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Philippine Philatelic Journal

ANATOMY OF AN ERROR

by Col. Gustavo C. Ingles, (Ret) Ex-Chairman, Stamp Advisory Committee, Philippine Postal Corporation

A major philatelic error was committed in an issue honoring the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations. I am the one to blame and I accept full responsibility for the fiasco.

The issue was included in the schedule prepared in 1994 for stamps to be issued in 1995. So at a regular meeting in April 1995 of the Stamp Advisory Committee of the Philippine Postal Corporation, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed the selection of five prominent Filipinos who served the UN with distinction who were to be featured on the stamps.

They were the Hon. Carlos P. Romulo, the first Filipino to serve as President of the UN General Assembly; Justice Cesar C. Bengzon, a former member of the International Court of Justice; Rafael M. Salas, former Assistant Secretary General; Hon. Salvador P. Lopez, former Secretary for Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Jose D. Ingles, former Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, and my elder brother.

The pictures of the honorees as received from the DFA were blurred photocopies, unsuitable for reproduction. I volunteered to get clearer pictures of the honorees. I had no difficulty in getting the pictures except for Justice Bengzon. I had to make several telephone calls before I could get a positive response. The irony of it is that the family lives only a few blocks from my house. My fatal mistake was in asking

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
Vol. XVII No. 4	Fourth Quarter, 1995	
Anatomy of an Error by Col. Gustavo C. Ingles (Re	t.) Page 1	
Provisional Victory Issues by Pablo Esperidion (part 2)	Page 5	
Other Markings Peso Value Pi Series of 1934 by Joseph M. N	late Blocks Napp Page 14	
Eleventh Major Error Reporte Philippine 1890-1897 Issue by	d of the Spanish Don Peterson Page 16	
"Full Many a Flower " (va	riety 025) Page 17	
Album Page	Page 19	

for and receiving a picture of "Justice Bengzon". After I got the picture, I just turned it over to the Design Section of the Philippine Postal Corporation. The picture of Carlos P. Romulo was displayed on a souvenir sheet (Figure 1), while the other four honorees were shown on a se-tenant block of four (Front Cover).



Figure 1

The "Philatelic Bulletin" announcing the issue stated that the stamps would be issued on Monday, September 25, 1995. However, I was advised by Larry Carino that he tried buying the stamps on that day but was told that the delivery had been delayed and to try again the next day. Sale of the stamps was started the afternoon of September 26. Larry did not go to the Post Office on September 26, but instead decided to buy them on Wednesday, September 27 at the meeting of the Stamp Advisory Committee.

At that meeting, I was able to buy one full sheet and several FDCs. When I arrived home, I showed the stamps to my wife Ester, focusing especially upon the stamp picturing my elder brother, Dr. Jose D. Ingles.

To my dismay, Ester was surprised to see that the picture identified as Justice Cesar C. Bengzon was actually that of Justice Jose Bengzon. I was not able to sleep the entire night.

Early the next morning, I went to the Post Office, after having Ester call the residence of Justice Jose Bengzon for confirmation of the mistake. It was too early, however, but the lady who answered consented to be at the house to talk to Ester later that morning. At the PO, I warned Mrs. Lourdes Flores-Cubelo, Manager, Philatelic Division about the error. I mentioned that I was awaiting confirmation from the Bengzon family by ten o'clock that morning. I also visited the office of Mrs. Norma Maog, Assistant Postmaster General for Finance, but she was not there, so I left word that I would call her. Around ten o'clock I called our house and was advised that Bengzon's daughter-in-law was not there, so I left for my office.

Arriving at the office I was informed that the lady had arrived at our house and confirmed that it was really Justice Jose Bengzon and not Justice Cesar Bengzon. I tried to call Mrs. Cubelo, but she was out, so I called Mrs. Maog and advised her that the Bengzon family had confirmed that the picture was not of Justice Cesar Bengzon. She immediately ordered the withdrawal of the stamp from circulation. The next day I submitted my resignation from the Stamp Advisory Committee.

The government printer, Amstar Company, Inc., was instructed to replace the picture of Bengzon with that of Romulo (Figure 2). The corrected version was rushed to completion to enable President Ramos to have the corrected copies before he departed for the UN ceremony in New York, and was released for sale at the Manila CPO on October 9.

On the day the original stamps were issued, the Sales Section at the Manila Central Post Office had with them about 1,000 stamps or 25 sheets of 40 subjects, and the Mail Order Section had about 400 stamps or 10 sheets. On the day the stamps were withdrawn from sale, the Mail Order Section had only five sheets, and the Sales Section less than one sheet. The rest of the sheets were sent to the stamp windows after the Bengzon error stamps had been removed.

Agreement was reached with the family of Justice Cesar C. Bengzon to publish an erratum in the Manila newspapers. The *Manila Bulletin* in of Tuesday, October 31, carried the story with illustrations of both the error and the corrected stamps:

"STAMP ERROR. A major philatelic error was committed in a set of stamps issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation (Philpost) on Sept. 25 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the birth of the United Nations. The stamps in a block of four depict the pictures of four prominent Filipinos who worked in the United Nations, namely Cesar C. Bengzon, Rafael M. Salas, Salvador P. Lopez, and Jose D. Ingles.



Figure 2

The picture in the upper left corner, however, is not of Justice Cesar C. Bengzon but of his cousin Justice Jose Bengzon. Philpost corrected the error by placing the picture of Carlos P. Romulo in the block of stamps after the family requested that Justice Cesar Bengzon no longer be included in the UN stamps (Figure 2). He will, however, be featured in the Famous Filipino series of stamps to be issued in 1996. Philpost recalled the first set of stamps after two days of sale and issued the corrected set on October 9."

PROVISIONAL VICTORY ISSUES

By Pablo M. Esperidion

(Continued from previous issue)

1948			
Scott'	S	Item	Date of Issue
C2	4c	Air Mail	December 3, 1944
E5	20c	Special Delivery	December 14, 1944
E7	20c	Special Delivery (Small)	
J8	4c	Postage Due	
J9	6c	Postage Due	
J10	8c	Postage Due	
J11	10c	Postage Due	December 3, 1944
J12	12c	Postage Due	
J13	16c	Postage Due	December 3, 1944
J14	20c	Postage Due	December 3, 1944
027	2c	Rizal "O.B." (Small)	December 3,(?), 1944
016	4c	Lady with Carabao "O.B."	December 3,(?), 1944
031	10c	Fort Santiago "O.B." (Large)	December 3,(?), 1944
022	20c	Cruz "O.B."	December 3,(?), 1944
037	2c	Rizal (apple green), "O.B."	December 3,(?), 1944
	2c	Postal Card (Red)	December 3, 1944
	2c	Postal Card (Green)	December 28, 1944
	2c	Envelope	November 8, 1944
	2c	Envelope (M.O.)	December 3, 1944
	4c	Envelope (Cruz)	December 3, 1944
	4c	Envelope (McKinley)	December 28, 1944

Gaines' Check List & Remarks

Pfc. Floyd L. Gaines, who, as mentioned before, one of the quite well-informed GI collectors on these provisionals, in his V-Mail to the writer, dated 21 Sept. 45, Gaines writes as follows:

To: Pablo M. Esperidion c/o Elizalde & Co., Inc. Manila, Luzon, P.I.

From: Pfc. F. L. Gaines, 86902107 Det. 1 — 4025 Sig. Sv. Gp. 2nd Co. Hq., APO 75 c/o P.M., San Francisco

Dear Mr. Esperidion:—I got your postal card of Sept. 2nd and today it is Sept. 21st. So here is a list of the Provisional Victory stamps as issued at Tacloban on Nov.

8th, 1944. Scotts Nos. given, 1945 cat.

On 1935 issue—384, 385, 389. On 1936 Quezon 409, 410. Large Commonwealth—413, 415, 417, 420. On 1938 Small Commonwealth—133, 436, 437, 439, 440, 442, 443. On 1939 Triumphal Arch issue—453, 454. On Malacañan Palace issue—456, 547. On Quezon Taking Oath issue—459, 460. On 1941 issue—461. On 1933 Airpost—C2. On Special Delivery—E5, E7. On 1928 Dues—J8, J9, J10, J11, J12, J.3, J14. Official issues on 027, 037, 016, 031, 022. A 2c booklet (Small Commonwealth) was not regularly issued at the Post Office. Some quite rare. Many poor condition. SE, gum and oil soaked, mint with paper stuck to back or no gum. Reported 30,000 of all issues, about half were the 2c (461). Figures not released. Only 8 Nos. I have not seen, 389, 420, 433, 333, E5, 031, 022. I have only 24 varieties. Attorney Aldaba has a complete collection. I understand.

At least 2 or more envelopes and 2 postal cards are known too, as well as

documentary stamp or stamps.

Very truly yours.

Alongside the information and check lists furnished by the aforementioned GI collectors, the writer was able to gather more enlightening information from Atty. Vicente Aldaba, a Manila collector, who had seen D-Day in Leyte and had witnessed simultaneously, much of the issuance and sale of the provisional "Victory" stamps at Tacloban. At the request of the writer, Atty. Aldaba furnished this scribe, a check list on November 11, 1946, together with his (Aldaba's) personal observations, which are given hereunder:

ALDABA'S CHECK LIST AND OBSERVATIONS

		Catalog	First Day		
		Regular Postage Stamps No.	Sale		
1)	2c	Rose Rizal (Small Overprint)			
2)	2c	apple green (Plain)	11-8-44		
3)	4c	yellow green Woman and Carabao (Plain)	11-8-44		
4)		dark brown La Filipina			
5)	6c				
6)	6c	yellow green Quezon			
7)	6c				
8)	6c				
9)	6c		11-8-44		
10)	8c		11-8-44		
11)		rose carmine Fort Santiago (Large Overprint)	44.0.44		
12)	10c		11-8-44		
13)	12c				
14)	12c		11 0 11		
15)	12C	purple Quezon Taking Oath	11-8-44		
16)		dark blue Magellan's Landing (Plain)	11-8-44		
17)	16c		11-0-44		
18)		dark blue Magellan's Landing (Small Overprint)			
19) 20)	20c 30c		11-8-44		
21)	30c				
22)	1-peso	red orange and black Barasoain Church (Small)			
22)	1-peso	red orange and orack Darasoam Church (Oman)			
		Airpost Stamps			
1)	4c	rose carmine Post Office surcharged "AIR MAIL" C2			
		Constal Dalimon Channe			
		Special Delivery Stamps			
1)	20c	ultramarine sp. Del. Messenger (Plain) E5			
2)	20c	ultramarine sp. Del. Messenger (Small Overprint) E7	11-8-44		
Postage Due Stamps					
1)	4c	brown red Post Office Clerk			
2)	6c	brown red Post Office Clerk			
3)	8c				
4)	10c	brown red Post Office Clerk			
5)	12c	brown red Post Office Clerk			
6)	16c				
7)	20c	brown red Post Office Clerk			
		Official Stamps			
1)	2c	rose Rizal (Small Overprint)			
2)	2c	apple green Rizal			
6		Philippine Philateli	c Journal		

3) 4) 5)		yellow green Woman and Carabao
5)		light olive green Juan de la Cruz (Large Overprint) O26
		Postal Cards
1)	2c	rose Rizal (Large Commonwealth)
1)		green Rizal
		Envelopes
1)	2c	red Juan de la Cruz (Plain)
2)	2c	red Juan de la Cruz (with inscription, "Return"
2) 3) 4) 5)		red Juan de la Cruz (Sample plus "M.O." inscription)
4)	2c	red Juan de la Cruz (without inscription)
5)	4c	red McKinley (with inscription "Return " 2 kinds)
6)	4c	green Juan de la Cruz (with inscription, "Return ")

All these stamps I have in my collection except No. 1 in my list, but this issue is of my own personal knowledge having seen it.

Facts I know of about these stamps:

- The reasons for the reopening of the PO in Eastern Leyte in spite of the fact that only Eastern Leyte was liberated on November 4, 1944, were
 - a) There were no civilian vehicles left at that time, all such vehicles having been confiscated and taken by the Japs and brought along with them.
 - b) All Army vehicles were busy because of operations along the Yamashita line.
 - 3) People were afraid to hike or hitch hike on the Army trucks due to the presence of Jap stragglers. Infilitration of the enemy and the occasional straffing of vehicles by enemy planes.
 - These three reasons caused the populace to petition for the reopening of the postal service so they could communicate with their friends, relatives and associates.
 - d) The policy of President Osmena to bring all branches of the Government into operation.
 - The eagerness of the CIC thru its branch (CCD) to learn and gather information thru the mail by censorship.
 - This last reason made the Army willing to offer courier vehicles for the use of the PO. Also, the Army offered to surrender to the authorities concerned all stamps they had accumulated in their seizure of government offices in liberated areas.
- 2) These stamps were those gathered by the Army in liberated towns, the procedure of the CIC being to take all public documents and every thing relating to government along as they capture more and more towns, and gather as such information as they could from them. When the PO decided to reopen, these stamps were forwarded to the Inspector (Postal) thru the CCD Chief Major Lambert for use. Later, as more and more towns were recaptured, the municipal PO authorities brought to Tacloban all the stamps they had in their possession, by order of their superiors and their postal equipment inventoried.
- 3) Only one rubber stamp was used to put the "Victory" surcharge. The rubber used on these stamps was poor so that it has the tendency to spread as the rubber became weaker for wear. The stamps were hand stamped in the office of the Tacloban Postmaster, Mr. Lumbre, in his presence. Later it was inventoried by the Postal Inspector, brought to the Provincial Auditor for checking and approval and then the Provincial Treasurer for the same reason and then to the Post Office for final checkup and then sold to the public.

- 4) At the start, no philatelists were allowed to buy these stamps. They were sold for postal purposes only. In fact, the postmaster will not sell one unless one has the envelope and the stamp had to be pasted on the envelope in his presence and mailed in the box in his presence. Later on, however, as more and more stamps were gathered and put into use, philatelists were allowed to buy sets that were available (only one to a person) and it was in the later part of December (1944) and in the early part of January (1945) that blocks were sold to the public. (I believe, it was until the third week of December when the postal authorities did not allow cancelling of stamps unless passed by the Censor, whose offices were only next door. After this time, philatelic cancellations were allowed without censorship).
- 5) Although postage due stamps were issued for use, none were really postally used due to the order of the Civilian Censorship Detachment Office that no mail be accepted without sender's address. Hence, mail without postage or insufficient postage were merely returned to sender. This order was due to the fact that one of the reasons for opening of the mail was intelligenced by the CCD.
- 6) The "O.B." stamps did not come on November 8, but later. They were not sold to the public whatsoever; but some philatelists were able to obtain mint copies by exchanging regular stamps for "O.B." stamps with the different government offices which had stock of the "O. Bs."
- 7) These stamps were demonetized on January 19, 1945 and prohibited for use except the "O.B." stamps and only by authorized government offices, in as much as the post office had no "O.B." stamps to issue to these offices. Hence, the government offices used these stamps until they were exhausted, not recalled, because they never were, in fact, from reliable information, there are still two towns in the West Coast of Leyte, who still use this stamp up to this time.
- 8) Certain towns had no regular cancellers, hence, they cancelled these stamps by any method convenient to them, until the middle of May 1945, when new cancellers arrived from the States, Tanauan for instance, used registry cancellers to cancel ordinary stamps and Carigara used pen cancellations with a round circle drawn around a coin with date and post office on the stamp.

For the sake of a comprehensive check list of these provisionals, the writer has grouped the official list of the then Acting Post Office Inspector of Tacloban and the lists of Capt. Meyerson, Pfc. Gaines and Atty. Aldaba. Coordinating them for comparative purposes, the result reveals the following:

(See inside back cover)

Unrecorded Issues

From the above comparative check list, it is obvious that there are some stamps which have not officially recorded by the APOIT (Acting Post Office Inspector of Tacloban), as far as the lists of Capt. Meyerson, Pfc. Gaines and Atty. Aldaba, are concerned, the lists of these latter three, tallying virtually with each other. The unrecorded stamps as can be observed from the foregoing comparative check list, are the 6¢ Quezon Taking Oath (Scott 459) and 12¢ Quezon or First Anniversary of the Commonwealth (Scott 410), using the Scott Catalog of 1945 as a matter of listing reference.

Asked why these stamps were not listed in the official report of the APOIT, the then Acting Director of Posts Felipe Cuaderno, told and explained personally to the writer that the possibility of omissions was plausible, because everything in the early days of the liberation of the Philippines was done at random and therefore under the stress of an emergency. Thus the possibility of subject omissions was not infallible.

From the standpoint of modern philately, particularly in the matter of condition wholly, these provisional "Victory" issues of the Philippines, may be considered as "poor". And "many in good condition, straight edged, gum and oil soaked, mint with paper stuck to back or no gum." as wailed by Pfc. Floyd L. Gaines, in his letter of 22 Sept. 45, as mentioned before. However, if the condition of these provisionals are "poor" in the philatelic sense, consideration must be taken into account that these issues were born under most difficult times, alongside the war operations of the United States Armed Forces, in the early days of the Philippine liberation. That factor it is believed, is undeniable.

Reconciliation

In the light of the foregoing information and on the basis of the comparative check list as indicated before, a reconciliation of these Philippine provisional "Victory" issues, reveals as follows:

Cl	assification	Different Issi	ies
	Postage	15	
	Commemoratives	7	
	Air Mails	1	
	"O.B." or Officials	6	
	Postage Dues	7	
	Booklet Panes	2	
	Special Delivery	2	
	Postal Cards		
	Embossed Stamped Envelopes	6	
	Total	49	

Classification as indicated above was done under the category of prewar issues of the Philippine Commonwealth. Among the postal cards issued, two types of the 2¢ rose Rizal are listed by Atty. Aldaba, namely, one with the overprint "VICTORY" on the stamp imprint,

and another with the "VICTORY" just below the overprint "COM-MONWEALTH" between the stamp imprint and the Commonwealth seal. Then, too, Aldaba in his list, identifies six different kinds of embossed stamped envelopes (including the different types of the 2¢ value). As far as Philippine philately is concerned, the writer is of the opinion that subject postal cards and embossed stamped envelopes identified by Atty. Aldaba, are part and parcel of the Philippine previsional "Victory" issues. Thus, their inclusion in the above reconciliation.

Postscraparium

Philatelically, it's interesting in retrospect that while several American stamps and postal stationery were overprinted "PHILIPPINES" and issued by this country in 1898 just after its liberation from the Spanish yoke as an aftermath of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine provisional "VICTORY" issues were released, just at the dawn of the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese clutches by the United States Armed Forces, thus restoring the lost freedom of the Filipinos, and the eventual conclusion of the Pacific War, with the unconditional surrender of Japan.

To stamp collectors, therefore, who had witnessed, sweated-it-out, and survived thru the catastrophe and tragedies of World War II, especially in the Pacific and Philippine theaters of war, these provisional "VICTORY" issues of the Philippines, would prove interesting. And interesting, not only as a matter of collection, but also as a field for study — both philatelically and historically.

Historically enough, the story behind these provisional "VICTORY" issues is reflected on that long, long story — the story of VICTORY — a story of the hard, grim and bitter struggle, which the Allied Nations had fought and won, against the ambitious bestial militarists of the world, in order to let all free-loving people of all races, language and creed, to live and enjoy the Four Freedoms.

Divergence in Listing

In going over the comparative check list, one will observe some divergence in listing. Consider the "O.B." stamps. The APOIT lists them as "2¢ Rizal 4¢ Woman & Carabao 10¢ Fort Santiago, and 20¢ Juan de la Cruz," while Capt. Meyerson identifies them the same, except the 2¢ Rizal, which he classifies them into kinds — rose and

apple green. Meyerson's listing though without catalog numbers are given, is confirmed by Gaines as "Scott O27, O37, O16, O31 and 022," respectively. Which tally with Aldaba's list except the "O22" which is listed by Aldaba as "O26." Relatively, the following "O.B." stamps issued are as follows: 2¢ rose Rizal (No. O27), 2¢ apple green Rizal (No. O37), 4¢ Woman & Carabao (No. O16), 10¢ Fort Santiago (No. O31), 20¢ Juan de la Cruz (No. O22), and 20¢ Juan de la Cruz (No. O26). Or six different stamps in all instead of four only as reported by the APOIT.

Apropos of postal stationery, the APOIT mentions only one postal card. But Meyerson, lists them as "2¢ green," which are confirmed by the lists of Aldaba and Gaines. Hence, two different postal cards were issued, instead of one as per the APOIT's report.

Coming to the embossed stamped envelopes, both the APOIT and Meyerson list them as four kinds, but the former reports them as "2, 2, 3, and 4¢", while the latter identifies them as "2¢ Envelope, 2¢ Envelope (M.O.B.), 4¢ Envelope (Cruz), and 4¢ Envelope (McKinley)", respectively. Gaines confirms this as "2 or more," but Aldaba lists them as six kinds, this latter having included all the four different types of the 2¢ embossed stamped envelopes, Juan de la Cruz. Thus, six different kinds of embossed stamped envelopes were issued, if the different types are considered.

Some clarification, however, should be given as to the denominations (sic) "2 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 and 4 1/2¢" as given in the APOIT report. Postally, they are not the denominations of the embossed stamped envelopes themselves, but the selling price of each to the mailing public. Such practice was done not only during the liberation, but it was an old postal regulation even prior to Pearl Harbor.

Regarding the 2¢ booklet pane Rizal, Meyerson lists it as "2¢ rose Rizal with large overprint 'Commonwealth' (Scott 411b)." But Gaines mentions it as "2¢ rose Rizal with the overprint 'Commonwealth' in small type (Scott 433a)." Inadvertently, Aldaba doesn't state this item in his list. However, upon inquiry by the writer from Aldaba anent this booklet pane, he (Aldaba; confirmed it as the "2¢ rose Rizal booklet pane with the large 'Commonwealth' overprint." Apparently, out of the 7 stamp booklets of the 2¢ booklet panes reported by the APOIT,

at least there were two different kinds issued, if Gaines allegation is considered.

Overprint, Varieties & Condition

Done by hand-stamp, the overprint "VICTORY" on these provisionals, was applied in black-purple and purple ink. This observation has been gathered by the writer from these stamps in his collection as well as from the different stamps he has seen from other collectors.

General run of the overprint "VICTORY" on these provisionals, shows the letters are not even on the same line, indicating a declining tendency both on the left and right, with an appreciable degree. Besides this abnormality, varieties are quite legion. Prominent among them, is the broken "T" on the overprint "VICTORY". The letter "T" is partly broken on the middle of its body. This variety appears on several stamps and postal stationery.

To what this variety could be attributed, the wear and tear or "depreciation" of the rubber-stamp, was the main cause, considering only one rubber-stamp had been used. What with 59,742 stamps and postal stationery versus one and only rubber-stamp?

What followed to the Provisional Victory Issues of the Philippines, is treated on the following chapter — The Philippine Regular Victory Issues. Before proceeding to the next chapter, however, the writer wishes to take this opportunity of making an acknowledgment and give credit where credit is due.

To Acting Director of Posts Felipe Cuaderno, who was kind enough to cooperate in furnishing to the writer, all necessary official information, illustration, etc., in connection with the Philippine provisional "Victory" issues, the writer wishes to extend his profound gratitude, for without Mr. Cuaderno's valuable cooperation and disinterested efforts, preparation of subject article would have been impossible.

REGULAR VICTORY ISSUES

It is our responsibility, ours the living, to see to it that this victory shall be a monument worthy of the deed who died to win it.—PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN, on V-J Day, September 2, 1945.

Three months after D-Day in Leyte, philately saw another addition to Philippine Victory Philately. It was a new series of postage stamps, overprinted with "VICTORY". This time, however, they are not provisionals. Regular stamps they are. And overprinted with "COMMONWEALTH" in small type and the additional word, "VICTORY".

First Day Issue in Leyte

Denominations and designs of these regular Victory stamps are: 2¢ Rizal, 4¢ Agriculture, 6¢ Filipina, 8¢ Pearl Fishing, 10¢ Fort Santiago, 12¢ Salt Springs, 16¢ Magellan's Landing, 20¢ Juan de la Cruz, 1-Peso Barasoain Church, and 2¢ postal card, Rizal, with the stamp imprint in brown. They were all printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D. C.

First-day sale of this regular Victory series was held in Tacloban, capital of Leyte. It was on January 19, 1945. An official cachet in purple was applied on first-day covers. Wording of the cachet reads: "FIRST DAY COVER — FIRST REGULAR VICTORY STAMPS — SOLD IN REOPENED POST OFFICES — IN THE LIBERATED PHILIPPINES — JANUARY 19, 1945," in five lines.

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OTHER MARKINGS PESO VALUE PLATE BLOCKS - SERIES OF 1934

by Joseph M. Napp

Each Peso value post office pane of 25 stamps had FOUR **Alignment** Lines printed in both frame ink and vignette ink colors.

The BE&P first printed frame sheets of 100 composed of four post office panes of twenty-five (4×25) . After the frames were printed, the sheets were cut into panes of twenty-five (5×5) . The vignettes (5×5) were then printed into the center of the frame panes of twenty five.

Alignment Lines were placed at four locations in the horizontal and vertical selvage opposite the third stamps from the pane's four corners. The two vertical lines are in the selvage 'above and below' the third vertical row and the two horizontal lines are in the 'right and left' selvage opposite the third horizontal row of stamps.

Because the frames were printed first and then the vignettes were printed into the center of the frames, a method of aligning the vignettes was required. The four frame color alignment lines would allow the printers to accurately place the black ink vignettes into the exact center of the frames.

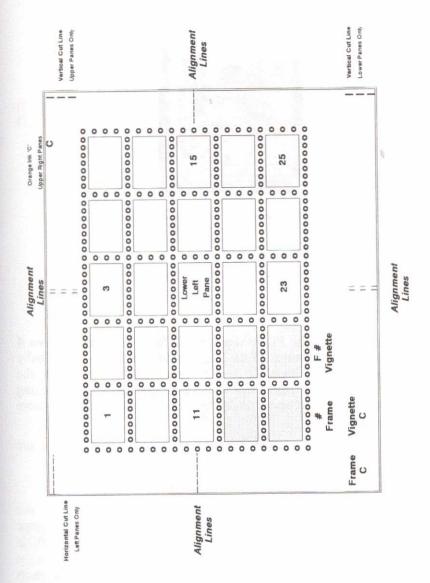
When the black ink vignettes were printed, four additional black ink alignment lines were placed near or over the frame color lines. If the black ink lines and the frame ink color lines were *identical* or *nearly identical*, then the vignette was properly placed in the center of the frames. Widely separated lines would indicate improperly placed vignettes which should be destroyed.

The alignment lines would not normally be found in a plate block of four. A larger sized selvage multiple would have the possibility of having alignment lines.

THE ORANGE INK ' C ' ONE PESO VALUE - SERIES OF 1934

The hard chroming 'C' in the Orange Ink has been located on the One Peso frame plate # 129955. It is in the selvage above stamp # 5 in the upper right pane. This is at the extreme upper right corner of the frame printing plate # 129955. Thus an Orange Ink 'C' will not be found near a traditional double plate number block of four.

Special thanks to dealer member Ray Coughlin for saving the full upper right pane for philatelic research purposes. ■



15

ELEVENTH MAJOR ERROR REPORTED OF THE SPANISH PHILIPPINE 1890-1897 ISSUE

by Don Peterson



FIGURE 1. Major Error No. 11 on 8c red brown issue (Scott #162).

In my 1989 article in the *Philippine Philatelic News* (Vol. XI, No. 4 Fourth Quarter), 10 major plating errors of the 1890-1897 "baby head" issue were described. To qualify as a major plating error, the error had to be clearly observable to the average collector, recurring or "constant", and must occur in the same position on the pane from one pane to another.

This article reports the eleventh major error of the 1890-1897 issue that meets the above criteria. It is described as follows.

11. Deformed Left Side of "8" (Figure 1)

In this error, the left side of the "8" on the 1892 8c ultramarine issue (Scott #161) and the 1894 and 1896 printings of the 8c red brown issue (Scott #162) is flawed. Over one-half of the left side of the "8" is missing. No information is available on the position of the error in the pane of $100 \ (10 \ x \ 10)$ for Scott #161 or 162. However, based on its relative occurrence, it probably occurs on only one position in the pane. The error does not appear on the 1890 8c yellow green issue (Scott #160), the third 8c value of the 1890-1897 issue. This error has not been previously reported in the philatelic literature.

Description of Error	On Scott No.	Total No. of Issue Printed	Total No. of Errors	Relative Scarcity*
11. Deformed	161	300,000	3,000	R
Left Side of "8"	162	650,000	6,500	R

^{*}Relative scarcity based on standards set in the 1989 article.

If you have any additional information on this error, please contact Don Peterson, 7408 Alaska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20012.

"FULL MANY A FLOWER..."

by Eugene A. Garrett

... is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air."



Figure 1

In the present case, the "flower" is in fact a "rose" which has been blushing unseen for Lo! these many years: not as envisioned in the Thomas Gray epigram, but an unsung variety of Scott 025, the 2c rose Large Commonwealth Official unwatermarked perf. 11 issue of 1937.

In that issue, the "No Period After 'B" is listed as 025a. But the unsung variety (Figure 1) has not been afforded any such catalogue recognition, even though it was recognized as a worthy variety more than half a century ago.

Sloanes' Column of December 4, 1937 had this to say:

"Philippines. Error Corrected.

"My column of August 14th [1937] called attention to an error in the first setting of the overprint, 'O.B.' and 'COMMONWEALTH' on the 2c Rizal stamp which was issued April 10th. In this error, the period after the 'B' was raised considerably above its proper level and instead of lining up with the bottom of the letter it appeared about the middle. It was found in the fourth stamp in the top row on panes from the upper left.

"The error was evidently discovered early in the printing and corrected. Presses were stopped and the overprinting plate repaired. A new plate was not made since other minor imperfections in some of the overprints remained after the repair. All, however, seemingly were issued as both the error sheets and the corrected sheets have been purchased at Philippine post offices. The errors seem to have been limited and after a short time only the corrected sheets could be found at Manila.

"The electrotypes for overprinting were made up at the Government Printing Office, Washington, and sent over to the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, where the press work was done. I have seen the errors from plates 129055, 131519 and 131520, but since the overprinting was applied without regard to plate numbers, it is quite possible the error may exist on sheets from any of the plates. Information from the Bureau gives the following list of 2c Rizal stamp plates, 129055-56, 131519-20, 131537-38-39-40, and likely all were overprinted 'O.B.' and 'COM-MONWEALTH'."

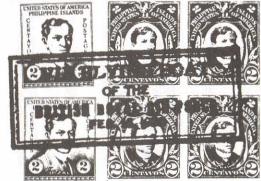
Maybe this expose will start a groundswell of indignation resulting in this unsung rose being afforded its due catalogue recognition.

Vio Airmail





Frank A. Bromadon Pare at Postmaster, Hondkond, China



Via British Flying Bils

ALBUM PAGE

291 e (complete booklet pane with selvage), 383 pair and commemorative label on cover cancelled Manila, February 16, 1936 to Hong Kong via British Flying Boat. Philippine Special Flight #112 with special cachet and receiver mark.



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Index of The PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC NEWS Volume XVII

SPANISH PERIOD

Eleventh Major Error Reported of the Spanish Philippine 1890-97 issue by Don Peterson: No. 4, p. 16

Listed and Newly Identified Surcharge Sub Types on Seven 1881-1888 Series by Don Peterson: No. 5 (should be 1), page 9

AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION

Album Page No. 4, page 19

The Legislative Palace Issue Philippine Education Magazine Feb. 1927: No. 4, page 10

"Full Many a Flower" (variety 025) by Eugene A. Garrett: No. 4, page 17

Other Markings Peso Value Plate Blocks Series of 1934

by Joseph M. Napp: No. 4, page 14

Plate Positions — Peso Value Plate Blocks Series of 1934

by Joseph M. Napp: No. 3, page 6

Provisional Victory Issues

by Pablo Esperidion: No. 3, page 12

Provisional Victory Issues

by Pablo Esperidion: No. 4, page 5

REVENUES

The Difference in Taxes

by Douglas K. Lehmann: No. 5 (1), page 15

Japanese Occupation Fiscal Revisions

by Douglas K. Lehmann: No. 2, page 16

Republic of the Philippines Documentary Stamps 1963-87

by Nemi Rivera: No. 5 (1), page 5

The Tacloban Victory Fiscal Overprint

by Douglas K. Lehmann: No. 3, page 1

Two Republic Multiples and one Fake Single by Douglas K. Lehmann: No. 5 (1), page 1

JAPANESE OCCUPATION

Another Kraemer Fake No. 5 (1), page 19

REPUBLIC

Anatomy of an Error

by Col. Gustavo C. Ingles: (Ret) No. 4, page 1

The Quite Extraordinary Mt. Pinatubo Stamps

by Eugene A. Garrett: No. 2, page 1

International Philippine Philatelic Society

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