

JAPANESE OCCUPATION - 16c. OFFICIAL SURCHARGE ON 30C. ORANGE RED

Number Overprinted: 200,000
 Issued: April 7, 1943



Middle Bar High Var.



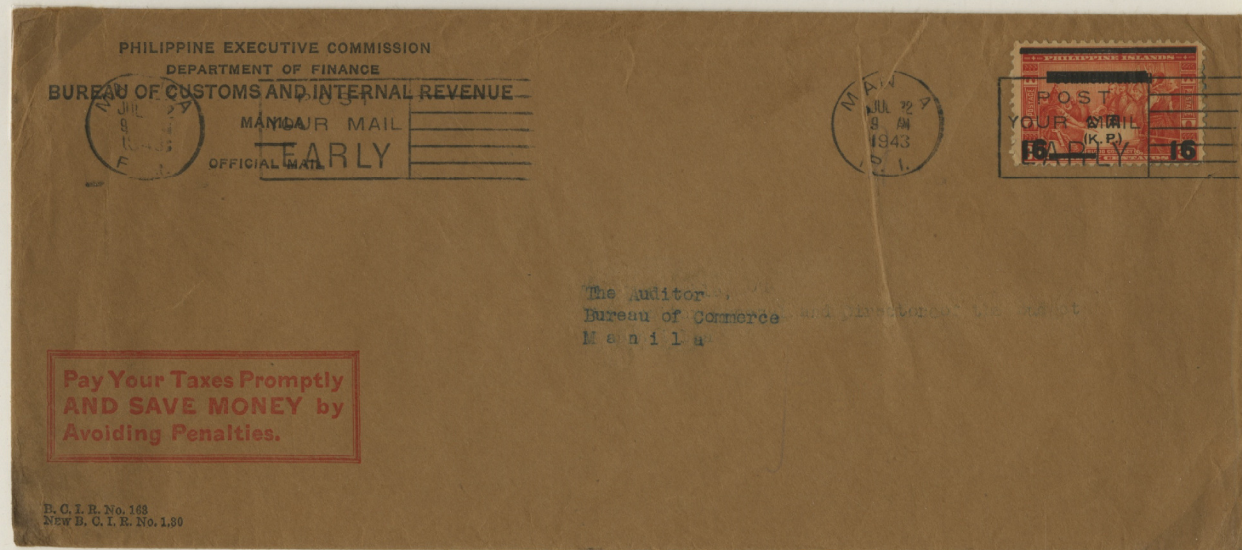
Middle Bar Low Var.

At the time of issue, this 16c. stamp did not correspond to a postal rate then in effect; the Registry Fee had been reduced from 16c. to 12c. on March 1, 1943. Nonetheless, the stamp went through two printings. In the first printing, the middle deleting bar (intended to obliterate the word "Commonwealth" is approximately 3.0 to 3.5 mm below the top deleting bar (middle bar high). In the second printing, the separation is approximately 9.0 to 9.5mm. It is presumed the differences in the location of the deleting bars was predicated on the location of the word "Commonwealth", as the Commonwealth stamps utilized were already printed and the location of "Commonwealth" was already fixed.



First Day Cover

While the Japanese Army encouraged cover collecting as a harmless preoccupation, it was unlawful for the general public, including stamp collectors, to use Official Mail stamps for private mail matters, including philatelic mail. When the first Official stamps appeared, there was no legal way to prepare a FDC. As a concession by postal authorities to keep the peace, each member of the Asociacion Filatelica de Filipinas (the pioneer philatelic association in the Islands) was permitted to acquire five copies of each of the first official issues against a signed pledge that such stamps would not be used "for the franking of any mail." Subsequently, the 150 members of the A.F.F. were permitted to secure identical special First Day Covers franked with each of the three stamps. Between 130 and 150 covers were made, all essentially identical. With tens of thousands of collectors in the Islands, these covers became prized rarities.



Local Cover, July 22, 1943
 15c. First Class Rate, 41-60g (overpaid by 1c.)

Only Recorded Commercial Cover