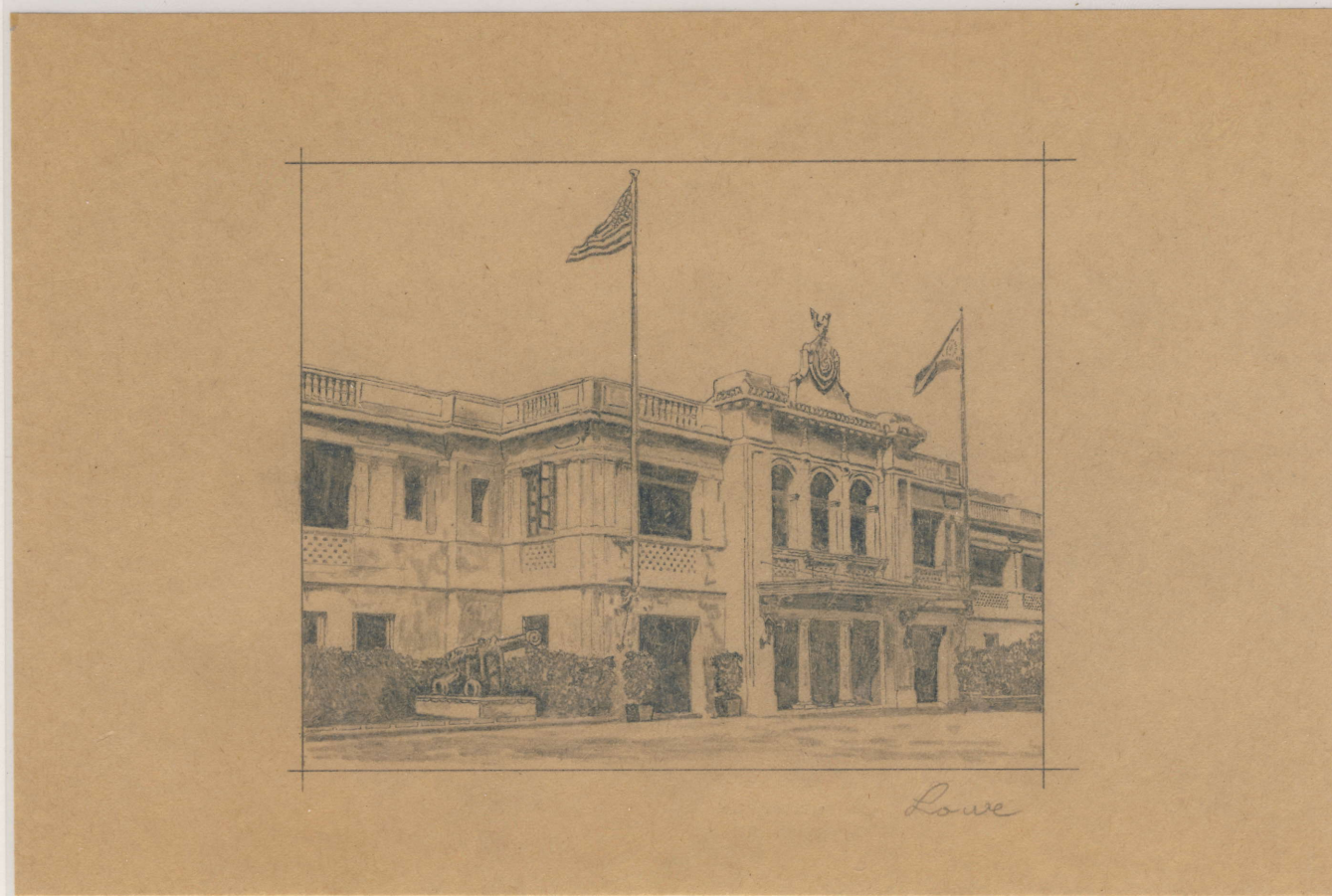


# PHILIPPINES

## 1939 MALACANAN PALACE ISSUE



Preliminary Pencil Drawing of Central Design - by James R. Lowe  
***Only Recorded Example***

In May of 1939, the Philippine Director of Posts wrote to the Bureau of Insular Affairs, a division of the U.S. War Department, requesting the printing of three different sets of stamps to celebrate the Fourth Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines which occurred on November 15, 1935. The Secretary of War directed the request to the Secretary of the Treasury urging the request be followed. Shortly thereafter, the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing released three commemorative sets to mark the event, each having the same denominations: 2c., 6c. and 12c. One of the sets depicted Malacanang Palace, the presidential residence. The official first day of sale for the Palace stamps was November 15, 1939.

The three denominations of the Palace issue were intended to pay the first class rate, up to 20 grams for internal mail (2c.) and to all foreign countries (12c.) and up to 30 grams for mail to the United States (6c.). Despite the public's interest in the Palace stamps, they saw little actual use. The thirteen stamp pictorial issue, first released in early 1935, was being re-released for the third time with a new "Commonwealth" overprint contemporaneously with the release of the Palace issue. That series, which commemorated people and places considered of great historical significance to the Filipinos was very popular. As a result, covers franked with the Palace issue are seldom encountered.

This exhibit shows the development of the issued stamps from preliminary drawings, through examples of all known large and small die proofs, to the final version sold to the public. After the cessation of World War II hostilities in the Philippines, a handstamp was carved with the simple affirmation, "VICTORY." It was applied in violet ink to what little pre-war existing stamp stock could be assembled, which in the case of several issues was very few stamps. The exhibit includes examples of the 6c. stamp which was the only stamp in this series to receive the "Victory" overprint.

While all the stamps are present, the emphasis of the exhibit is on the commercial use of the stamps. Covers have been selected for their rates, routes, unusual franking and unusual destinations.