

## Map of the City of Manila and Vicinity (November 12, 1901)

By Douglas K. Lehmann

Recently, Don Peterson handed down to me a copy of Senate Document No. 280, 57<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1st Session, Washington, DC, September 30, 1902. This binder less book (his new one has binders!) is as thick as its title is long--3-inches. It was prepared by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department. Facing page 184 is a map that bears the title of this article. The scale is about 1 inch for every 1025 feet. The map was compiled under the direction of Major Clinton B. Sears, Corps of Engineer, U.S. Army, Chief Engineer Division of the Philippines, and performed by First Lieutenant George F. Stewart, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Three draftsmen are noted and they say that "This map is compiled from Spanish surveys and corrected to date from surveys and reconnaissances by our own troops and other information of file in this Office. The maps of the City Engineer have also been consulted as to the names of the streets."

In 1901, Manila was divided into 12 districts. Seven districts were north of the Pasig River with Tondo on the Northern border. Five districts are south of the river with Malate on the Southern border. The map also includes parts of three districts that fall outside the Manila city line. In addition to city streets, also shown are roads, trails, railroads, waterways (natural and man made), police stations, churches, race courses, and vegetation types. Smaller towns are also indicated. As I look at details, all sorts of interesting items and pieces of history jump out. For example, you can locate the Manila lighthouse, Bilibid Prison, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving plant, and the Luneta on Manila Bay. I also find mysteries. For example, just south of the walled city is a triangular fort about 400 feet per side. A canal leads up to it and fills a moat inside that surrounds a tiny island within the fort with a single building on that island. There is a causeway from the island to the wall but no gate is shown into the fort. I wonder if it could be a VIP prison, a hospital for those with a contagious disease, a rich person's private home, a vault, or what?

I believe this map serves as a valuable research reference for both front- and back-of-the-book collectors of Philippine material of the 1890s and 1900s. However, I must also note that some buildings are labeled with the 1901 use by the military and civil government. As a revenue collector, the port information is worthy of note; for postal history collectors, the street locations are very informative. For a point of reference, at that time 53 provinces existed, 46 with US Civil Government. The 6 provinces in Mindanao plus Palawan were under the military waiting pacification. Manila was both a city (cited map of 20 square miles) plus a province with the addition of Corregidor (4 square miles).

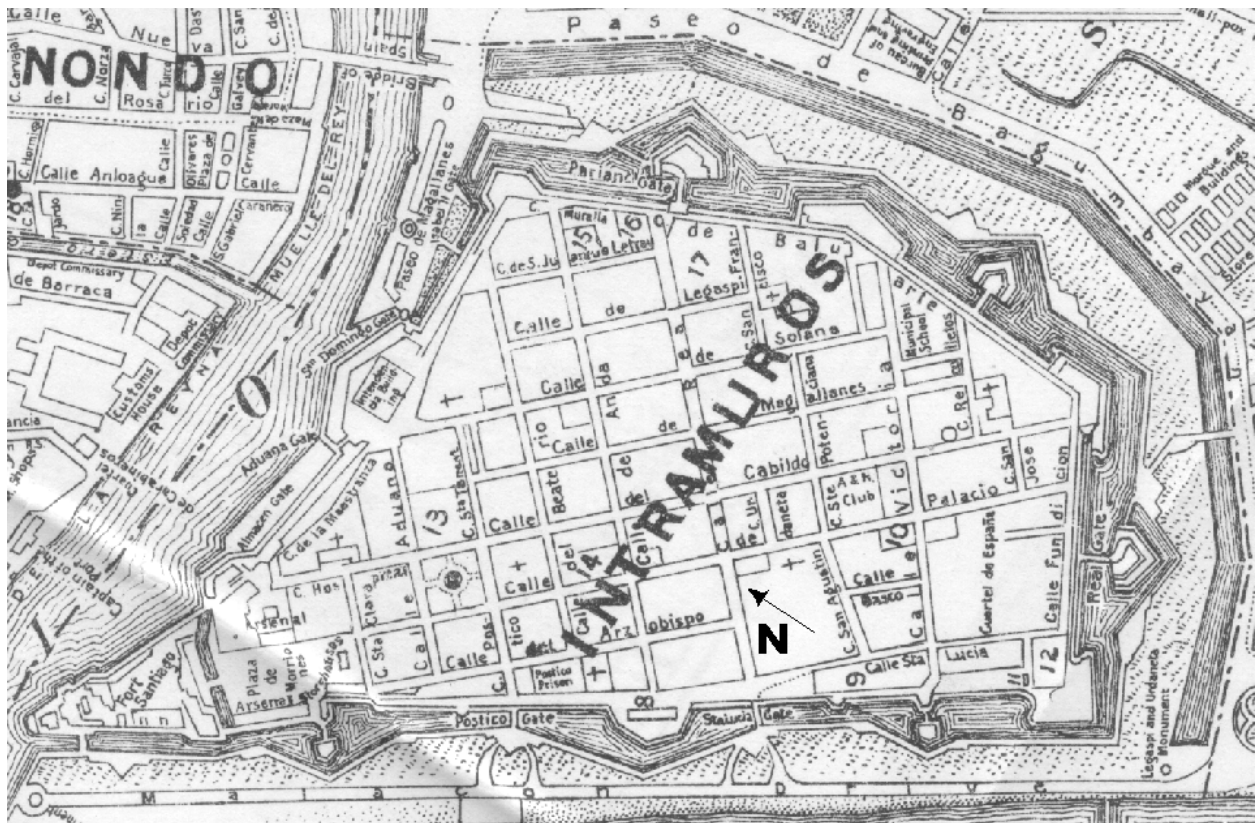
In our last journal, Don Peterson described the mock battle at Fort San Antonio Abad that occurred on August 13, 1898. This map of Manila gives you another perspective of that battle. **Figure 1** shows a portion of the map with the fort. It is just less than 2 miles south of the walled city of Manila. The city line of Manila is the line with pluses and dashes (LL). The corral left/center has been extended and livestock (I assume Army horses) use all of the area within the dashed line to include part of the peninsula that the fort is situated upon. The San Antonio Abad River is an estuary at point of juncture with Manila Bay and is so titled. The cable station (UR)



**Figure 1. Fort San Antonio Abad**

is probably for a telegraph cable and likely the prime reason a fort was build here. Our curiosity is also perked by two nearby cemeteries for American and native dead-- possibly for those who died on the side of the Americans in battle or disease during the American-Filipino war.

"A walled city has an unmistakable quality of majesty. It stands isolated as an island, self-sufficient as a ship, unassailable as a mountain. It seems to have all the attributes of a monarch." While these words were spoken about a city in China, they equally apply to the walled city of Manila. **Figure 2** shows a close-up from this map of the Intramuros (Spanish for inner city) District of Manila in 1901. Many items shown have relevance to postal and fiscal history of the Philippines.



**Figure 2. The Walled City of Manila**

The map makers have added 12 numbers (of 18 notes) to this district (turn map to the north to read them). With some effort, you can find these and the legend for them is:

- 2 (next to 18) Engineers Warehouse [both numbers NE map corner on margin]
- 8 Wagon Sheds (Pony Corral) and • 9 Pony Corral and wagon makers-shops
- 10 Santa Potenciana Building
- 11-12 Cuartel de Montana (barracks)
- 13 Ayuntamiento (Headquarters Civil Government)
- 14 Municipal Board Building, Office of Chief of Police
- 15 Headquarters Constabulary (national police force organized in 1898)
- 16 Parian Police Station and • 17 San Juan de Dios Hospital
- 18 Administration de Hacienda Publico (public funds)

As an example of possible uses of this close-up map, I have extracted three gazetteer photos<sup>1</sup> from this era (1901) all located within or near the Intramuros District (**Figures 3 to 5**).



**Figure 3.**

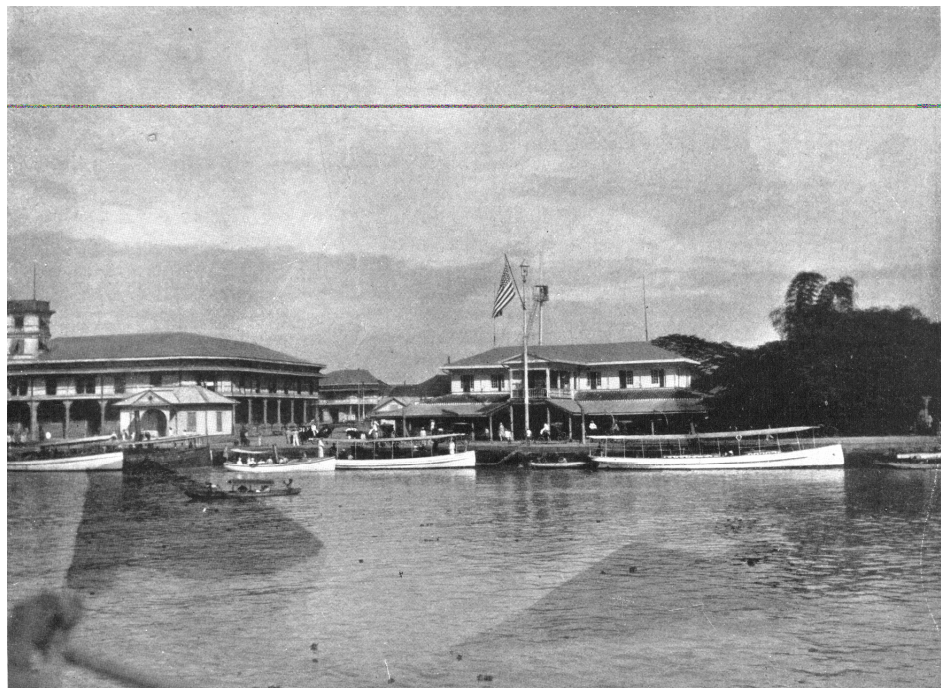
**Intendencia building, Manila, Luzon -- offices of Insular Treasury, Civil Service Board, Insular Auditor, Bureaus of Coast and Geodetic Survey, Forestry, Mining, Public Lands, and Archives.**

**This large building is just inside the walls on the North side between the Aduana and San Domingo gates. The city walls can be seen behind the building.**

**Figure 4.**

**Office of Captain of the Port of Manila, Luzon (with American flag flying). In the building on the left is the office of the quarantine station of the Army.**

**Collectors of customs stamps may have documents with signatures of Army officers filling these positions to include Dr. James C. Perry, the first Chief, Quarantine Officer of the Philippines (and stamp author).**



**Only the port building is on Figure 2, outside the walls on the north side of the Pasig River, opposite Fort Santiago.**



**Figure 5.**

**North Gate of Manila  
(Parian Gate of Walled  
City)**

**Pedestrains are outside  
the gate on the moat  
bridge. The vegetation  
over the wall on the left  
is the moat, from the  
picture it is hard to  
tell how much if any water  
is in this moat.**

**This gate is clearly  
marked on the map at  
top-center. "I am a  
wall. Generations have  
passed under my gates;  
wars and destruction  
have broken over me  
like waves. I am still  
here--a wall."<sup>3</sup>**

#### **FOOTNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup>*A Pronouncing Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary of the Philippine Islands, United States of America, with Maps, Charts, and Illustration. Also the Law of Civil Government in the Philippine Islands Passed by Congress and Approved by the President July 1, 1902, with a Complete Index, Government Printing Office.*

<sup>2</sup>*1898: Five Philippine Governors-General Serve Rapid Fire Terms, Don Peterson, PPJ, Second Quarter 2007, page 7*