

## EDITORS' CORNER

Welcome to the "new" *Medal Collector*! You have probably already noticed the change in the front cover design as well as the new font style. What you may not realize is that the Editorship of the *Medal Collector* has once again changed hands. In addition to a new Editor, we have added an Associate Editor, which we hope will enhance our ability to get the journal out on time.

By way of introduction, both John Strandberg, Managing Editor and John Mull, Associate Editor, have been long time OMSA members and past contributors to the *Medal Collector*. Both are looking forward to embarking on an aggressive program to revitalize the *Medal Collector* and get the publication back on schedule. With the introductions out of the way let's get down to some important business.

First of all the *Medal Collector* can't succeed without the support of each and every OMSA member! After all, the journal is only as good as the articles that we have to publish. The editors are here to help you get your article published. Don't feel you can't contribute an article because you don't have a typewriter or PC. We will gladly accept neat hand written drafts. And don't let your inability to produce quality photographs hold you up either. We can work with you on photography as well. Send us your ideas, submit rough drafts of articles you would like to have published, or send us your finished articles. We would like nothing more than to work with you and assist you in getting your article published.

This issue presents a potpourri of short articles. If you are a long time OMSA member you will notice a lot of new authors in this issue. Articles do not need to be 5, 10, or 15 pages long. We can always use good articles that are just one, two, or three pages long. Remember to include your name, address, phone number and OMSA membership number along with your correspondence.

Unfortunately space does not allow us to publish every article that is submitted. In an effort to improve your chances of having your articles printed in the *Medal Collector* we would like to restate some of the ground rules for publication. While these are intended as a general guide

line, please realize that there will always be room for exceptions to the rules, especially in short articles.

First, articles should relate to the numismatic or historical aspects of a particular medal or organization, or to the hobby in general. Awards to a specific individual or information on a specific incident should be used to add interest to an article not as the focal point of a feature article.

Second, articles should not be written in the First Person or Singular Possessive. Avoid ....in my collection I...., or .....I have found that....., or ....my findings reveal that.... No one wants to read an article in which the author appears to be bragging, no matter how good the information is. Remember, a journal article is not a campfire story. The main purpose of a feature article should be to inform not to amuse or boast.

Third, avoid expressing personal political or social opinions in an article. This is perhaps the one unbreakable rule. An OMSA Journal article is not the place for contemporary social or political commentary.

Fourth, high quality photographs should, when possible, accompany your article. It doesn't matter if you submit color or black and white photos. They all have to be half toned at the printers for publication and either will work just fine.

Finally, include a complete bibliography or proper documentation to support conclusions reached in the article. Please keep in mind that you are submitting articles to an international professional journal not a club newsletter.

Now, dust off the old Remington, fire up the PC, or just get out your pen and paper - we're anxiously awaiting your articles!

John E. Strandberg, Managing Editor  
John P. Mull, III, Associate Editor

# PHILIPPINE MEDAL FOR VALOR

Robert H. Reynolds (OMSA 1376)

The highest military decoration of the Republic of the Philippines is the Medal for Valor. While no official authority has been found to establish the exact date of authorization, the first design was created in 1901 and the first Medals for Valor were awarded on 27 February 1902. Philippine Constabulary General Order 9 of 1918 established a ribbon for the medal and General Order 11, of the same year, specified the ribbon bar.

Originally the Medal for Valor was awarded to officers and enlisted men of the Constabulary for action involving actual conflict with an enemy. To justify award of the medal, the recipient must have distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, and for other exceptional heroism beyond the call of duty.

During the US Administration of the Philippines, from 1901 to 1935, the Philippine Constabulary (PC) was created primarily as an insular police force and officially recognized on August 8, 1901. The PC was originally commanded by United States Officers and composed of both United States and Filipino enlisted men. The first Medals for Valor were known as the Constabulary Medal for Valor.

After formation of the Republic in 1946, the criteria was changed as follows: Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including recognized guerrilla forces, for action involving conflict with an enemy, during which the recipient distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. In order to justify an award of the Medal of Valor, an officer or enlisted personnel must perform in action a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty so conspicuous as clearly to distinguish him above his comrades, or the performance of more than ordinarily hazardous service.

Not more than one Medal of Valor may be awarded for the same act of heroism or extraordinary achievement. Also, no more than one Medal for Valor will be issued to any one person. For each succeeding deed, act, or achievement sufficient to justify the award of a Medal for Valor, a bronze