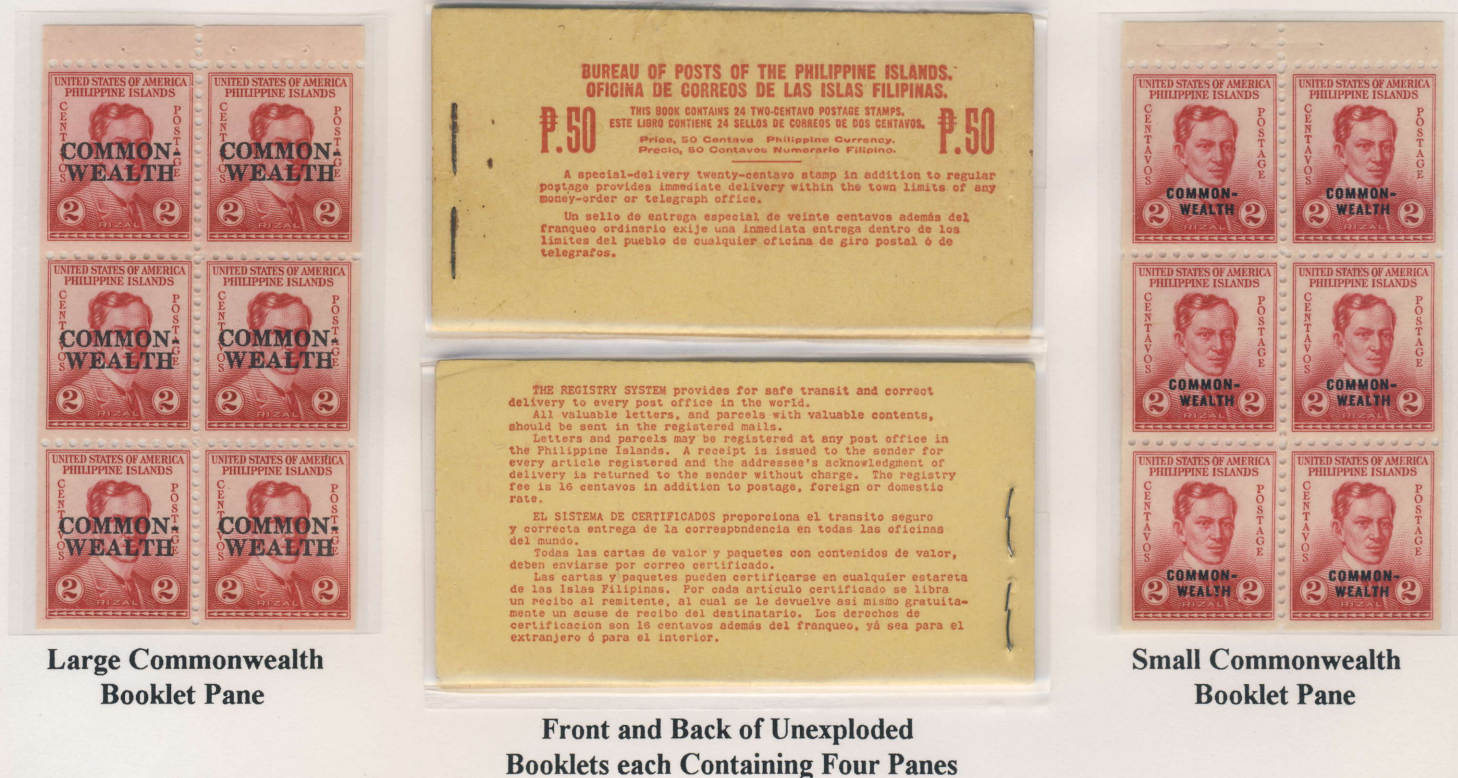


PHILIPPINES

2c Rose Booklet Pane Stamps, 1937-1945



**Large Commonwealth
Booklet Pane**

**Front and Back of Unexploded
Booklets each Containing Four Panes**

**Small Commonwealth
Booklet Pane**

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing began printing booklet stamps for use in the Philippines in 1900, shortly after the Philippines became a U.S. possession. Specially laid out printing plates of either 180 or 360 stamps were used, and the printed sheets were then knife cut into mini-sheets of six stamps, two wide by three high called panes. Either two, or four panes were stapled between preprinted informational cardboard covers, with a sheet of wax paper-like interleaving between each pane to create post office sales units called “books” by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and called “booklets” by philatelists. The booklets were sold to the public for a two centavos premium over the face value of the stamps contained in the booklet.

Booklets were created as a convenient way to carry stamps with less risk of having them stick together. This was especially important in the tropical heat and humidity of the Philippines. Despite their utility, the booklets never proved popular with the public, and their use continued to wane with the passing decades.

Nonetheless, after the creation of the Commonwealth in 1935, booklets were prepared using the 2c rose Rizal stamp with the large “Commonwealth” overprint. These booklets were put into use in early 1937. In 1940, new booklet stamps were printed using the same 2c rose Rizal stamp, but with the small “Commonwealth” overprint. While nearly 400,000 panes of the 2c rose stamp were shipped to the Philippines, the amount actually used was minuscule. Less than 100 covers are recorded which use at least one of the booklet stamps, and only 43 covers are recorded franked with a full pane of six stamps.

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. This exhibit includes several examples of the large “Commonwealth” booklet stamps which received the “Victory” overprint. Also shown is the other key item from these issues, the “Wealth-Common” error on the small Commonwealth pane.

This exhibit focuses on the use of the booklet pane stamps and includes the largest holding of full panes on cover, twenty-seven (27) different covers, used in twenty-two (22) different countries.