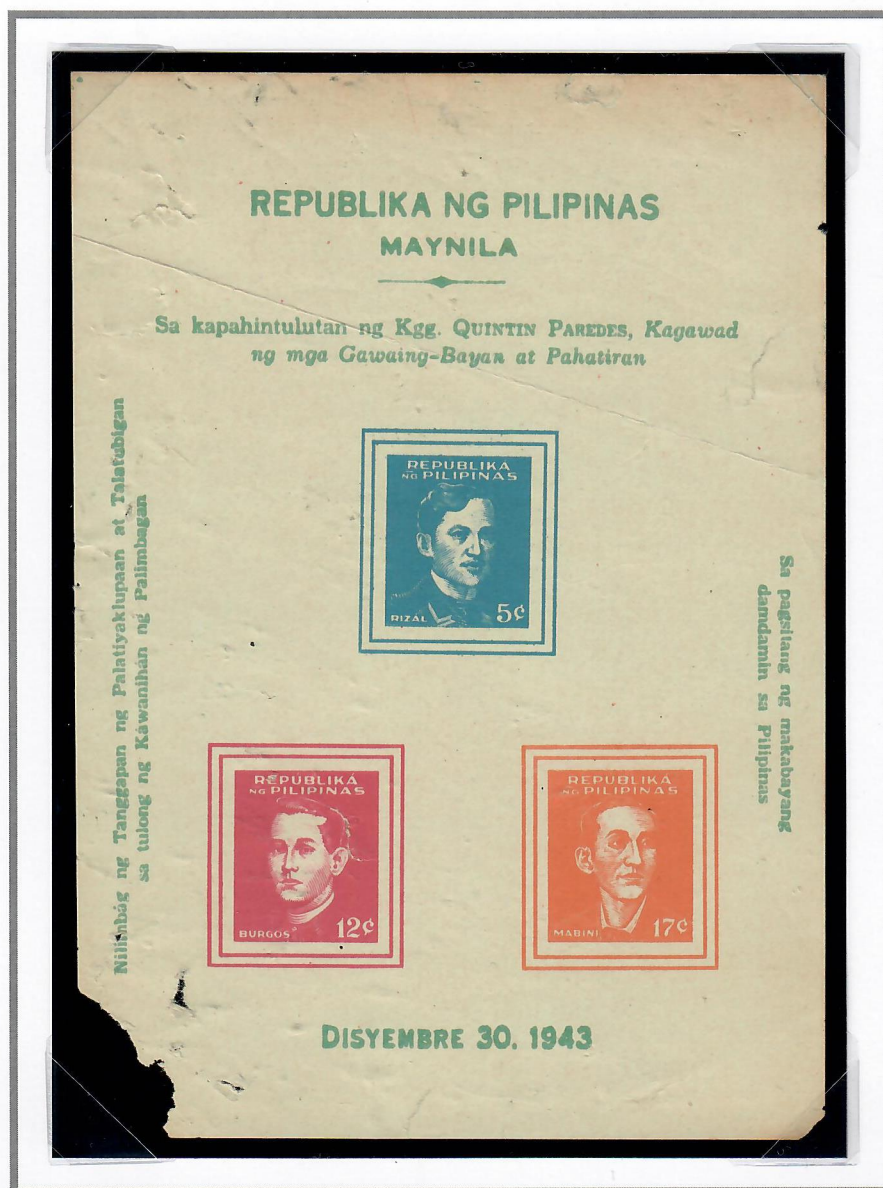


FEBRUARY 9, 1944

UNISSUED NATIONAL HEROES SOUVENIR SHEET

An entire printing (estimated at 200,000) sheets, of an unissued Souvenir Sheet was discovered and looted by an American serviceman from the vault of the Manila Central Post Office on February 22, 1945, during the battle for the liberation of Manila. It is best classified as an essay: printed but not issued. It was apparently intended to be released on December 30, 1943 to coincide with Rizal Day, as indicated by the inscription on the bottom of the sheet. Most of the printing was destroyed by fire, with only about 100 undamaged examples having survived. An official reason for withholding the sheet from issue after an entire printing is unknown.



Commonly found damaged Souvenir Sheet as looted from the Manila Post Office