



PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Volume XVII, No. 2

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Second Quarter, 1995

PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Official publication of

International Philippine Philatelic Society
Dedicated to the Study and Advancement of Philippines Philately

member of
Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation (FIAP)
International Federation of Philately (FIP)

Volume XVII No. 2

Second Quarter, 1995

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The Philippine Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by the International Philippine Philatelic Society. A non-profit, non-stock, educational organization, the IPPS was incorporated in the City of Manila on Sept. 24, 1978, as per SEC registration No. 58004. PPJ PURPOSE: "to publish, on a quarterly basis, original and reprinted material pertaining to the philately of the Philippines." Manuscripts and submissions should be typed and double spaced on one side of the page only. Illustrations should be black and white photographs or very clear photocopies. Send all material to the Editor.

Philippine Philatelic Journal

THE QUITE EXTRAORDINARY MT. PINATUBO STAMPS

by Eugene A. Garrett

The full horror of the effects of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption was not completely understood until the year following the monstrous eruption of June 12, 1991. That first eruption, widely reported because of its destruction of Clark Air Base, spewed five *billion* cubic meters of volcanic material around the volcano's slopes. Each time a heavy rain falls, torrents of rolling sulfurous mud called lahar roar off Pinatubo's steep slopes and into the densely populated areas of three provinces. By the fall of 1992, steady rains and six passing typhoons caused flash floods and raging mudflows, carrying with it boulders, trucks, concrete buildings and anything else that stood in its way. The death toll to that time was more than 900 and dozens of villages were inundated and abandoned.

It was against that background that Postmaster General Jorge V. Sarmiento published the following "Philatelic Bulletin":

"The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHILPOST) will issue on November 16, 1992 the Mt. Pinatubo Fund stamps of 25 centavos and one-peso denomination as additional charges on

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domestic and foreign airmail, respectively, including metered postage.

This is pursuant to Proclamation Nos. 64 & 64-A signed by the President to conduct a nationwide fund campaign starting November 16, 1992 until February 28, 1993 for the benefit of the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

The Presidential Proclamation also provides that the campaign will enable the government to fully pursue its conceived resettlement program to affected citizens surrounding the Mt. Pinatubo area and the other towns of Central Luzon.

Mt. Pinatubo erupted June 12, 1991 after having been dormant for 600 years. It still continues to erupt on alarming frequency and magnitude bringing acute economic and social difficulties to thousands of victims.

Stamps and first day covers of this issue will be available on the date of issue at the Stamp and Philatelic Section, Door 203, Post Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila."

The statement that the stamps were to be affixed only to "domestic and foreign airmail" seems to have been in error. The regular stamp column "The Philatelist" by Felifranco C. Luto in the issue of Monday, November 16, 1992 of *The Philippine Star* reported:

"The Mt. Pinatubo stamps . . . will be affixed on every mail matter starting today Nov. 16 up to February 28, 1993. It will be an extra 25s for every local mail and P1 for foreign mail."

On the very day the stamps were issued, the first in a long series of strident objections appeared in the Manila press, as in the following from *Manila Bulletin* of Monday, November 16, 1992 in an editorial bylined by Jesus Bigornia and headlined "Hiking Postal Rates is Dictatorial":



25-sentimos for domestic mail

1-peso for foreign air mail

Figure 1

The single 25s stamp displays a flow of lahar. The P1 value was issued in a se-tenant block of 4, each with a different view of the destruction attendant to the volcano's eruption.

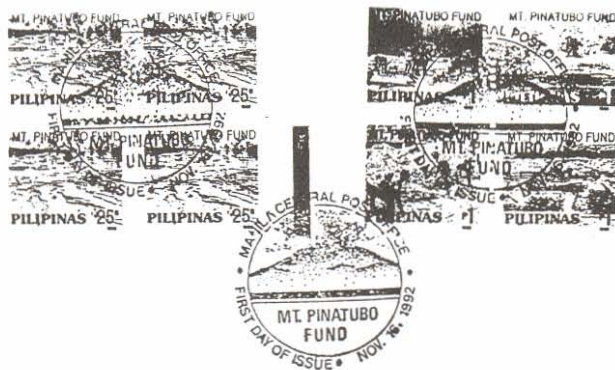


Figure 2

A first day cover with a block of 4 of the 25s single stamp and se-tenant block of 4 of the P1 stamp.

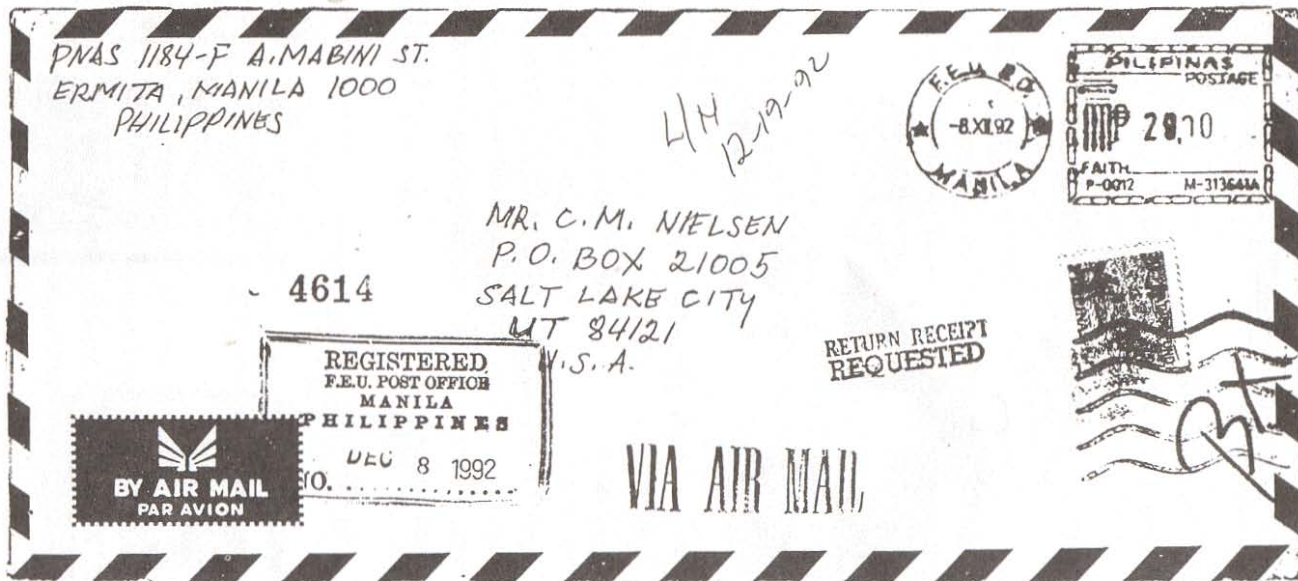


Figure 3

As specified in the *Philatelic Bulletin*, the stamps were also to be affixed to metered postage. The illustrated example is a double-rate air mail letter: 2 x P8.00 plus registration with Return Receipt Requested.

“Since when has charity become compulsory, outraged citizens ask in protesting imposition of additional mail charges by postal authorities as a public contribution to Pinatubo eruption victims . . . imposition will not be countenanced. Not everybody can afford perpetually help in this endeavor, no matter how noble it happens to be.”

Such objections finally led to rescinding the requirement for using the stamps effective February 1, 1993 after the matter was taken to court. The status of the stamps remained in a sort of limbo until Postmaster General Sarmiento issued his “Circular NO. 93-17” on June 14, 1993:

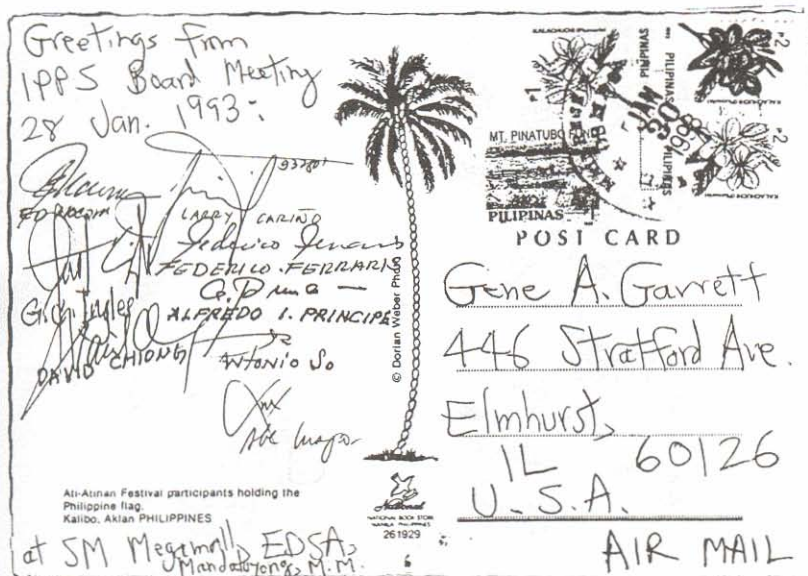


Figure 4

A P1.00 postal tax stamp was required for air mail postcards in addition to the postcard rate of P5.00, as in the above example.

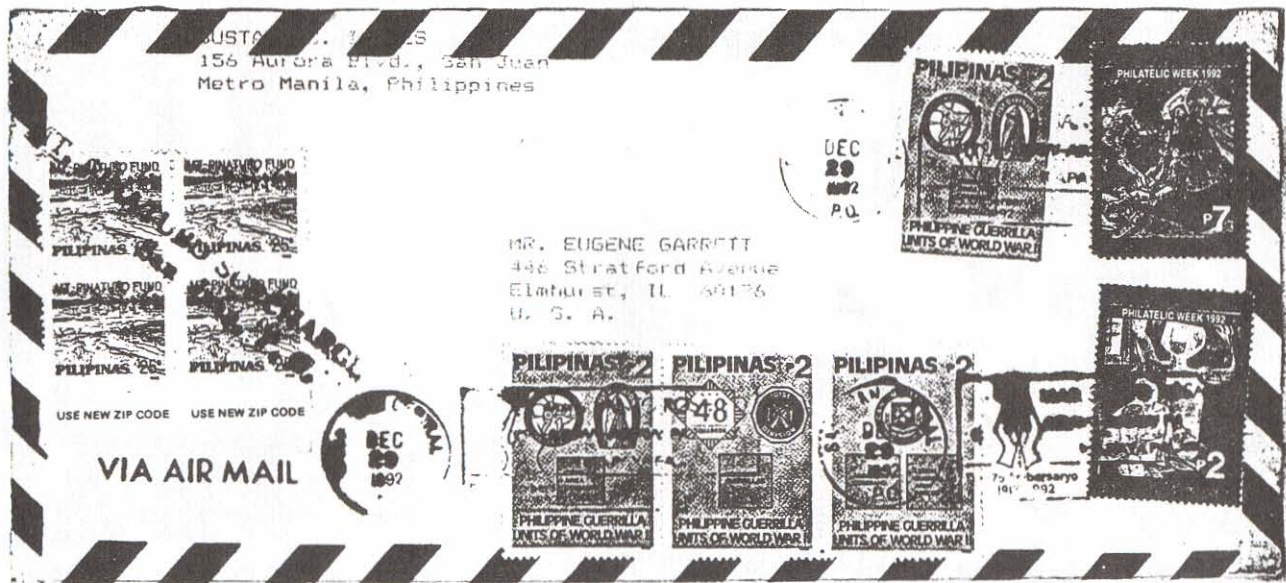


Figure 5

The post office in the San Juan district of Metro Manila employed a handstamp prepared specifically to cancel the postal tax stamps:

MT. PINATUBO SURCHARGE
San Juan, P. O.

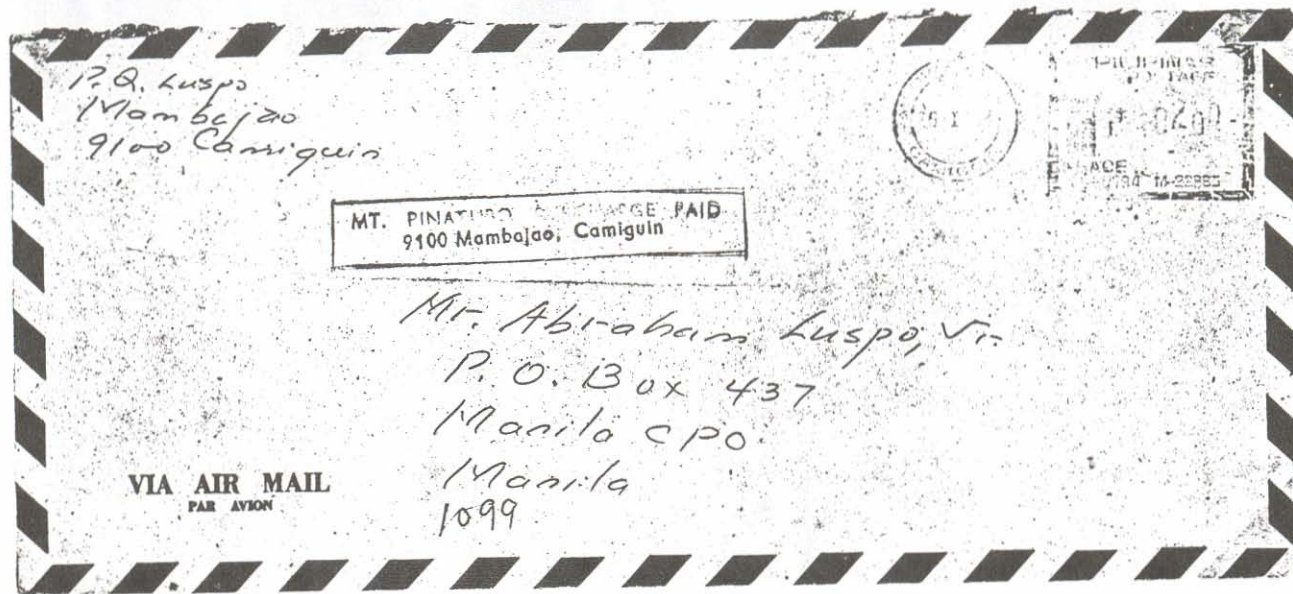


Figure 6

The tax was also required to be paid at all provincial post offices in the Philippines. The Mambajao, Camiguin Post Office did not have any of the stamps on hand when the illustrated cover was posted on January 15, 1993, so a framed handstamp was applied to attest that the 25s surcharge had been paid on this domestic cover:

MT. PINATUBO SURCHARGE PAID
9100 Mambajao, Camiguin

“Subject: Proper Disposition of Unsold/Unused Mt. Pinatubo Surcharged Stamps

The Board of Directors of the Philippine Postal Corporation has approved the use of all Mt. Pinatubo surcharged stamps as regular postage stamps. Therefore unsold Mt. Pinatubo surcharged stamps in the hands of Custodians and Postmasters may now be offered for sale to postal patrons as regular postage stamps. Mt. Pinatubo surcharged stamps still unused in the hands of postal patrons may also be used as regular postage stamps.

The following shall be observed in the disposition of Mt. Pinatubo surcharged stamps:

- 1) Those in the hands of Custodians shall be distributed among Postmasters as required postage stamps;
- 2) Those in the hands of Postmaster/Tellers shall be offered for sale as regular postage stamps to the general public. (Examples: six (6) pieces of the P1.00 denomination may be used for letters weighing not more than 10 grams addressed to the Asian region and two (2) pieces of the P1.00 denomination or eight (8) pieces of the P0.25 denomination for domestic letters weighing not more than 20 grams and so on as the case may be).
- 3) Those still in the hands of postal patrons particularly the bulk buyers shall be accepted when affixed correctly on mail matters as regular postage as in item No. 2 above.

Please be guided accordingly.”

It is probably needless to say, but we will say it anyway, that characterizing them as “surcharged stamps” is not quite accurate: the stamps themselves are not surcharged, but do indeed pay a surcharge.

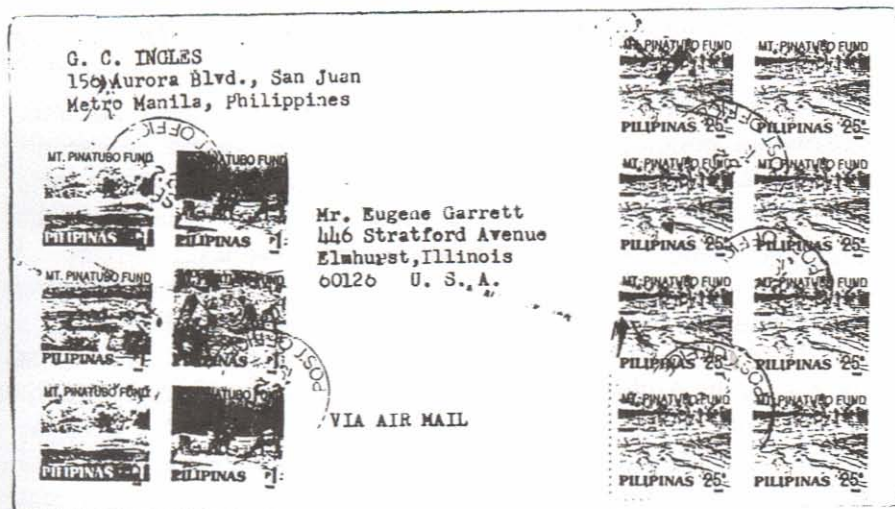


Figure 7

Be that as it may, the stamps were not very popular when used as regular postage.

Instead of a readily-available single P8.00 stamp to cover single-rate air mail postage to the U.S., an inconvenient total of eight of the P1.00 stamps would be required, or as on the illustrated cover, six P1.00 stamps and eight 25s stamps were employed to make up the P8.00 postage.

So the stamps which started life as Postal Tax Stamps and then one year later became Regular Postage Stamps are unique in the postal history of the Philippines. Pity the poor cataloguer who must come to grips with those facts. ■

"The author expresses his thanks to Larry M. Cariño for furnishing the Manila newspaper clippings."

FROM THE PAST . . .
THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE ISSUE
Reprinted From: Philippine Education Magazine,
Vol. 23, #9 February 1927

The idea of a new series of postage stamps for the Philippines Islands, to break the monotony of 20 years of the same design of stamp, seems to have incubated in the minds of several persons at about the same time. It became a matter of some discussion at the meetings of the Philatelic Association and strangely enough, when the Director of Posts was approached it was discovered that he to had been thinking of the venture for some months. The completing and dedicating in July, 1926, of the new Legislative Building, the finest and largest structure in the Archipelago, seems to have served as a very appropriate occasion for the emission of a stamp or two just as has been the fashion now for some 35 years since the Argentine Republic started the commemorative idea in postage stamps with that of the 5-cent stamp in honor of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. But the history of commemoratives is too long to be told here.

THE DESIGNING

The question of preparing a new issue having been decided by the Director of Posts, he submitted his order to the Director of Printing. The major task of planning the making of the stamps fell to Mr. Alejandro Garay, Superintendent of Work at the government printery and to him should go the praise for their appropriateness in every detail. The frame design was made by Mr. Rafael Araujo, artist-engraver of the Printing Office. The center design was drawn from a photograph by Mr. Macario Ligaya, artist of the Bureau of Science. In each case the original pen and ink drawing was made at least 5 times the diameter of the finished stamp. This was done so that by the processes of photoengraving the lines would be reduced to a thickness which would be pleasing to the eye, all irregularities having disappeared.

THE ETCHING

The original drawings were photographed down to a size twice the diameter of the stamp-to-be and a zinc-etching of each denomination was then made, frame and center together. From this zinc-etching 50 prints were struck off. These being carefully pasted on a large sheet of thick cardboard in the exact position they were to occupy in the finished stamp, two photographic negatives of each denomination

were then made and a positive copied direct on a copper sheet 2 millimeters thick welded to a type-metal base of about twice that thickness. After the line-etching of each of the two copper plates, one of them had all the centers routed out very carefully in order not to destroy any of the frame design. The other plate had all the frame routed away leaving the centers only. Thus for each denomination of stamp there were two plates, a border and a center, contrary to the usual practice where a series of stamps has the centers all alike.

In order to realize with what care these copper plates were prepared one has but to examine carefully a sheet of these stamps of any denomination and he will see that no portion of either center or frame design has been removed from any of the 50 stamps in the work of routing off the frame or center as the case may have been.

THE PAPER

The frames and centers having been prepared, the next step was the preparation of the paper. According to the number of stamps to be printed a corresponding number of reams of paper, specially gummed in the United States, was counted out for each stamp denomination. These large sheets were cut into four sheets $8\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches (or 216 x 268mm). It will be noted that this size makes possible a 1-centimeter margin all around the sheet and consequently there are no straight edges such as are found on stamps printed at the Bureau of Engraving & Printing in Washington, where all our postage and revenue stamps have been made for the past 20 years. Straight edges, by the way, have been the bane of collectors for years, but they have their individuality and value which I hope to show in a future article on stamps as objects for the collector.

THE COLORS

Two colors of paper were used, one a pure or snow white, the other a decided deep cream color. The latter was only used on the first few of the 2-centavo and 4-centavo stamps and so will be much less frequently seen by stamp collectors. The paper averages .08 mm. in thickness and the gum is prepared especially for the tropics and is medicated to make it distasteful to cockroaches and other paper-eating insects.

THE PRINTING

The next operation was the printing of the frames in color: green for the 2-centavo, carmine for the 4-centavo, olive for the 16-centavo, chocolate brown for the 18-centavo, orange for the 20-centavo, grey for the 24-centavo and heliotrope for the ₱1.00.

THE INK

The ink of the first printing having dried, the sheets were next passed through the press for printing the black centers. The copper plates for these having been made from negatives taken simultaneously with the frames, it goes without saying that the register for horizontal and vertical distances is perfect and the only defects to be noted are occasional slight off centerings due to variations in the sheets caused by temperature and moisture. These are very, very rare indeed and demonstrate again the care used in making the stamps.

THE PERFORATING

The sheet having been all examined in the pressroom for the elimination of such defects as errors of registry, inverted centers and smudged prints, the stamps were next sent to the bindery division to be perforated. Even in establishments where stamps are regularly made, great difficulty is experienced in so perforating them that they will be well centered and special machinery has been devised in order to bring this about. In Manila, the only machine available was one intended as a cheque perforator and as the new stamps required 6 vertical and 11 horizontal perforations, most of these in the middle of a space between stamps of only 3 millimeters, it will be seen that after each operation it was necessary to move the sheet forward a given distance for the next perforating. This adjustment was made by hand. At first three sheets were perforated at one time, then owing to the need of hurrying up, four sheets were placed together in the machine. This accounts for the perforations cutting into the design on certain sheets. Altogether some 33,400 sheets were perforated. Since each sheet required 17 rows of perforations it will be seen that in this one operation 141,950 handlings were necessary, allowing four sheets to each operation. This alone seems a stupendous amount of work to be done by hand.

THE INSPECTING

After the termination of the perforating operation the sheets of stamps were all inspected and imperfect copies thrown out. To give an idea of how thoroughly the inspection was performed, it suffices to say that up to the fourth of January, 1927, among all the 33,074 sheets delivered to the Bureau of Posts, inspected there and distributed to nearly 50 principal post-offices, only 3 sheets have been found with a row of perforations lacking. These are: a sheet of 2-centavo stamps sent to Cebu; and in Manila a sheet of 4-centavo stamps in which the fifth vertical row of perforations is lacking and one of 16-centavo stamps with the fifth vertical row lacking. This means that there are

probably 3 other sheets of each, similarly defective unless they were caught and destroyed among the total of 168 sheets of 2-, 4-, and 16-centavo stamps destroyed at the Bureau of Printing.

THE JOYS OF A COLLECTOR

In Philately such a mistake as that described produces a "horizontal or vertical pair imperforate between" and the error is always highly appreciated by stamp-lovers. In this present case but 21 of such paired copies are known to exist, hence the writer feels proud in being the possessor of one of them, the ninth and tenth stamps of the 4-centavo sheet. Twenty other known philatelists each possesses one of the 4-centavo or 16-centavo and the whereabouts of the other four 2-centavo pairs is unknown. A Manila philatelist received from Cebu a letter sent by a non-stamp collector bearing a horizontal pair of the 2-centavo stamps imperforate between.

The stamps after final inspection in the Printing office were delivered to the Postal office in bundles of a hundred sheets.

THE NUMBER PRINTED AND THEIR DISPOSITION

The table given below will be of interest to the stamp statistician as it is official:

Denomination	Sheets					Total Stamps
	Cut	Printed	Reserved	Destroyed	Delivered	
2	12,060	11,976	14	101	11,861	593,050
4	8,000	7,958	14	47	7,897	394,850
16	4,152	4,102	7	20	4,075	203,750
18	3,532	3,520	14	27	3,479	173,950
20	3,532	3,517	14	29	3,474	173,700
24	2,112	2,087	7	13	2,067	103,350
P1	248	236	7	7	221	11,050
Total	33,636	33,395	77	244	33,074	1,653,700

Of the above denominations the 2c, 4c, 18c and 20c were overprinted with the word OFFICIAL in red.

2c	90,500
4c	90,450
18c	70,000
20c	70,250

These are included in the total above, but as these 331,200 are available for government purposes only, the public has still 1,322,500 for its use. The Postal authorities kindly made available for the members of the Philippine Philatelic Association on the first day of sale a limited number of the unused OFFICIAL stamps, which, it is obvious, can and will be used only for collection purposes.

ONLY FEW ERRORS DISCOVERED

The philatelist is always on the *qui vive* for "errors" in a new issue of postage stamps. The present one will satisfy the appetites of but very few, in spite of wild rumors which for many months had whetted these same appetites. Thus far the discovered errors are:

2-centavo: Stamp No. 3 has a blotch of green over the "O" of OF in UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, which breaks the white line of the frame.

2-centavo: Stamp No. 9 has the second "L" of LEGISLATURE half the height of the other letters and with a dot over it. Both of these errors occur on all sheets since they happened in the etching of the plates and have been clearly seen thereon. Each gives 2 per cent of the issue or 11,800 copies for collectors.

4-centavo: Stamp No. 2. Right hand flagpole has tiny ball at right like typhoon signal No. 7

4-centavo: Stamp No. 30 has a curved oblique line in "O" of "OF THE" giving that letter the appearance of a Greek theta.

4-centavo OFFICIAL: The 43rd stamp has a red horizontal line 2mm. long in the clouds above the main entrance to the building. Of these there are 1,800 copies or 2 per cent for collectors.

4-centavo: Fifth vertical perforation omitted on 1 sheet. This gives 10 horizontal pairs of stamps imperforate between; which is .0025 of one per cent for collectors.

16-centavo: Fifth vertical perforation omitted on 1 sheet. This gives 10 horizontal pairs of stamps imperforate between; which is .0025 of one per cent for collectors.

20-centavo: Stamps Nos. 4 and 25 have a lowered hyphen between "E" or THE and "L" of LEGISLATURE, 4 per cent of the stamps or 6,800.

20-centavo: Stamp No. 50 has the same mark between "E" and "O" in PALACE OF.

In the preliminary printing of the stamps experiments were made with several colors of inks, both of frame and center, but final choice fell

to black centers, as suggested to the Director of Posts by the President of the Philatelic Association, when he recommended bicolored stamps for the new issue.

ONE OF THE LEGISLATIVE STAMP "THE ONLY OBJECT OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD"

Early in the month of December, 1926, the new stamps were sent out to some 50 or 60 principal post offices of the Islands with instructions that they be put on sale not earlier than the 20th of the month, the day when they were first placed on sale in Manila. The first stamp sold bears the signature of the postmaster of the Manila on its upper marginal stub, it being the upper left hand stamp of a sheet of 2-centavo stamps. It was at once affixed to a letter and cancelled by the postmaster. This letter bears a certificate to the effect that the stamp on it was the first sold. It is guarded in the collection of a Manila Philatelist as being the only object of its kind in the world. Stamp lovers are always on the alert for unique specimens.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION IN MANILA

For the first day of sale of the new stamps a special postmark was used in Manila, octagonal in outline, containing a circle divided horizontally through the middle by two lines and bearing the following inscription: "Commemorative Stamps, Manila, P. I., 20 Dec. 1926, First-day Sale". Letters were cancelled in red, black, blue, or green ink at the Manila post office. Some few got both red and black cancellation. On the second day of sale a circular cancellation was used. This is the first time in postal history when a "Second-day" cancellation was used for a new issue of stamps, which puts Manila in a class by itself.

A PHILATELIST HOLIDAY

On the first day of sale Manila philatelists bought P5,700 worth of stamps. These were sent to every country in the world either in or on letters, so we should hope for a little advertising from them.

THE COST OF THE STAMPS

The approximate cost of the stamps to the government is P1,600 or one-tenth of a centavo each. They will fetch P162,180, a gross profit of P160,580. On the P1-stamp the government makes P0.999 or 99,900 per cent; on the set of seven stamps, P1.833, if the stamps go into a collection. Those sold for postal purposes of course mean that the Post Office renders service for the value of the stamp affixed to mail matter, hence the net profit will be much smaller. ■

JAPANESE OCCUPATION FISCAL REVISIONS

By Douglas K. Lehmann

This article records Japanese Occupation fiscal revisions in three areas not published in the *Warren Update* of June 1993. Though the Japanese Occupation period is short, of high interest, and examined closely, discoveries continue to emerge in the fiscal arena. I find this circumstance unusual but pleasantly delightful since it is easy to research a shorter government era.

The first revision concerns the tax stamp found on the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes first reported by Eugene A. Garrett and Mario O. Que in this journal Fourth Quarter, 1991. In that article, the authors describe the same tax stamp for 18 lotteries separated by seven months. That tax stamp is a dark oval 16x18mm with clear letters. The letters are 2mm high and read in four lines 2-CENTAVO/INT. REVENUE/DOCUMENTARY/STAMP. There is also a small design, each different at the top and bottom of this oval design. This listing and description are only correct for the last 10 lotteries held between November 1, 1943 and March 16, 1944. For this article, I will call this the large oval design.

The original listing gave the dimensions of the large oval as 14x18mm. Slight errors in measurement result from two situations. The first situation is that we measured all dimensions from separate corners of different tickers. Usually, these measurements come from different numbered tickets as well as different-dated lotteries. The second reason is the new fact there are two sizes of the oval design. The second design is the same except the oval is 12x15mm and the letters are only 1½ high. The government used the small oval design first for eight lotteries from August 31, 1942 to March 31, 1943. **Figure 1** shows the two designs. So far the author has reconstructed the top half of the small oval design and Gene Garrett three-fourths of the design (missing lower left corner).

The two collector stamp reconstructions offer an unusual surprise. Each of our reconstructions consist of severed copies of the same lottery ticket number! I have ticket number 085326 dated October 31, 1942. The government printed my two top quarters in dark brown on pale tan paper. My October ticket is "CHARITY LOTTERY No. 4" Gene's tickets are #019896 with a December 19, 1942 date. Those three severed quarters the government printed yellow-brown on pale tan paper. His ticket is "CHARITY LOTTERY No. 6". We both

patiently over time pieced together sections of the same stamp from various sources. Gene remembers getting his first quarter directly from the eminent Rogelio de Jesus. The rest of Gene's and my copies came from different auctions originated in the Philippines. We do not know if a collector in the past had these examples in full un-severed condition. We are both looking for the remaining quarter(s) and neither of us has seen the lower left corner of the stamp on any lottery-numbered ticket.

The second revision area concerns the Internal Revenue series issued about March 1994. This series has 11x11 perforations and one control number. The basic stamp is the same as the two-control number issue of 1934-41 used during the Commonwealth era. The occupation government placed eight values into use with either a Type C or Type D control number. These two control numbers are easy to tell apart. Type C letters are 2¹/₂x3mm with no serifs and Type D letters 3x4mm with serifs.

Warren identified the entire series with Type D numbers and only the 10 peso value with a Type C number. This value is scarce with catalog values probably under-valuing it between \$50 and \$100. The Warren Update added two more values with a Type C control number. The 1 peso value exists and the only recorded example is in my collection. It has control number 43923. The 20 centavos value also exists. About one dozen recorded values of the 20 centavo have numbers around the mid-59000s. All type C examples have lower numbers than corresponding Type D examples for the same value. So, the government issued Type C numbers first and then switched to Type D numbers.

Bob Yacano at the end of 1993 discovered a new value with the Type C control number. Now we can add the 50 centavo value with control number 14410. **Figure 2** shows this discovery. **Table 1** shows the evolution of this expanding issue. In the early 1990's, collectors added three of four Type C emissions. I believe the entire series has Type C control numbers. Members can help by looking for the missing four values shown in Table 1 with a question mark.

The last revision concerns the 1934-41 Internal Revenue series used during the Japanese Occupation period. Gene Garrett listed the known uses as of 1992. These are on page 395 of *A Postal History of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines, 1941-1945*. To be perfectly open, I did not know the interest in recording such uses. So, I made no effort to record this information in *The Warren Update* of 1993. I have

since learned the error of my ways and have examined this area. This series had double control numbers of either Type A or Type C. These Types are similar and many collectors have trouble telling them apart. I have a method that never fails. Just measure five numbers that do not begin or end with the digit 1. This measurement may contain the digit 1 in the second, middle, or fourth position. For Type A, this measures 15 to 15 1/2mm and rarely 16mm. For Type C this measures 17mm or more. This 1 to 2 millimeter difference is easy to measure and always works.

Table 2 shows the status now. We have found all emissions but *one* used on document. The missing emission is W-649a, the 1000 peso value with Type C control numbers. Figure 3 shows an example of one of the discoveries listed for 1994. It is the 5 centavos value with a Type A control number used July 20, 1944. It is from a 2nd quarter coupon paying the privilege tax for a sari-sari shop. Again, we implore members to find the missing usage of the 1000 peso. It is a scarce stamp and a Japanese Occupation usage would be rare but it can exist. ■



Small Oval



Large Oval

Figure 1 (Actual Size)



Figure 2



Figure 3 July 20, 1944

MARCH 1944 INTERNAL REVENUE SERIES				
V A L U E	SINGLE TYPE C CONTROL NUMBER		SINGLE TYPE D CONTROL NUMBER	
	WARREN #	DISCOVERY	WARREN #	DISCOVERY
10c	?		W-656	Warren
20	W-657a*	1993	W-657	Warren
50	W-658a**	1993	W-658	Warren
P1	W-659a***	1991	W-659	Warren
2	?		W-660	Warren
5	?		W-661	Warren
10	W-662a	Warren	W-662	Warren
20	?		W-663	Warren

* Known copies dated March 19, 1944
 ** One known # 14410 mint
 *** One known # 43923 mint

Table 1

**1934-41 INTERNAL REVENUE SERIES
USED DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION**

V A L U E	DOUBLE TYPE A CONTROL NUMBER		DOUBLE TYPE C CONTROL NUMBER	
	WARREN #	DISCOVERY	WARREN #	DISCOVERY
2c	W-634	1994	W-634b	1994
5	W-635	1994	W-635b	1994
10	W-636	Garrett	W-636b	Garrett
20	W-637	Garrett	W-637b	Garrett
50	W-638	Garrett	w-638b	Garrett
P1	W-639	Garrett	W-639b	Garrett
2	W-640	Garrett	W-640b	Garrett
2½	W-641	1994	None	NA
4	W-642	Garrett	None	NA
5	W-643	Garrett	W-643b	1994
10	W-644	Garrett	W-644b	1994
20	W-645	1994	W-645b	Garrett
200	W-647	Garrett	None	NA
500	W-648	Garrett	None	NA
1000	W-649	Garrett	W-649b	?

NOTES:

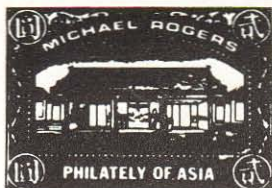
5 digits of Type A measure 15-16mm, Type C 17+mm
Four values unknown with Type C control numbers

Table 2



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