



# PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC NEWS

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# PHILIPPINES PHILATELIC NEWS

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The Philippine Philatelic News is published quarterly by the International Philippine Philatelic Society. A non-profit, non-stock, educational organization, the IPPS was incorporated in the City of Manila on Sept. 24, 1978, as per SEC registration No. 58004. PPN PURPOSE: "to publish, on a quarterly basis, original and reprinted material pertaining to the philately of the Philippines. Manuscripts and submissions should be typed and double spaced on one side of the page only. Illustrations should be black and white photographs or very clear photocopies. Send all material to the Editor.

## THE LADY UNVEILED

By Douglas K. Lehmann

The lady shown on the fiscal stamp on the cover is fully dressed, but her likeness has been a philatelic secret for over 30 years. Until this year, this illustrated fiscal stamp has never been seen before in any known philatelic journal or catalog. The stamp was printed in Manila over 40 years ago for the Bureau of Internal Revenue during the Japanese Occupation. The stamp has been cataloged for about 20 years and is the subject of both a controversy about its issuance, as well as the subject of a search to find a copy initiated by IPPS member, R.H. 'Bud' Ashmore. The search ended in March 1987 with my purchase of the fiscal that is shown in this article.

The story starts with the first reference which is a contemporary account published by Pablo M. Esperidion in June 15, 1944 as PPC Flashes No.1. This was the journal of the Philippine Philatelic Club (PPC) which was printed on the backs of 2-Centavos postal cards because of the wartime paper shortage. This 'article' stated, in part, that "...new Internal Revenue stamps bearing the inscription REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES are now available to collectors for Philatelic purposes. Denominations of the stamp are 10, 20, 50-centavos and 1-peso, or a total face value of P1.80 per set. The stamps are printed in yellow-green, bricked-red [sic], yellow and red-brown, respectively. Initial printing of each value is: 10c-500,000; 20c-1,000,000; 50c-1,000,000; and 1P-5000,000. They were printed at the Bureau of Printing, Manila. First Day Sale was made on March 6, 1944, in Manila. From the letter we received from the Bureau of Customs and Internal Revenue, we understand that the new revenue stamps are sold to taxpayers only. However, members of the PPC who desire to obtain these new revenue stamps may therefore place their orders with Kasama Teodulo Protomartir...Deadline for accepting orders is June 23, 1944..."

There are two problems with this announcement - first, how many 1-Peso stamps is '5000,000', and second, no 1-Peso stamp was ever made available. I believe the typesetter added an extra zero rather than forgetting to add a comma, which would make the correct quantity 500,000. This belief is based on both pre and post-war quantities printed of these values in which no denomination printing was ever more than twice the amount of any other. Hence, 5,000,000 is too high a quantity. The second problem was revealed by Severino N. Luna in conversations with Eugene A. Garrett. Mr. Luna was a stamp dealer and serious revenue collector but was



never able to find the 1-Peso fiscal W-668B. Right from the start this emission was wrapped in mystery.



Fig.2

The story then shifts many years with the knowledge that at least one example existed, which was owned by Theodore Sheldon of Chicago. The late Mr. Sheldon had gathered together the world's most complete collection of Philippine fiscals ever assembled. He collaborated with Arnold H. Warren, who was, in his lifetime, the expert researcher of Philippine fiscals and the originator of a catalog numbering system that is the standard today. In November 1954, Mr. Warren's unpublished manuscript contained the listings for the major fiscals of the Japanese Occupation era. The listing included W-668b (now W-668B) that described the fiscal stamp in figure 1 (cover). The listing was accurate and described the fiscal as being 65x35mm, unwatermarked, perforated 12, typographed with the upper label reading REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES. The listing gave the value of this fiscal as 1-Peso, with duplicate control numbers in black with an overall design in red brown the: "...type of 1934-37 issue." The description of the central design was not specific nor did it include the bottom label of C.A. 466 and the removal of the two American eagles behind the words INTERNAL REVENUE. Warren did not state the quantities printed (which he always did when previously published) nor the first day of issue. As meticulous a researcher as Warren was, he apparently was not aware of PPN Flashes No.1. The value assigned then and later by Warren in 1968 was \$3.00 which greatly under estimated its true worth then and now. Warren stated later in his 1967-8 catalog that: "I have only listed those which I have seen." However, he may

have relied on his good friend, Mr. Sheldon, this one time, since no reference is specifically made to the central design containing the lady with the wind lofting her garment and hair off to stamp right.

The next reference is by Captain N.S. Lecklikner, in the Japanese Philately issue of April 1956. He interviewed Ramon R. Aviles, Chief Cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the wartime de facto Republic of the Philippines. This article relates that the Government Printing Office in Manila started printing new fiscals to replace Commonwealth issues that were exhausted. The Commonwealth 1-Peso Internal Revenue stamps (printed in Washington) available at the start of the Japanese Occupation were overprinted in Manila with double control numbers. When these double control-number stocks were issued to local offices, the remaining un-overprinted stocks were overprinted with a single control number under Japanese dominion. Warren states the single control number issues were released sometime in 1944 (I have an October 1944 document). The double and single control number Internal Revenue fiscals printed both in Washington and Manila can be found canceled on documents during the Japanese Occupation. However, the single control fiscals originally printed in Washington may have not been issued until September, 1944, and their use is scarce. (Mint Centavos fiscals with single and double control numbers printed in Manila are fairly plentiful.) Figure 2 shows an example of the 1-Peso fiscal with a single control number. I believe all the Washington printed Peso values with single control numbers are very difficult to obtain and I am still seeking the two, five and ten Peso values. Warren prices my missing values between \$2.00 and \$4.00 and, if the \$3.00 value for W-668B is an indication, these are also scarce fiscals (but at least we know what they look like).

It can be assumed that had the American invasion of the Philippines been delayed for several years, Figure 1 fiscals would have been issued to replace exhausted copies of Figure 2 fiscals. A weak argument can be made that double control fiscals would not be used to replace single control fiscals, but that argument is not very strong, given the wartime paper shortage within the Philippines. This assumption, however, is not applicable since the invasion began on October 20, 1944. The Lecklikner article continues by relaying that: "...practically all the records of the Bureau of Internal Revenue were destroyed in the fire that engulfed Manila just prior to the American liberation." This would include the Bureau of Internal Revenue building where the 1-Peso stamps (Figure 1) were stored. Then this paragraph is relayed: "A one peso stamp, similar in design and



format to the centavo stamps, was also printed. Stocks of this stamp were stored in the Bureau of Internal Revenue vaults, and Mr. Aviles insists that they were never placed in use. The stocks were presumably destroyed in the Manila fire. Mint copies in existence are those found by enterprising civilians and liberating soldiers sifting through the ashes of the city. Collectors are therefore warned that any copies of the 1-Peso offered to them in mint condition are of the "never placed in use" category, and if offered in used condition, are fraudulent."

The next reference is a letter to Mr. Ashmore, dated January 27, 1959, from Melecio R. Domingo, Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue. He states a 1-Peso fiscal was printed that was: "...of the same design and color as those printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the United States, but, of course, their workmanship and materials were much inferior. Those of denomination 1-Peso were never issued until they were burned during the liberation of Manila." Mr. Domingo further states this information was: "...extracted from the memory of some of our employees concerned then, who are still in the service of this Bureau." We now have two contemporary accounts that the fiscals were burned before issue. The expectation of the undisclosed design being a woman resting a hammer upon an anvil, with SMOKE rising from Mayon volcano in the right background, now becomes very symbolic of this fiscal's story.

The story continues in October, 1961, when the Japanese section of Warren's manuscript was published in the Japanese Philately. Warren still made no mention of the prepared-but-not-issued status of this fiscal. Mr. Ashmore wrote Warren who replied that he had not personally seen the stamp and, as I stated previously, that the fiscal was owned by Theodore Sheldon. When Mr. Ashmore corresponded with Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Sheldon relayed that he no longer owned the stamp. After Mr. Sheldon's death, his collection was sold and most of it was purchased by Mr. Robert H. Shellhamer of Pittsburgh. All attempts to find and photograph the W-668B assumed to be in Mr. Shellhamer's collection have been unsuccessful.

During a ten issue serial of the American Philatelist, Warren's manuscript was published in 1967-68. The Japanese Occupation section of this catalog concerning Internal Revenue stamps was in the May 1968 issue. No additional information was given except a wider audience was now aware of its existence - but not the stamp's actual design nor its rarity!

In December 1980, Bud wrote to me asking if I owned a copy and, if so, could I photograph it for him as he had never seen an example. A brief history of his search was provided to me and I placed this in my memory bank as I slowly assembled my collection of Philippine fiscals. Since then I have found no fiscal, exhibit, picture, owner, advertisement or auction of W-668B. Then six years later on March 29, 1987, I purchased a modest collection of Philippine revenues from the late Alan F. Doyle formerly of Houston, Texas. Mr. Doyle was a Naval officer assigned to a destroyer escort in Manila Bay just after the Army liberation. According to his widow, he was not involved with the fighting but was one of many who found overprinted postage stamps on the floor of the Post Office Building. We can only guess if the stamp in Figure 1 was obtained at that time, in the few days he was in Manila, or later, since he was an active collector during his lifetime (he also returned to the Philippines in 1979 for a visit). In about a half-inch high stack of stockbook and album pages were only two revenues that I did not own - one of them W-668B! The stamp was enclosed in a crystal mount and the mount hinged to an album page. It was the only stamp not directly hinged, indicating it was probably acquired separately and, likely, after the war. Knowing of Bud's keen interest in the fiscal, I typed and dispatched a letter to him with the fiscal the next day to personally examine and photocopy the stamp. Bud's pending article describes the fiscal and continues with this final comment: "It has no gum, and...across the bottom in large letters is C.A. 466 (Commonwealth Act No. 466). The illustrated stamp is in pristine condition. Regardless of protestations to the contrary, the writer believes that this copy (and probably others) came from the Bureau of Internal Revenue before the liberation of Manila. The U.S. Army had already landed in the Philippines. Things were going badly for the Japanese troops, and the end was in sight. The Occupation peso was near worthless, and there were determined efforts to convert to something of future potential value. It is known that some un-severed copies of the 10,000 and 20,000 Peso IR stamps left the Bureau. The writer thinks it possible that the unissued 1-Peso stamp also left the Bureau. Whatever the circumstances, copies of the 1-Peso stamp must be very rare."

The 10,000 and 20,000 Peso stamps referred to by Bud were purchased with depreciated currency. According to Warren: "A few persons are said to have used these Japanese 'War Notes' to purchase from the Bureau of Internal Revenue unused specimens of Pre-war issues of INTERNAL REVENUE stamps. This is said to be the source of the few unused specimens which exist of the high denominations of the 1930-31 and 1934-37 issues of INTERNAL



REVENUE stamps." This is further collaborated by Mr. Luna who told Gene Garrett that he had made such purchases with several basketfuls of Japanese Occupation currency.

The last piece of evidence is the physical example. Bud Ashmore has determined that all the centavos values were printed in panes of 25 (5x5) with selvage on all four sides. It would be reasonable to assume the 1-Peso was printed the same way. That places the stamp in position 4 on the pane (Figure 1). This can be derived from the fact that control numbers were placed top to bottom, left column to right column. The first number on this pane would be 8376 since the preceding 335 panes would have exhausted numbers 1 to 8375. The first three columns use numbers through 8390, making position 4 - the top stamp of column four - stamp number 8391. The mystery continues because the top selvage has been removed and I can assure everyone that this act was not done by me. The estimable Gene Garrett states, "The fact that the new-found example is position 4 of the sheet of 25 suggests that someone took pains to select a stamp with the best-possible centering. One wonders, of course, whatever happened to the other 24 stamps of the sheet..."

To all these experts I have to add my thoughts. The Figure 1 fiscal has control numbers but surviving copies need not. The Bureau of Internal Revenue normally applied control numbers to printed stocks as the need was generated. This is easily observed from the different types of control numbers used and from stocks that first used double and then single control numbers, such as the case with the base stamp in Figure 2. This means, if the example was salvaged, it might have been easier to sell a forbidden fiscal with no accountability; that is, with no control numbers. Yet in the history of the Bureau since 1905, no fiscal stamp was ever released (and recorded) without control numbers. The initial 1907 IR issue is known (not to Warren but a topic for a future article) to have escaped in proof condition. However, even these rare imperforate proofs did not escape without having double "0000" control numbers on them!

My thoughts are not very conclusive as to the source of the fiscal stamp now in my possession. I would conclude that the fiscal was prepared but never issued for fiscal use and only two copies have surfaced, but a few more should exist. The unanswered question is - were these examples sifted from the ashes or were they a "favor" purchase from the Bureau of Internal Revenue? When choosing a theory, "you pays your money and you takes your choice", certainly



applies here. The statute of limitations has long since passed and only the actual purchaser/liberator knows for sure. Will that person come forward while alive or will we wait 30 more years before another copy is found?

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## OFFICIAL CASH TICKETS

by Gene Garrett

Concerning the cover-story article by R.C. Williams entitled "Official Cash Tickets" in PPN, Volume IX No.2, April 1987, pp.1-2, Bob hit the nail on the head in the final sentence on page 1: "...the whole cover is forged by someone who had access to the Palo canceler...".

The true nature of the "cover" was revealed in an article entitled "Liberation-Period Covers Franked With Official Cash Tickets" which appeared in PPN, Volume 4 Nos. 1&2, January-June 1978, P.16. In response to an inquiry, the US serviceman who prepared the covers replied as follows:

"Re: Cash Tickets. These are NOT stamps and have no value as such. Let's say they could be compared to Christmas Seals or revenues used for postage. They are absolutely worthless, philatelically speaking - NO VALUE.

...From knocking around the market-places in various small towns, I came across these things, and I thought it would be cute...Yep!! they were all done philatelically, but NO VALUE; as I said before, just CUTE.

(They were) all cancelled in Palo by a clerk, rather by a WILLING clerk...They NEVER went through the mails, tho' they may look like they did. (Calling them) "curious" is another way to say "junk" or "trash"...I am very sorry to disappoint you."

The first two paragraphs of Bob Williams' article are quite correct. The OFFICIAL CASH TICKETS have been used in the Philippines for more than 50 years. In the block of 4 appearing on the cover of the April 1987 PPN, the motto ribbon beneath the shield is inscribed "PHILIPPINE ISLANDS", and the tickets probably were first printed pre-1935, before the inauguration of the Commonwealth Government. The P1.00 example illustrated in Figure 1 is inscribed "COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES", and probably was printed post-1935. The 10c value appearing on the cover of the April 1987 PPN was issued during the Japanese Occupation, with the inscription "PHILIPPINE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION" replacing the prewar coat-of-arms. The example in Figure 2 is the "PHILIPPINE ISLANDS" printing, but with a purple handstamped script "Victory" overprint. No information has been found about the "Victory" overprint, but the best guess is that it is quite genuine, and was applied during the immediate postwar period.

Under the present Republic of the Philippines, the design was changed (Figure 3) and the tickets were issued in sheets of 20 (5x4), rouletted, all in black, in seven values: 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 50c and P1.00. The early issues were rouletted, while later issues (Figure 4) were issued imperforate. Commencing in 1978, the tickets appeared in a variety of colors: 5c black; 10c blue; 20c green; 25c orange; 50c brown; P1.00 red; and in 1985, a new P2.00 black was added. They, too, were issued in sheets of 20, rouletted, but with a high incidence of imperforates and part-roulettes. Starting in 1985, a new series in similar design in smaller format (37.5 x 27.5 mm.) perforated 13, was introduced; so far, only four values have been released: 25c black (Figure 5); 50c green; P1.00 red (Figure 6); and in 1987, a P2.00 in light blue. As mentioned by Bob Williams, Official Cash Tickets which saw correct usage usually were stamped on the back (Figure 7).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2





Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6

KILUSANG BAYAN SA PAGLILINGKOD  
NG MGA MAGTITINDA NG BAGONG  
PAMLIHANG BAYAN NG  
MUNTINLUPA, INC.

COLLECTION SLIP

✓ Date **MAY 15 1983**

Section ..... Stall No. **H**

Rental Fee ..... P **4.00**

Electrical ..... **2.00**

Others ..... **6.00**

TOTAL ..... P **12.00**

Collector's Signature *[Signature]*

No 32418 B

Fig.8



Fig.7



Fig.11

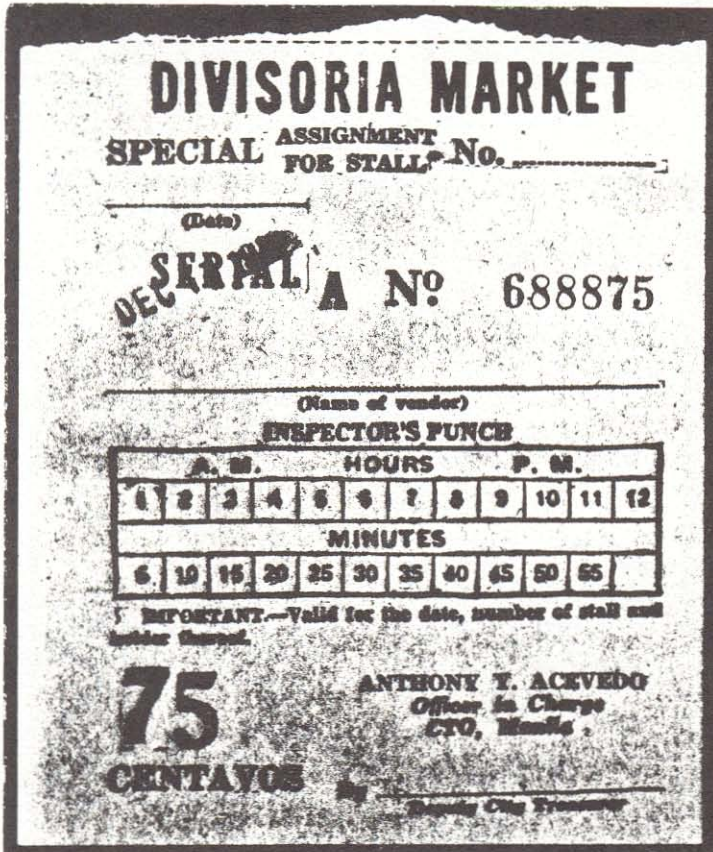


Fig.10



**OFFICIAL RECEIPT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



No. 2787213

T

**PROVINCIAL/CITY TREASURER'S GENERAL RECEIPT**

Jelapang Davao  
(Municipality) (Province/City)

Received from Alister Land, Co. 4-29, 1975

address \_\_\_\_\_

Cash }  
Money Order } No. \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_  
Treasury Warrant }  
Check }

In the amount of three zeros only  
pesos, Philippine currency, (P \_\_\_\_\_)

In payment of the following:

For <u>mkt fee</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>3</u>

18—214

A. Requena  
Provincial/City Treasurer

By A. J. ...  
Deputy

Fig.9 (Reduced)



Fig.12

MARKET CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES  
(Lucena branch)  
C. M. Recto, Lucena City  
TAN 0816-280-7

O. R. No. 124982

Date 2/9/79

Table / Stall No. Oly. rd. - 197

Period: From 197 To 197

Name of Occupant W. Balado

Sum of Four Pesos Only (P. 4.00)

( ) FISH ( ) MEAT ( ) VEGETABLE ( ) STALL ( ) OTHERS

wa  
(AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE)

500 BKLTs. 30x3 100.001 - 125,000

Fig.13



To find out more about the tickets we wrote to our knowledgeable friend Nemi L. Rivera of Pasay City; as expected, he shed much light in the following account dated May 4, 1986:

## **Market Tickets**

by Nemi L. Rivera

Official Cash Tickets are local government "accountable forms". These are printed by the Government Printing Office (previously known as the Bureau of Printing) and are requisitioned (and nominally paid for) by each Municipal or City Treasurer as needed. Their use is governed by local laws and ordinances, and proceeds herefrom accrue directly to city/municipal coffers, which means that each city/municipality may legally use these as receipts for any local fee that the local government allows them to collect. It is possible there were other uses.

I have interviewed a few City/Municipal Treasurers and Market Masters and they considered it funny that anyone would say that cash tickets are presently used for any other purpose than as market fee receipts. In Cebu, I recently observed that these are used also as fee receipts for stalls located in front of City Hall, some distance from the public market.

IPPS member Robert Haubrich of El Centro, California, recently sent me an article about these tickets from AMERICAN REVENUER, June 1981, stating that the tickets were used for admission to public parks.

With the dearth of information coming from us, misinformation is to be expected. I am not aware that these tickets were ever used for admission to any government-owned parks. I can think of only four such parks in Manila-Nayong Manila, Manila Zoo, Rizal Park Chinese Gardens and Fort Santiago - and all four use their own special tickets.

So when I replied to Mr. Haubrich, I cautiously said that "to the best of my knowledge" cash tickets are

currently used solely as market fee tickets. After mailing the letter, I took my son Nemboy to a basketball game at the University of Life in Pasig. As I parked the car in a side street, I was approached by a guard and charged P4.00 for parking, and lo! he gave me two P2.00 Official Cash Tickets as receipts!

This came as a surprise, since parking on streets in Metro Manila is controlled by the Metro Manila Commission, which issues official MMC parking tickets. I can only surmise that since the revolution, some municipalities are now "bold" enough to cut into income which used to be Imelda's franchised preserve.

Official Cash Tickets are still predominantly used in public markets nationwide. In bigger markets, fixed stores within the market area are charged monthly fees, for which collection in the case of Muntinlupa (Figure 8) or Provincial/City Treasurer's general receipts (Figure 9) are issued. Ambulant vendors are charged daily fees receipted with the cash tickets. In smaller markets, both fixed stalls and itinerant vendors are charged daily fees, using the cash tickets as receipts.

There are other cash ticket forms. Larger market tickets such as the Divisoria Market 75c ticket (Figure 10), have replaced the regular cash tickets in a few markets. There seem to be some irregularities here, however; the Pasay Market, for instance, has stopped using the new white ticket forms "because they cost much more", and has reverted to the regular cash tickets. Why, then, are others using the new, more expensive forms?

Then again, the Las Pinas Market is using a small "stub" as a receipt (Figure 11). In Lucena City, the public market was leased to a private party and the blue P1.00 "Official Receipt" is used (Figure 12). Previously, a different white form (Figure 13) was used in Lucena in lieu of Official Cash Tickets.

*Editor's Note: Our thanks to Gene and Mr. Rivera for providing us with the "real" story.*



# PHILIPPINE STATIONERY

## More New Discoveries

By Gene Garrett

In the Philippines Section of the 1971 UPSS *Postal Stationery of US Possessions*, four types of General Request Corner Cards were listed, and in the 1983 UPSS *The Postal Stationery of the Philippines Under United States Administration*, two more types were added, making a total of six different types. Now two additional types have been discovered, increasing the listing of known types to eight.

Return in.....days to  
.....  
Post Office.....  
PROVINCE.....PHILIPPINE IS.

Fig.1

Return in.....days to  
POST OFFICE.....  
.....  
Province.....PHILIPPINE IS.

Fig.2

The type illustrated in Figure 1 was found on a size 5, knife 90, watermark 20 envelope, similar to UPSS No. 51A. It was postmarked at Ilog, Occ. Negros, on January 28, 1920, and a private arrival marking indicates receipt in Chicago, Illinois, some 42 days later on March 11, 1920. The format of the corner card is similar to CC-1, with the exception that "Post Office" is set with initial capitals and "PROVINCE" in all caps, the reverse of CC-1. Unlike CC-5, the top line in the new discovery is short and centered.

The type illustrated in Figure 2 was found on a size 5, knife 81, watermark 15 envelope, similar to UPSS No. 43d. It was postmarked May 11, 1912\* at Bolinao, Pangasinan. The format of the corner card is similar to CC-6, except that "POST OFFICE" appears on the second line instead of the third.

Only a single example of each of the two new types has been reported, so it will be appreciated if readers will report to the Editor if other examples are found.

In another development, a new ERP has been discovered for postal card UPSS No, S12, the 4c McKinley blue on light blue card stock. The ERP of record has long been shown as February 13, 1913. In his Mail Bid Sale #3 of April 5, 1987, Elliot W. Coleman offered an example postmarked at Manila on December 21, 1912. But hard on the heels of that discovery, Peter Harradine of London, England, found an example postmarked at Manila on October 1911; the Manila duplex cancel is unclear on the day date, but the message on the reverse is dated October 28, 1911. The card is addressed to Munich, Germany, and the message is quite brief: "Herzliche Grusse, Eugen" (Cordial Greetings, Eugen). We don't know why the addressee, "Herrn Hoffotograf Karl Luetzel" (Mr. Court Photographer Karl Luetzel) merited such greetings, but we are glad his friend "Eugen" sent them, thereby providing a new ERP some sixteen months earlier than previously known.

*\*There is a back stamp of May 11, 1912. (One of 4 Circular date stamps applied on the back before it left Manila on May 15).*

600

Macloban, Leyte

**"From Recent Sales"**

MANILA DEC 21 1912

c8

INVERT

*Philippines Always Featured in our Sales  
Catalogs Free to Members of IPPS.*

**IRWIN SIEGEL**

P.O. BOX 368 COLUMBUS, NEW JERSEY 08022

Office visits by appointment only



*From the Past...*

## PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC LITERATURE

By Pablo M. Esperidion

### Prelude

Philatelic literature are essential in philately. They are the beacon light of our hobby. To a stamp collector they are indispensable. In his life as a collector they are his vademecum.

Relatively much of the information we learn about stamps are derived from philatelic literature. To a collector of Philippine stamps therefore, Philippine philatelic literature should be a part and parcel of his avocation. To him they would prove helpful. In his pursuit or study of Philippine stamps and their allied subjects, they would serve him as a working knowledge on this specialized field of philately.

### American Contribution

Philately by and large is becoming progressive day by day. Much of its progress, it is believed, has been attributed to the publication of Philippine philatelic literature. This is reflected on local stamp publications. Though few they are, local stamp publications have contributed much to the promotion of Philippine philately.

Philately being a democratic hobby is one of the American contributions in the Philippines. Democratic as it is, much of its progress in this country was witnessed during the American sovereignty. This assertion would seem presumptuous. But delving into the history of Philippine philately one will discover it's a fact. In point of fact, it's one of the American contributions in this country. Factually enough, several philatelic literature of the Philippines were published during the American regime.

It is therefore interesting to note that during the American regime local philatelic literature saw their peak. They were published not only in Manilla but also in some provinces. Their materialization were realized mostly thru organized philately. And thru organized philately their realization materialized not in terms of monetary unit.

It was just for the pure joy of doing it. And it was just for the sake of art that is philately.

### **Typically American**

Virtually all local philatelic literature saw their first existence during the American regime. To what factor could it be attributed, indubitably, freedom of the press enjoyed by the Philippines during the American administration was largely responsible. Incidentally, freedom of the press is one of the American legacies to the Philippines. As a matter of fact, it's one of the Four Freedoms now enjoyed by the young Philippine Republic.

In passing, the progress of local philatelic literature may be likened to the cultural, economic and political progress of the Philippines under the American regime for the same length of time. Noteworthy to observe, as a vehicle for the propagation of local stamp culture, most of the Philippine philatelic literature, particularly stamp publications, enjoyed their peak during the American tutelage of a democratic government in the Philippines. Consequently, in style and format, they are typically American. And so, just as much progress the Philippines had witnessed during the American administration, philatelic literature published in the country did considerable progress during the American rule.

Indicative of this progress, Philippine philatelic literature before Pearl Harbor had earned a wide reputation. It was a reputation highly regarded, not only locally but also abroad. In point of fact, some Philippine stamp publications had been acclaimed and ranked by several American and foreign stamp editors, writers and collectors as well, as among the best in the stamp world. By such acclamation it is believed that philatelic literature published in the Philippines have earned a deserving place in the history of the philatelic literature of the world.

### **Aftermath of War**

With the destruction of the Philippines, however, especially Manila, as an aftermath of the last war, as at present the publication of local philatelic literature seems paradoxical. Several problems there are. Most pressing among them are the following:

Firstly, there's the actual cost of printing. Too, there's the cost of imported materials. Both of them are prohibitive. They are ten times prewar.



Secondly, destruction of virtually all the printing presses in the Philippines is another problem. In Manila this is most evident. And rehabilitation of these printing presses will take some time.

Thirdly, there's the shortage of paper. 'Tis another problem keenly felt all over the United States where paper is imported by the Philippines, it holds true to the latter.

Confronted with these major problems, one can advance the opinion that it will take sometime before publication of philatelic literature in the Philippines can be resumed to its prewar level. Attempts therefore to publish at present stamp publications locally, certainly involve a lot of sacrifice.

### First Stamp Catalog

Tracing the history of philatelic literature published in the Philippines, one will discover that it has a checkered career. It has several ups and downs. Just like the Philippines as a nation.

At any rate it's interesting to observe that the first philatelic literature published in this country saw its dawn 59 years ago. It was a stamp catalog. Interestingly enough it was published on the eve of the Philippine Revolution at the close of the nineteenth century, a turning point in the history of the Philippines which saw the sunset of the Spanish rule and the dawn of the American administration in these Islands.

Philatelically subject stamp catalog is the forerunner of Philippine philatelic literature. Published in Spanish and bearing the title, *Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas* ("Descriptive Catalog of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps and Postal Cards of the Philippine Islands"), it was published in 1895. Printing of this catalog was done at the Imprenta El Tipo, in Intramuros (Walled City), Manila. Balbino Cotter Cortes and Francisco de Quinto were the editors and publishers simultaneously. Quite a record is the title of this catalog. It has 15 words!

Subject catalog, in the opinion of the writer, is the rarest of all Philippine philatelic literature. Chief bone of assertion, the writer happened to know only one copy *de visu*. Too, it is the opinion of the writer that the catalog in question is the precursor of the Mencarini stamp catalog entitled, *Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos*

*de Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas* ("Descriptive Catalog of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps and Postal Cards of the Philippine Islands"), which was published in Manila in 1896 and printed at the Imprenta de la Revista Mercantil. This latter, however, is better known among Filipino, American and European collectors. Its popularity may be attributed to the fact that the late Juan Mencarini, its author, was a serious student of Philippine stamps especially of the early issues and that he had lived long enough to disseminate the results of his studies to the stamp world.

### First Stamp Magazine

Nineteen years after the publication of the first Philippine stamp catalog, the first stamp magazine of the Philippines came into existence. It was the *Filipinas Filatelico* ("Philatelic Philippines"). Published in Spanish and English, the first issue of this magazine bore a dateline, September 30, 1914. Incidentally it was two months after the declaration of World War I.

Issued monthly, the *Filipinas Filatelico* was published in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental. Jose E. Marco was the publisher and editor. Publication of this magazine in bilingual language was done, indubitably, to the tempo of local journalism at that time, inasmuch as Spanish and English were the official languages of the Philippines and the best medium of expression them. This was also true to the general press in those days.

It's lamentable to note, however, the life of the *Filipinas Filatelico* didn't last long. Only for a short duration it went into circulation. Then it folded. At any rate, other local stamp publications came into light. But it was not until 1925. It was eleven years later after the publication of the first stamp magazine of this country.

### Check List

Compiling a check list of the philatelic literature published in the Philippines during the past half century, as far as the writer could gather, it reveals the following:

*Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas*, by Balbino Cotter Cortes and Francisco de Quinto. Printed by the Imprenta El Tipo, Manila, 1895.



*Catalogo Descriptivo de los Sellos de Correos, Telegrafos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas*, by Juan Mencarini. Printed by the Imprenta de la Revista Mercantil, Manila, 1896.

*Filipinas Filatelico*. Published monthly in Spanish and English, in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental. Printed by the Tipografia Planta & Marco, Pontevedra. First issue, September 30, 1914. Jose E. Marco, publisher and editor.

*Revista Filatelica Filipina*. Published quarterly in Spanish and English, in Manila. January 1925 to October 1926. Joaquin Ortiz, publisher and editor.

*Philatelic Philippines*. Published monthly in English and Spanish, in Iloilo, Iloilo. March 1927 to August 1927. Charles P. Chiene, publisher and editor.

*The Postage Stamps of the Philippine Islands, 1854-1899*, by Jose E. Marco. Printed by the Imprenta de Consolacion, Bacolod, Negros Occidental, in 1927.

*Philippines Philatelic Bulletin*, official journal of the National Philatelic Club, Bacolod, Negros Occidental. Published quarterly in English and Spanish. November 1926 to December 1939. Jose E. Marco, editor.

*Abra Philatelic Chronicle*, newsletter of the Abra Philatelic Club, Bangued, Abra. Published occasionally in 1935. Constante V. Batoon, editor.

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A Typographical error appeared in Ray L. Coughlin's article "Some Privately Printed Japanese Slogans on NUX1 and NUX2", PPN, Volume IX No.2, April 1987, p.3, paragraph numbered "5": should be "Emporer Jimmu". The official translation, by the way, of the Japanese Military Administration in February 1942 of "Kigen-setu" was "Empire or Foundation Day".

# International Philippine Philatelic Society

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