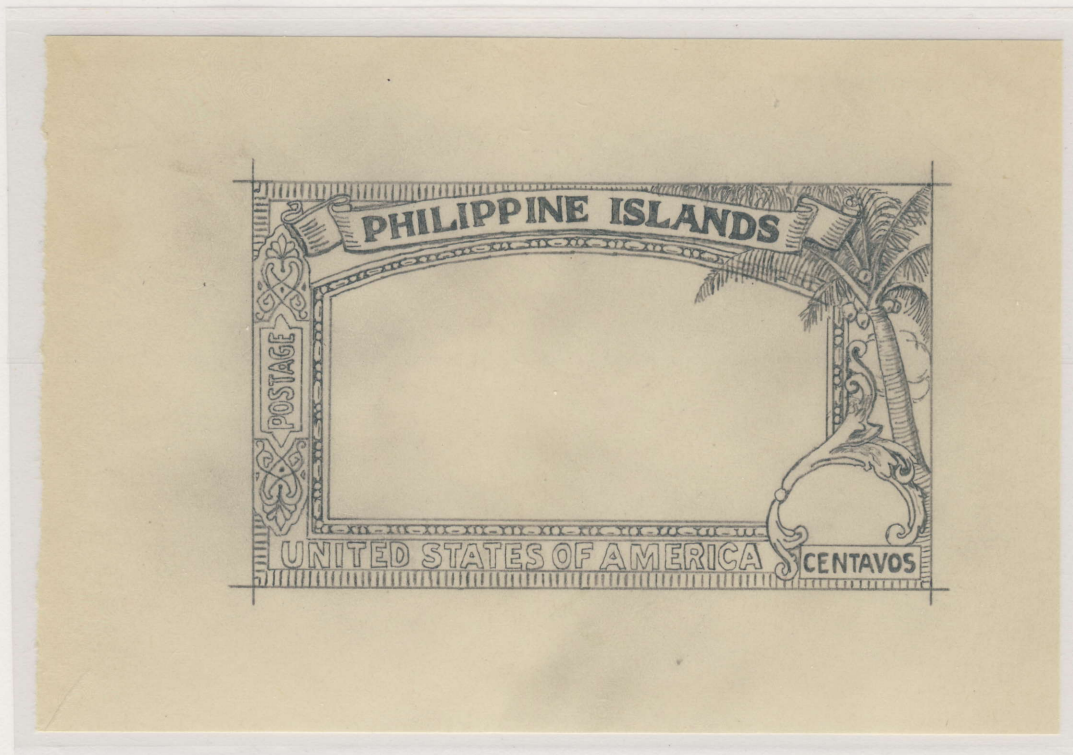


PHILIPPINES

1926 LEGISLATIVE PALACE ISSUE



Original Pencil Drawing of Accepted Frame Design - by Rafael Araujo
Only Example Recorded

This exhibit tells about the stamps prepared to commemorate the opening of the new Legislative Palace in 1926, the largest building in the Philippines. These eleven stamps - seven stamps intended for regular postage and four overprinted "Official" for use by government agencies, were the first printed by the Central Government since 1859. The Director of Posts concluded the occasion warranted something special and ordered a bi-color design, never previously used on a Philippine Stamp. The choice of the stamp design and colors to be used was finalized barely six weeks prior to the December 20, 1926 first day of issue. Only then was it discovered the only available perforating machine was a line perforator for checks, which perforated just one row at a time. Thus, each sheet of 50 stamps required 17 separate hand movements to complete the perforations. The inadequate equipment coupled with a rush to completion resulted in major perforation errors including imperforate horizontally between on all seven regular postage stamps and the 4c official issue, and imperforate vertically between on the 2c, 4c and 16c of the regular postage issue. Some stamps received an extra row of perforations.

A few sheets of the 20c regular postage issue were inadvertently released with rejected preliminary color varieties - brown centers instead of black and yellow frames instead of orange. At least two of the sheets were also released imperforate. Few of these errors or varieties have survived.

Each of the eleven stamps in the series is featured. However, the emphasis of this exhibit is on the archival material, the perforation errors and postal history. Covers have been selected for their unusual franking, rates, and destinations. Displayed in this exhibit are covers to 150 different destinations in 95 different countries. In many instances, the covers shown are the only examples recorded to the destination.