazette, Vol. II No. 19, and on page 325, is the following article: "U.S. Philippines with Forged Overprints. Again we feel obliged to say a few words on this subject. Mr. Eugene Klein calls our attention to a forgery of the word "PHILIPPINES" which had not previously seen. So far no forgeries are known on unused stamps as this would be a dangerous offense against the insular treasury, but no less than three different fakes are known on used stamps. The scarcer values of the 1903 issue which are easily obtained without overprint are the principal stamps used, though both sets probably exist complete as fakes. The very clear and even impression of the letters is the principal sign of the genuine; also, the length of the surcharge. One set of fakes, the most common, was extensively sold by a New York concern about five years ago. Another set hailed from a notorious factory in Switzerland but we have no information regarding the new arrival which appears to be the best of all." — editor).



FIGURE 1

INVERTED "DELETING BARS" — probably the most outstanding find I had recently was a copy of the JapOcc postal card, Scott #NUX1, UPSS No. S20, with the bars deleting the coat of arms being inverted (Figure 1). I believe this variety was first found about a year ago. Gene Garrett has sent a xerox copy of one to me to get my opinion. If my memory serves me right, 12 copies were found in one group, making a total of 13 discovered to date. It has never been reported from any other area, so I believe this one card helps to prove that there may be others. I could hardly believe my eyes when I found this card among all the other covers I recently purchased. According to Gene, he understands that the first one offered at auction went for \$200.00, the next for \$300.00 and most recently, \$400.00. Rather astonishing prices for "mere" postal cards.



FIGURE 2

BISECTS — another item I had heard Gene Garrett talk about but have never seen, were bisects used during the JapOcc. There were two covers in a lot I recently bought, both from Bulacan, P.I. (Figure 2). I really don't know anything about these except that they do exist. This area probably had no 5 ctvs. stamps and no 1 ctv. stamps. At least no 1 ctv. stamps to make up the correct postage of 5 ctvs. Another item I had never even heard of before is a cover dated Oct. 14 1942, with 4 ctvs. postage (two, 2 ctvs. regular issue stamps). Since the postage rate was 5 ctvs. there was postage due. And at a double rate too. The double rate really don't mean much, as there was only 1 ctv. due; but with no 1 ctv. stamps, they either had to use a 2 ctvs. or bisect a 2 ctvs. If this had been during the first part of the provisional postage due period — Oct. 3-5, this would really be outstanding. Another possibility exists though — it could be that the post office (Manila) ran out of provisional postage due stamps and this clerk did not have the regularly overprinted postage due stamps yet, as they had come out in the afternoon of the previous day. Anyway, it is a most unusual item and quite desirable from my point of view.

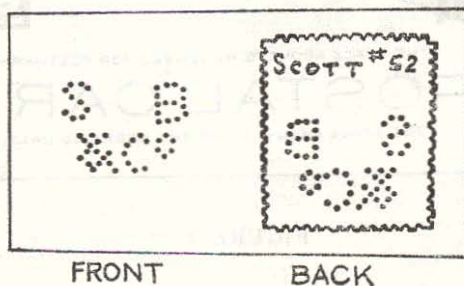


FIGURE 3

PERFINS — I recently found a perfin on a Spanish Philippine stamp. It is on a used copy of Scott Catalogue #52 (Figure 3.) Does anybody know what the initials represent. Does anybody else have other Spanish period perfins? I do have another Spanish perfin, but it is a revenue stamp. I am using it in revenue exhibit rather than in my perfin collection.

(Note: According to philatelic friend Manny Encarnacion, the initials stand for SMITH BELL AND CO., which started operating in the Philippines since the early 1800's, and which is still operational to the present time. — editor.)

THOUGHTS IN PASSING . . .

by Gene Garrett

INGENUITY is the name of the game for our friend and IPPS member, Vic Esbensen of Canada. At the time this is being written, Vic is travelling in the Philippines and in Indonesia and is taking advantage of the opportunity to prepare some interesting covers. He is seeking out unusual postal markings and post offices and is preparing the sort of covers which become future rarities — the joy of those of us who are "hooked" on cover-collecting. The first such covers received from Vic are postmarked Camp Evangelista, City of Cagayan de Oro. In his cover letter, Vic explains: "There are three military post offices in Mindanao: Camp Evangelista (Misamis Oriental), Camp Making (Maguindanao), and Southcom (Zamboanga). The Camp Evangelista Military P.O. is operated by Sergeant C.A. Guzman and 1 or 2 helpers. The office is very small and appears to handle only a small volume of mail. But most postal services are offered, except for Speed Airmail, for which one has to go into Cagayan de Oro City . . . Sgt. Guzman was very friendly and did his best to apply clear postmarks with his quite poor rubber hand-canceller. Although he spoke good English, I don't think he really understood why I wanted the covers." (Hey Vic, we have the same problem here in the States. The trick is this: when the clerk looks at you as though you're crazy, look him back straight in the eye — just as though you weren't.)

THE GOOD GET BETTER in the latest 1977 Scott Specialized Catalogue. Even those of us who are "not in it for the money" were interested to note a reported 730 individual price changes, a big jump over the 242 changes last year. In the Republic issues, the City Coats-of-Arms sets of 1951, #557-568, advanced from \$1.30 to \$5.00 for the set of 12 — USED. The airmail of the 1948 FAO set, #C67, more than doubled from \$3.00 to \$7.50 — USED, and advanced from \$14.00 to \$17.00 unused. Only four of the "Good" JapOcc issues got better: #s NB3, NB4, Nj1 and NO2, all up about 15%-20%. Almost the entire catalogue of postal cards was revised sharply upwards. The rare #UX3 advanced from \$250.00 to \$400.00, unused and used, and the very rare #UX8 from \$450.00/\$300.00 to \$550.00/\$500.00. The very scarce Official Postal Card #UZ4 advanced from \$17.50/\$16.00 to \$25.00/\$22.00 — still underpriced, in my opinion. It's nice to see some of the better USED stamps getting a deserved recognition.

MAIL FROM CORREGIDOR ISLAND, 1942 — is the title of a most interesting article which appeared in the Oct-Nov, 1975 issue of "War Cover Club Bulletin." A follow up article has now appeared in Dec

1976-Jan. 1977 issue. Members interested in learning more about that fascinating aspect of the postal history of the Philippines, mail from the "Doomed Garrison" in Manila Bay, are advised that sales of back "Bulletin" issues are handled by David R. Opperman, 1108 South Cottage Grove Ave., Urbana, Illinois 61801 at \$1.00 per copy.

PAQUEBOT COVERS — Another aspect of Philippine postal history which seems to me to be ripe for study is the very interesting field of "Paquebot" covers prepared in Philippine waters, carried by intercoastal shipping. As far as I know, no study of that subject has been published; it would be a pleasant surprise if someone corrects that statement! I'll wager that many philatelists in the Philippines know a great deal about these covers with the various "Paquebot" markings; perhaps they have even been considered so common place as not to warrant a special study — but they are certainly not commonplace to this foreigner. I have perhaps a dozen different markings on cover, all addressed to and from different islands in the Philippine Archipelago. One has a receiving backstamp of Sta. Cruz, Davao, dated May 31, 1930, and an unusual "PAQUETE-BOTE" handstamp, in purple. Another with a small purple "PAQUEBOT" marking is addressed to Davao City, with Davao postmark dated August 17, 1930, and has a fascinating four-line boxed handstamp, in purple, which reads as follows: "Mails dropped in vessel's buzon always delayed in delivery. Advise correspondent drop his mail in post office buzon wherever possible."

I had to consult a Spanish-English dictionary to learn that "buzon" is defined as "Hole through which letters are thrown into the post office, letter-box, drop box." — and now I have related all I know about the subject. For one thing, I'd like to know why mails deposited in vessel's buzon were "always delayed in delivery." Can anyone expand upon and elucidate the subject?

(NOTE: According to Don Pablo Esperidion — mails dropped at regular post office buzon have a scheduled time of pick up, are sorted out immediately, and delivered accordingly: out of town or out of city mails are usually delivered on the first vessel to depart. Unlike the mails dropped on the ship's buzon — passenger and non-passenger alike may mail prior to the ship's departure — mails are usually delayed for the following reasons: (1) the ship is sometimes delayed in its departure; (2) a ship normally passes other cities on its way to its actual destination; (3) Paquebot mails are cancelled at the port of arrival — if the ship arrives at night, mails have to be cancelled yet the following day when the port post office opens on their regular working hours, then brought to the main or central distributing centers for sorting out and delivery. — Editor)

Bits and Pieces

...by Linstan

VICTORY ACT 1189 OVERPRINT — Member Jay Segal writes "recently I noticed the stamp in auction catalogues referring to it as a "rare victory overprint revenue stamp." Have you any information about this overprint?" We have asked this question before but so far, everything is vague. An APS Expertization Service Certificate submitted to us by Jay shows a 4 ctvs. woman and Carabao (Scott #384) with the said overprint and the APS Opinion was "its a bogus overprint." Several years ago, this was advertised for \$80.00 for a b/f and the advertisement claims it to be a "Revenue Provisional, in use one week only, mostly on bank drafts at National Casino." Act 1189, we were advised, is a General Revenue Act. Bill Oliver also writes "I have written to Arnold Warren about this item in 1969. He checked with the Director of the Philippine Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Director of the Philippine Bureau of Posts. The reply was that, it had not been authorized and had not been used as a revenue."

COUNTERFEIT SCOTT #C-101 — stamps issued on June 24, 1971 in commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Manila was, sometime back, the P1.00 value was counterfeited. Due to the alertness of local collectors, it was brought to the attention of the Postmaster General and those responsible were quickly apprehended with the stamps. Few of the stamps were used and those that were seized by the Bureau of Posts were destroyed. The counterfeit is slightly larger than the legal issue, and the blue is a much darker color.

PRIVATE O.B. OVERPRINTS — from time to time, those who work with used material will find O.B.'s on stamps that appear to be printed rather than handstamp, but not official issues of the Bureau of Posts. They most likely are printed and usually can be found on commemoratives. These are stamps that large government agencies have purchased, normally government banks and which they have had overprinted rather than handstamped. Unless you can find one on cover with the corner card, these are almost impossible to identify as to who had them overprinted. The application of the overprint by government agencies/offices is quite legal and requires no permission from the Bureau of Posts.

BOARD OF CONSULTANTS — Member Gene Garrett writes "perhaps we should set up a Board of Consultants" who would have the knowledge and willingness to answer any question about any aspect of Philippine Philately. I'll volunteer to handle the JapOcc and perhaps the postal stationery — and most likely Bill Oliver would be most agreeable to handle First Flights, and Bob Williams on the Handstamped VICs. What do you think of that idea? In fact, you really originated the idea in your Bits and Pieces department . . ." The idea is very sound and very good, we therefore would like to hear from members who are specializing or have done research on certain period of Philippine Philately — and would be willing to sit on the Board of Consultants. I have the following local members volunteer to answer or secure the answer on the following phase of Philippine Philately:

Mr. Enrique San Jose and Engr. Rodolfo Tan — Japanese Occupation

Mr. Mario O. Que — Spanish, Commonwealth, and Republic FDCs

Engr. Rodolfo Tan — Republic Issues

Don Pablo Esperdion — General Philippine Philately

From abroad, we have Gene Garrett, and hopefully, Bill Oliver and Bob Williams, Another volunteer for Provisional issues, Aguinaldo issues, etc. . . . ?

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 . . .

PHILIPPINE NEW ISSUES

IMF STAMPS — issued on Oct. 4, 1976 in 60s and P1.50 denominations with one million copies each. Each stamp measures 24 x 40 mm in sheets of 50. Printed by Government Printing Office, Manila, by offset-litho in four colors. Issued to mark the 1976 Joint Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which was held in Manila from Oct. 4-8, 1976 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Principal participants are the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from 128 member countries of the two organizations. The stamp features the official logo of the participating bodies to the conference, namely the IMF, World Bank, Int'l. Development Association, and the Int'l. Finance Corp., and a leigh of Sampaguita flowers. Designed by Antonio Chiudian of the Bureau of Posts. FDCs were serviced at Manila Post Office and at the PICC Post Office. It was one issue that was well publicized in the newspapers and which saw local collectors as well as foreign collectors (mostly tourists) lining up for FDCs. We understand that 1,000 FDCs alone were sold out at PICC in less than two hours. **VARIETY** discovered, as reported by Gene Garrett and Peter Harradine — is a missing dark blue color on the P1.50 value; and, a constant misperforation of the 60s stamps on the first row (top row), instead of stamp measuring 24 x 40 mm, it measures 24 x 43 mm.

PC IMPERFORATES — issued on October 14, 1976, imperforate copies of the 15s and 60s Philippine Constabulary stamps, in 50,000 copies each only. Stamp features the same design as the perforate copies which were issued on Aug. 8, 1976. It seems that a sheet set in imperforate form was accidentally released last August, which prompted Postmaster General Tanabe to order the issuance of imperforates. We commend General Tanabe for such a quick action. FDCs were serviced at Manila Post Office.

PHILATELIC WEEK — issued on Nov. 24, 1976, in 30s denomination with one million copies only. The 10s St. Louis University stamp (Scott #1184) were surcharged to 30s for the 1976 Philatelic Week. FDCs were serviced at Manila Post Office.

VIRGIN OF ANTIPOLO — issued on Nov. 26, 1976, in 30s and 90s denomination with one million copies each. The stamp measures 30 x 42 mm in sheets of 50.

Printed by Apo/Neda, Manila by offset litho in four colors. Issued in commemoration of the 350th (1626-1976) Year of the arrival of the Virgin of Antipolo, also known as Virgin of Peace and Good Voyage. This blessed image was first brought to the Philippines on March 23, 1626 by Juan Niño de Tabora, the ten appointed Governor of the Philippines, aboard the galleon "El Almirante." From 1648-1748, the Virgins Image made five trips to Acapulco and each time she brought the ship safely back. She also made other successful trips such as in 1648 on the "Encarnacion," in 1650 on the "San Diego," in 1651 on the "San Francisco Xavier" in 1659 on the "San Jose" and 1746 on the "Muestra Señora del Pilar." The Virgin was brought to Manila on Nov. 27, 1926 for coronation. Designed by Nemesio Dimanlig. FDCs were serviced at Manila Post Office.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS — issued on Dec. 1, 1976 in 15s and 30s denominations with one million copies each. The stamp measures 30 x 24 mm. in sheets of 50. Printed by Apo/Neda, Manila, by offset-litho in 4 colors. The stamp features the Parish Church of Pasig, a Christmas lantern, and a group of people going to Church to hear the early morning mass. Designed by Nemesio Dimanlig. FDCs were serviced at Manila Post Office.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM — issued on Dec. 13, 1976 in 30s and 75s denomination with one million copies each. The stamp measures 24 x 37 mm in sheets of 50. Printed by Apo/Neda, Manila, in 3 colors. Issued to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Philippine Educational System. By virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1474 dated August 6, 1975, the year 1976 was proclaimed as the "Diamond Jubilee Year" commemorating the establishment of the Phil. Educational System under Act No. 74 of 1901. It also marked the 75th Anniversary of the arrival of 600 American teachers known as the "Thomasites." The design represents the facets of a diamond superimposed on the Philippine sun, with a book marked "1901-1976" and on the facets of the diamond or rays of sun are the old tagalog letters "Diamond Anniversary Philippine Educational Systems" and three stars which represents Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. FDCs were serviced at Manila Post Office.

MEMBERSHIP HAPPENINGS

as compiled by Fe A. Carandang

The following have been provisionally accepted as IPPS members. This list of membership shall become final 30 days after publication if no objections are received from members.

- 088 — AMANDO C. CALLEJA — 543 So. Lyman Ave., Oak Park, Illinois 60604; May 12, 1931; Philippines: Mint, Used, FDCs, errors, freaks; Others: US, UN, GB, Canada, Cuba, China, Greece, Israel; Member: APS, SPA, AFDCS.
- 089 — FRANK O. MARKUN — 269 Fairhills Dr., Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197; Oct. 22, 1947; Philippines: Mint and Used; Others: Greece, Vatican, Israel, US; Member: APS, West Suburban Stamp Club.
- 090 — ALAN F. DOYLE — 18314 Carriage Lane, Houston, Texas 77058; Sept. 20, 1916; Philippines: Postal History; Member: AAMS, APS, USPS, Collectors Club.
- 091 — ROBERT C. WILLIAMS — 13906 2nd N.E., Seattle Washington 98125, Sept. 1, 1919; Philippines: All issues; Others: U.S. Possessions; Member: APS, PPS.
- 092 — J. DAVID KLUCK — 1249 Island Drive, Apt. 104, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Oct. 13, 1948; Philippines: Mint, Philatelic literature; Others: Israel, US, Vatican, UN; Member: APS.
- 093 — ROBERT CARNECER — P.O. Box 9014 Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, California 94129; Feb. 20, 1946; Philippines: All areas; Others: American (Victorian)
- 094 — MARIO QUE — 6 Lapu-lapu St., Magallanes Village, Makati, Rizal Phils.; May 13; Philippines: Spanish, American, Commonwealth, Japanese, Republic, Revenues, FDCs, FFs;
- 095 — ROBERTO G. ATUTUBO — 104 Lincoln St., Jaro, Iloilo City 5931 Phils.; April 27, 1923; Philippines: All types; Others: U, European countries, coins and paper money; Member: Interphilatelic So. of Brazil.
- 096 — NICHOLAS dela Cruz GUIUA — 17 A. Mabini St., Calococan City, Phils.; Sept. 16, 1939; Philippines: All Issues; Others: Sports and Space on stamps;
- 097 — VICTOR ESBENSEN — Apt. 1011 730 Dovercourt Rd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1942; Philippines: General; Others: Indonesia; Member: APS, ISJP, RPSC;
- 098 — DONALD G. ROSS — P.O. Box 820, Naga City 4701, Phils.; Feb. 15, 192;5 Philippines: General including Revenues; Others: Worldwide;
- 099 — ARISTONA CHANGCO — 529 Navarro Courts, Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City, Phils.; July 2, 1920; Philippines: Complete from Spanish; Others: Paintings on stamps;
- 100 — ROSARIO ABAPO — #5 Lourdes St., Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines; Oct. 31 1943; Philippines: All issues; Others: US, Germany;
- 101 — ROSARIO B. CORALES — 2-A H. Gupo St., Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Phils.; Sept. 30, 1938; Philippines: All issues; Others: Tropical stamps;
- 102 — MELINDA V. KHO — 29-A C. P. Garcia Avenue, Tagbilaran, Bohol, Phils; Nov. 17, 1956; Philippines: All issues; Others: Tropical stamps;
- 103 — LINA V. TAN — 43-A C. Gallares St., Tagbilaran, Bohol, Phils; Dec. 20, 1944; Philippines: All periods; Others: USA, Germany, WW.
- 104 — LOURDES T. YU — Yu Surveying Office, La Revolucion St., Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Phils; March 26, 1941; Philippines: All Issues; Others: WW.
- 105 — WELLAN J. BRIGGS — 1992-A Fleming Cir., KMCAS, FPO San Francisco, California 96615; Jan. 30, 1943; Philippines: General, all issues; Others: Hawaii, Dutch Indies, WW; Member: APS.
- 106 — GREGORY PROBST — Staff CINCPAC, Box 42, FPO San Francisco 96610; May 10, 1951; Philippines: Stamps and covers; Others: East Asia, Southeast Asia, US, Canada, Europe, UPU; Member: APS, RPSS, China Stamp So., Confederate Stamp Alliance.
- 107 — MARK C. BOISSY — 448 Amherst St., Manchester, New Hampshire 03104; Dec. 29, 1957; Philippines: Republic stamps and FDCs; Others: HK, China (Rep. of) Singapore, Korea, Thailand; Member: China Stamp Sp.
- 108 — DR. JEB BOSWELL — 29 Kenilworth St., Newton, Mass. 02158; Philippines: Air-
mai, FF;

In view of the fact that Philippine Philatelic Literature — especially those published during the earlier years of Don Pablo Esperidion, Mr. Arnold Warren, et al are hard to come by, the Philippine Philatelic News will be reprinting, starting with this issue, various articles published at one time or another in "SALUTE TO OUR PHILATELIC FATHERS". We hope that our present generation of philatelists will find them of great interest and value in the preservation and further fostering of our mutual interest and hobby — Philippine Philately.

SALUTE TO OUR PHILATELIC FATHERS —

FIL-AMERICAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

By Pablo M. Esperidion

(Re-published from Philippine Philatelist, Vol. I No. 1, August 1947, Official Journal of the Philippine Philatelic Club)

Odd as they may seem but they form as part and parcel of the postal history of the Philippines and the United States — the Fil-American postal cancellations. By Fil-American postal cancellations, it may be construed those Philippine cancellations on United States Postal Stationery as well as United States cancellations on Philippine postal cards and postal stationery when mailed from the Philippines and addressed to any part in the USA. envelopes.

It's a little known fact that before the termination of the American sovereignty in the Philippines on July 3, 1946, there was a special provision in the "Schedule of Postage Rates and Conditions" of the Bureau of Posts, Manila which treats on the validity for postage of Philippine postal stationery (government postal cards and envelopes) in the United States. Conversely, subject special provision was also true for United States postal stationery when mailed from the Philippines and addressed to any part in the USA.

Embodied in the special provision in question, it's interesting to observe some excerpts from it which read: ". . . valid for postage in the Philippines . . . single postal cards, the reply halves of double postal cards and embossed stamped envelopes of the United States, when addressed to the United States, Guam, Tutuila, Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or the Canal Zone . . . The embossed stamped envelopes and 2-centavo postal cards of the Philippines are valid for postage in the United States when directed to address in the Philippines."

Validity of this special provision was confirmed by the United States Postal Law No. 147-3. This is according to the postal authorities of San Francisco, California, it was learned by the writer from Albert N. Brown, of San Francisco, to whom the writer sent a Philippine postal card for the purpose it seeks at that city sometime ago.

That this special postal provision was in effect not only since the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese Occupation but also prior to Pearl Harbor, Bob Richardson, a former editor of Linn's Weekly Stamp News, in Columbus, Ohio, aware perhaps of this special postal privilege, submitted it in a test case late in 1939. Bob sent to the writer, a Philippine 2-centavo postal card (Scott UX 16) via ordinary mail. And on the reverse of the card, Bob wrote in part: "Now, just so this doesn't get sunk on its way to you."

On the basis of subject special provision, Bob Richardson's test case met with success: the Philippine postal card went thru the US mail allright. It was mailed at Columbus, Ohio, and duly cancelled by machine. It bears, the postal postmark, "Sept. 26, 1939".

Serving this test case as a "germ" for an idea, early in 1946 or six years after Bob Richardson's test case, the writer started writing to the postmaster of the different State capitals in the United States, enclosing at the same time, two Philippine "Victory" postal cards (Scott UX20) in each letter with the request to have the cards cancelled and forward them in the mail thereafter.

Weeks passed by and then the cards came in one by one. They were duly cancelled from the post offices of the 48 different State capitals in the Union, including the two copies mailed from Washington, D.C., capital of good old USA.

A collection of these State cancellations on Philippine postal cards bearing different types of 20th century US cancels is quite interesting, and interestingly enough there are two postal cards mailed from Salem, Oregon, each showing six different postal cancellations.

Parenthetically, while not exactly of Fil-American character, the writer was able to build, too, a complete collection of postal cancellations, from the different provincial capitals in the Philippines (49 different) on Philippine "Victory" postal cards (Scott UX20) to tie up with his collection of State capital cancellations (49 different including Washington, D.C.) of the United States as indicated above.

In addition to his Fil-American collection of State capital cancellations, the writer was able to augment it with some Philippine "Victory" postal cards (Scott UX20), again mailed in the United States and duly cancelled at the post offices of the following towns and cities:

MANILA, Alabama; MANILA, Arkansas; MANILA, Utah; MANILA, West Virginia; MANILA, Indiana; MANILA, Iowa; DAYLIGHT, Tennessee; GOODNIGHT, Texas; MacARTHUR and NIMITZ, West Virginia; VICTORY, Vermont; NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, LIVONIA, and ROCHESTER, New York; SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, OAKLAND, DOSTAMESA and NEWPORT BEACH, California; CHICAGO and EVANSTON, Illinois; GLOBE, Arizona; HOLTON and WILLISBURG, Kansas; SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts; SIDNEY, Ohio; READING, Pennsylvania; MATLOCK, Washington; PE-TOSKEY and CLOVERDALE, Michigan; ABSECON and ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey; GREENVILLE, Texas; and PASADENA, California — these last six were cancelled on July 4, 1946, on the occasion of the 170th anniversary of the American Independence and inauguration of the Philippine Republic.

While virtually all postal cards of the writer mailed from the post offices of the different State capitals and some towns and cities in the United States were duly cancelled and received in due course, except those forwarded to the postmaster of MANILA, Kentucky and MIDNIGHT, Mississippi, which have not been received up to this writing (1947), in passing, it may not be amiss to mention that on the main, the American postmasters were very cooperative to the writer's philatelic request. The writer therefore is grateful to the different postmasters of the United States, as well as to his American friends in the Stateside, who cooperated with him in building this collection of Fil-American cancellations in the interest of Fil-American postal history.

Recognizing the validity for postage of United States postal stationery in the Philippines in accordance with the special provision of the Bureau of Posts referred to before, the Philippine postal clerks duly cancelled some United States postal cards (Scott UX27) mailed by the writer in Manila, addressed to the United States on July 3, 1946, which incidentally was the last day of the Philippine Commonwealth, philatelically, they may serve as witness to the aforementioned Fil-American postal history; and historically, they may serve as a souvenir of the last day of the American sovereignty in the Philippines, as well as a memento of the last day of the Philippine Commonwealth, a nation which, according to international law, became a full pledge Republic on July 4, 1946, coincident with the 170th anniversary of the American independence. Thus, thru the postal cancellations of a nation, its history may be traced, and Fil-American postal cancellations bear witness to this.

The latitude of a collection of Fil-American cancellations is not limited. In fact, some relevant postal cancellations may be added to it. Consider the United States naval covers cancelled in Philippine waters, as well as censored and uncensored covers with APO cancels of the United States Armed Forces stationed in the Philippines during the first and second World Wars. Likewise, United States military cancellations on American stamps used in the Philippines in the early days of the American regime (1898-1905), may be considered.

Relatively, these relevant cancellations offer a quite interesting field, not that they merely lend life and color to any collection of Fil-American cancellations, but they have their own story to tell. And the fact remains that they are not merely part and parcel of the Philippine-American postal history, but also mute witness to the history of Philippine-American mutual relationship, which is reminiscent of Fil-American friendship in time of peace and Fil-American comradeship in time of war, as well as Fil-American partnership in blood and tears in the dark days of Bataan and Corregidor, where the Fil-American fighting spirit was demonstrated and won the admiration of the world.

THE SEMI-POSTAL ISSUES OF THE PHILIPPINES

(Second Series)

By Enrique San Jose

I. ISSUES UNDER THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION:

PHILATELIC DATA AND INFORMATION

FOOD PRODUCTION:

Denomination:	2c + 1c	— lavender	— 200,000
Color:	5c + 1c	— bright green	— 400,000
Quantity:	16c + 2c	— orange	— 60,000
Size:	25.2 x 20.3 mm horizontally composed		
Perforation:	12, Unwatermarked		
Printing Process:	Offset		
Printer:	Hydrographic and Geodetic Office, Manila		
Sheet Composition:	100, no straight edges.		

FLOOD RELIEF:

Denomination:	12c + 21c	— steel blue	— 350,000
Color:	20c + 36c	— rose violet	— 350,000
Quantity:	21c + 40c	— Violet	— 350,000
Size:	18.5 x 22.5 mm (12 + 21c and 20 + 36c), 22.5 x 18.5 mm (21 + 40c)		
Perforation:	13 x 13½, Wmk. Curved Wavy Lines		
Printing Process:	Engraved		
Printer:	Cabinet Press, Tokyo, Japan;		
	Overprinted and surcharged in black: Bureau of Printing, Manila		
Sheet Composition:	100, no straight edges.		

II. ISSUES UNDER THE THIRD REPUBLIC

LIBRARY REHABILITATION SEMI-POSTAL ISSUE (April 1, 1949)

On June 20, 1947 the Congress of the Philippines enacted Republic Act No. 174, entitled "An Act to Authorize the Printing of Semi-Postal Stamps to be printed by the Bureau of Posts, for the Rehabilitation of the National Library". The designs of these stamps were taken from the picture of title-page of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere", 4 plus 2 or 6c, the picture of title page of "Doctrina Cristiana", first book published in the Philippines, 6 plus 4 or 10c, and combinational pictures in vignette of T.H. Pardo De Tavera, Epifanio de los Santos, and Teodoro M. Kalaw, 18 plus 7 or 25c. Had all these semi-postals been sold, a total amount of ₱220,000.00 would have accrued for the partial rehabilitation of the National Library of the Philippines. But, like the early United Nations commemoratives, when there was lack of initial demand, the sale of National Library Semi-postals was discontinued on December 1, 1950, and the remaining stock withdrawn from sale (767,092 stamps of 4 + 2 centavos; 436,774 stamps of 6 + 4 centavos; and 270,570 stamps of 18 + 7 centavos), which were eventually destroyed on June 24, 1953.

PHILATELIC DATA AND INFORMATION

Denomination:	4 + 2c	— sepia	— 1,000,000 (767,092)
Color:	6 + 4c	— violet	— 600,000 (436,774)
Quantity:	18 + 7c	— blue	— 400,000 (270,570)
	Figures in parentheses represent the number of stamps officially destroyed on June 24, 1953.		
Size:	30 x 44.5 mm (6 + 4c and 18 + 7c), vertically composed. 44.5 x 30 mm (4 + 2c), horizontally composed.		
Perforation:	12, unwatermarked		
Printing Process:	Engraved		
Printer:	American Bank Note Co., New York City		
Sheet Composition:	25, no straight edges.		

VETERANS SEMI-POSTAL ISSUE (November 30, 1950)

The second semi-postal issue under the Philippine Republic is generally known as the Veterans Semi-Postals. The design portray a war widow and children (denomination 2 + 2c), and a disabled veteran (denomination 4 + 4c). Funds raised through these semi-postal issues were for the benefit of disabled veterans and war widows and orphans of World War II and for the construction of a war memorial. Design of these stamps was executed by Lilio Velasco.

PHILATELIC DATA AND INFORMATION

Denomination: 2 + 2c — red — 3,000,000 (2,640,000)
Color: 4 + 4c — violet — 2,000,000 (1,700,000)
Quantity: Figures in parentheses represent the number of stamps surcharged in black on Feb. 3, 1959.
Size:
Perforation: 12, unwatermarked
Printing Process: Engraved
Printer: American Bank Note Co., New York City
Sheet Composition: 100, no straight edges.

FRUIT TREE MEMORIAL ISSUE (August 19, 1952)

As the name indicates, this set of semi-postals was intended to help raise funds for the planting and care of fruit trees among the Filipino especially the children. It was significant to portray the likeness of Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon on this stamp because she was not only the First Lady of a very famous Philippine president, but also an exemplary civic and social leader, and a noble humanitarian. She was the first woman chairman of Philippine National Red Cross which received its recognition as an independent entity from the International Red Cross Society of Geneva, Switzerland on March 29, 1947. Incidentally, the first day of issue of the Fruit Tree Memorial Semi-postals fall on the 74th birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

PHILATELIC DATA AND INFORMATION

Denomination: 5 + 1c — deep blue — 1,000,000 (400,000)
Color: 6 + 2c — carmine rose — 500,000
Quantity: Figures in parentheses represent the number of stamps surcharged in black on Dec. 23, 1962.
Size: 35.5 mm x 28.5 mm., horizontally composed
Perforation: 12, unwatermarked
Printing Process: Engraved
Printer: American Bank Note Co., New York City
Sheet Composition: 100, no straight edges.

TENTH WORLD BOY SCOUTS JAMBOREE

(Semi-postal Issue (July 17, 22, and 26, 1959)

Not since the celebration of the XXXIII International Eucharistic Congress at Manila on February 3-7, 1937, had there been a prestigious happening in the Philippines than the holding of the 10th World Jamboree of Boy Scouts from some 69 free countries all over the world. This jamboree — a mammoth gathering of Boy Scouts getting together in friendship and brotherhood as well as harmonious living and universal understanding — certainly has given the Philippines the opportunity to show other peoples from far away and nearby lands the time-honored hospitality of the Filipinos. Philatelically and similarly as in 1937, several attractive and symbolic semi-postal stamps were issued to help raise funds to finance the jamboree celebration at Mt. Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna from July 16-26, 1959. A nationwide and intensive fund campaign was started at Malacañang on August 31, 1958 and by the end of the campaign on June 30, 1959, a million pesos was raised. The government subsidy and other sources of income amounting to another million pesos completed the total amount of two million pesos for the Jamboree.

(Cont. on p. 25)

POSTAL RATES TO BE HIKED

Who says the "world is getting smaller"? — it seems to be the opposite the way almost every country is raising the cost of postage — Philippines included.

Effective January 1, 1977, postal rates of Philippines will be increased at least 50% from the current rates, except for local domestic surface mail which is 100%. Hereunder is a list of new rates as per Administrative Order No. 6 dated September 8, 1976 of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications, Bureau of Posts:

DOMESTIC SERVICES:

SURFACE MAIL — First Class	— 30s for every 20 grams or fraction thereof.
— Second Class	— 30s for every file or fraction thereof:
— Third Class	— 30s for every 100 grams or fraction thereof.
— Books	— 60s for every half kilo or fraction thereof.
AIRMAIL — All Classes	— 90s for every 20 grams or fraction thereof.
— Speed Airmail	— P3.00 for first 40 grams and P1.00 for each additional 20 grams or fraction thereof.
REGISTRY FEE	— 75s
SPECIAL DELIVERY FEE	— 45s

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES:

	All Countries except AOPU countries:	AOPU* Countries:
SURFACE MAIL — up to 20 grams	P1.20	80s
— up to 50 grams	2.10	1.30
— up to 100 grams	2.55	1.80
POSTCARDS	75s	50s
PRINTED MATTER — up to 20 grams	60s	30s
— up to 50 grams	75s	40s
— up to 100 grams	90s	50s
AIRMAIL — POSTCARDS	— P1.20 for all countries	
— AEROGRAMMES	— P1.30 for all countries	
— LETTERS	— as per rates listed below (on selected countries only) for every 10 grams or fraction thereof:	
— PRINTED MATTER and SMALL PACKETS	— as per rates listed below for every 30 grams or fraction thereof:	
Australia	— 1.80	Netherlands (Holland) — 2.20
Canada	— 2.50	New Zealand — 2.00
France	— 2.20	Puerto Rico (US) — 2.40
Germany	— 2.20	Singapore — 1.40
Great Britain	— 2.20	South Africa — 2.90
Guam (US)	— 1.40	Spain — 2.30
Hawaii (US)	— 2.10	Switzerland — 2.20
Hong Kong	— 1.30	Thailand — 1.50
Japan	— 1.50	Thailand — 1.50
Malaysia	— 1.50	U.S.A. — 2.30
Midway (US)	— 2.40	U.S.S.R. — 2.40
	— 2.10	Vatican City — 2.20

	NonAOPU Countries	AOPU Countries
REGISTRY FEE	— 1.35	80s
SPECIAL DELIVERY FEE	— 1.95	1.95
INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON	— 3.10	3.10

The 10th World Jamboree Semi-Postal issues had three first day cancellations at the Manila Post Office and at the Jamboree Camp, Laguna, as follows:

- July 17, 1959 — 30 + 10¢, 70 + 20¢ and 80 + 20¢ Airmail
 July 22, 1959 — 6 + 4¢, 25 + 5¢ and tete-beche 6+4¢, 25+5¢ priced at 80¢ regular postage
 July 26, 1959 — Souvenir Sheets with all the denominations in a horizontal setenant arrangement priced at P4.00

PHILATELIC DATA AND INFORMATION

Denomination:	25 + 5¢	— Ultramarine	— 2,500,000 (2,000,000) regular
	6 + 4¢	— Cerise	— 500,000 (300,000) regular
Color:	25 + 5¢	— Ultramarine	— 200,000 (100,000) tete-beche
Quantity:	6 + 4¢	— Cerise	— 100,000 Airmail
	30 + 10¢	— Slate green	— 100,000 Airmail
	70 + 20¢	— Brown Red	— 100,000 Airmail
	80 + 20¢	— Purple	—
	6 + 4¢	— Cerise	—
	25 + 5¢	— Ultramarine	— 100,000 Souvenir Sheet
	30 + 10¢	— Slate Green	—
	70 + 20¢	— Brown Red	—
	80 + 20¢	— Purple	—

Figures in parentheses represent the number of stamps overprinted and surcharged on May 2, 1961.

- Size: 23 x 34.5 mm, vertically composed
 Perforation: 13, unwatermarked
 Printing Process: Engraved
 Printer: Government Printing Bureau, Tokyo, Japan
 Sheet Composition: 50 except tete-beche sheets with 40 stamps each, no straight edges.

RIZAL CENTENNIAL Semi-Postal Issue (Dec. 30, 1962)

A year after the issuance of the Rizal Centennial Commemorative stamps (Scott Nos. 836-840, June 19 and December 30, 1961), a set of two semi-postal stamps was issued by the Bureau of Posts honoring Rizal as a sportsman. This was in accordance with House Bill No. 720 approved by both the Senate and the House of Representatives on Feb. 3, 1961 "authorizing the printing and issue of semi-postal stamps to raise funds to be used for the Jose Rizal Centennial Celebration . . .".

Many knew Rizal as a highly learned man who excelled in many arts and sciences, but only a few knew that he was a sportsman who excelled in fencing, shooting, and chess aside from taking active part in other sports such as horseback riding, gymnastics, swimming, weightlifting and jiu-jitsu. The 6 + 4¢ semi-postal portrays Rizal playing Chess with Lt. Sanz of the Guardia Civil Veterana aboard the S.S. España on August 6, 1896. The lieutenant was assigned to Rizal while in port at the Pasig River, preparatory to Rizal's transfer to another boat going to Cuba where he will serve as a medical volunteer. The 30 + 5¢ stamp depicts Rizal fencing with Juan Luna whose brother General Antonio Luna nearly met Rizal in a duel which was called off after Luna apologized to Rizal. Both Rizal semi-postal stamps bear a Rizal inset, the higher value with a profile. Design of the stamps was done by Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., Chief Staff Artist of the Philatelic Division of the Bureau of Posts.

PHILATELIC DATA AND INFORMATION

Denomination:	— 6 + 4¢	— light green	— 1,000,000 (850,000)
Color:	— 30 + 6¢	— blue	— 500,000 (350,000)
Quantity:			Figures in parentheses represent the number of stamps overprinted and surcharged in black on Dec. 30, 1965.

- Size: — 38.5 x 22.5 mm, horizontally composed
 Perforation: — 1, unwatermarked
 Printing Process: — Intaglio, Steel Plate
 Printer: — Government Printing Bureau, Tokyo, Japan
 Sheet Composition: — 50, no straight edges

THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION REGULAR ISSUES

Peter W. A. Harradine

Just recently, a mystery packet from the Philippines arrived (unheralded) on the mat inside our door. Upon opening this, I found a letter from Frank Stanfield, together with two FDCs of the definitive high-value stamps of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines. In his letter, Frank asked me to do an article on these stamps and let him have it for the Philippine Philatelic Newsletter

Feeling slightly flabbergasted, I managed, after a short time, to revive myself with a glass of HAIG (name dropper!) and took stock of the situation. After all, why not? So here goes!

Most readers will be aware that, at the first, the Japanese Military Administration arranged to overprint and/or surcharge various stamps of the prewar Commonwealth Administration to supply the postal needs of the country. About a year later, however, a long set of definitives in 14 values was prepared by The Cabinet Bureau of Printing in Tokyo to supplant the previous Provisional issues. The new regular or definitive stamps were prepared at the height of Japan's power and domination of all of East Asia, so it is quite logical that all the inscriptions were in Japanese: the kanji "HITO YUBIN" or "Philippine Postage" across the top, and the katakana syllabics across the bottom to express the value either as "sentabo" or peso. The new stamps were released over a period of time, the first being the 2c and 5c values on April 1, 1943.

It was not until September 16, 1943, that the 2 peso stamp was issued, portraying a Moro vinta, the traditional small sailboat with brightly-colored sails found even today in the waters of the Sulu Archipelago. The reason, the postal necessity, for the release of this high-value stamp was never officially explained; but then, the Japanese felt no compulsion at all in those days to explain any of their actions. It is generally believed that the high-values were intended for franking the prolific bulk mailings of the Bureau of Publicity — read that Bureau of Propaganda ("SENDEN-HAN") — of the Japanese Military Administration, as well as by the KALIBAPI, the Japanese-sponsored "New Philippines Service Association." Then, too, as pointed out by Enrique P. San Jose, "The higher values of 1, 2 and 5 pesos, of course, retain a status similar to the old Philippine stamps of the same values." (1)

Whatever the ostensible or intended purpose, it was thwarted on the very first day of issue — which says lots for the collectors of those days! In fact, there was such an unexpected rush of purchasers on the first day of sale that the entire issue was sold out before noon! This seems to have taken the postal authorities completely by surprise, to the extent that the sale of the 5 peso value, of which only 20,000 had been printed and which was scheduled for release a few days later, was postponed indefinitely. Apparently the problem of equitable distribution was a matter of serious concern; loud and vocal complaints were made by those collectors who had been unable to obtain even a single 2 peso stamp.

"Oh well, let's print some more, lads!" was the cry that probably went up, and indeed additional shipments of both the 2p and 5p were ordered from Tokyo. But it was not until seven months later, on April 10, 1944, that the long-awaited stamps were finally offered for sale at the Manila Post Office.

So to recap the situation, the first printing consisted of 40,000 of the 2p and 20,000 of the 5p. (2) But only the 2p was offered on September 16, 1943, and the entire issue of 40,000 stamps (400 sheets) was sold out on that day. But on April 10, 1944, the Second Printing of 55,000 of the 2p and BOTH the First Printing of 20,000 and the Second Printing of 45,000 of the 5p were offered for sale. Sounds quite confusing, doesn't it. But it really isn't, once the details are sorted out!

How does one distinguish between the two printings of both stamps? Well, the First Printing of both values was on thicker paper, with clear, well-cut perforations. The Second Printing of both values was on much thinner paper, with uneven and poorly-cut perforations; on unused examples, the watermark of curved wavy lines is quite easily noticeable. It's a bit more difficult to tell the two printings apart on FDC, but it can be done!

FDCs of both these high-values are fairly scarce; indeed, they are rarely seen here in England. Most, if not all used stamps were used with the philatelic intention of obtaining such examples for completion of sets, and many such were removed from their covers and deposited in the collectors' albums.

(Cont. on next page)

To conclude, my tip is to collect the high-values on FDC, since they are much scarcer ON cover than OFF. I must admit, with the low number of these stamps issued, that I am surprised that they have not appreciated better in value than they have. The latest prices I have seen are in Scott's 1977 Specialized, where the 2p is priced at \$1.10, unused or used, and the 5p \$3.00 unused and \$2.50 used; FDCs of both are priced \$7.50 each. If you can obtain them at anything near those prices, DO SO!

(1) Enrique P. San Jose; "Stamps are History;" Philippine Journal of Philately; Stamps and Philatelic Division, Department of Public Works and Communications; Manila; September-October, 1950; Volume III, Number 1, p. 35.

(2) Instruction No. 52, January 4, 1943, "Payment of Printing Fee for Postage Stamps;" Philippine Executive Commission OFFICIAL GAZETTE; Office of the Chairman of the Executive Commission, Manila; Vol. 2, No. 6 pp. 548-49.

MORE ABOUT THE V-PEX SEALS

By Eugene A. Garrett

Considering that they are "mere" privately-printed seals, we were both surprised and pleased with the response from readers following our article in the March-April & May-June, 1976, issue of this journal on the subject of the V-PEX seals of October 20-22, 1945. In view of the relatively small printing of 10,000 (all varieties), it is somewhat surprising to find how widespread is the distribution: most collectors of Philippines postal paper, in many countries, seem to have examples in their collections. William J. Oliver recalls that some years ago the seals were mentioned in a footnote in Scott's US Specialized Catalogue.

To get the answers to questions from readers, we had the rare opportunity and privilege of a personal meeting with Mr. Severino N. Luna, who was the "committee of one" charged with responsibility for handling arrangements for overprinting the seals in 1945 for the Philippine Philatelic Club. Mr. Luna was in the United States on a business trip and spent an entire Sunday with us in an almost non-stop philatelic conversation, one of the most delightful days we can ever remember.

Here are the answer to the questions asked by readers;

1. From William J. Oliver: "How were the half-red, half-black sheets counted in the totals reported in your article?" Answer: Mr. Luna advises that, quite logically, each of the red-and-black sheets were counted as a half-sheet (50 stamps) of each color, and are included in the totals of 9,000 red and 4,300 black.

2. Again from Bill Oliver: "Were any full sheets of 100 subjects overprinted entirely in black?" Answer: Yes, and Mr. Luna brought a full sheet with black overprint to prove the point.

3. Robert C. Hoge of Cincinnati, Ohio, sent a photocopy of a single with inverted overprint. According to Mr. Luna, such varieties as the inverted overprint and double overprint are "genuine errors"; that is, they were not produced deliberately. Far from being a "security printer," the printer was essentially a "jobshop" and did a pretty good job, considering the difficult post-war times and the problems involved in the four-pass printing operation.

4. Dr. G. H. Leatherman of London, England, asks about the history of the Philippine Philatelic Club. According to Mr. Luna, the P.P.C. had its origins in the Manila YMCA when he and Pablo M. Espeyridien organized the "Philippine Amateur Stamp Collectors Club" in conjunction with some boys' club work they were doing at the "Y". That group prospered, expanded and in 1937 evolved into the Philippine Philatelic Club. Incidentally, Mr. Luna advised that he suggested the design for the Manuel L. Quezon Souvenir Sheet (Scotts' #515) issued on November 28, 1947, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the PPC. The original essay contained a two-line inscription across the top: "Philippine Philatelic Club/For More and Better Philately," but the Bureau dropped the first line in the final design. While we certainly won't second-guess the Bureau's decision forty years ago, the original legend seems to make more sense — grammatically, at least.

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