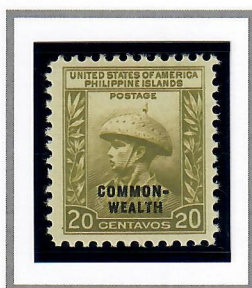


JUNE 20, 1943

12C LIMBAGAN ISSUE

US 20c Juan de la Cruz small Commonwealth issue of 1939 overprinted by the Bureau of Printing in Manila with black deleting bars, obliterating the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" on top and the "COMMON/WEALTH" overprint. Issued to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the first printing press in the Philippines. 'Limbagan' is the Tagalog word for 'Printing Press'. The stamp was produced to cover the 12c Registry Fee which had become effective from March 1, 1943.

ORIGINAL US ISSUE



OVERPRINTED ISSUE



*In 1593, just twenty-eight years after the arrival of the Spaniards, Father Domingo de Nieva built the first printing press in the Philippines with the help of the Chinese printer Keng Yong. It was a simple xylographic press (the wood was carved, inked and transferred onto paper) but it meant the first step to the publication of hundreds of books in the Philippines. A bilingual Spanish-Tagalog catechism *Doctrina Christiana* by Franciscan Juan de Plasencia, and a *Doctrina Cristiana* in Chinese were published in 1593. These were the first books to be published in the Philippines.*