

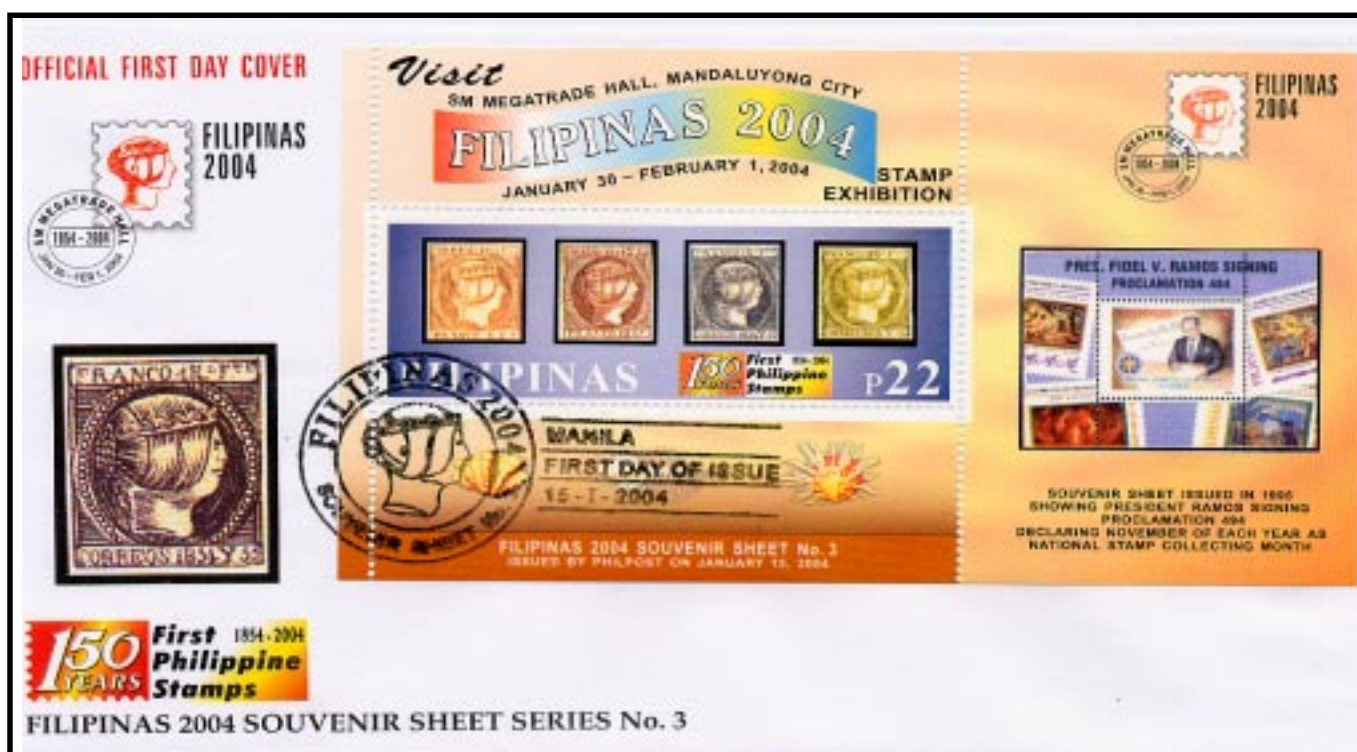


Philippine Philatelic Society Journal

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Alan C. Walder, 82, Waterloo Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7NW.

EDITORIAL

As so often in the past few years, I have to begin this editorial with my apologies for the very long delay since the last journal was produced. Because several other members were contributing articles and assisting in the production I had high hopes that we would be able to get back to having a more frequent publication, but unforeseen problems have caused more and more delays.

You may recall that my excuse in the last journal was that a large Oak tree had fallen on my house. I thought that things can only get better, as they say, but if I found my forced evacuation traumatic, I found moving back after eight months of rebuilding, -at a cost of some £170,000 to the insurance company-, even more so. To this day we are surrounded by boxes of our belongings which were rescued from the house but no longer fit back in. In addition health problems have also added to the delay. In addition to this it is likely that we may have to move again, this time permanently, for after 27 years here we have received an offer from a developer that we cannot afford to refuse. For this reason, -in addition to that of my poor track record,- I am actively looking for a member who would be prepared to take over the job of editor. I would guarantee producing an article for each journal, so if YOU are interested please let me know.

I hope you will find the contents of this issue worth waiting for. In addition to the regular pages from several members' collections, for which we are most grateful, Nigel Gooding is starting a column on Republic period errors. This is particularly welcome as we have few philatelic studies of post war issues since the days when Dr Ngo contributed.

I know that many members are more interested in what is termed "Postal History". It is understandable that with the modern trend for postal authorities to issue masses of new issues complete with souvenir sheets, sheet lets, and any other gimmick they can think of to empty collectors' pockets that collectors should look for genuine postally used items of mail. With a little research these items can be far more interesting than a mint stamp or a cancelled to order first day cover. Though perhaps not strictly Philippine philately, many U.S. Navy ships served in the Philippines and mail from these ships often carry a cancellation indicating that fact. I hope the history of two such ships involved in World War II will interest members.

I had intended to include an article about the life of Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino Jr., on the twentieth anniversary of his assassination in August 1983. However, for reasons mentioned above I have not yet completed it.

Hans Werner Becker, without whose expertise this Journal would not have been produced, is a judge in philatelic exhibitions in Luxembourg and soon to be on an international basis. Congratulations to Hans. He was in much demand on his recent visit to the Philippines, lauded by the good and the great of Philippine philately. I am pleased to say he is writing an article for us recounting his experiences.

Finally, if you have a question, a comment or criticism, a suggestion, and preferably an article you would be prepared to share with other members, please get in touch.

Last Minute News

December 22, 2003

Architectural Heritage,
P6 - 4x; 50.000 pieces each,
Souvenir sheet: 12.500 pieces

December 17, 2003 announced but actually launched on February 7, 2004 at Clark Development Center in Pampanga

100 Years of Aviation
P6 - 2x
stamps come in a mini-pane of 8

No images available yet.

Information by Jorge Cuyugan.

REPUBLIC ERRORS, FREAKS AND ODDITIES (EFOs)

BY: NIGEL GOODING

PHILIPPINE BOY SCOUTS, SILVER JUBILEE

OCTOBER 31, 1948

A set of two stamps were issued to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of founding of the Philippine Boy Scouts in the Philippines. Scouting was first introduced in the Philippines by the United States, around 1914, 4 years after the Boy Scouts of America was founded. The first all Filipino Scout Troop was organized in Zamboanga by a young lieutenant by the name of Sherman I. Kiser through the sponsorship of Mrs. Caroline S. Spencer, an American who was in the Philippines doing Charity work. The troop was composed of 26 Muslim boys.

In 1923, the Philippine Council-BSA was formed through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Manila mainly to launch Scouting as a nationwide movement and to provide guidance to the troops which had been independently organized throughout the country. 1923 is the official founding year of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

In October 1936, president Manuel L. Quezon issued an act which made the Boy Scout movement a public corporation, "...to promote through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train themselves in Scout craft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts." The Boy Scouts of the Philippines became a member of the World Bureau, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), in 1946.

THE STAMPS

The stamps issued to mark this anniversary were typographed on unwatermarked paper by the Philippine Bureau of Printing, in sheets of fifty (10 horizontally x 5 vertically) stamps. They exist perforated 12 and imperforated and were issued in the following quantities:

- 2c chocolate and green (Scott #528a; SG #665B) Perforated - 1,500,000
- 2c chocolate and green (Scott #528; SG #665A) Imperforated - 500,000
- 4c chocolate and pink (Scott #529a; SG #666B) Perforated - 1,000,000
- 4c chocolate and pink (Scott #529; SG #666A) Imperforated - 500,000

ERRORS AND VARIETIES

Quite a few errors and varieties exist on this issue. Minor imperfections occur fairly regularly on these stamps, which include broken or over-inked letters, as well as minor background (green and pink) colour shifts. These are not detailed in this article as they are considered varieties rather than errors. The following is a list of the more dramatic errors reported on this issue:

**BLOCK OF FOUR, PERFORATED ON FOUR SIDES ONLY
(2-Centavos and 4-Centavos)**



**IMPERFORATED HORIZONTALLY
(2-Centavos)**

ERRORS EXISTS IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS IN THE SHEET:

Between the second and third stamps from the top; and
Imperforated on bottom margin, (below stamp five from the top).



IMPERFORATED VERTICALLY
(2-Centavos and 4-Centavos)



ERRORS ON THE 2-CENTAVOS EXIST IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS IN THE SHEET:

Between the first and second stamps, and the second and third stamps from the left, creating two vertically imperforated stamps



Between the first and second stamps from the right.



Between the third and fourth stamps from the right.



DOUBLING OF PERFORATION
(2-Centavos and 4-Centavos)

ERRORS EXIST IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS IN THE SHEET:

- 2c - Horizontally between the fourth and fifth stamps from the top ($2\frac{1}{2}$ mm below normal); and
- 4c - Horizontally between the third and fourth stamps from the top ($1\frac{1}{2}$ mm below normal).



- 2c - Vertically between the first and second stamps from the left ($1\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of normal).



4c - Vertically between the first and second stamps from the left (1½mm right of normal); and
 4c - Vertically through the fifth stamp from the left (5mm right of normal, cutting through the '4').



SHIFTED PERFORATIONS

(2-Centavos)

Horizontal perforations shifted downward 5½mm, cutting below “Postage”,
 and Vertical perforations shifted right 4mm, cutting through “P” of “Philippines”



OFFSET ERRORS

(2-Centavos)

Chocolate (Border and Scout) offset on gum side; and
 Green (Border) offset on gum side

SHIFTED FRAMES
(2-Centavos and 4-Centavos)

Chocolate Frame shifted downward and slanted (varying positions)



ERROR ON POSTAL CARD

Favoured Postal Card with horizontally imperforated and vertically imperforated between error.



Reference:

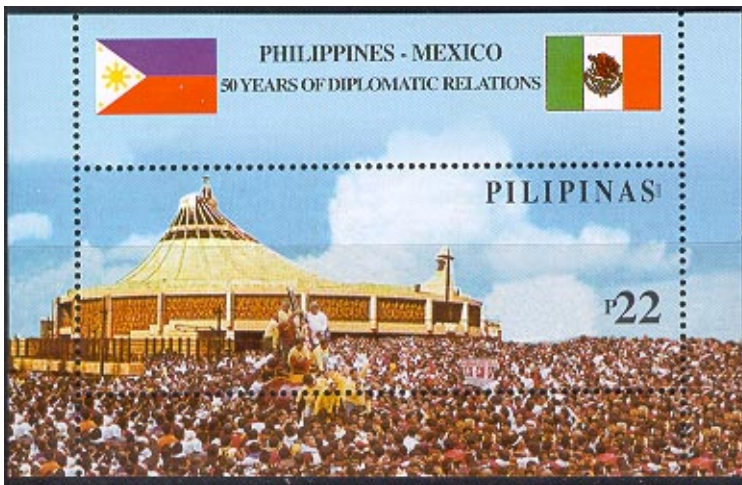
- *Errors, Freaks and Oddities on Philippine Republic Stamps 1946 - 1979. Philippine Philatelic News, Volume 6, Nos 1-4. January - December 1980. Page 7*
- *1997 Nog's Catalogue of Philippine Republic Stamps & Postal Stationeries. Metro Manila. Page 3.*
- *All illustrations are from the Nigel Gooding collection.*

NEW STAMP ISSUES

Unless otherwise stated, all stamps are printed Litho-Offset (4-colors) on imported unwatermarked paper by Amstar Company Inc. Perf. 14



April 10, 2003 Re-issue of the "Mallat" stamps with 2003 date. P5 - 8.000.000 and P17 - 500.000. The Postage Division custodian sent all P17 stamps to the regions, and not a single one was sold in the National Capital Region, including Metro Manila. None were given to the Philatelic custodian too, so not a single copy was available from the Philatelic Service! (Information from Dr. Ngo)



April 23, 2003 Philippine - Mexico, 50 years Diplomatic Relations. P5 and P22 stamps - 50.000 each P22 Souvenir Sheet - 12.500 pcs.



May 13, 2003 Apolinario Mabini - Death Centenary P6 - 50.000

Luciano San Miguel - Death Centenary P6 - 50.000



May 16, 2003 Native Philippine Orchids, Definitive, Part I P6 - 16.000.000 ; P17 - 1.000.000 and P21 - 1.000.000 printed by APO-NEDA in sheets of 100 on whiter, glossier paper with shinier, whiter gum and Perf. 14¼ P9 - 2.000.000 printed by Amstar with security strip at the bottom Perf. 13½



May 22, 2003 50 years - Rural Banking P6 - 150.000 plus 10.000 later. The proponent bought 100.000 stamps; 2000 FDC's and 1000 of the P175 folders.

The stamp was also sold by the teller on May 20



May 21, 2003 Philippine Medical Association Centennial P6 - 100.000 PMA buying 50.000 stamps; 2.000 FDC's and 1.000 of 1.200 folders which contain a block of 8 stamps plus an FDC and is sold for P 175 The stamps were mistakenly sold by a teller on May 20.



May 19, 2003 Presidential Seal Surcharges P1 on P5 in red 2.000.000 P6 on P5 20.500.000

P1 on P5 in black : 3.683.600 issued November 13, 2003

Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION



PHILPOST

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

08 April 2003

PHILPOST ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 03-01

Subject: Implementation of the DOTC-Approved Postage Rate for the First 20g of Domestic 1st Class Mail and Adjustment of Charges for Other Products and Services ---

In view of the increase in operational, administrative and production costs, the basic rate for domestic ordinary first-class mail, which was approved by the Department of Transportation and Communications in 1998, will be implemented effective 16 May 2003.

The rate for the first 20 grams of domestic first-class mail shall be adjusted to P6.00 for both intra and inter-regional mails. This change shall not affect the existing rates of subsequent weight steps as well as the postage rates for all other classes of domestic mail except those indicated below :

Presentation to Customs Fee	-	from ₱ 20.00 to ₱ 30.00
M – Bag Fee	-	from ₱ 75.00 to ₱ 100.00
Registry Fee	-	from ₱ 5.00 to ₱ 9.00
Postal ID Fee	-	from ₱ 75.00 to ₱ 150.00

Regional Directors, District Postal Managers, Postmasters and other Supervisory officials shall see to it that these revised postage rate are given the widest dissemination.

DIOMEDIO P. VILLANUEVA
Postmaster General & CEO



June 16, 2003 Philippine Mountains

P6 x 4 stamps in sheetlets of 16 - 200.000 pcs. P6 x 4 Souvenir Sheet - 12.500

These were actually released on **JULY 17**, but the FDC's were backdated to make it appear they are the first quarter topical's ! In fact, they first made the canceller with a March date, but then they are P6 stamps and the postage rate hike started only on May 16 !



June 19, 2003 Rizal's Roots in Fujian, China
 P6 - 100.000 and P17 - 50.000 plus 20.000 later
 Tulay Foundation, the proponent bought 50.000 P6 and 10.000 P17 stamps plus 2500 FDC's. They were given the stamps on FDC's on JUNE 17 and distributed them to officers of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce that very day !



June 27, 2003 Philippine Waterfalls
 P6 x 4 stamps in sheetlets of 16, 2000.000 pcs
 P6 x 4 Souvenir Sheet - 12.500
 These were sold only on **SEPTEMBER 5 !**
 Again, they want to made this appear as the 2nd quarter topical issue !



June 30, 2003
 Philippine-Spanish
 Friendship Day
 P6 - 50.000
 P22 - 50.000



July 15, 2003 - 100Years Chamber
 of Commerce of the Philippines - P6 - 65.000
 The Chamber buying 15.000 stamps and 2.000
 FDC's and 1000 of 1200 P175 folders



August 8, 2003 - Philippine Native
 Orchids, Definitives II
 P17 - 2.250.000 and P21 - 2.250.000
 printed by APO-NEDA in sheets of 100
 including the names of the orchids, which
 were omitted in the original printing.
 Perf. 14¼



August 12, 2003 - Benguet
 Corporation Centenary
 P6 - 100.000, with Benguet
 buying 50.000 stamps,
 2000 FDC's and 1000 P175
 folders.



September 8, 2003
 Our Lady of Caysasay,
 Taal, Batangas
 P6 - 75.000



August 21, 2003 - Philippine Native
 Orchids, Definitives III
 P30 - 150.000 and P100 - 150.000



September 9, 2003 - Philippine Native
 Orchids, Definitives IV
 P50 - 150.000 and P75 - 150.000
 These stamps are overprinted with a
 small black bar to obliterate the date
 "2002" (bottom) and "2003" (top). These
 two plates were prepared last year.



September 11, 2003
 Cornelio T. Villareal,
 Birth Centenary -
 Former Speaker of
 the House
 P6 - 100.000



September 15, 2003
 75th Anniversary of the
 National Teachers College
 P6 - 113.000



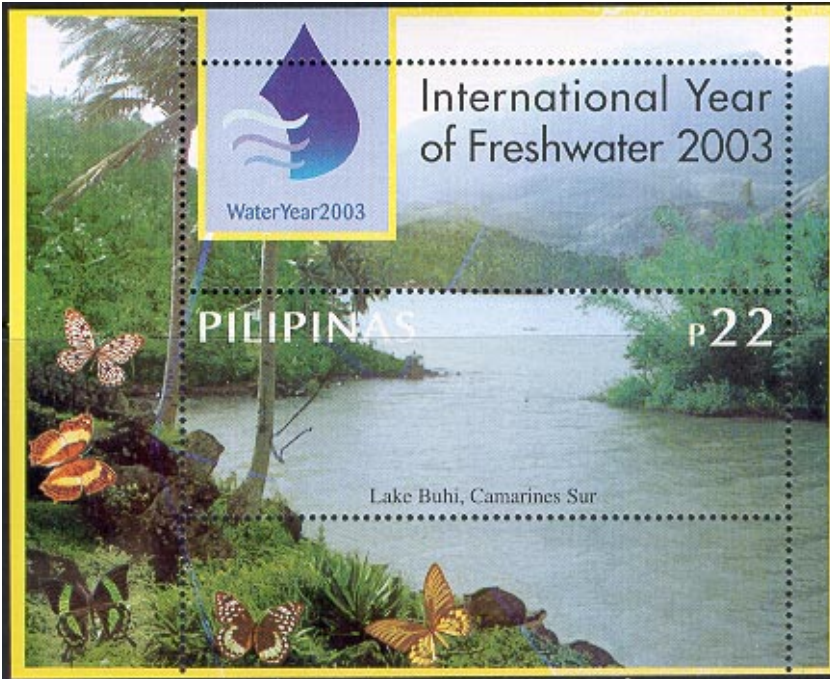
September 15, 2003
 Native Philippine Orchids, Definitive, Part V
 P6 - 24.000.000 ; P10 - 1.500.000 and P22 - 2.250.000
 printed by APO-NEDA in sheets of 100 including the names of the
 orchids, which were omitted in the original printing, Perf. 14¼



October 4, 2003
 50th Anniversary of
 the Santuario de
 San Antonio Parish
 Church, Forbes Park,
 Makati, Rizal.
 P6 - 113.000



October 17, 2003
 Presidential Seal
 overprinted "No To Drugs"
 in red.
 P5 - 3.000.000 and
 P15 - 2.000.000 went to the
 printer for overprinting.



October 24, 2003
 International Year of Freshwater 2003
 P22 Souvenir Sheet - 12.500 pcs.



October 25, 2003
 Federation of Free Farmers,
 50th Anniversary
 No other info yet



November 3, 2003
 National Stamp Collecting Month
 P6 to P22 stamps - 50.000 each
 P22 S/S - 12.500 pcs
 The Philatelic Bulletin shows November 1
 as Date of Issue ! This can not be possible,
 because **a)** it is a Public Holiday and a
 Saturday and **b)** since the Post Office is
 as well closed on Sundays the 2nd Nov. it can
 only be Monday the 3rd as Date of issue.

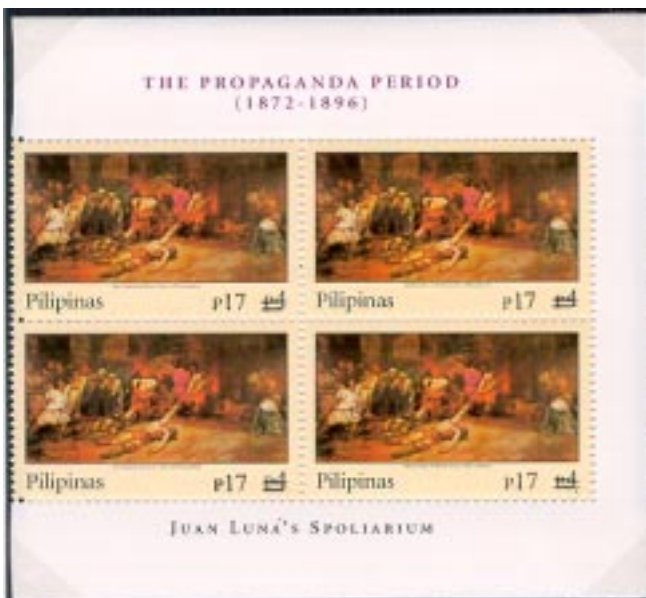


November 9, 2003
 Native Philippine Orchids, Definitive, Part VI
 P9 - 2.000.000
 Redrawn stamp with name of the orchid, which was omitted in the original printing. Perf. 13½ printed by Amstar with security strip

November 3, 2003 - "Ang Batang Pinoy Laban sa Droga"
 (The Filipino Youth Against Drugs)
 P6 - 4 designs in setenan blocks, 200.000



November 12, 2003 - PASKO 2003, The cachet on the FDC reads October 28, 2003 ! which is not the day of issue of the stamps ! P6 - 600.000, P17, P21 and P22 - 200.000 each



November 11, 2003

Due to operational requirements and to dispose off the Philippine Centennial Prestige Booklets issued in 1998, which are being sold at a 50% premium over face value and which includes 5 booklet panes with denominations that are mostly obsolete by now, the Philippine Postal Corporation issued four stamps from the booklets surcharged to current international mail rates.

The 5 booklet panes were detached from the booklets along the rouletting at left and the panes with a block of 4 P4 stamps, a P16 Rizal stamp, a P16 Bonifacio stamp and a block of 4 P8 stamps were surcharged with the new values. The P20 stamp from the last pane was removed from the pane and is sold for postage use as it is, since it's still a usable denomination.

P17 on P4 - 244.600; P17 on P8 - 244.600; P22 on P16 Rizal - 61.150 and P22 on P16 Bonifacio - 61.150



December 10, 2003 - "2004 YEAR OF THE MONKEY"
 P6 and P17 stamps - 100.000 each,
 P23 Souvenir Sheets - 15.000 each
 The cachet on the FDC reads December 1, 2003 !

December 1, 2003
 75th Anniversary of the
 Camera Club
 of the Philippines
 P6 - 100.000



December 15, 2003 - Cacti and Succulents
 P6 x 4, 50.000 blocks or 200.000 pieces, S/S - 12.500 pcs
 The cachet on the FDC reads December 5, 2003 !



The Philippine Postal Corporation issued 6 souvenir sheets to publicize the "FILIPINAS 2004" Stamp Exhibition, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first Philippine postage stamps.

P22 - 10.000 each.

- Dates of issue:
 No. 1 - November 14, 2003;
 No. 2 - December 15, 2003;
 No. 3 - January 15, 2004. (see front page for FDC)





No. 4 - January 30, 2004;
No. 5-January 31, 2004;
No. 6-February 1, 2004.



STAMPS AND SOUVENIR SHEET
ISSUED IN 1987 FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE STAMP AND PHILATELIC DIVISION

400 PHILIPPINE CENTENNIAL 1986
A CRYSTAL OF FRIENDSHIP

STAMPS ISSUED IN 2000 FOR THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE APO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SOUVENIR SHEETS ISSUED IN 2001 FOR THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILIPPINE CHINESE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY (PCPS)



February 1, 2004
 P6 - 4 designs - 50,000 each
 P22 - 10,000
 P100 - 5,000, called collectors' souvenir sheet.

This special limited-edition souvenir for the 150th anniversary of the first Philippine stamps issue is the first of its kind—a philatelic item with premium over the face values of the stamps. The proceeds from their sale are earmarked for the Philpost Philatelic Trust. The fund is intended to provide financial support for the promotion of Philippine philately, and it is hoped that the fund will eventually be enough to finance Philpost's participation in interna-

tional philatelic exhibitions again. It will initially be used to provide additional supplies and materials needed by the Stamps design Unit, including graphic computers. The fund will also be used to finance: 1) more stamp exhibitions in Metro Manila and the provinces, stamp lectures in schools and preparation of folders and other promotional items; 2) the purchase of Philippine stamps that the Philatelic Library needs for Philpost to have a respectable collection in exhibitions and research; and 3) other projects geared towards the promotion of Philippine philately. This limited-edition souvenir is also valid for postage use, although its postage value is only P48, as compared to its P100 selling price!

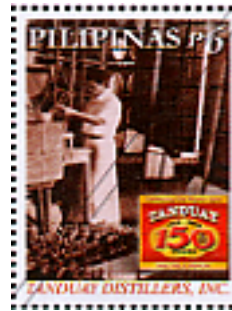
January 22, 2004 issues



Centenary of the coming of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres to the Philippines
P6 - 100.000



50th anniversary of Grepalife.
P6 - 150.000



150th anniversary of the Tanduay Distillers
P6 - 150.000



100th anniversary of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines
P6 - 150.000

A Visit to the Stamp and Philatelic Section at the Manila Central Post Office

As usual when I'm in Manila, I arrange a visit at the Philatelic Section to pick up my stamps. This time it was a bit different, since I had arranged to meet the famous Dr. Ngo at the post office, because he told me before that he is every day at 1 pm there for about an hour to check the progress of the "Philatelic Bulletin" etc. Dr. Ngo is again head of the stamp advisory committee. A few minutes after 1 O'clock I entered the Philatelic Section at the Manila CPO, had a quick look around to look for Mrs. Lou Roldan, the person from whom I get my stamps and was already welcomed by her with a big smile. After welcoming me she started preparing my stamps, which took a



while. Than I heard a "Hi Hans" and was surprised to see Jorge Cuyugan, the president of the PSCS (Philippine Stamp Collectors Society). We had not seen each other since the Angeles exhibition in 2002. We had a lot to talk. George, as everybody calls him, suddenly pointed to a man rushing around the room and asked me if I knew that person, whom I did not, but I had a good guess and it was Dr. Ngo. When he saw us standing around and talking he joined us with a big hello. George who knew him since a long time formally introduced me to Dr. Ngo and we started talking. He did not have too much time for me but I got quite some information out of him. He is working on a new Catalogue and very soon has to find someone to print it, which seems to be difficult. He is as well trying to get all the missing Philatelic Bulletins

for 2003 out as soon as possible and his target is to get the 2004 Bulletins out in time and regularly. He promised to send me the copies every few month to Luxembourg in Europe, where I live. After an hour o so talking with the two well known Philippine philatelists, my stamps prepared by Mrs. Roldan were ready and she gave me all to be checked. The two gentlemen had to say goodbye, because they had other business to do but promised when I'm back in Manila, hopefully we will see each other again. Then I took all my stamps, thanked Mrs Roldan for her effort and promised as well to see her next time. Now I'm planning again my holiday for the coming wintertime and look forward to it.

Hans-W. Becker



Hans Becker Jorge Cuyugan Dr. Ngo

We are particularly blessed as collectors of Philippine philately because we have the Spanish, American and Japanese providing us with a wealth of postal history from the men who wrote home when employed or stationed in the pearl of the orient sea.

Particularly interesting are U.S. Navy ships which served in the Philippines from the very first days when Admiral Dewey entered Manila Bay to recent years and their mail which bears witness to their service. Here are three covers from vessels whose mariners went on to become heroes of the defense of the Philippines in 1941.

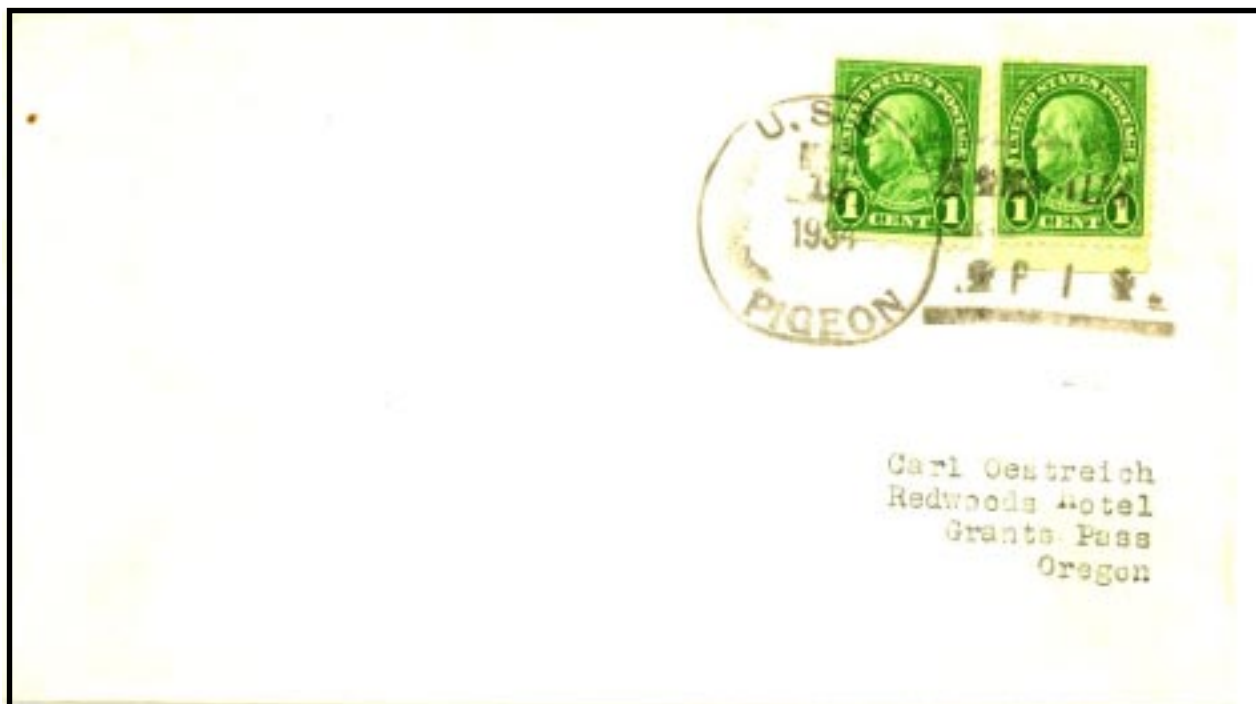
U.S.S. Pigeon

(AM-47)

U.S.S. Pigeon was launched 29 January 1919, a Mine Warfare Vessel of the Lapwing Class, and when hull classification symbols and numbers were assigned to ships in 1920, U.S.S. Pigeon was designated AM-47.

She was converted to a gunboat, but still classified a minesweeper, she joined the Yangtze River Patrol Force at Shanghai, China, in November 1923, serving for five years in the famous patrol protecting American citizens and commerce during the revolution that swept China.

In September 1928 she began serving Submarine Division 16 U.S. Asiatic Fleet and after ranging from the Philippines to the China coast, she fitted out as a "Submarine Salvage Vessel" at the Cavite Naval Station April-July 1929. She sailed from Manila Bay in July 1929 to cruise with Asiatic Fleet Submarines along the China Coast returning to Manila in September, where she was reclassified a Submarine Rescue Vessel (ASR-6).



As a Submarine Rescue Vessel, Pigeon's primary mission was to salvage and aid submarines in distress. She had a complement of divers and was equipped with deep-sea diving equipment. There was a McCann rescue chamber for rescuing men from sunken submarines. Pigeon also had a helium mixing tank for aiding divers in making deep dives. Her recompression chamber was a complete "divers hospital" to prevent the dreaded "bends" in divers subjected to sudden ascents from deep depths.

Pigeon continued duty with the Submarine Force of the Asiatic Fleet in waters ranging from the Philippines to the coast of China. She departed Shanghai for Manila in August 1940, and remained in the Philippines as the Japanese gained control of the coastal ports of China.

In November 1941 the 4th Marines evacuated Shanghai and ships of the Yangtze River Patrol were withdrawn from China. Pigeon was one of the ships ordered to escort the American gunboats from Chinese waters. She departed Cavite for Formosa Straits 28-29 November 1941.

Pigeon rendezvoused near midnight of 30 November-1 December 1941 with gunboats Luzon (PR-7), flagship gunboat Oahu (PR-6) and minesweeper Finch (AM-9). A Japanese seaplane circled the formation and seven Japanese warships encircled the American gunboats. One transport, loaded with troops (apparently bound for the Malayan expedition), held gunnery exercises on the gunboat formation. The episode ended when a Japanese transport hoisted an International signal translated: "Enemy escaping on course 180d." On 4 December 1941 Pigeon sighted Corregidor Light and the convoy entered Manila Bay

On receiving word of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lt. Comdr. Richard E. Hawes immediately prepared to get Pigeon underway and stood by to evacuate the Cavite Navy Yard. While waiting for the enemy to appear, he crammed the ship with stores and salvage and repair supplies and equipment.

"Spittin' Dick" Hawes had already become a legend among submariners. A special act of Congress elevated him to officer rank 18 February 1929 in recognition of his salvage feats on submarines S-51 and S-4. He had entered the Navy as a Fireman in 1917 and had earned the Navy Cross for distinguished service in salvaging Submarine S-51 during 1925-6. He later became a Master Diver, then joined the staff of Submarine Division 4. He commanded submarine salvage ship Falcon from 1935-38, and was Officer in Command of the Submarine Escape Training Tank at the Submarine Base in Hawaii. He took command of Pigeon 12 February 1940.

Pigeon was moored in a five-ship nest at the Cavite Navy Yard 10 December 1941 when Japanese bombers launched massive raids. But Commander Hawes had relieving tackles rigged, steam at throttle, and men ready for action.

Pigeon's four machine guns were no match for Japan's high-altitude bombers, but she could outsmart them. She cleared the dock lashed to Quail (AM-15) then cut loose and both ships maneuvered clear of bombs which fell close astern.

Soon Cavite Navy Yard was engulfed in explosions and flames. In the nest which Pigeon had occupied lay submarine Sealion, damaged beyond salvage, and Seadragon, damaged and without power to get underway. Amongst the ships with them was minesweeper Bittern (AM-36) and a gasoline lighter.

While Pigeon maneuvered to save Seadragon, Machinist Rollin M. Reed and Water-tender Wayne E. Taylor jumped in a surf boat to haul the gasoline lighter out of reach of flames, then assisted another small boat in hauling Bittern off from the dock and to safety.

Soon the flames and explosions reached the torpedo overhaul shop exploding torpedo warheads which hurled fiery missiles over Pigeon. Nevertheless, Pigeon calmly placed her stern across the end piling and ran a line some 20 feet to Seadragon and hauled the submarine clear of the dock

Seadragon's hull was already scorched from flames that swept the wharf. Just as Pigeon pulled the submarine backward to the channel, a big fuel tank exploded and spewed a horizontal wave of fire that blistered the hulls of both ships. Once Seadragon reached the channel, her skillful crew worked her out into the Bay. Her leaks were plugged and her pressure hull was patched by submarine tender Canopus (AS-9) when she departed for Soerabaja Java, 16 December. Pigeon received the first Presidential Unit Citation awarded a ship of the United States Navy for her heroism in saving Seadragon.

But Pigeon had "not yet begun to fight." By the end of the month her sailors had earned a second Presidential Unit Citation for fighting ability not expected of men in a little support craft. Lt. Comdr. Hawes reported: "The courage, spirit, and efficiency of the Pigeon crew is believed unsurpassed by past, present, or any future crews of any vessel of any nation." While the Navy Yard was still in flames, her crew was attempting to secure heavier armament for their ship. She armed herself with a 3-inch gun from fire-damaged Bittern and another from Sealion (SS-195). Sheets of boiler plate were fashioned into gun and splinter shields for six .50 caliber machine guns which circled the bridge. "The Pigeon is well armed," wrote Hawes, "and is believed to be the best equipped vessel of her type and tonnage in existence."

Pigeon worked tirelessly to help her sister ships and the other defenders of the Philippines. She replaced the 3-inch gun on minesweeper Tanager. She fed an average of 125 men daily, and salvaged valuable equipment from submarine Sealion. She also salvaged and transported deck loads of torpedoes to Canopus to keep the Asiatic Fleet submarines armed. When Manila was declared an "open city," she towed Bittern to Mariveles. She made underwater repairs to submarine Porpoise, supplied submarines with both fresh and battery water, and, towed all manner of supply-laden barges and small craft between Manila, Corregidor, Bataan, and Mariveles. She even charged air flasks for the torpedoes of PT Boats.

During a bombing attack on Corregidor, her gunners blasted away at three twin-engined aircraft winging over the eastern end of the island. One exploded between Manja Island light and Corregidor, and the other two crashed just beyond the minefield. Pigeon scored again the following day when an enemy observation plane made the mistake of passing overhead, then turned back for a closer look. Shells from Pigeon ripped into the enemy aircraft which lost altitude, and headed out to sea.

By the end of December, Manila Bay was no longer a suitable area for submarines. Only those just back from patrol remained. These evacuated highly trained submariners to new Pacific bases in Java and Australia where they formed the nucleus maintenance crews that kept the American submarine forces on patrol.

On 5 January 1942, Lt. Comdr. Hawes turned over command of Pigeon to Lt. Comdr. Frank Alfred Davis, USNR and became first lieutenant of submarine tender Holland. Under Davis, another leader of heroic stock, Pigeon continued her fearless struggle.

Since Japanese warships outside Manila Bay made it impossible for her to escape, Pigeon remained behind with Canopus, a few old gunboats, and small craft to fight with the Army of Bataan.

She again fought off enemy aircraft, towed between Mariveles and Corregidor; conducted diving operations to salvage scuttled equipment, destroyed munitions that might fall to the enemy; and established a lookout station at Ctorda Point, Bataan. On the night of 5 January 1942, she slipped off Japanese occupied Sangley Point, Cavite, and snatched a barge of submarine mines from under the nose of the enemy. Men armed to the teeth stepped quickly and quietly from a whaleboat, made a towline fast, and returned to Pigeon. As an added act of defiance the landing party ignited several barrels of aviation gasoline.

Pigeon kept up her energetic pace of support in the Philippines defense. In February 1942 she deprived the enemy of two ammunition lighters and salvaged some 160,000 gallons of fuel oil from merchantman S.S. Don Jose enabling gunboats to stay on patrol. She also repelled 6 enemy dive bombers, knocking down one and crippling another which later crashed on Bataan. She set up a repair base at Saseaman Dock, using a submarine repair barge to tend small craft of the inshore patrol and for Philippine "Q boats". She also fueled a submarine at South Dock, Corregidor.

In March 1942, Pigeon salvaged and concealed gasoline drums ashore in Saseaman Cove, fueled a submarine and gunboats, and towed several lighters between Corregidor and Bataan. She also salvaged and repaired S.S. Florcita and towed her from the beach at Corregidor to Mariveles. In April she dueled with enemy artillery at Cab Cabin and again fought off enemy aircraft.

Bataan fell on 9 April 1942 and, rather than surrender to the enemy, Canopus backed away from the dock and sank at the hands of her own crew. That night Pigeon made rendezvous with fleet submarine Snapper under the enemy guns in the south channel off Corregidor. Snapper had brought 46 tons of food and stores for beleaguered Corregidor, and Pigeon hurried to load the cargo before the start of night bombing raids.

After the fall of Bataan, Pigeon's crew spent the days on shore and returned to their ship for night operations that included dumping Philippine currency in the channel south of Corregidor. She continued to serve until the afternoon of 4 May 1942 when a bomb from a dive bomber exploded on her starboard quarter. She sank in eight minutes but her crew was on shore.

The Japanese later captured these brave sailors but many survived the war.

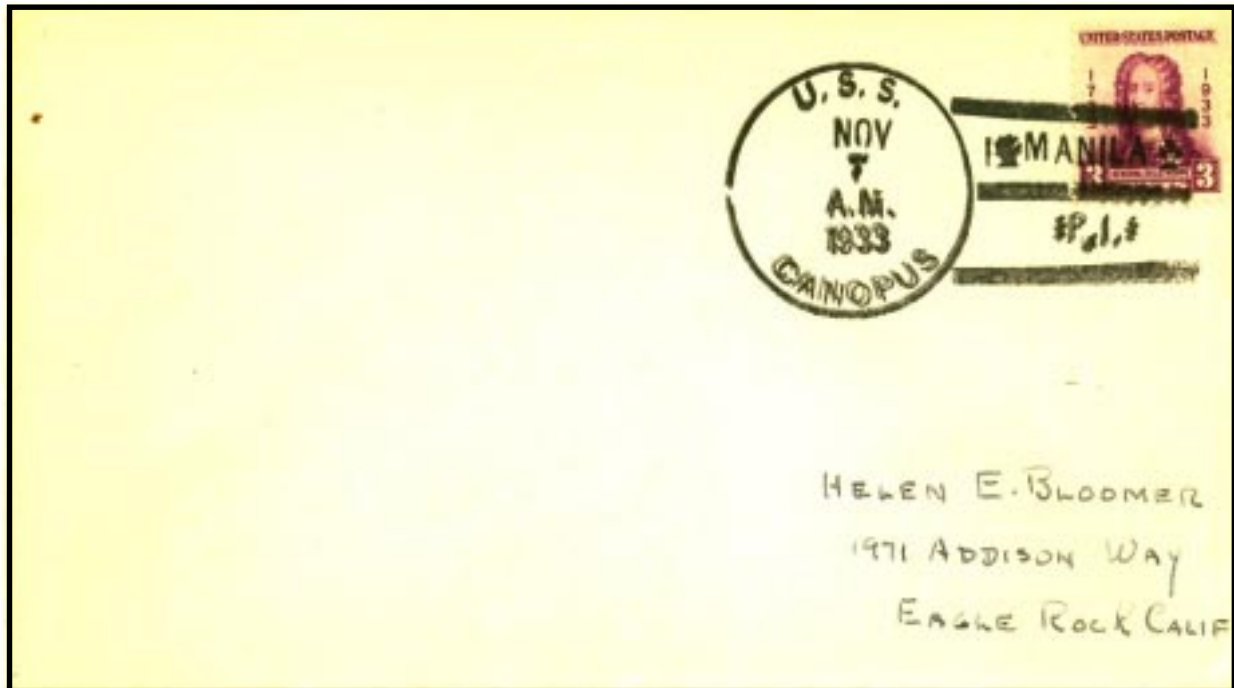
Lt. Comdr. Frank Alfred Davis carried on the fighting tradition and valor of his command while interned at the infamous prisoner-of-war camp at Cabanatuan. He built a powerful underground organization to obtain food, medicines and communications of all kinds. He volunteered for command of a firewood detail, and despite the constant surveillance of Japanese guards, succeeded in smuggling into camp tremendous amounts of food and other necessities to his fellow prisoners. His great personal valor and grave concern for others at a great risk to his own life contributed to the welfare and morale of all prisoners on Luzon and saved countless lives before he died 14 December 1944. Lt Comdr. Davis received the Navy Cross for his intrepid fight on Canopus and Pigeon and was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit for his courageous and dedicated service to fellow prisoners.

U.S.S. Canopus

(AS-9)

Canopus was launched in 1919 as 'Santa Leonora' but acquired by the Navy in November 1921 she was converted to a submarine tender, and commissioned in January 1922.

Sailing to Pearl Harbor in July 1923, Canopus tended Submarine Division 17 of the Battle Force with whom she sailed for permanent duty with Asiatic Fleet in September 1924.



Arriving in the Philippines 4 November 1924, Canopus began her regular schedule of services in Manila Bay, and each summer based with the fleet at Tsingtao, China, with occasional training cruises to various Chinese and Japanese ports, and to the British and French colonies. Between 1927 and 1931, the tender was flagship of submarine divisions, Asiatic Fleet, and later was attached to Submarine Division 10 and was flagship of Submarine Squadron 5.

On 7 December 1941, Canopus, aging but able, lay at Cavite Navy Yard, as tender to Submarine Squadron 20. In the anxious days that followed, her men worked day and night to repair ships damaged in the daily air raids as well as to keep her brood of submarines at sea. With the Army falling back on Manila, Canopus sailed to Mariveles Bay at the tip of Bataan on Christmas Day.

On 29 December 1941 and 1 January 1942, she received direct bomb hits which resulted in substantial damage to the ship and injuries to 13 of her men. Working at fevered pace, her men continued to care for other ships while keeping their own afloat and in operation. To prevent further Japanese attack, smoke pots were placed around the ship and the appearance of an abandoned hulk was presented by day, while the ship hummed with activity by night.

Just before the New Year, the last of the submarines left Canopus, but her activity continued as she cared for small craft and equipment of the Army and Navy, sent her men into battle in the improvised naval battalion which fought so gallantly on Bataan, and converted her own launches into miniature gunboats which attacked the Japanese moving south near the shore. But the overwhelming Japanese strength could not be held off for ever, and upon the surrender of Bataan on 9 April, Canopus was ordered scuttled and sunk, to deny her use to the enemy. On 10 April, she was proudly backed off into deep water under her own power, and the brave veteran whom the Japanese could not sink ended a lifetime of service to the Navy when she was laid to rest by her own men.

References:

Haze, Gray & Underway Dictionary of American Fighting Ships.
 Universal Ship Cancellation Society.

From the collection of Don Peterson

ADHESIVE MAIL POSTAL RATES AND ROUTES, 1854 - 1898

POST SPANISH PERIOD MAILONLY KNOWN SPANISH PERIOD INTERIOR COVER
SENT DURING THE U.S. OCCUPATION1898 (September 18) Manila to Nueva Caceres (April 1900).

This cover, with a Spanish period 3c stamp, was postmarked in Manila on September 18, 1898. The cover was likely held in Manila because the Spanish soldiers in Nueva Caceres did not sign the act of surrender there until September 25, 1898, and due to Filipino-American skirmishes in areas between Manila and Nueva Caceres until April 1900. The cover was canceled with "MIL. STA. No. 1 MANILA REC'D" on April 5, 1900, and then sent to destination at Nueva Caceres in Ambos Camarines Province.



reverse side

**PROVINCIAL JAP-OCC CANCELS ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF BATAAN &
CORREGIDOR ISLAND**
By Peter Harradine

In his monumental work on the Japanese Occupation period ("A postal history of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines 1942 - 1945") the late Gene Garrett listed a total of forty First Day Covers for this particular issue, from provincial capitals and chartered cities that had been reported by the time his opus was published (op.cit p262), along with the added comment that:

"The additional provincial capitals in which post offices were re-opened prior to May 7, 1943 and from which FDCs could therefore exist but have not been reported are as follows:

Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Imus, Cavite
Catbalogan, Samar
Jolo, Sulu"

He also added some words of encouragement for those following-up his research:

"It is hoped that an exact figure (of these provincial FDCs) may in future be confirmed."

Having cited all the above for the sake of accuracy, it is my very great honour and pleasure to be able to confirm the existence of not one, but two additional provincial FDCs, and thus add further information to what is already known on this subject.



Figure 1

The first comes from Gene's own list, and is a FDC from Jolo, Sulu, bearing a copy of the 5c value, cancelled with a purple strike of Jolo (Garrett Jolo-2) which is dated May 7, 1943, and, as such, is a new ERP, along with the purple cachet specially issued for this issue, which is struck at the bottom left of the cover, and has the wording: "JOLO" at the base. There are no censor markings, but it would appear the cover was prepared and postally processed "by favour" (Gene Garrett calls these "handbacks") (see Figure 1).

A much more puzzling cover hails from Zamboanga (see Figure 2) which does not feature in Gene's list at all, and, according to the list of re-opened provincial post offices (op. cit. p 54) this is, yet again, a new ERP by a good 5 months. In this case, the cachet-canceller, complete with the wording: "ZAMBOANGA" at base, is used to cancel the pair of stamps. Yet again, I feel we are looking at another "handback" as there are no censor markings on the cover.



Figure 2

Having been “out of things” for some years, it might be that the existence of these two provincial covers has already been recorded before, in which case I apologise for repeating this again. If not, then this information is of value.

Any further information on any additional provincial FDCs from the JapOcc period which have been reported since the publication of Gene Garrett's book would be greatly appreciated by the writer.

As a keen student of Philippine history I thought I was pretty well informed about most things, in fact my Filipino friends sometimes come to me for information about their country's history. So it was a surprise to me when Keith Nickol asked me whether I knew anything about the Mexican Air Force serving in the Philippines during World War II. I did not, I had never heard mention of it.

This is not a philatelic article, but I thought members might like to read it and then, hopefully, let us know if they are aware of any philatelic items in regard to the Mexican Air Force in the Philippines. It might be worth a look through dealers Mexico section at future stamp shows.

The Mexican Air Force in the Philippines

The “Escuadron Aereo de Pelea 201” (201st Mexican Fighter Squadron) of the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force (Fuerza Aerea Expedicionaria Mexicana) has the honour of being the only military unit that has fought outside of Mexican Republic.

This Squadron fought in the liberation of the Philippines while assigned to the 58th Fighter Group, under the command of Major Ed Roddy, a fighter ace with 8 kills to his credit while assigned to the 348th Fighter Group under Col. Neal Kearby, 5th Fighter Command, 5th Air Force; (six of its pilots had trained in dive-bombing at NAS San Diego, California in 1944 in USN SBD's).

Mexico joined the allies against the Axis Powers (Germany, Japan and Italy) after May 28, 1942, when German U-boats had attacked and sunk two Mexican ships without warning, even after the declaration of war Mexico would lose 5 more ships.

With Mexico entry in the war, its military benefited from the Lend-lease programs, that helped modernized the Mexican Army, Navy and Air Force. But it was in 1944, that the decision to send a Mexican military unit was made by Presidente General de Div. Manuel Avila Camacho, choosing the air force to represent the Mexican Armed forces.

After a selection process a group of over 300 personnel was formed to be sent to training in the USA, this group was called Grupo de Perfeccionamiento Aeronautico under the command of Col. P.A. Antonio Cardenas Rodriguez (1905-1969), a veteran flyer and had participated in a Mission of observers in North Africa in 1943.

In July 1944, they were sent to different parts of the US to be trained and to form a fighter squadron, that was to be equipped with the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber. During their training a select group known as Section I was formed comprising of 23 officers and 31 enlisted men. Later the trainees were moved to Texas, in November 1944 where the GPA completed its training on February 23, 1945.

By January 1st, 1945, the GPA became the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force under Col. Cardenas and the 201st Mexican Fighter Squadron under Capt. 1/o. P.A. Radames Gaxiola Andrade (1915-1966). A group of American personnel to include pilots and ground personnel was included in the MEAF, for duties overseas, this group was led by Lt.Col. Kellong (USAAF). Also created was a replacement group of personnel under the command of Major P.A. Rafael J. Suarez Peralta.

The MEAF arrived in the Philippines in April 1945. They were issued various sub-types of the P-47's from the 58th Fighter Group (some ex-35th and 348th Fighter Groups), and flew their first missions assigned to American formations of the 58th Fighter Group squadrons from June 4th to the 7th, when the squadron conducted two missions as a unit with elements of the 58th Group. For the rest of the month the squadron flew with the 58th Fighter Group in support missions, often two per day helping the 25th Division in its break-through from Balete pass and Marikina Watershed area into the Cagayan Valley.

The Groups missions, including those run by the 201st in support of the 25th Division, was highly commended by the Commanding General of the Division. There was no separation of Mexican missions from American missions as far the ground forces were concerned and that is sufficient praised in itself.

201st Squadron started to received its own P-47D, under the Lend-Lease. In July 1945 the 201st flew 4 "Fighter Sweeps" to the island of Formosa (Taiwan), and in August a dive-bombing mission to the Port of Karenko. The final mission for the squadron was a convoy escort mission in the North Sea of the Philippines where all the pilots took part.

The 201st lost five pilots in the P.I. in accidents and transferring new aircraft from New Guinea to the Philippines. These losses were pilots in command positions, so when the 58th was moved to Okinawa to continue operations against Japan, it was decided to leave the 201st Squadron in the P.I. and await the arrival of replacement to make good the losses the squadron had suffered. One of the Mexican pilots thought lost at first was rescued by a Test pilot out of Biak, New Guinea and C.O. of the 374th Service Squadron, Major Larry D. Davis who was years later decorated by the Mexican government. Not only did the pilots see combat, but also some members of the ground personnel who encountered Japanese troops, fought and captured a number as well.

The 201st Mexican Squadron was given credit for putting out of action about 30,000 Japanese troops and the destruction of enemy held-buildings, vehicles, tanks, anti-aircraft guns, machine guns emplacements and ammunition depots

In September 1945 the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force was assigned to the 13th Air Force. With the end of the war it returned to Mexico by November 1945. After its return the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force was disbanded by Presidential degree of 1st December 1945. The 201st Squadron returning to the Mexican Air Force.

From the collection of Douglas Lehmann

PHILIPPINE TOBACCO EXPORT INSPECTION LABELS

CIGAR

1910



1914-34

"PHILIPPINE HEALTH SERVICE"



"BUREAU OF HEALTH"



1935

COMMONWEALTH ISSUES



STANDARD:

- (1) Isabela and Cagayan province tobacco, (2) good, sound, and clean, (3) well made with suitable wrappers, and (4) neatly and properly packed.

BELOW STANDARD:

Lacking in any of (1), (2), (3) and (4) of STANDARD.

From the Collection of Hans-Werner Becker

Japanese Occupation - 1 - 01

Issued on March 4, 1942
REGULAR PROVISIONAL ISSUE
Reopening of the Manila Post Office under Japanese Administration.
 Printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington D.C.



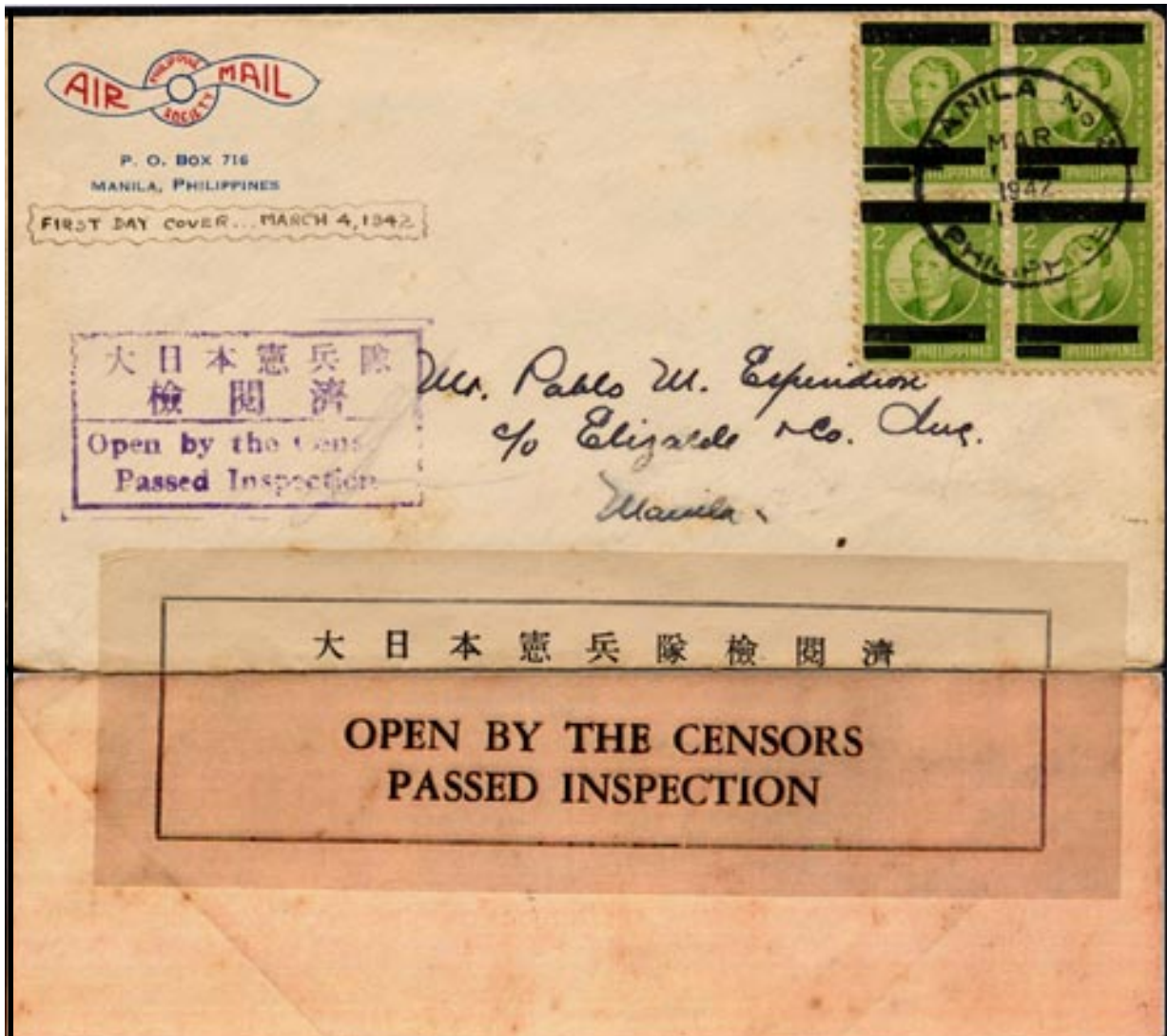
The 2c stamp was first issued on April 14, 1941 under the Commonwealth, but before it completed its first year of existence, it went through a face-lifting process by the Japanese Administration. The 16c stamp was originally issued on February 15, 1935. The "COMMONWEALTH" (small type) was added on May 12, 1939. The words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "COMMONWEALTH (OF THE)" are overprinted in black by the Bureau of Printing, Manila. Issued First Day at Manila only to cover the First Class Mail postage rate for letters and cards (2c) and the Registered Mail Fee (16c) effective March 4, 1942. The 2c Rizal and the 16c Magellan Landing issues were intended by the Japanese Administration more as a psychological move to strike a concordant note in the hearts of the Filipino people, by honoring their foremost national hero Dr. José Rizal as well as their famous discoverer of the Islands, Ferdinand Magellan.



First Day Cover with 2c and 16c stamps, Manila, March 4, 1942 universal machine cancel with slogan: "POST YOUR MAIL EARLY", and a rubber-stamped Japanese Censor mark in purple with penciled initials. This bilingual rectangular Censor was in use from March 4 to September 25, 1942. The Kanji characters read: "Dai Nippon Kempeitai" or "Great Japan Military Police Corps" in the first line and the second line: "Ken'etszu zumi" or "Censored". The inner frame of the rectangular Censor measures 50x28 mm, the outer frame 53x35mm. Most impressions show only a portion or no outer frame lines. The neutral machine cancel was in use in Manila only until the end of the Occupation, February 3, 1945. The message at the lower left corner of the envelope states the occasion.

Japanese Occupation - 1 - 01 a

Issued on March 4, 1942



First Day Cover with block of four, José Rizal 2c, apple green stamps, Manila No. 2 - March 4, 1942 Postmark, Japanese rubber - stamped Censor mark in purple with penciled initials and bottom seal or reseal. The overall size of the seal is 147 mm x 49 mm. The Kanji characters are the same as those of the rubber stamped one, only in a straight line and translate: "Dai Nippon Kempeitai Ken'etsu Zumi" or "Censored by Japanese Military Police Corps". On the back of the seal it is stated in english: "Open by the censors passed inspection", as seen on the photocopy of the back of the cover.

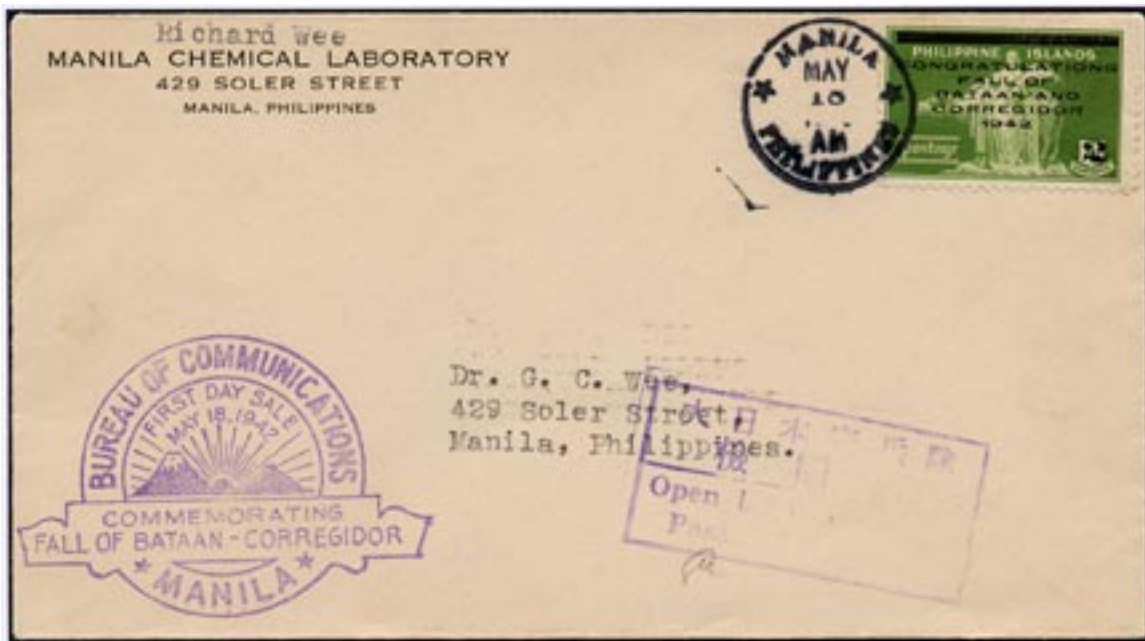
Japanese Occupation - 1 - 03

Issued on May 18, 1942
VICTORY ISSUE FALL OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR
 Printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington D.C.



Block of four with missing perforation top and left. The overprint on the upper left stamp is faulty, it reads "RATAAN" instead of "BATAAN".

This stamp was first issued on February 15, 1935. "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" is deleted, "CONGRATULATIONS FALL OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR 1942" overprinted and 2c surcharged on 4c in black by the Bureau of Printing, Manila. Issued First Day in Manila only to commemorate the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942 and the subsequent final surrender of the USAFFE to the Imperial Japanese Forces at Corregidor on May 7.



First Day Cover with 2c surcharged on 4c stamp, Manila, May 18, 1942 Postmark, Japanese Censor with penciled initials and special cachet. The dominant influence of the Japanese Military Administration is observed in the propagandistic central theme of the design, the juxtaposition of Mt. Fuji in Japan and Mayon Volcano in the Philippines, with the rising sun between. The 2c was correct for a normal letter.

Japanese Occupation - 1 - 04a

Issued on September 1, 1942
REGULAR PROVISIONAL ISSUE

Printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington D.C.

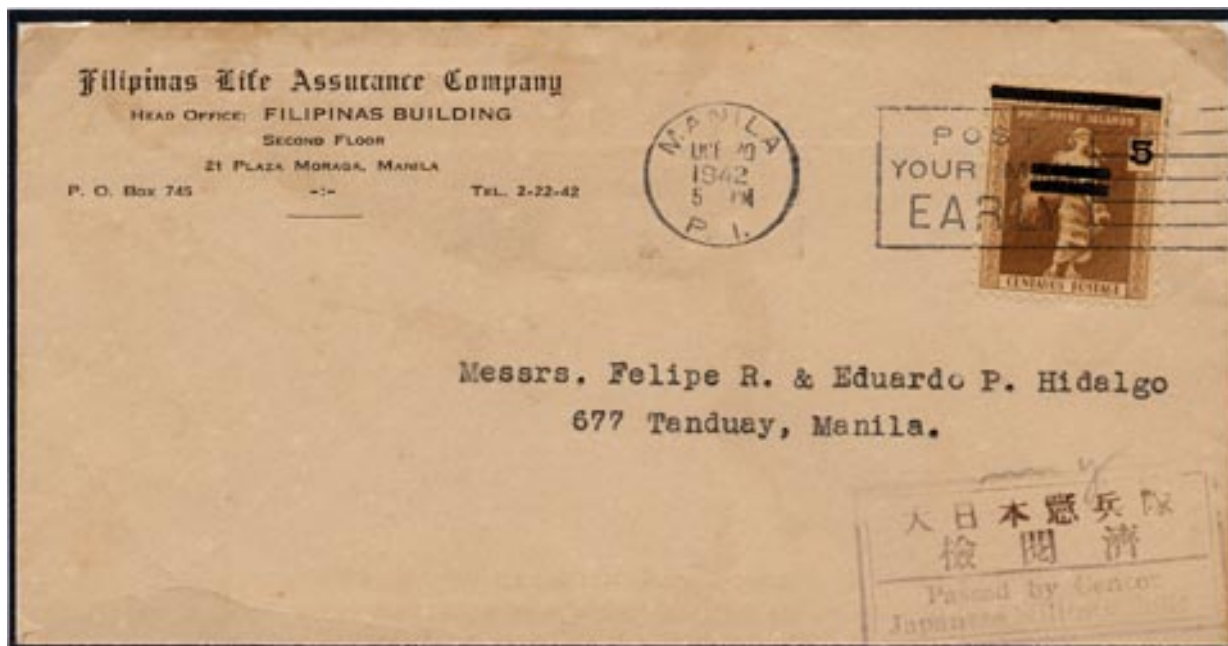


dark brown
First overprinting:
Top bar is 1,8mm x 22,5mm



dark brown
Second overprinting:
Top bar is 1,3mm x 20,5mm,
the "5" is slightly thinner

The 6c stamp was first issued on February 15, 1935. The "COMMONWEALTH" (small type) was added on May 12, 1939. "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "COMMONWEALTH" are deleted and 5c surcharged on 6c in black by the Bureau of Printing, Manila. The two overprints are from two different plates. The date of the second overprinting is not known, but believed to be in early 1943. Issued to cover the First Class Mail letter rate, which was increased from 2c to 5c on September 1, 1942. Supplies were distributed to most reopened Provincial Post Offices in time for sale; however, official FDC's were processed only in Manila.



Cover with 5c surcharged on 6c, stamp, (N4b), Manila, October 20, 1942 universal machine cancel with slogan and Japanese Censor with penciled initials.

