

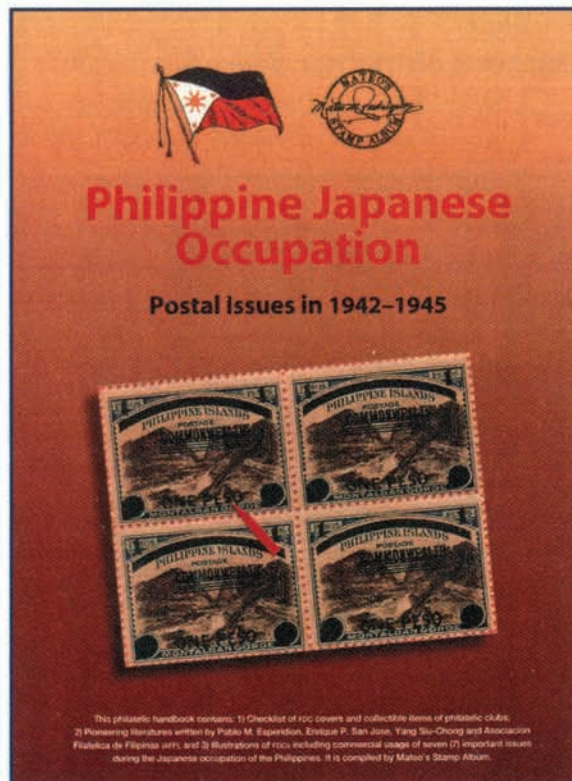
book reviews

by bonny farmer

Philippine Japanese Occupation; Postal Issues in 1942–1945, by Pio S. Rodriguez. Published 2008 by the author. Hardcover, non-paginated, color & b/w illus. Available for loan from the American Philatelic Research Library.

This award-winning handbook is a compilation of articles, exhibit material and catalogue information. Even if you are familiar with Eugene Garrett's classic 1992 treatise, *A Postal History of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines 1941–1945* (available in the APRL), you will want to read this volume as well, as it contains topics not covered in Garrett's book. The author accomplished this with meticulous research and the use of some original techniques, including reproducing photocopies of original material published between 1943 and 1951 by authors who had lived through the Japanese Occupation, in addition to incorporating his own 1987 guide to printed errors, varieties, and rarities.

The book is divided into three parts: (1) Ten checklists of postal issues and collectible works of philatelic clubs during the occupation. (2) Four pioneering articles from 1943–1951, plus additional



in-depth articles. (3) Selected covers of the issues, including their commercial usage. Be aware, however, that this is not intended as a “beginner’s guide.” The volume is completely unpaginated, nor is there a formal table of contents. The researcher must wade in on his own. Still, for the collector of Philippine philately, there is much valuable material included. Regrettably, the volume is not for sale, although a copy is available for loan through the American Philatelic Research Library. The author notes in his Introduction that this is his standard practice: “...only limited copies of this handbook have been made and given as compliments. Hence the recipients are enjoined to allow their copies to be reproduced by other collectors provided such reproductions are not for commercial purposes.”