

SEPTEMBER 7, 1944

50c REGULAR PROVISIONAL ISSUE – SECOND PRINTING

A second printing of this issue was carried out. US 50c Barasoain Church small Commonwealth issue of 1938 overprinted by the Bureau of Printing in Manila with black deleting bars, obliterating the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" on top and partially obliterating the "COMMONWEALTH" overprint. Stamps of the Second Printing shows a tiny round circular upper space in the 'A' of 'CENTAVOS' as through made with the point of a pin, compared to the First Printing which displays a small triangular upper space.

ORIGINAL US ISSUE



OVERPRINTED ISSUE



PARTIAL DRY PRINT (AFFECTING LEFT '5' IN '50' ON TOP RIGHT STAMP)



The Second Printing was produced for political reasons. In mid-1944, a patriotic Japanese-sponsored leaflet was printed by the Kalibapi showing certain highlights of Philippine history as reflected in current postage stamps. The 50c Regular Provisional issue was naturally included, since it pictures the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan, where the Revolutionary Government drew up the constitution of the First (Aguinaldo) Philippine Republic on September 15, 1893. Too late, the sponsors of the leaflet discovered that the 50c stamp, of which only 20,000 had been printed, had become very scarce and consequently prohibitively expensive, and unavailable in the quantities required. The Kalibapi thereupon demanded a further printing of the stamp, and had sufficient political influence to have that demand met, in spite of vigorous protest from serious philatelists. When it was decided to print a fresh supply by a further printing from the plate used in 1943, the plate could not be found. A new plate was therefore produced from a photograph of an original surcharged pane. The original and reissue stamps are therefore very similar, but not identical.