

SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM

Newsletter

December 2009 – March 2010



Discover Philippines! SPM



In recent years, National Heritage Board (NHB) museums and institutions have been holding annual exhibitions on the culture and heritage of ASEAN countries. This year 2009, NHB celebrates all things Filipino with *Philippines Fiesta*, which coincides with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Singapore.



Her Excellency Minda Calaguian-Cruz (centre), Ambassador of the Philippines and Professor Cheah Jin Seng (right), Director, SPM Board, on a guided tour of the exhibition with curator, Michelle Lim



Children from local Filipino community performing 'tinikling' or bamboo dance at the official opening

SPM collaborated with Museo Pambata, a renowned children's museum in Manila, on an exciting range of programmes for families and schools. Four representatives from the museum were in Singapore to help organise and carry out activities during the *Discover Philippines!* open house on 15 November 2009. Visitors were treated to delectable Filipino snacks, tried their hands at traditional games and learnt about traditional Philippine costumes.

One of the school programmes was a letter exchange between the children of Singapore and the Philippines. Students from Xinghua Primary School and Holy Innocents' High School wrote to their counterparts in the Philippines. They shared about their family and



Rahul Isaac Itty Abraham (left) from Xinghua Primary School met his pen pal, Christian Belmoro (right) from the Philippines, as part of SPM's Letter Exchange Programme with Museo Pambata



Children trying their hand at making 'turon' or banana fritter during the open house

Bayanihan: Spirit of the Philippines was officially opened by Her Excellency Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Ambassador of the Philippines, on 23 October 2009. From 24 October 2009 to April 2010, the exhibition aims to bring the culture of the Philippines to local families and children. Visitors can admire more than 400 Philippine stamps dating from 1890 to 2009, rare stereographic photographs and antique indigenous costumes at the exhibition.

From 30 November 2009 to January 2010, families and children can experience the colourful fiestas of the Philippines at *Fiesta! Fiesta! Fiesta!*. They can discover world-famous festivals of the Philippines such as *Sinulog*, *Ati-atihan*, *Pahiyas* and *MassKara*, as well as find out how Christmas is celebrated in a country where more than 80% of the population is Christian.



Explore Philippine fiestas!

school life, culture and places of interest in their country. Eleven-year old Christian Belmoro, a participant of Museo Pambata's Child Advocacy Program, had the opportunity to come to Singapore, and shared his knowledge about the Philippines with young visitors at SPM.



Intramuros, Manila, late 1800s - early 1900s

Sponsors • Singapore Post Limited • Lee Foundation

Supporters • Cebu Pacific Air • Hotel Rendezvous

Partners • Museo Pambata • Mrs Digna Cruzem Ryan • Mrs Neliza Nandwani

Rare Edo-Kimekomi Dolls in Singapore

From 12 to 15 November 2009, close to 5,000 visitors were treated to a spectacular display of 392 handcrafted traditional Edo-Kimekomi dolls at Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM). The exquisite dolls depicted Japanese festivals, folklore and traditions, and were specially created by 200 highly skilled doll masters from Traditional Edo-Kimekomi Dolls Sachiei-Kai over a period of two years.

A 60-strong delegation from Sachiei-Kai headed by chairperson, Ms Sachiei Ito, specially flew to Singapore for the exhibition. The members conducted workshops for more than 200 students and members of the public on the Kimekomi doll making method using *mari* (balls). The exhibition also featured beautiful paintings depicting Japanese festivals and celebrations produced by Ms Kumi Ito, a Japanese-style painter.



Children's Heaven
The dolls illustrate the way of life of children and scenes of adorable children playing and having fun during the Edo period

The highlight of the exhibition was the display of the wedding celebration scene from a popular Japanese children's classic, "The Mouse's Wedding". The exhibit depicted a typical wedding held during the early Edo (1603 – 1867) to middle Showa (1925 – 1989) periods.



The Mouse's Wedding
This exhibit featured 100 dolls with over 100 accessories. It was specially created for the Singapore exhibition and was a concerted effort of Sachiei-Kai over a period of two years



Arrival of VIPs for the official opening of the exhibition held on 12 November 2009

Row 1, L-R: Ms Tresnawati Prihadi (GM/SPM), Mr Matthias Yao (Mayor of South East District and Deputy Speaker of Parliament), Mrs Matthias Yao, from Traditional Edo-Kimekomi Dolls Sachiei-Kai, Ms Sachiei Ito (Chairperson) & Ms Kyoko Machida (Director), Ms Kumi Ito (Japanese style painter)

Row 2, L-R: Mr Wilson Tan (Group CEO/Singapore Post); Mr Daniel Teo, (Chairman/SPM)



Edo Picture Scroll
The dolls depict scenes of the life and customs of the people during the Edo period

Sachiei-Kai has generously donated 104 dolls to SPM. These dolls depict Chinese zodiac animals and Japanese traditions and customs during the Edo period. These traditional dolls are found in most Japanese families and are often displayed as decoration pieces in homes, especially during festivals such as *Hina Matsuri* (Japanese Doll Festival or Girls' Day) and Children's Day. The donated dolls will be on display at SPM until January 2010.

Did
You
Know



Doll donated by Traditional Edo-Kimekomi Sachiei-Kai

The Kimekomi doll was certified as a traditional artwork by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan in 1978. The special characteristic of the Edo-Kimekomi doll is the long, lean shape and fine, delicate features. 'Kimekomi' refers to the technique of 'dressing' the dolls. Edges of textile, usually 'kimono' fabric, are tucked into grooves that are cut into the torso of the wooden doll. The doll is completed by adding a painted head with supporting neck. The result is a doll 'dressed' in different layers and designs of clothes.

'09 National Stamp Collecting Competition Prize Presentation Ceremony

Brightly coloured flags fluttered in the air, costumes of different colours worn by dancers and musical performers filled the plaza, students in smartly pressed uniforms sat with their teachers with bated breath while shiny trophies filled the tables on the stage. The atmosphere was abuzz with excitement. Students showed off their works while parents proudly snapped pictures of their children's efforts.

Principals, teachers, students, parents and guests were gathered at the prize presentation ceremony of the 2009 National Stamp Collecting Competition (NSCC) held at the National Library on 29 August 2009. After months of researching and organising, the students' works were finally put up in exhibition panels for visitors to view.

Gold and silver trophies were presented to more than 450 proud winners from 25 primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions. Nan Chiau High School and Xinghua Primary School bagged the top awards for Secondary School and Primary School Champions.



Chinese dance by Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School



Association of Singapore Philatelists Challenge Shield – Secondary School Champion
Nan Chiau High School



Singapore Post Challenge Shield – Primary School Champion
Xinghua Primary School

2010 NSCC

Participants taking part in the competition use stamps and philatelic materials to explore a variety of topics such as nature, science and culture.

School Group Category (Group of 4)

Primary 3-6
Secondary 1-4

Individual Category

Junior college and tertiary institutions

WORKSHOPS

Workshops begin in January 2010. Please contact Lily for more details at Tel: 6513 7347 or E-mail Lily_Samuel@nhb.gov.sg



NSCC teaches learning and thinking skills such as language development, writing, research and creativity.

Singapore Philatelic Museum would like to congratulate all winners of 2009 NSCC. We also thank all schools for their participation, and all sponsors and supporters.

Sponsors

Singapore Post Limited • National Library Board • National Heritage Board • Reader's Digest • Asian Geographic Junior • Katjes • What's Up • Unilever • Editions Didier Millet

Supporters

Ministry of Education • Association of Singapore Philatelists • Singapore Stamp Club • Kreta Ayer Stamp Society • Zui You Philatelic Society • Singapore Philatelic Society

STAMP Stockbooks



The new "STAMP" stock book series features all of the important marks of quality that have come to be expected from LIGHTHOUSE stock books. For the cover, pages, strips, binding and interleaves we only use select materials which guarantee appealing and secure storage for your stamps. The coloured cover features stamps from around the world.

The stock books with black pages protect stamps underneath crystal clear strips made from chemical softener-free film. The 'white books' contain glassine strips. STAMP stock books are available in A4* and A5* size.

A4 SIZE

with 16 white pages **Ref. No. STAMP 4/8**
with 32 white pages **Ref. No. STAMP 4/16**
with 60 white pages **Ref. No. STAMP 4/30**

with 16 black pages **Ref. No. STAMP 5 4/8**
with 32 black pages **Ref. No. STAMP 5 4/16**
with 60 black pages **Ref. No. STAMP 5 4/30**

A5 SIZE

with 16 white pages **Ref. No. STAMP 2/8**
with 16 black pages **Ref. No. STAMP 5 2/8**

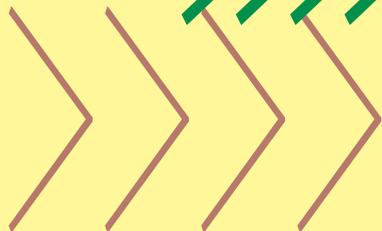
Available at:

Singapore Philatelic Museum

23-B Coleman Street • Singapore 179807

Tel: (65) 6337 3888 • Fax: (65) 6337 3958

Racing with



Assignment:

To create an exhibition, from research to installation, based on the history and development of the automobile including Grand Prix racing

Having worked with Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) earlier on a stamp-based workshop on National Day, this car-themed exhibition gave a chance for the students to express their ideas on a more current event, the thrilling and action-packed 2009 Singapore Grand Prix. After discussions with Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM), the NYP lecturers created an assignment which challenged two classes of Design school students to expand their scope of work and put together an exhibition that is viewed by the paying public.

Nanyang Polytechnic Students



The winning team of four – Alexz Hong Yao Zhong, Fazal Khan, Marialaura Lui and Mah Ming Ying – was attached to the museum for a period of 12 weeks for their internship.

What do youths and racing have in common? Speed, colour, noise, excitement, fun...

With no hesitation, the interns jumped into each element of the work with enthusiasm and gusto and moreover were able to produce results on fairly short notice. They experimented with interesting colour

combinations, proposed stylish albeit costly display ideas, inevitably always plugged into their MP3s so the only audible sound was the clickings of their laptop keypads. They're highly excited during their discussions, more so during meals. Fun and funny at the same time, they are a happy bunch even when they had to work overtime or during the weekends.

Come see their works of creation *From Vintage to Grand Prix* which runs till January 2010.

Museum Shop

We are happy to announce that SPM has been appointed as agent and distributor for French Post and Australian Post. Selected stamps from France and Australia are now available at the museum shop.



Upcoming Exhibitions

Hear the Tiger Roar!

February – August 2010

Celebrate the Year of the Tiger at SPM with this fun and educational exhibition for children, and admire beautiful tiger stamps, including zodiac stamps from all over the world. Did you know that the striped pattern on the body of each tiger is unique? Unravel interesting facts about this magnificent creature whose number has dropped greatly in the last century. Gain an insight into the plight of tigers in our world today, and find out what you can do to save tigers from extinction.



World War II

February – July 2010

Come 2010, SPM will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II with a thematic exhibition. The exhibition will showcase a collection of stamps, letters, postcards, postal notices, and other philatelic materials from the museum's collection and from private collectors. The ideology and propaganda campaigns of the Japanese invaders, life of the people in Singapore during the Occupation, and memories of the pain and sufferings are told through the collection on display.



What's On.....

Open House Days

25 December 2009 * *Christmas Day*

Friday, 9am – 7pm

1 January 2010 * *New Year's Day*

Friday, 9am – 7pm

16 February 2010 * *Chinese New Year*

Tuesday, 9am – 7pm

3rd day

Explore our exhibitions with your family. **Free admission.**
For details on activities, call 6337 3888 or visit www.spm.org.sg



Stamp Issues

8 January 2010 * *Zodiac Series – Tiger*

February 2010 * *Anniversaries*

March 2010 * *Playgrounds*

Stamp Fair

14 March 2010 * *Stamp fair, evaluation and auction*
Sunday, 10am – 4pm
Organised by Singapore Stamp Club

Exhibitions

1 March 2009 – December 2010 * *At the Post Office – with Max and Phily*

1 September 2009 – January 2010 * *From Vintage to Grand Prix*

24 October 2009 – April 2010 * *Bayanihan: Spirit of the Philippines*

30 November 2009 – 10 January 2010 * *Fiesta! Fiesta! Fiesta!*

February – August 2010 * *Hear the Tiger Roar!*

February – July 2010 * *World War II*



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MUSEUM

23-B Coleman Street
Singapore 179807

Tel +65 6337 3888
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www.spm.org.sg

a National Heritage Board museum

OPENING HOURS

Mon 1pm – 7pm Tues–Sun 9am – 7pm

ADMISSION

\$5.00 for adults
\$4.00 for children (3 – 12 years)
\$4.00 for senior citizens (60 years and above)

All information correct at time of printing

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