

**JANUARY 12, 1945****20s FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC**

The stamp features President Jose P Laurel and were lithographed on glazed newsprint by one of the printing plants operating under the aegis of Manila Shimbun-Sha, Inc., Printing Division, Manila in plates of 300, divided into six panes of 50 stamps (10x5). Issued imperforate and ungummed. Designed by Pedro V Coniconde, a staff artist of the prewar Philippines Herald newspaper. Issued under adverse wartime conditions, the stamps are but crude examples of the printer's art. The Tagalog inscription on the lower right is 'IKASANTAONG PAGKATATAG NG REPUBLIKA' (First Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Republic).

The stamps were intended to be released on October 14, 1944 to commemorate the first anniversary of the inauguration of the Republika ng Pilipinas, but a variety of production problems delayed the release until January 12, 1945. In spite of the three month's delay, the First Day Cover cachet cancels still show the date October 14, 1944. The 20s value covered the Registry Fee which had been raised from 12c to 20c on June 1, 1944.

