

Japanese Occupation of the Philippines 1942-1945

Background

Soon after the Pacific War was breaking out, Japan occupied the Philippines and its postal service temporary stopped. After interruption for about 2 months, it resumed on **March 4, 1942** under Japanese Military Administration. United States regained Manila in **February 1945** and the Japanese occupation came to the end.

During the three years of the period, provisional overprinted stamps, Japan printed stamps, and Locally printed stamps were issued.

Stamp collecting was boomed during the period as very popular hobby. The postal authority took chance and encouraged philately in order to gain their income. Therefore, they took the collectors' needs into account and, beside regular stamps, many kinds of commemorative stamps including semi-postal stamps and souvenir sheets were issued. Postal services during the period were controlled by the central authority in Manila and no local issued stamp exists.

The stamps were issued during the period with relatively large quantities, and enormous quantities of philatelic materials were produced. On the other hand, **actual commercial or official usages are rarely encountered**. Especially covers with provincial censorship or postal marks, 'inter-province' or 'province to province' or 'Foreign mails sent to Japan or Japan occupied area', such usages are extremely scarce.

Object of this exhibit

All 69 stamps issued in the period were exhibited together with commercial or official usages by means of **Traditional Philately**, in accordance with the following classification in 5 categories;

1. Provisionals

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Total 9 kinds of stamps provisionally overprinted on the US Philippines stamps; 7 denominations of provisional stamps issued as regular issues. As for 5C/6C and 50C/1P stamps, distinguished 'first' and 'second' overprinting. The second overprinting of 50C/1P stamps were issued as commemorative stamp of the first anniversary of constitution day.

2. Commemoratives

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Total 33 kinds of provisional, locally printed or Japan printed stamps; 18 commemorative stamps, distinguished 'perforated' and 'imperforate' stamps of the 'Independence' issue, 6 semi-postal issues, 6 'National Heroes' regular issues distinguished 'perforated' and 'imperforate' stamps, 2 souvenir sheets and 1 unissued souvenir sheet.

3. Japan Printed Regular Issues

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Total 16 kinds of Japan printed regular stamps; 14 denominations of regular stamps, and as for 2P and 5P regular stamps, distinguished 'first' and 'second' printing.

4. Provisional Postage Dues

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Total 2 kinds of provisional postage due stamps; issued in September/October, 1942.

5. Official Issues

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Total 9 kinds of provisional official stamps; including officially re-overprinted 'Large Commonwealth' official stamp, and as for 5C/6C and 16C/30C stamps of the first official issues, distinguished 'first' and 'second' overprinting.

Plan

The purpose of this exhibit is to show the all stamps issued during the period and its usages. The stamps are presented in blocks, plate blocks or imprint blocks together with most of known varieties, errors, proofs and related presentation folders. The usages are highlighted by wide varieties of commercial or official usages. Philatelic covers are very limitedly exhibited but its rarity is taken into account. Furthermore, special remarks are put on scarce postal markings such as provincial postmarks or censor markings.

Outstanding Materials

Outstanding materials are marked by red frame.

References

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A POSTAL HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES 1942-1945

Notes on Japanese Occupation Stamps in Southeast Asia Dramatic 3,500 Varieties Commented

Philippine Philatelic Journal / Philippine Philatelic Newsletter