

Ilocos Sur

File 3, No. 5  
1847

Isabel II Bridge

File on the construction of a bridge  
sixty barras (approx. 75 yards) long between  
Bantay and San Ildefonso.

Resolved on 18 August 1847.

Your Excellency

Today, work begins on the construction of a bridge sixty barras long between Bantay and San Ildefonso which will be called Isabel II Bridge; it will be made of bricks and blocks; the materials and labor will be provided equally by the two towns, and the salary of the Stonemasons and Bricklayers Commissioner will be drawn from reserves for the project, which has been augmented by one hundred pesos donated for this purpose by the most reverend father Fray Agustin Echevarri, parish priest of the said towns.

God keep you for many years. Vigan, 15 March 1847.

Gabriel de Llamas

To His Excellency, the Governor and Captain General of these islands.

Your Excellency

I am pleased to inform you of the completion today of the Isabel II Bridge, which was started on 15 March of the present year. Its construction is strong and solid, its appearance elegant and beautiful; it cost eight to nine thousand pesos. I will send the plans and accounts to you so you may see the resources and means I have availed of to finish the said project, without asking for assistance from the Royal Treasury or from any individual. The industry of the workers from the towns of Bantay and San Ildefonso can be seen in the completion of this considerable project in just four months; because of this I can do no less than commend them to you, for I believe they are worthy of any praise you may give them.

However, while the work is already finished, this bridge will not be used

until November, to allow it to dry well and to see the effects of the floods this year.

God keep you for many years. Vigan, 15 July 1847.

Gabriel de Llamas

To His Excellency, the Governor and Captain General of these islands.

Manila, 22 March 1847.

Take into account the preceding part, No. 498, which tells the Governor of Ilocos Sur, that I have read, with pleasure, its contents; to make sure the share of the work be distributed equally as much as possible, keeping an account of the reserves, expenses and purchases, in time forwarding to the Supreme Government a plan of the bridge, along with a computation of its cost, and giving thanks on its behalf to the devout parish priest Fray Agustin Echevarri for the amount he had donated for it.

Claveria

Province of Ilocos Sur. Year 1847.  
Isabel II Bridge

Accounts I, the undersigned Governor of the said province, prepared on the construction of the said bridge and the amounts received for the said project.

Funds	Pesos	Reales	
Cuartos			
Amount received from reserves and donations based on docket No. 1	492	6	0
Expenses			
Amount spent on materials, masons and salaries of the architect and commissioners based on docket No. 2		<u>447</u>	<u>4</u> <u>14</u>
<u>Balance</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

Vigan, 7 August 1847.

Gabriel de Llamas

Province of Ilocos. Town of San Ildefonso.  
Year 1847. Isabel II Bridge. Docket No. 2.

Data

Of the amounts spent on the construction of the said bridge.

	<u>Pesos</u>	<u>Reales</u>	<u>Cuartos</u>
Paid to masons based on No. 1	3	5	10
Paid for crowbars for the work based on No. 2	4	4	0
Paid to masons based on No. 3	11	4	0
Paid to the architect based on No. 1	15	0	10
Paid to commissioners based on No. 5	30	0	0
Paid for axes to shape the blocks based on No. 6	2	6	0
Paid to masons based on Nos. 7 and 8	33	1	0
Paid to the architect and commissioners based on No. 9	20	0	0
Paid to masons based on Nos. 10 and 11	28	6	15
Paid to the architect and commissioners based on No. 12	40	0	0
Paid for bricks based on No. 13	123	4	9
Paid for limestone blocks based on No. 14	70	1	10
Paid to masons based on Nos. 15, 16, 17 and 18	64	3	10
	<hr/> 447	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 14

Vigan, 7 August 1847.

Gabriel de Llamas

Province of Ilocos Sur. Year 1847.

Accounts of what was spent on the Isabel II Bridge built over the river of Bantaoay connecting to the path under the jurisdiction of the town of San Ildefonso.

	<u>Pesos</u>	<u>Reales</u>	<u>Cuartos</u>
For 245,062 bricks at 3 pesos per thousand, from the town of San Ildefonso	735	1	9
For 4,885 limestone blocks at 10 pesos per hundred, from the same town	488	4	0
For 12,000 sand blocks at 20 reales per hundred, from the same	300	0	0
For 12,000 stone blocks at 10 reales per hundred, from the same	150	0	0
For 194,150 bricks at 3 pesos per thousand, from the town of Bantay	582	3	12
For 2,669 limestone blocks at 10 pesos per hundred, from the same town	266	7	4
For 6,007 sand blocks at 20 reales per hundred, from the same	150	1	8
For 89,000 stone blocks at 10 reales per hundred, from the same	1,112	4	0
Spent on material and labor for building the arches, and the draining for the construction of the abutments, all from the said towns	450	0	0
For 2,000 large bricks bought in Manila at 14 pesos 4 reales per hundred, plus an additional 1 real per brick for shipping costs, all borrowed by the Governor from the budget for the Agayayos Road	540	0	0
For 500 bricks at the same price, donated by the Governor	135	0	0
Spent on daily wages of 150 men from the two towns who worked for 240 days at 1 real per day	4,500	0	0
Spent on salaries of the architect, commissioners and materials paid for from reserves and the donation of the reverend father Fray Agustin Echevarri, whose report is attached	447	4	14
	<u>9,858</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

Vigan, 7 August 1847.

Gabriel de Llamas

We the undersigned town mayors of Bantay and San Ildefonso attest to the accuracy of the preceding account prepared by the Governor of this province.

Don Gabriel de Llamas divided equally and proportionally the materials provided by the natives of our towns, with the knowledge and approval of our parish priest. And attesting to this we set down our signatures in Vigan on 8 August 1847.

[signed]

[signed]

I, Fray Agustin Echevarri, parish priest of Bantay and San Ildefonso, hereby certify that the preceding account prepared by the Governor of this province, Don Gabriel de Llamas, is accurate in every way, for all the payments made and the materials provided by the said towns were given with my knowledge and supervision. And attesting to this I set down my signature at the parish lodge in Bantay on 8 August 1847.

Fray Agustin Echevarri

Your Excellency

At 6 o'clock in the morning of the 19th the bridge Isabel II was blessed, with the ceremony presided by the Juez Provisor and Vicar General of this bishopric, Don Pedro Vicente Abaya, who afterwards hailed our queen, Isabel II, which was repeated by all the Spanish merchants, civil employees and soldiers from the capital, by the parish priests of the nearby towns and by a crowd of people who attended the event; as soon as the bridge was opened, the carriages of all the prominent persons, thousand of men and women, on horse and on foot, came across; the whole crowd proceeded to the church in the town of San Ildefonso, where a Te Deum was sung in thanks to the Almighty, for saving it from two big floods which came a few days after it was finished; after this a mass was celebrated, with the sermon delivered by Don Carlos Tolentino, parish priest of Magsingal,

who spoke, with great eloquence, of the benefits and advantages the natives could expect from the use of this bridge. A public feast was given for all the residents of Bantay and San Ildefonso who worked on this bridge, with everything necessary prepared days ahead; the feast started at 9 o'clock in the morning and lasted until evening; a drama and a comedy were also staged; the whole day became one entire celebration, without negatively affecting peace and order.

Before the passage across the bridge was allowed, your letter of 11 October was read to the public, declaring your order to have the names of the architect, Don Feliciano Soriano, and the commissioners, Don Santiago Mateo and Don Pastor de la Cruz, inscribed on it.

God keep you for many years. Vigan, 21 October 1847.

Gabriel de Llamas

To His Excellency, the Governor and Captain General of these islands.

Manila, 26 March 1848.

This file is concluded and should be kept in the archives.

P. A. D. L. S. G. E. G. E.  
The General, 2nd, 6th