
COL. HANS LAGERLOEF SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF THE AGUINALDO REVOLUTIONARY STAMPS

FINDING GUIDE

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Essay of the “Katipunan” or “First Republic” issues of General Aguinaldo



Smithsonian
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COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

The Col. Hans Lagerloef Specialized Collection of the Aguinaldo Revolutionary Stamps consists of one album of stamps, essay and covers on 45 pages and one cream box with six folders of stamped documentary paper (papel sellos) from 1898-1900.

PROVENANCE

Col. Hans Lagerloef donated this specialized collection to the Smithsonian's national philatelic collection on October 22, 1943 and accepted into the Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum on November 8 and December 15, 1943 (Accession Number 165659).

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

From the time Manila was opened to foreign trade in 1837, there was a slow but steady increase in its prosperity into the 1890s. The attitude of some Spanish officers stationed in the Philippine Islands, increased travel of young Filipinos to Europe, the growth of Masonic lodges in the Philippines, and the increasing oppressive authority of the friars contributed to a movement against the Spanish who opposed any change that lessened their authority.

As the movement gained momentum so did the idea of nationality. The campaign of Dr. Jose Rizal y Mercado, Marcelo del Pilar, Lopez Jaena and Apolinario Mabini, as leaders of the "Young Filipino Party" was a protest against the domination of the Friars and the abuses of the Spanish. About the time this party was founded, an organization called "Supreme (or Sovereign) Worshipful Association of the Sons of the People," generally known as the Katipunan Society, was established.

The Katipunan Society, under the mystical letters "K.K.K.," is reported to have numbered between 100,000 and 400,000 members. On August 26, 1896, the first major insurrection against Spain broke out, centered at Cavite, and Emilio Aguinaldo first came into prominence.

Aguinaldo was born near Cavite, Luzon, of Chinese and Tagalog parentage. He was educated at Cavite and the University of St. Thomas in Manila run by the Dominican Friars. At the outbreak of the insurrection, he was mayor of Cavite Viejon, displayed marked capacity for leadership and took a prominent part in assuming powers.

The revolutionary forces were defeated by the Spanish in less than two months, but upon the execution of Rizal on December 30, 1896, the conflict broke out again and spread to the provinces of Pangasinan, Zambales, Ilocos and others. A pact was later concluded between Aguinaldo and Spanish officials, and he departed for Hong Kong on December 27, 1897.

War broke out between Spain and the United States on February 15, 1898. Taking advantage of the situation, Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines and declared their independence on June 12, 1898. They proclaimed a provisional Republic with Aguinaldo as president and on September 9, 1898, established a capital at Malolos. The First Philippine Republic was formally established with the proclamation of the Malolos Constitution on January 21, 1899, by General Aguinaldo. He ordered

“that it should be kept, complied with and executed in all its parts because it is the will of the Filipino people.”¹

There was a battle between Aguinaldo’s troops and the American army. On February 4, 1899, he declared war on the United States. Two days later, the U.S. Senate ratified a peace treaty with Spain, and the Philippines Islands became a U.S. Territory. Aguinaldo was not a part to the treaty and for the next two years his forces continued to battle the U.S. troops.

On March 23, 1901, Aguinaldo was captured by General Fredrick Funston at his headquarters in Palawan on the northeast coast of Luzon. His capture ended the existence of the Revolutionary Government and the insurrection. On April 19, 1901, Aguinaldo took an oath of allegiance to the United States, formally ending the First Republic and recognizing the sovereignty of the United States over the Philippines.²

During the Aguinaldo period, regular postage, registration, revenue, newspaper and telegraph stamps were printed and issued. They were often referred to as the “Katipunan” or “First Republic” issues. These provisional stamps were prepared for use in the central part of the island of Luzon at Malolos, were in use in Luzon as early as November 10, 1898, and continued in use through early 1901. Appendix 1 shows the decree establishing the postal system and is reproduced for the benefit of the reader to analyze postal rates and usages.³

The Smithsonian Institution received donations (Accession No. 165659) from Col. Hans Lagerloef on November 8 and December 15, 1943, which were a complete collection of postage stamps and stamped revenue paper from the Aguinaldo Revolutionary Period (Scott Y1-Y3, YF1, YP1 and Warren-336-343). The collection has over 2200 objects which include singles, pairs, blocks and full sheets. A number of unique and rare items from the collection will be highlighted.

CONTAINER INVENTORY

Album: Contains an essay, stamps and covers of the Aguinaldo Revolutionary stamps (1898-1899)

- Page 1 – a dedication letter from Col. Lagerloef
- Pages 2 – 3 – text about the Revolution and a photostatic copy of the decree authorizing telegraph and postal services
- Page 4 – essay card with two impressions in blue (2c and 10c de peso) designs for the proposed stamps of the Revolutionary Government
- Page 5 – a provincial Provisional cover handstamped “Repub a Filipinas”, Sello Provia” addressed to Dimas Guzman, Governor of Isabella Backstamped at Ilagan
- Pages 6 – 11 – postage stamps (Scott Y-2) 2 cents red with “2 cents” on white tablet including a complete sheet of 192 stamps (12 x 16).



- Pages 9 – 12 – postage stamps (Scott Y-1) 2 cents red with “2 cents” in lined background including a double impression



- Pages 13 – 14 – postage and telegraph stamps (Scott Y-3) 2 cents red including a complete sheet (10 x 5) of 50 stamps
- Page 15 – two covers with 2 cents red with “2 cents” on white tablet
- Pages 16 – 18 – registration stamps, 8c de peso green (Scott Y-F-1) singles, blocks of four, complete sheet and imperforate pair used on cover with 2 cents red telegraph stamp
- Pages 19 – 24 – newspaper stamps 1 milésima black (Scott Y-P-1) including stamps imperforate and perforate with complete sheets of each and an imperforate pair used on wrapper



- Pages 24 – 26 – receipt stamps (Scott Y-R-1) brown 10c de peso, singles, blocks, and a complete sheet

- Pages 27 – 30 – telegraph stamps (Scott Y-T-1) 2 cents purple singles, pairs, blocks and two complete sheets
- Pages 31 – 34 – telegraph stamps (Scott Y-T-2) 50 c de peso, singles, pairs, blocks single with double perforations, complete sheet and used stamps
- Pages 35 – 38 various covers and combination rates include a block of 6 on a piece with the “Presidential Headquarters” cancellation and two singles (Scott Y-2) with “Mil. Sta. No. 1 Philippine Is. San Francisco, Cal, Jan. 1, 1899” and postage due 2 cts marking



- Pages 39 – 41 – official cachets from Secretary of War, Secretary of Interior, and Secretary of the Exchequer, General Treasurer, and Director of Printing
- Page 42 – Panay provisional – E.E.B. Ejercito Estado Bisayon strip of three, 4 cuartos, perforated
- Page 43 – strip of three of the newspaper stamps (Scott Y-P-1) and postage stamps (Scott Y-1) 2 cents red with “2 cents” on lined background
- Page 44 – Sheet with one each of the five stamps
- Page 45 – Cattle tax stamps including a block of four

Cream Box: Six folders with the only known complete set of documentary stamped revenue paper (Papel Sellado). The stamped paper of the Revolutionary Government was issued in double sheets, 8 ½ x 12 ½ inches, the same size as the sheets of stamped paper issued under Spanish rule. The stamp was printed at the top of the first page. At the left of the stamp was an embossed seal, which occurs in two forms. The serial number of the sheet was at the right of the stamp. The paper varied considerably in quality and thickness and bore different watermarks. Eight different denominations and colors were issued.

There are also sign letters from Capt John RM Taylor and F.W. Vaille, Director General of Posts transmitting the documentary stamped revenue paper to the Postmaster General. Two of the folders contain complete documents and letters, one with a block of 8, pair and two singles of the postage stamps (Scott Y-1) 2 cents red with “2 cents” on lined background.

- 25c No. 009501, 016979, 016980, 016981, 016992
- 50c No. 009500, 009506, 009507, 010685
- Un Peso No. 003237, 007455, 007459, 010654
- 2 Peso No. 001783, 001784, 001785, 003497
- 5 Peso No. 002929, 002930, 002931, 002936
- 10 Peso No. 001979, 001980, 001981, 001996

- 15 Peso No. 000326
- 20 Peso No. 000436



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² Zaide, Sonia M (1999). *The Philippines: A Unique Nation*. All-Nations Publishing. 2nd edition: 274-275.

³ Harradine, Peter W. A. 1987. *Philippine Postage Stamp Handbook, 1854-1982*. McFarland and Company, Inc. Jefferson, North Carolina. 86-87.

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CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All images are courtesy of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Col. Hans Lagerloef Collection of Postage Stamps of the Philippine Islands, Accession No. 165659, November 8 and December 15, 1943. The Smithsonian National Postal Museum is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To view this collection or other objects in the national collection, email Jim O'Donnell at ODonnellJA@si.edu for an appointment.

This finding guide was prepared with the assistance of Douglas Lehmann and Don Peterson, members of International Philippine Philatelic Society, <http://www.theipps.info/>, and NPM Museum Specialists Jim O'Donnell and Annette Shumway.