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*Philippine Philatelic Journal*

**PLATE FLAW ON 6C BROWN-VIOLET  
BABYHEAD ISSUE OF 1892**

*by Sofronio S. Agustin, Jr., Donald J. Peterson  
and George W. Brett*

The existence of plate flaws on stamps of the King Alfonso XII series (1880-86) is well-documented in the literature. One of the earliest of this type of discovery was reported by Weber (1963). He observed the occurrence of an upper line break in the vertical leg of "L" in "FILIPas" on the 2m newspaper stamp of 1886 (Scott No. P3). Plate damage was believed to be the cause of this "leg" breakage. In a similar vein, Peterson (1991) found a plate-flawed variety of the 20c bistre-brown issue of 1882 (Scott No. 87). He noted a consistently missing frame line, of varying lengths, above the "20" in the denomination label of the flawed stamps. He determined that 80% of these stamps were of the flawed type based on the physical examination of a full sheet in his collection.

This article focuses on the 6 centavos de peso brown-violet King Alfonso XIII stamp issued in January, 1892 (Scott No. 157). The observed plate defect appears as a form of a frame line break over the numeral on the denomination label of the stamp (Figure 1) akin to that reported previously by Peterson (1991). In order to determine roughly the frequency of occurrence of the flawed versus normal stamps in

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collections, batches of Scott 157's were ordered from two Spanish Philippine Stamp dealers in New York and California. This was done with the intention of getting at least a random sampling of stamps of this specific issue without having to undertake the onerous task of conducting a survey. Randomness was assumed since these stamps were obtained by these dealers without pre-selection of contents of collections or stocks sold to them. About 38% of the stamps examined (70 out of 186) were found to be flawed.

A full sheet of 100 (10X10) in Don Peterson's collection, however, showed 30% of stamps with no flaw and 70% with the flaw. Subjects with the flaw occurred randomly throughout the sheet. The number printed on the sheet was "0.000.930", which, based on a total printing of 180,000 (Bartels et al., 1904) would be about halfway through the printing run. By examining several examples of the flawed and non-flawed Scott 157's, either as single copies or as subjects on the sheet, a progression in the breakdown of the vulnerable lines of the design was quite apparent. Considerable variation in the degree of "flawness", ranging from a minor (barely perceptible) break in the line to a major break (up to 3 mm. of line missing) was detected. It is surmised that the flaw occurred early in the printing stage and probably grew progressively worse towards the end. There are no indications in the philatelic literature that the flaw was rectified and/or that a second printing occurred.

Both the King Alfonso XII and XIII series were printed by letterpress (better known to philatelists as typography) at the Fabrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre (FNMT) in Madrid, Spain. Stamps printed in this manner have their designs in relief; that is, above the general surface of the electrotype plate (Williams, 1990). The subjects are apt to show plate damage, wear and mashing. This is especially true if the plate is made of soft metal (Brett, 1992). At the FNMT, relief printing took some evolutionary changes in terms of the materials utilized by the engraver in making the plate. Earlier printings used plates engraved on wood (xylography). These were eventually replaced by steel and zinc, in that chronological order (Galvez, 1961). It is possible that zinc plates were employed in these two King Alfonso series. Brett (1993) further postulates that the plate was, perhaps, a bit on the brittle side. Thus, instead of always mashing (spreading) there was some chipping as well as wear. Poor prints can be obtained from a plate due to several causes, namely: poor presswork, poor working ink, a worn plate, an unsatisfactory paper, a defective plate, and so on. In this instance, it is less likely that the ink and presswork were the major contributors to this plate defect. This phenomenon is just a simple



**Figure 1.** Enlarged illustration of lower half of Scott 157 showing line break above numeral "6" (top) and the normal denomination label configuration (bottom).



case of a plate that was giving out progressively during the printing process. In other words, the prints came from a defective and deteriorating plate with certain parts of the design more vulnerable than others.

Under high magnification, it has also been observed that the numeral "6" of this stamp measured 1.5 mm, while all the other letters on the denomination label were uniformly 1.25 mm in height. The top portion of "6" was closer to the top frame line than the base was to the bottom line and such proximity of design lines resulted in unusually high pressure on the denomination frame at the time of printing. It is possible that this also contributed to the occurrence of this plate defect.

It should also be mentioned at this point that a very few examples of the 80 centavos de peso claret issue of 1897 (Scott No. 180) have initially been noted to have similar design breakage above the nu-

meral "80" (Figure 2). This flaw deserves further investigation. Anyone who has a sheet or multiples of Scott No. 180 should examine his copy for the presence of this type of plate flaw and determine the number and position of flawed stamps versus the normal ones. Please report such information to the IPPS Journal.



**Figure 2.** Normal (bottom) and flawed (top) Scott 180 denomination labels in tandem (10X).



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## PHILIPPINE ROTARY PRESS ISSUES

by Joseph M. Napp

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing's (BEP) conversion from the flat press printing method to rotary press printing method was almost complete by the late 1930's. By 1940, only the Philippine and Canal Zone stamps plus a few lesser used U.S. denominations were still produced on the older flat plate presses.

While the rotary press offered increased production rates, it required TWO new "curved" plates for operation as the older flat plates could not be adapted to the new rotary presses. Each new rotary plate for the ordinary size stamps was composed of four post office panes of 100 stamps. The location of the plate numbers was changed to the vertical selvages adjacent to the corner stamps: UL #1, UR #10, LL #91 and LR #100.

### RIZAL - New Regular Issues 1941



By 1940, the Philippines required ever increasing quantities of 2c Ordinary and 2c Official Business stamps. Rotary press plates were authorized and a design with a portrait of Jose Rizal was approved (Scott's Design Number A-75). Two new rotary press plates #145416 and #145417 were started on December 30, 1940 and finished on January 21, 1941. Both plates were "Sent to Press" on January 21, 1941 and worked continuously until March 12, 1941. A small portion of the new 2c Green Rizals was shipped to Manila on February 21, 1941. Ultimately, a total of 63,000,000 Green Ordinaries (Scott No. 461) and 21,000,000 Green Official Business stamps - O.B. overprints (Scott No. 0-37) were shipped to Manila. In addition, the

Washington Philatelic Agency received 40,000 of the Green Ordinaries on March 18, 1941. The First Day of Issue in Manila as well as through the Washington Philatelic Agency was April 14, 1941. Soon thereafter, it was noticed that Rizal's 'hairpart' was on the wrong side of his head.

On March 13, 1941, the day after the completion of the 2c Green Rizal rotary press run and before the first day of issue, the BEP started its work on a 2c Green Rizal Booklet Pane Printing Plate (# 146063). The light apple green booklet stamps (Scott No. 462c) were produced on the flat press from April 1st through April 17th. The Light Apple Green Booklet panes were shipped to Manila on August 14, 1941 where they were withheld from sale until November 14, 1941.

During this period, the Philippine Philatelic Community aggressively lobbied for a new stamp with a corrected wrong 'hairpart' design. Presumably, the delays in the booklet shipment and the sale of the booklet stamps were related to a decision concerning the creation of replacement printing plate with a revised 'hairpart' design. However, a new printing plate would not be authorized for the booklet stamps at this time. Only two rotary press replacement plates were authorized for the 'sheet format stamps' (10 x 10). Perhaps, when the decision was made not to create a replacement booklet plate and when this was communicated to postal authorities in Manila, the Light Apple Green Booklet Pane stamps were issued in Manila on November 14, 1941.

The U.S. BEP started its work on the two new rotary press plates (#147687 and 147688) with the 'revised hairpart' (Scott's Design Number A-76) on October 28, 1941. Both plates were certified on December 5, 1941. The BEP sent its two new rotary press plates to press on December 8, 1941 - the Monday following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Ultimately, the Philippines would be occupied by Japanese forces. However, the BEP continued its production of the new 2c Sepia ink stamps until January 7, 1942. By this date, Manila had been occupied by Japanese Forces and other military reverses would soon occur. The new 2c Sepia Rizals were placed in BEP long term storage.

On March 30, 1942, the Philippine Government-in-Exile requested 100,000 of the 2c Green Ordinaries (Scott No. 461) and 100,000 of the 2c Green O.B.s (Scott No 0-37) from the US BEP. These shipments were made from existing BEP stocks because the 2c Green plates (#145416 and 145417) were never used after the end of their first press run on March 12, 1941. Several months later, the Green Booklet Pane





D Pane



H Pane



I Pane

Positions — In addition to the Ordinary “A” Panes without special identifiable markings, only Positions “D” “H” and “I” are known because the horizontal guide line was omitted from this 360 subject flat press sheet.

History — 28,740 Booklets of four panes each were shipped to and  
*Philippine Philatelic Journal* 3:3/7

issued in Manila in November 1941 prior to the start of World War II. These panes were printed with Pale Apple Green Ink on Yellowish Paper with Yellowish Gum (462c). During the Japanese Occupation, Booklets were reprinted and sold in the U.S.A. which have a Darker Apple Green Ink on White Paper (462b).

Plate #163063 was sent to press from August 27 to August 31, 1942 to produce the 24,000 Dark Apple Green Booklet Panes (Scott No. 462b).

In August 1943, the Philippine Government-in-Exile requested that the U.S. BEP reprinted most of the Philippine stamps issued in the 1934-1940 era. The 1943 Reprints would be made available to the American public through the Philippine Philatelic Agency in Washington. The Reprints may have been an attempt by Exiled Philippine President Quezon to refocus America's attention on the Pacific War. President Roosevelt's priority was to defeat Germany first and then concentrate on Japan's final destruction. The military plans 'at that time' did not include major invasions to liberate the Philippines.

General MacArthur and President Franklin D. Roosevelt discussed future war strategy during their famous July stroll on the Hawaiian beach. Afterwards, America's military plans were changed to include the Liberation of the Philippines in 1944. One could speculate that MacArthur had agreed not to seek the 1944 Republican Party's presidential election nomination against the Democrat's nominee and then incumbent president - Franklin Roosevelt. General MacArthur could then redeem his March 1942 promise "...I Shall Return" and

### Japanese Occupation Issues 1942



Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term.”

The new 2c Sepia Rizals would remain securely stored in the BEP vaults despite the philatelic and political intrigue and notwithstanding the basic military fact that the Japanese forces were still occupying the Philippines.

### Rizal - Revised Portrait 1946



Regular Issue



Official Business



Philippine Republic Issue

### 2c Sepia

A 2c Green of a similar design with a mirror imaged portrait was issued in April 1941 with Rizal's hairpart on the wrong side. Two new plates were made and sent to press in January 1942 while the Japanese were occupying the Islands. Stored by the BE&P in Washington until the end of World War II and finally released in the Philippines on May 26, 1946.

The stamps intended for use in the Liberated Philippines were the Pictorial Series of 1934 (BEP name) with the VICTORY COMMONWEALTH overprints (Scott Nos. 485-494). When General MacArthur advanced the date of the Leyte landings to October 20, 1944, the VICTORY COMMONWEALTH stamps were still in a supply convoy enroute to the Philippines. To project the image of a functioning civilian Philippine government on Philippine soil, an operating civilian postal system would demonstrate that the traditional governmental services had been restored in the newly liberated area. Former postal officials and civilians in the liberated areas of Leyte and Samar Islands were asked to return pre-war stamps to the Post Office at Tacloban on Leyte Island. All of the returned stamps (plus envelopes and postal cards) were handstamped with the VICTORY overprint in violet ink. A total of 24,400 of the 2c Green Rizal Ordinaries (Scott No. 461) were handstamped creating Scott No. 464 and 13,200 of the 2c Green Rizal 'O.B.'s (Scott No. 0-37) were handstamped creating Scott No. O-39. The first day of issue on Leyte was November 8, 1944.



Overprint Enhanced

Finally, the new 2c Sepia Rizals with the 'revised hairpart' in a new portrait were shipped to Manila on February 21, 1946. A total of 55,140,000 of the 2c Sepia Ordinaries (Scott No. 497) and 10,450,000 of the 2c Sepia O.B.s (Scott No. 0-44) were shipped to Manila. The First Day of Sale in Manila was May 28, 1946. Independence day for the Philippines was July 4, 1946.

The Philippine Republic's Bureau of Posts locally overprinted

1,500,000 of the 2c Sepia Ordinaries (Scott No. 497) to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Jose Rizal's Martyrdom creating Scott No. 503. The first day of sale in Manila was December 30, 1946.

After independence and at the request of the Republic of the Philippines, the U.S. BEP sent the two Sepia plates (#147687 and 147688) to press in November 1946. The final shipment of BEP produced Philippine stamps was made on December 9, 1946 when 20,000 Sepia Ordinaries and 20,000 Sepia O.B.s were sent to the Philippine Philatelic Sales Agency then located at the Philippine Embassy in Washington.

The U.S. BEP destroyed its surplus stocks of Philippine stamps on May 29, 1949. The destruction included: 130,000 of the Green Ordinaries (Scott No. 461); 1,270,000 of the Green O.B.s (Scott No. 0-39); 123,000 of the Sepia Ordinaries (Scott No. 497) and 120,000 of the Sepia OBs (Scott Nos. 0-44). The BEP destroyed all of its Philippine printing plates on December 19, 1950.

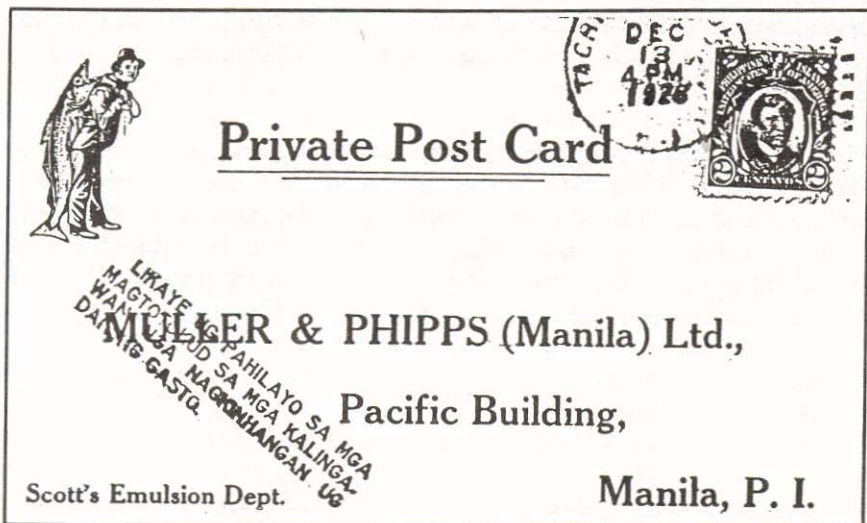
But these were not the only rotary press plates made for Philippine stamps! The US BEP created "CURVED" plates for the 2c Red Rizal (Scott No. 383) and for the 4c Green Carabao (Scott No. 384).

Between April 15th and June 6th 1936. The two 2c Red Rizal Rotary Press Plates (#133868-9) (Fig. #2) were "Sent To Press" from November 30th to December 6, 1937. A total of 500 impressions were made thus totalling 400,000 stamps. The 4c Green Rotaries (#134186-7) (fig # 3) were not sent to press. The disposition of the 2c Red Rizal Rotaries is unknown to the author at this time. However, Ray Coughlin's black and white photos of the 1936 Smithsonian Plate Proofs have manuscript notations that the "color is wrong". The 2c Red Rotary stamps may have been destroyed because the rotary press stocks were somehow not compatible with the overprinting press applying the Large COMMONWEALTH overprints (Scott No. 411). Hypothetically, one could speculate that the rotary press selvedge areas could have been stripped off, the overprints applied and the rotary stamps used without specific notice to the public. Naturally, IPPS members realize that all rotary press stamps normally differ dimensionally from the flat press stamps of the same design. Does a member wish to volunteer to measure the 84,072,400 2c Red Rizals with the Large COMMONWEALTH overprints (Scott No. 411) to see if any of the 400,000 rotary stamps ever reached the public? Good Hunting. ■

## POSTAL SAVINGS BANK THRIFT SLOGANS - PART 3

by Eugene A. Garrett

Following our listings in Philippine Philatelic Journal. Third Quarter 1992, Volume XIV (sic: XV), No. 3, pp. 12-20 and Fourth Quarter 1992, Volume XV, No. 4, p. 19, Ray Coughlin (I-043) has discovered some corrections, additions and new information concerning these interesting 65-year-old postal markings.



Thrift 1. Previously reported on cover postmarked Lucena, Tayabas, now seen on cover postmarked Batangas, Batangas June 30, 1927. This report confirms that some slogans were employed at more than one post office.

Thrift 17. Also seen on cover postmarked San Fernando, Pampanga December 21, 1928.

Thrift 28. Seen on cover postmarked Tagbilaran, Bohol December 11, 1928 (Figure 1) and at Cebu, Cebu on December 12, 1928. Also, correct spelling of first word, first line is "LIKAYE" instead of "LAKAYE". Translation furnished by Lucia Mercado Browning of Washougal, WA: "AVOID AND STAY AWAY FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF SOCIAL PARTIES THAT WASTE LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY".

Thrift 29. First line should read "AYAW SUNDA ANG MGA ADUNA HAN". Translation again furnished by Lucia Mercado Browning; "DO NOT FOLLOW THE RICH, LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS".

Thrift 32. Translated again by Lucia Mercado Browning of Washougal, WA: "WE ARE CALLING EVERYONE TO JOIN FOR A CAMPAIGN FOR MAXIMUM THRIFTNESS".

Thrift 33. Translated by Monica Torda Quigley: "THINK HOW TO ECONOMIZE AND SAVE MONEY".

Following are previously unreported:

Thrift 34. MAGNAYO CAMO SA MAGNA PA-/RA MUKNA NIN MAGASTONG CA-/ SIMBUTAN ASIN CAOROGMAHAM

\_\_\_? \_\_\_; \_\_\_? \_\_\_

VIRAC, ALBAY - DECEMBER 12, 1928

THRIFT 35. LIKAWAN MO ANG MGA MANOG/HIKOT SANG MAGASTRO NAGA KATI/PUNTIPUNAN KAG KASADIAHAN \_\_\_?\_\_\_; "STAY AWAY FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF SOCIAL PARTIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT WASTES YOUR MONEY".

Bacolod, Negros Occidental - December 4, 1928

Thrift 36. LUMAYO KAYO SA MGA NAGPA-/PANUKALA NG MGA KAPISYANAN/AT LIPONANG PAMPAUBUSLA-/MANGNG SALAPI

\_\_\_?\_\_\_; (Translation same as Thrift 35, per Lucia Mercado Browning and Cora Coughlin.)

MALOLOS, BULACAN - DECEMBER 23, 1928 AND (?), MINDORO - (?), 1928

Thrift 37. PAGLIKAY HADTON PABATUKOD/HAN MAGASTO NGA KALIPAYAN/NGAN MGA PIASTA

\_\_\_?\_\_\_; \_\_\_?\_\_\_

Calbayog, Samar - December 14, 1928 and

Bobon, Samar - (?), 1928

Thrift 38. LIKILAM DAGITI AGI BUANGBUA-/NGAY KxxxxDAGKI RAMRAMBAK A/DAKKE LA PAGGASTOAN

\_\_\_? \_\_\_; \_\_\_? \_\_\_

Ilagan, Isabela - December 15, 1928 and

Aparri, Cagayan - December 17, 1928

Readers are again urged to identify and report the particular languages/dialects and their translations which are missing above. ■

## PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL POSTAGE STAMPS 1910-1936

by *Arnold H. Warren*

Between 1912 and 1935, certain large users of Philippine postage stamps were permitted the exclusive use of postage stamps which could be identified in case of theft and unauthorized use. These commercial postage stamps, in accordance with their distinguishing characteristics, may be classified as follows:

A. Stamps upon which the user perforated its initials after the stamps were obtained from the Bureau of Posts.

B. Imperforate postage stamps issued in 1925 for the exclusive use of one commercial firm.

C. Stamps upon which the user handstamped its initials, or name, after the stamps were obtained from the Bureau of Posts.

D. Stamps bearing a commercial overprint in black which was applied by the Bureau of Posts prior to delivery of the stamps to the user, who was granted exclusive use of stamps bearing a specified commercial overprint.

### **A. Perforated Initials**

Prior to 1925, three users perforated their initials upon the postage stamps which they purchased. The stamps upon which perforated initials occur indicate that the use of perforated initials as a means of identification was begun by two users prior to 1914, and possibly as early as 1912. Perforated initials occur upon all regular issues of Philippine postage stamps from 1911 to 1926 and upon the Legislative Palace Issue of 1926. The perforated initials which occur on Philippine postage stamps are: A R C, C B I and P E Co.

About 1940, in reply to the writer's inquiry, the Director of Posts stated that, although stamps bearing perforated initials were in use for several years, he believed the use of such stamps was never authorized by the Bureau of Posts. He then produced an order of the Director of Posts prohibiting the use of stamps bearing perforated initials. This order, the writer believes, was dated early in 1925. But the date cannot now be verified. The records of the Bureau of Posts were lost when the Manila Post Office was burned during the Battle of Manila in 1945. And the writer's notes concerning Philippine postage stamps bearing perforated initials were lost when his home was bombed and destroyed in 1945.





Type 1. Perforated A R C. - The perforated initials, A R C, are credited to the American Red Cross. The writer was unable, however, to obtain confirmation of the use of these perforated initials by the American Red Cross. About 1940, in a letter addressed to the writer, the Manager of the Manila office of the American Red Cross stated that he was unable to find any record of use by the American Red Cross of

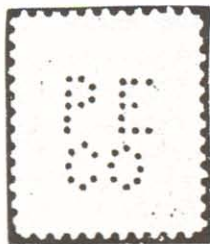
Philippine postage stamps perforated with the initials, A R C.

These perforated initials occur upon stamps of all regular issues from 1911 to 1926 and upon stamps of the Legislative Palace issue of 1926. The fact that these initials occur upon the 2-centavos denomination of both the 1911-14 and 1914-23 regular issues, indicates that the use of the perforated initials, A R C, was begun not later than 1914 and possibly as early as 1912.



Type 2. Perforated C B I. - The writer has been unable to identify the user of the perforated initials C B I. About 1940, he addressed a letter of inquiry to the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. The manager of the Manila Branch of this bank replied that he was unable to find any record of the use by his bank of Philippine postage stamps bearing the perforated initials, C B I.

These perforated initials occur upon stamps of the regular issues of 1911-14, 1914-23 and 1917-25. The fact that these initials occur upon the 2-centavo denomination of both the 1911-14 and the 1914-23 issues, indicated that the use of the perforated initials C B I was begun at least as early as 1914 and may have been begun as early as 1912. The initials, C B I, occur upon the 16-centavos (Sampson) of the 1917-25 issue, but do not occur upon the 16-centavos (Dewey) issued in 1923. It may be inferred, therefore, that use of the perforated initials, C B I, was discontinued not later than 1923. It is probable that the perforated initials C B I may occur upon stamps of the regular issue of 1918-26, but the writer has seen no stamps of this issue bearing the initials C B I.



Type 3. Perforated P E CO. - The perforated initials, P E Co, were used by the Philippine Education Company of Manila. About 1940, in answer to the writer's inquiry, the manager of this firm wrote that for a number of years the postage stamps used by the Philippine Education Company were perforated prior to use with the initials, P E Co, but that this practice was discontinued in compliance with an order of the Director of Posts. The manager of the Philippine Education Company had no record of the year in which use of the perforated initials, P E Co, was begun. He believed that use of these initials was discontinued about 1925. These perforated initials occur upon stamps of the 1917-25 issue and upon the 16-centavos (Dewey) issued in 1923. The fact that the initials, P E Co, do not occur upon the 16-centavos (Sampson) of the 1917-25 issue, indicates that the perforated initials, P E Co, may have been in use only during the years from 1923 to 1925.

### B. Imperforate Stamps



Type 4. Imperforate Stamps. - In 1925, the Philippine Bureau of Posts issued for the exclusive use of the Lambert Sales Company of Manila a series of imperforate postage stamps. These stamps were printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D. C., from the same plates as were then in use for printing the current series of perforate postage stamps. The colors of these imperforates were the same as the colors of the current series of perforate stamps.

The Lambert Sales Company was owned by Leon Lambert, Sr., and his son managed the Manila office of this firm. The son, Leon Lambert, Jr., was also a philatelist.

In a letter to Mr. Whipple S. Hall, dated Aug. 31, 1940, Mr. Leon Lambert, Jr., stated that, out of a total of 10,180 pesos worth of the imperforate postage stamps purchased by his firm in 1925, fully 8,000 pesos worth were actually used on the mail of his firm. Mr. Lambert wrote that for several months during 1925 his firm used no other stamps but, "because of the annoyance of cutting the stamps apart with scissors, no more were ordered and most of the remainder, amounting to some 2,000 pesos, were disposed of." The remainder, he stated, was sold to a stamp dealer in Philadelphia.

Mr. Lambert saved used specimens of all denominations of the 1925 imperforates. He was able to do this because many of these stamps were used on mail which was sent from the Manila office to the New York office of his firm. He has never stated how many used specimens he saved. But he has said that many of the used specimens were so damaged in transit, or were so heavily cancelled, as to be unsuitable for collection. A few collectors have obtained used specimens from Mr. Lambert.

One hundred sets of the 1925 imperforates were delivered to the Bureau of Posts in Manila as "samples." What disposition was made of the samples is not known. These "samples" disappeared from the archives of the Bureau of Posts prior to 1940. It is possible that they were stolen by an employee of the Bureau of Posts and were sold to collectors in the Philippines.

Concerning the reason for the issue of the 1925 imperforates Mr. Lambert wrote: "As you know, the 1925 imperforates were issued for postal use. Any large firm could buy them in lots of 10,000 pesos...The Philippine Bureau of Posts did not permit large firms to perforate their initials through the face of national personages such as Rizal, Dewey, Lawton, etc., and therefore, in order to permit such firms to have stamps which would be distinguishable from the ordinary stamps, in the event of theft, imperforate stamps could be obtained, providing these were ordered in lots of not less than 10,000 pesos. This regulation remained in full force for several years before it was finally revoked."

The appearance of the 1925 imperforates evoked a storm of protest from philatelists, both in Manila and in the United States, who resented the fact that these imperforates could not be purchased from the Bureau of Posts by philatelists.

In answer to the charge, made by the *Asociacion Filatelica de Filipinas*, that the Lambert Sales Company had been granted a monopoly of these imperforate postage stamps, the Director of Posts stated that he had not granted a monopoly to the Lambert Sales Company and that imperforate postage stamps would be issued to any entity which ordered at one time a lot of not less than 10,000 pesos worth and made full payment for the stamps at the time the order was given to the Bureau of Posts.

No other firm ordered imperforate stamps, however. Hence, the imperforates of 1925 were used exclusively by the Lambert Sales Company.

The writer has been unable to determine the exact date on which the Lambert Sales Company ordered these imperforate postage stamps from the Bureau of Posts. The order must have been given, however, very early in 1925. The major portion of the stamps was delivered to Mr. Leon Lambert, Sr., in New York on May 5, 1925.

The 1925 imperforates may be distinguished by their colors from a similar series of imperforate postage stamps which was issued in 1931. Some used specimens of the 1925 imperforates bear cancellations which identify the stamps as used prior to 1931.

### C. Commercial Handstamps



Type 5. Handstamped R.S. - Prior to June 20, 1925, the Rambler Shoe Company of Manila applied to the postage stamps which it purchased a rubber handstamp consisting of the initials "R.S." within a single-line rectangular frame of about the same dimensions as the design of the stamp. The stamps upon which this handstamp occurs indicate that it was in use at least as early as 1924 and may have been in use earlier. It is probable that this handstamp was not used subsequent to June 20, 1925, the date on which the Rambler Shoe Company first obtained from the Bureau of Posts postage stamps over-printed "MANILA P. I." The writer has been unable to determine whether or not the use of the handstamp "R.S." was authorized by the Bureau of Posts.

This handstamp occurs upon the 12-centavos denomination of the 1911-13 issue, upon the 30-centavos denomination of both the 1914-23, and the 1918-26 issues, and upon the 2c, 4c, 6c, 10c, 12c, 26c and 30c denominations of the 1917-25 issue.



Type 6. Handstamped HEACOCK'S MANILA. - The H. E. Heacock Company of Manila, probably in 1929, applied to the 2-centavos (yellow green) and 20-centavos denominations of the current 1917-25 issue a rubber handstamp, in violet, consisting of the words, HEACOCK'S MANILA, in two lines of Gothic capitals. A specimen of the 20-centavos in the writer's collection bears the concentric circles cancellation which the writer has not seen on stamps used subsequent to 1929. The yellow green shade of the 2-centavos first became current about 1929.

Stamps bearing this overprint are rare. It probably was in use only during a very brief period when the H.E. Heacock Company had exhausted its supply of the 2c and 20c denominations overprinted H MANILA P.I. (Type 9) and had not yet received from the Bureau of Posts the stamps of these denominations bearing the overprint. HEACOCK'S MANILA (Type 12), which superceded the overprint, H MANILA P.I. The writer has been unable to determine whether or not use of the handstamp HEACOCK'S MANILA was authorized by the Bureau of Posts. (Note: The illustration of Type 6 is not an exact replica of the actual handstamp, but indicates style and approximate size.)

#### **D. Commercial Overprints**

Philippine postage stamps bearing commercial overprints are sometimes erroneously identified as "Pre-cancelled" stamps. The commercial overprints are in black and are very similar to the pre-cancel overprints on stamps of the United States. But the commercial overprints applied to Philippine postage stamps were not intended to serve as a pre-cancellation. All Philippine postage stamps bearing commercial overprints either were, or should have been, cancelled in the usual manner when the mail bearing these stamps passed through the post office. The commercial overprint was applied solely to enable the user to identify its stamp in case of theft or unauthorized use.

Most of the commercial overprints which occur upon Philippine postage stamps have been listed by M. Galvez in his *Catalogo Especial de los Sellos de Correos y Telegrafos de Espana, Colonias y Ex-Colonias* (Published in Madrid, Spain).

During the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines, Mr. Ramon Catala searched the records of the Bureau of Posts for information concerning the commercial overprints. The information which he obtained was compiled in two pages of typewritten notes. In June, 1942, when Mr. Catala visited the Red Cross Hospital where the writer was interned, the writer obtained from Mr. Catala a copy of his notes concerning the COMMERCIAL OVERPRINTS. More than two years later Mr. Catala was executed by the Japanese; and the records of the Bureau of Posts were destroyed when the Manila Post Office was burned during the Battle of Manila in 1945. Hence the writer has been unable to verify the information given by the notes of Mr. Catala.

The postage stamps bearing these commercial overprints were issued by the Bureau of Posts for use exclusively by certain specified users. The user applied to the Bureau of Posts for permission to use postage stamps bearing an overprint by which the stamps be identified in case of theft. The Bureau of Posts required full payment for the stamps at the time the order was placed. The overprint was applied by the Bureau of Printing (Manila) to stamps furnished by the Bureau of Posts from its stock of the current issue. The overprinted stamps were delivered by the Bureau of Printing to the Bureau of Posts, which issued the stamps to the user. Thus the stamps bearing commercial overprints were authorized and issued by the Bureau of Posts. In this respect the commercial overprints differ from the perforated initials and the commercial handstamps. Both the perforated initials and the commercial handstamps were applied by the user after the stamps were obtained from the Bureau of Posts.



Type 7. Overprinted MANILA P. I., in two lines of capital letters. - According to Mr. Catala, the first commercial overprint authorized by the Bureau of Posts was issued in 1925 for the exclusive use of the Rambler Shoe Company "and its sister organization, the Howard Lux Company," both of Manila. Mr. Catala states that the first order for stamps bearing this overprint was placed with the Bureau of Posts on May

27, 1925, and that the overprinted stamps were delivered to the Rambler Shoe Company and the Howard Lux Company on June 20, 1925. The overprint in black was MANILA P. I. in two lines of Capital letters. It occurs upon the 2c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 12c, 20c, 26c, and 30c denominations of the 1917-25 issue, upon the 16c (Dewey) of the 1923 issues, and upon the 1-peso denomination of the 1914-23 issue. Apparently this overprint was not applied to stamps of the 10-centavos denomination. Mr. Catala states that this overprint remained in use until 1929, when it was superseded by the overprint, RAMBLER MANILA, issued for the exclusive use of the Rambler Shoe Company. (See Type II).

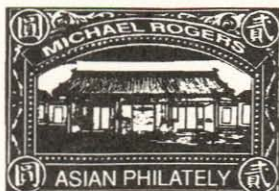
Type 7a. Overprinted Manila, P.I., in two lines of capital and lower-case letters. - Mr. Catala states: "On February 24, 1926, Brias Roxas, a large mail-order house (of Manila), inquired from the Post Office if it could be allowed to use its trade name, "BRIROX," on its stamps. ■

*To be continued...*

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