



PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC NEWS

Volume XII, No. 3



Third Quarter, 1990

PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC NEWS

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POSTWAR "BUREAU OF PRISON" CENSOR MARKS FROM NEW BILIBID PRISON AT MUNTINLUPA

by *Fumihiko Yano*

Until mid-1947, Japanese servicemen convicted of war crimes in the Philippines were imprisoned by the U.S. Army which permitted them to correspond with the homeland. Lettersheets and postcards for general POW use have been identified and confirmed.

On August 1, 1947, war crimes jurisdiction was transferred from the American military to the Republic of the Philippines. The Japanese who had been convicted were transferred from the former US POW camps (Mandaluyong, Rizal and Canlubang, Laguna) to the New Bilibid prison at Muntinlupa, Rizal. By December 28, 1949 the Philippine government had concluded its war crimes trials, but it appears that for some time the convicts were not permitted to send mail using normal channels.

Recently, I have discovered three covers with interesting "Bureau of Prison" censor marks from Muntinlupa.

Two 1948 covers are from the same convict, Lt. Gen. YOKOYAMA-Shizuo, the former 41st Imperial Army Commander. These two

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covers did not travel normal postal routes, but were carried by someone from the Japanese Government, or a Japanese delegation, or by a newsman. After arrival in Japan, they were delivered to the addressees (his wife or daughter) through non-postal channels via the Japanese Government Repatriation Relief Office.

The stampless cover illustrated in Figure 1 was written in December 12, 1948 and is addressed to the general's daughter, Miss YOKOYAMA-Michiko. It was censored by the Bureau of Prisons authorities at Muntinlupa on December 13, 1948, and again censored by the US Army Civil Censorship Detachment in Japan on January 12, 1949. The reverse side (Figure 2) bears a strike of the Muntinlupa Type A censor mark.

The similar cover illustrated in Figure 3 is addressed to the general's wife, Mrs. YOKOYAMA-Misayo, and was dispatched via the Repatriation Relief Office, Bureau of Demobilization, Judicial Affairs Investigation Section (rubber-stamped kanji inscription on the reverse, Figure 4).

The stamped cover postmarked at Manila on July 11, 1951 (Figure 5) was sent by a Japanese Prison Chaplain, the Rev. KAGAO-Shunin, addressed to the general's wife, Mrs. YOKOYAMA-Misayo in Tokyo, and coursed normal postal routes. The reverse side (Figure 6) displays the Muntinlupa Type B censor mark.

The crude handcarved censor marks are of two very similar types (Figures 7 and 8) and are inscribed "BUREAU OF PRISON", "MAILING CLERK" and "CENSORED", all in English, and both display the censors' signatures and dates of censoring. The diameter is about 43 mm.

The salient differences are illustrated in Figure 9 (Type A-1948) and Figure 10 (Type B -1951 and 1952).

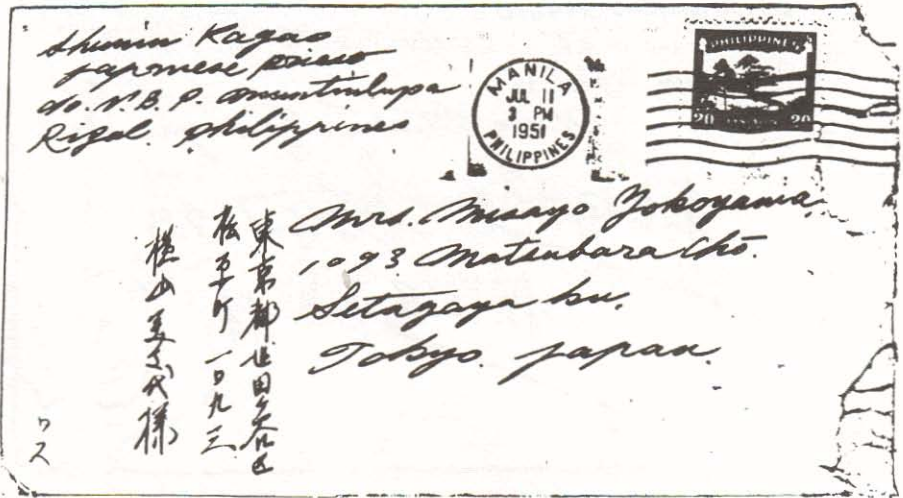


Figure 1

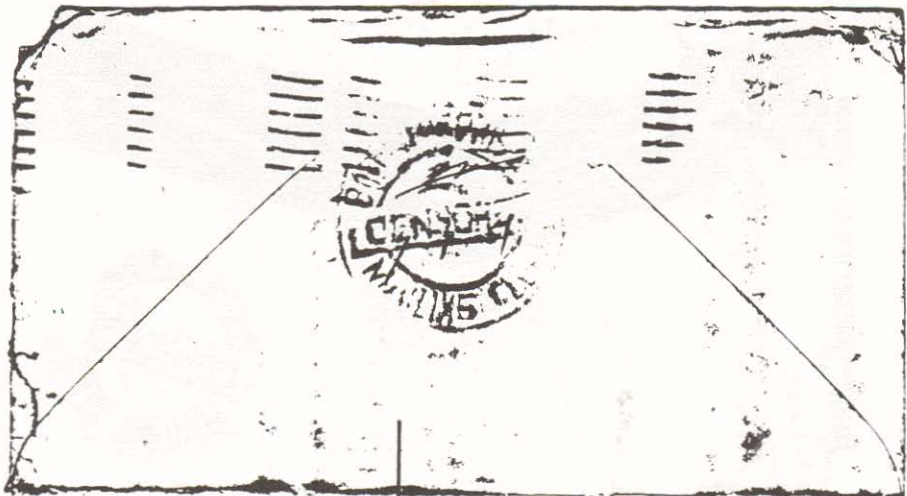


Figure 2

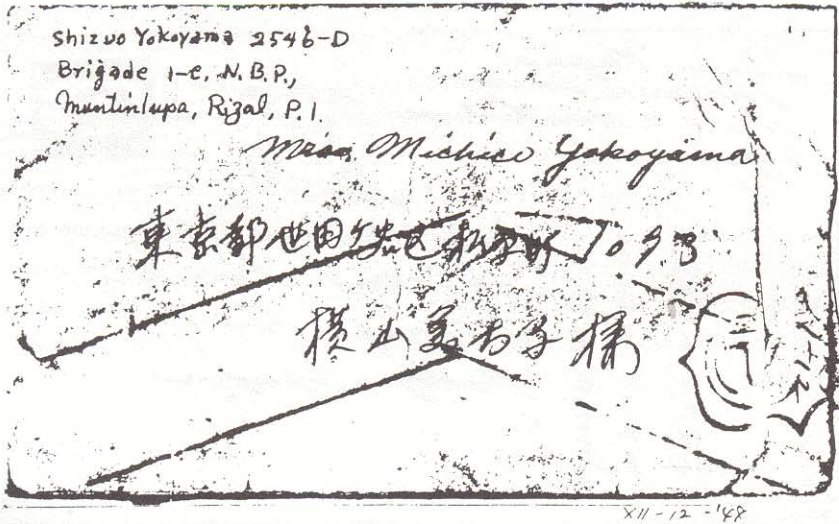


Figure 3



Figure 4

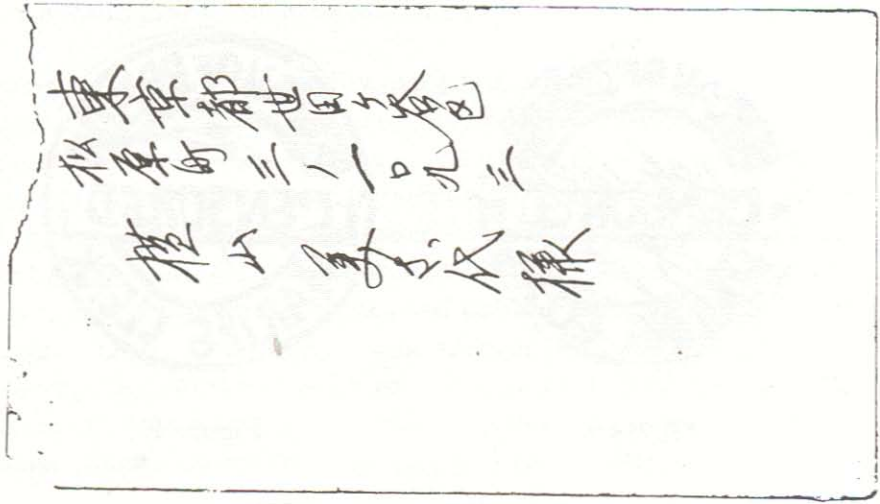


Figure 5

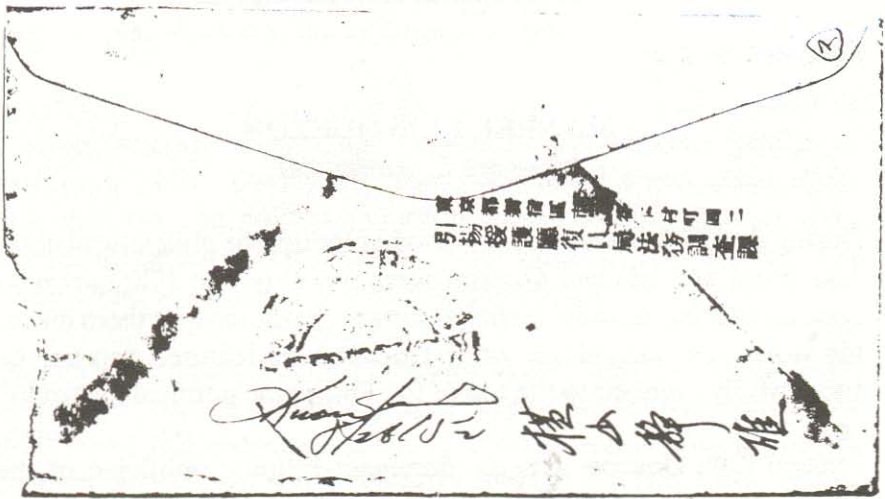


Figure 6



Figure 7

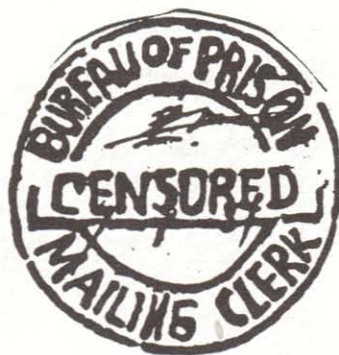


Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

Personal Profile...

MANUEL LUIS QUEZON

by James C. Biedzynski

During the US Administration Period of Philippine philatelic history, Jose Rizal and Manuel Quezon were the only two Filipinos who appeared on the Islands' postage stamps. Rizal made it there due to his work and martyrdom, while Quezon was featured because he successfully climbed to the top of the Philippine political hierarchy.

Manuel Luis Quezon was the dominant Filipino politician of the prewar era. His extraordinary political and negotiating skills were well known during his lifetime and were his chief strengths. He also possessed a flamboyant and moody personality, which could charm or intimidate scores of friends and opponents. Quezon was more adaptable than many of his Filipino colleagues to changing circumstances, which ultimately had a lot to do with his becoming President

of the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935.

Quezon's complex personality made him difficult to comprehend at times. Intensely mercurial and manipulative, he was known to take several different positions on a given issue. As a result, his actual feelings on any subject were frequently difficult to determine. Much of Quezon's public career was based on obtaining independence from the United States. Behind the scenes, however, he was considerably more cautious than his speeches and public pronouncements would suggest. On a number of occasions, Quezon indicated he was willing to accept dominion status for the Philippines. Indeed, the personal papers of American colonial officials who dealt with him on the matter contain numerous references to these conversations.

Quezon was born in Baler, Tayabas in 1878. His studies in Manila were interrupted by the Philippine Revolution. He fought as a guerrilla against the Americans on the Bataan peninsula. After his surrender, he completed his studies and was admitted to the bar. He served as fiscal of Mindoro and was elected Governor of Tayabas. In 1907, he was elected to the Philippine Assembly.

In 1909, Quezon was selected as one of the Philippines' Resident Commissioners in Washington. He was in the American capital from 1910 until 1916. During that time, he learned a great deal about American life and politics. Quezon was instrumental in securing passage of the Jones Act in 1916. Afterwards, he returned home in triumph and was elected to the Philippine Senate.

Quezon was President of the Philippine Senate from 1916 until 1935. He wrested political supremacy from Sergio Osmena during the early 1920's and had numerous difficult confrontations with Governor Leonard Wood. In 1927, Quezon learned he had tuberculosis. Requiring extensive treatment, he was partially immobilized for much of the late 1920's and early 1930s.

The pace of independence legislation quickened in the early 1930s. Quezon was determined to become the Philippines' chief executive, and he manipulated the independence process to achieve that end. In
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1934, he secured the Tydings-McDuffie Act from Congress, which gave him de facto credit for the new Commonwealth. After smoothing over differences with his rivals, Quezon persuaded Osmena to run with him in the September 1935 presidential elections. They won easily and Quezon became President of the Philippines on November 15, 1935.

Quezon's presidency was marked by his efforts to gain greater control over the Philippines. He strove to increase his office's power, while dispensing ever increasing patronage. Quezon dabbled with reform during his "Social Justice" campaign of the late 1930s. At the same time, however, little was done to solve the Philippines' pressing problems.

The Japanese invasion of the Philippines in December 1941 forced Quezon to flee to Corregidor. In early 1942, sensing Washington had written off his country, he attempted to return to Manila and strike a bargain with the Japanese. Instead, Quezon was put aboard an American submarine and flown to Australia. He spent his final years in the United States and died in upstate New York in August 1944, less than three months before MacArthur waded ashore on Leyte.

FOR FURTHER READING:

Friend, Theodore. Between Two Empires. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965.

Gopinath, Aruna. Manuel L. Quezon The Tutelary Democrat. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1987.

Gunther, John. Inside Asia. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1939. (See Chapter 18)

Quezon Manuel Luis. The Good Fight. New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1946. (Quezon's autobiography was largely ghostwritten by several individuals.)

Quirino, Carlos. Quezon, Paladin of Philippine Freedom. Manila: Filipiniana Book Guild, 1971.

Stanley, Peter W. A Nation In The Making. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1974.

THE "O.B." SURCHARGES

by F.L. Palmer

Continued from previous issue...

Denomination	In Red	In Blue	In Black	In Yel'w	In Grn
Surch of 1903-6					
1c Green.....	87	18			
2c Carmine (flags).....	36	9			
2c Carmine (shield).....	6	6			
3c Violet.....	3				
4c Dark brown.....		1			
4c Orange brown.....	1	2			
5c Blue.....	5	6			
6c Brown lake.....	5				
8c Puce.....	37				
10c Orange brown.....	1	2			
10c Dark brown.....	1				
13c Violet brown.....	66	10			
15c Olive.....	38	3			
50c. Orange.....	47	30	20		
\$1.00 Black.....	50	50			
\$2.00 Blue.....	31				
\$5.00 Green.....	28				

Denomination	In Red	In Blue	In Black	In Yel'w	In Grn
Series of 1906					
2c Green.....	1,000	800	18,000	500	500
4c Carmine.....	500	500	9,000	300	300
6c Purple.....	500	500	4,000	200	200
8c Brown.....	500	400	4,000	200	200
10c Blue.....	500	400	2,000	100	100
12c Brown-lake.....	500	500	2,000	100	100
16c Violet black.....	500	500	1,500	100	100
20c Orange-brown.....	500	500	1,500	100	100
26c Violet brown.....	500	500	2,000	100	100
30c Olive.....	500	500	1,500	100	100
1 peso. Orange.....	200	70	600		
2 Pesos, Black.....	150	150			
4 Pesos, Blue.....	100		100		
10 pesos, Green.....	40				
20c Spec. Delivery.....	250				

A "variety" occurring in the above is an inverted surcharge which was applied, through carelessness of the printer, to 3 or 4 sheets of the 4 centavos carmine of the 1906 issue, giving 300 or 400 stamps with the inverted surcharge.

The following further "varieties" are also known:

Double surcharges, in black; on-
2 centavos Dark green
4 centavos Carmine
8 centavos Brown
10 centavos Blue

Double surcharge, in green, on-
8 centavos Brown
Triple surcharge, one inverted, in black, on-
8 centavos Brown

As soon as it was known that this printing had taken place, the Director of Posts was besieged by requests from dealers and collectors for these new issues. As none of these were on hand in the Bureau of Posts, or any other bureau except of the Constabulary (no other bureau having taken advantage of the permission to have them printed), all such requests were transmitted to the Director of Constabulary by the Director of Posts, who authorized their sale in unused condition so far as the supply would permit. In view of the small quantities available of certain of the values and issues, not all orders could be filled; and as this became known, as well as the actual number printed, criticisms began to appear in the philatelic press apparently with a view to discrediting the entire issue and reflecting upon the motives of the Director of Constabulary in having them printed, advantage being taken of the fact that the gentleman in question has long been well known as an ardent philatelist and a member of the American Philatelic Society. The discussion which ensued in the press waxed so furious that General H.H. Bandholtz issued a statement which was printed in Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, in which the whole history of the issue was recounted. As his statement agreed wholly with what has already been cited herein, as the facts were largely within the personal knowledge of the writer, it will not be necessary to give more than a few extracts from it here:

In case the printed surcharge proved advantageous it was thought all bureaus would adopt that system. It was found however that the Bureau

of Posts was so frequently annoyed by requests to purchase small quantities of these stamps that the director of posts decided to discontinue their further use. The rubber stamp was there fore again resorted to: the stamps being supplied as far as convenient from the central office, and an order issued directing the surcharge of all stamps immediately after purchase....

From the beginning practically all orders that were received by the Bureaus of Posts for official stamps were transmitted to the bureaus of constabulary with request that they be filled. These orders were filled as far as possible from whatever was on hand. Many dealers and a large number of collectors were thus supplied and invariably at face.

The first printing included all stamps that were on hand at the time and was therefore upon varying numbers of other older issues as well as the new. While they lasted many were purchased by Manila collectors and foreign dealers at face, and after they had been in use for months and available to all applicants, the bulk of the remainder was purchased by a dealer. In connection herewith the undersigned desires to add that he has at different times selected and purchased for dealers and collectors many thousands of dollars worth of Philippines stamps, his services have invariably been gratis. While interesting to many, these stamps were not speculative and there was no intent to work the long suffering collector. None of them were government issues in the usual acceptance of the term, and for the information of all a memorandum was sent to the American and British catalogers which was published by the latter as follows:

“These stamps are not on sale at the post office, nor are they on hand in bureau of posts for distribution to government officials. The bureau of printing is authorized by the director of posts to overprint stamps for other bureaus, at the latter’s expense, whenever such request is made. The Stamps after being printed are delivered direct to the bureau for which they are intended...”

Such, therefore, is the entire history of the issue and use of the O.B. surcharges of all classes and kinds, which in the writer’s opinion, may be summed up very briefly, and as follows;

1. These took the place of Official stamps, which were not considered as practical on account of the cost of printing, the difficulties of supplying them direct to users, and the impracticability of the alterna-

tive course of supplying them to postmasters for purchase by the authorized persons, as shown by experience with the Postage Due stamps.

2. Their use was not made compulsory because of the expense to be caused to the department using them; for similar reasons full freedom as to the form of the surcharge was allowed, causing a multitude of varieties which might easily be counterfeited and hence can be distinguished as genuine only on cover showing actual use and authority of user.

3. As is usually the case, everywhere, with Official stamps, there was abuse of their use, resulting in extravagance of expense and necessity for more stringent regulations; these failing also, printing of the surcharge was resorted to as a last resort, and for reasons wholly non-philatelic.

4. The experiment of the printed surcharges was a failure merely because of the attitude adopted by some philatelists in annoying and criticizing the Bureau of Posts and the Bureau of Constabulary, before the experiment had proceeded sufficiently to determine its value for the purpose intended.

5. Except in a purely technical sense, and possibly even then, these were (for all practical purposes) governmental issues for a necessary and non-philatelic purpose, and were in no sense unnecessary or speculative; they should be recognized accordingly, and are as collectible as any other Official stamp.

As the last of the conclusions arrived at above is the one most likely to be criticized and taken exception to, it may be well to add the following facts which seem to have been generally overlooked:

1. All of these surcharges, stamped as well as printed, were made at the expense of the Philippines Government, the cost being borne by the separate Government Bureaus using them, instead of directly by the Bureau of Posts, and thus coming out of the Government appropriations through not through the usual channel for postal expenses.

2. Not only were these surcharges authorized by proper Governmental authority and under properly prescribed regulations and so used, but also their only ability to pay postage at all, in surcharged condition, was the result of this authority without which these stamps would have been considered as defaced or obliterated and hence unavailable postally.

3. The manuscript or rubberstamp surcharges were not completely official exempt when accompanied by the required evidence of authority to use them, and are therefore incomplete in unused condition. They could not therefore be on sale at any government office, as sale was not allowed; all originated at offices which were constituted as Government offices, for the purpose of such issue, by the proper Governmental authority.

4. The printed surcharges were printed by Governmental authority, at the Bureau of Printing, at Governmental expense, and were on sale in unused condition by authority of the Bureau of Posts at a Governmental office designated by the Director of Posts for that purpose.

Even if the above be admitted, some collectors will probably consider at least a portion of the printed surcharges as merely essays in trial colors, and not as postal issues, because of the small numbers in which they were surcharged. In this connection the following facts must be considered.

1. None of these were of the "printer's waste" class nor was the surcharge applied to any stamps not issued or intended, for use. All stamps surcharged had been sold for postal use and were still available for such use.

2. When the printing was authorized it was evidently intended that all the stamps with the overprint should be valid for use regardless of the color used, experimentally, in printing them. Whether they were actually used later does not affect their validity any more than in the case of any other unused stamp. They were printed for use and were issued and available therefore.

While therefore maintaining the collectibility of all of these O.B.

surcharges, the writer believes, in this as in all other cases, that the collector himself is the ultimate authority as to what he shall collect and is in no case bound by the opinion of catalogers, dealers, other collectors, or any authority whatsoever. And in the case of the rarer of the printed surcharges, it is scarcely worth while for collectors to waste much thought on their collectibility as very few will ever have a chance to acquire them even should they so desire.

It is believed that the printed surcharges were in actual use, as well as on sale, until finally closed out as above noted. Exact quantities of the various values actually used are not now known: it has been stated, however that, of the 600 black surcharge on 1 peso about 500 were used on telegrams, and that of the 20 and 30 centavos values surcharged in black (of which 1500 each were printed), considerably over 1000 of each value were actually used. It is therefore believed that many of these printed surcharges may be found used and on the original cover, in which condition, at least, there should be no question as to their collectibility or desirability.

The communication of the Director of Posts dated July 18, 1907, and already quoted, contemplated future printings of these O.B. surcharges in another type which is described therein. While no definite information is now available, it is understood that an experimental printing was made in this type, but on what stamps or in what quantities is not known in to the writer hereof: nor is it known to him whether or not this second type was ever placed in actual use. Due to the reasons already given (and as stated by Gen. Bandholtz in the letter already quoted) the Director of Posts decided to discontinue further use of the printed surcharges and the rubber stamps were again resorted to. The result of this seems to have been that the discussions in the public press waned and finally died out, and the annoyance to the various bureaus ceased accordingly. So that, when the changes in colors were made to correspond to contemporaneous U.S. issues beginning in 1909, new printings of the O.B. surcharges were made (probably on all values of the stamps) in the first type thereof, and such printings are still being made. It is understood, however, that all of these later printings are in black only, and that they are made and issued by the Bureau of Printing for its own use, through other bureaus

have adopted (or may, at their option, adopt) them for their own use also.

To the list already given may therefore be added the following:

**Same type and watermark as before.
Surcharged O.B. in black**

- 2 centavos, light green
- 4 centavos, lake
- 13 centavos, orange.
- 16 centavos, olive green
- 20 centavos, yellow.
- 26 centavos, blue green
- 30 centavos, ultramarine. Triple surcharge is also known.
- 1 peso, pale violet.
- 2 pesos, black
- 10 pesos, dark green.
- 20 centavos, deep ultramarine, Special Delivery
(Same type, but in new watermark)
- 6 centavos, deep violet.
- 10 centavos, blue
- 12 centavos, orange.
- 20 centavos, yellow.
- 30 centavos, ultramarine
- 1 peso, lavender
- 20 centavos, bright blue, Special Delivery.
- 1 peso, pale violet.
- 20 centavos, deep ultramarine, Special Delivery.

No data as to quantities are available as yet.

No attempt is here made to list any of the hand stamped surcharges because of the almost endless variety in which they occur, including inverts double surcharges, etc; It will suffice to say that they may be found on all stamps issued since American dominion (except the Postage Due stamps), and in endless variety as to types, colors and minor varieties.

A very interesting collection, neither extended nor expensive may be made by acquiring only one cover bearing stamps surcharged in each type striving to obtain different issues or values in each, and including the printed surcharges.

DOREMUS CANCELS

by Chalmer D. Hill

- Envelopes of the United States, series of 1899, were overprinted "Philippines" and produced by the Plimpton & Morgan Co., Hartford, Conn. The overprint was in the same color as used for the stamps, with certain exceptions as noted. Watermark #13 as well as watermark #14 was used on all envelopes of this series.

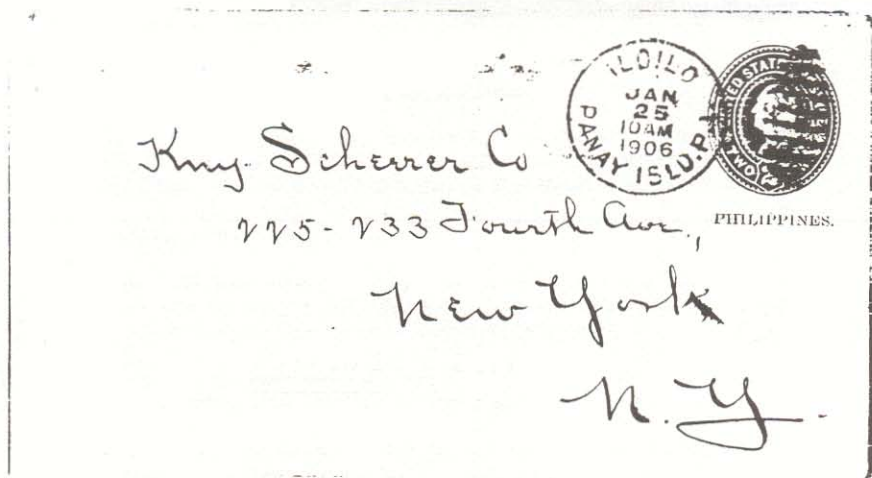
The stamp is Carmine on an amber envelope overprinted on U.S. Scott's-U363 Issued, 1899. "Philippines" is carmine, same as the stamp.

Mr. P.M. Esperidion, an author on Philippine philately writes in the *Philippine Philatelic Journal*, that; according to Col. A.C. Townsend, an American philatelic writer of note, "The earliest dates I have seen of the Doremus "RECEIVED" cancellation, were October 8, 1906, June 28, 1907 and September 22, 1908.

From the foregoing, this collector has discovered a "GEM" in the Doremus "back stamp cancellation". The cover was postmarked January 25, 1906, at Iloilo, Panay. Having traveled by boat for three days and 420 miles later, the letter arrived in Manila on January 28, 1906, and was back stamped with a "RECEIVED" Doremus back stamp.

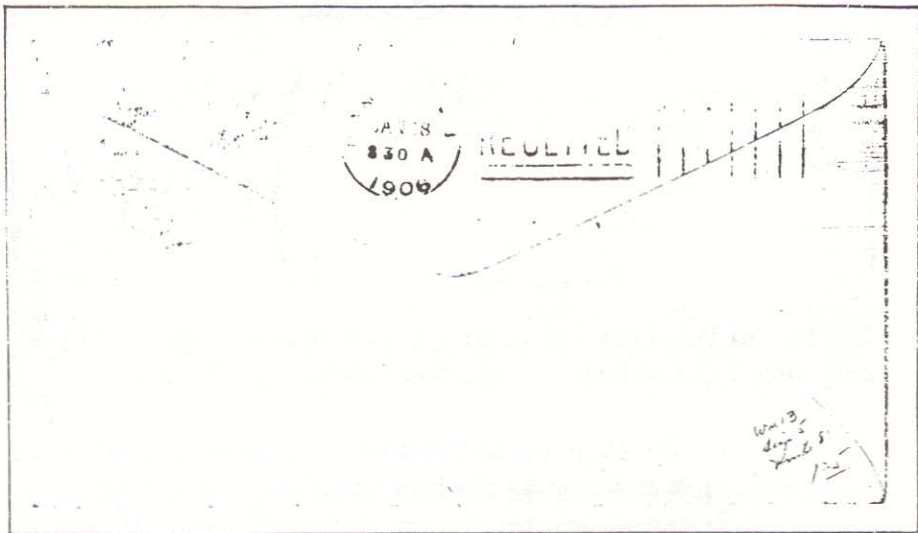
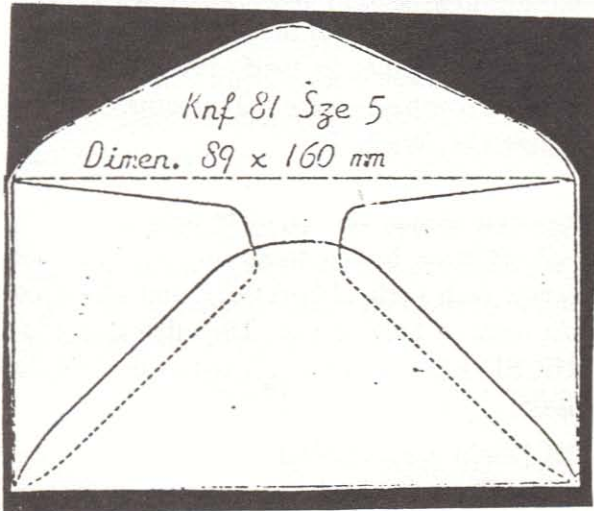
The forerunner of machine cancellations and slogan machine cancels is the Doremus cancellation in the Philippines. There are several types; however, only three types were used by the Manila Post Office. They were introduced in the Philippines in 1905, 1906, and 1908, respectively. The cancellation machines were manufactured by the Doremus Canceling Machine Co., Wash. D.C.

Prior to the use of the Doremus slogan cancel, there were two other types used by the Manila Post Office, both without slogans. One was a plain machine cancellation with vertical bars only, and was used merely as a receiving post mark or back stamp. The other cancellation bears the words "RECEIVED" on one line, used by the Manila Post Office as early as 1905.



The Manila Post Office in so far as postal history is concerned used only three types of Doremus machine cancels.

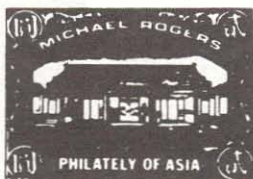
- 1) The plain machine cancel.
- 2) Backstamping machine cancel.
- 3) Slogan machine cancel.





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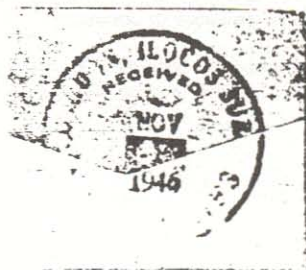
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A THREE YEAR TRIP!!

by Chalmer D. Hill

A real bit of postal history! The envelope began as a penalty envelope of the "Commonwealth of the Philippines, Department of Public Works and Communications, Bureau of Posts, Official Business". It was addressed to the Provincial Treasurer, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, and with no cancel. Prior to the mailing the envelope was reversed for reuse, and mailed to Caogyun, Ilocos Sur, November 1, 1943. A registry hand-stamp #11 was applied, and then the trouble began. Mail service was interrupted due to the guerrilla and special forces landing at San Esteban, Ilocos Sur and the establishment of the 121st Regiment (a recognized guerilla unit). The addressee of the envelope was the Municipal Treasurer. The postmaster apparently sent the letter to the "Dead Letter Office", by the handstamp "OR #1299". Along came the liberation forces, and the letter was reopened, resealed, and given a USA shield shaped censor's stamp, then marked "forwarded 11/5/46". A nice looking back stamp of Candon showed that it was received there in November 1946.

Although the letter was for official business, no official stamps were applied. The proper registry fee at the time was 12 centavos.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR
VIGAN
Office of the Treasurer
OFFICIAL MAIL

Receipt with receipt

11/8/60

FORWARDED
11/5/46

VIGAN, P.I.
NOV 5 1960

Registered Mail

The Municipal Treasurer,
Cabanatuan, Ilocos Sur

REGISTERED MAIL
No. *1299*

D.L.O.
NO. *1299*
DR. 1299



12
39
48

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