

PHILIPPINES

1935 PICTORIALS: A DECADE OF USE



Pen & Ink
Preliminary Essay
Of the One Peso Design

Only Example Recorded

In early 1935, in anticipation of a major political change in the Philippine Islands, the granting of Commonwealth status with self-rule by the United States, a series of fourteen stamps was issued commemorating people and places considered of great historical significance to the Filipinos. Subsequent to the official inauguration of the Commonwealth in November, 1935, the United States overprinted each of the stamps in the series with a large "COMMONWEALTH." The Filipino people were outraged at having their most revered national hero and national monuments defaced. The series was overprinted "COMMONWEALTH" again, but in a much smaller typeface. Over the next ten years, the stamps of this series were overprinted or surcharged for official use by the government, for the creation of airmail stamps, and for special events. When the archipelago was taken hostage by the Japanese army, existing stamp stock from these series was pressed into use and once again overprinted or surcharged for use during the occupation.

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. For example, only 21 of the 1 Peso stamps received the overprint. The Bureau of Printing in the U.S., re-issued most of the original series in 1945 with a new black overprint, "VICTORY / COMMONWEALTH."

By 1945, as the Commonwealth period drew to a close and Philippine Independence was on the horizon, the original fourteen pictorials had yielded 110 different stamps. This extraordinary series and all its permutations is presented herein beginning with Large Die Proofs for each of the original fourteen stamps. However, as the title of the exhibit states, the emphasis of this exhibit is on the use of those stamps. Covers have been selected for their unusual destinations, rates and routes.

(NOTE: The 2c red Rizal portrait was used as the indicia on several postal cards.
These cards are specifically excluded, as they fall outside of the parameters of the exhibit.)