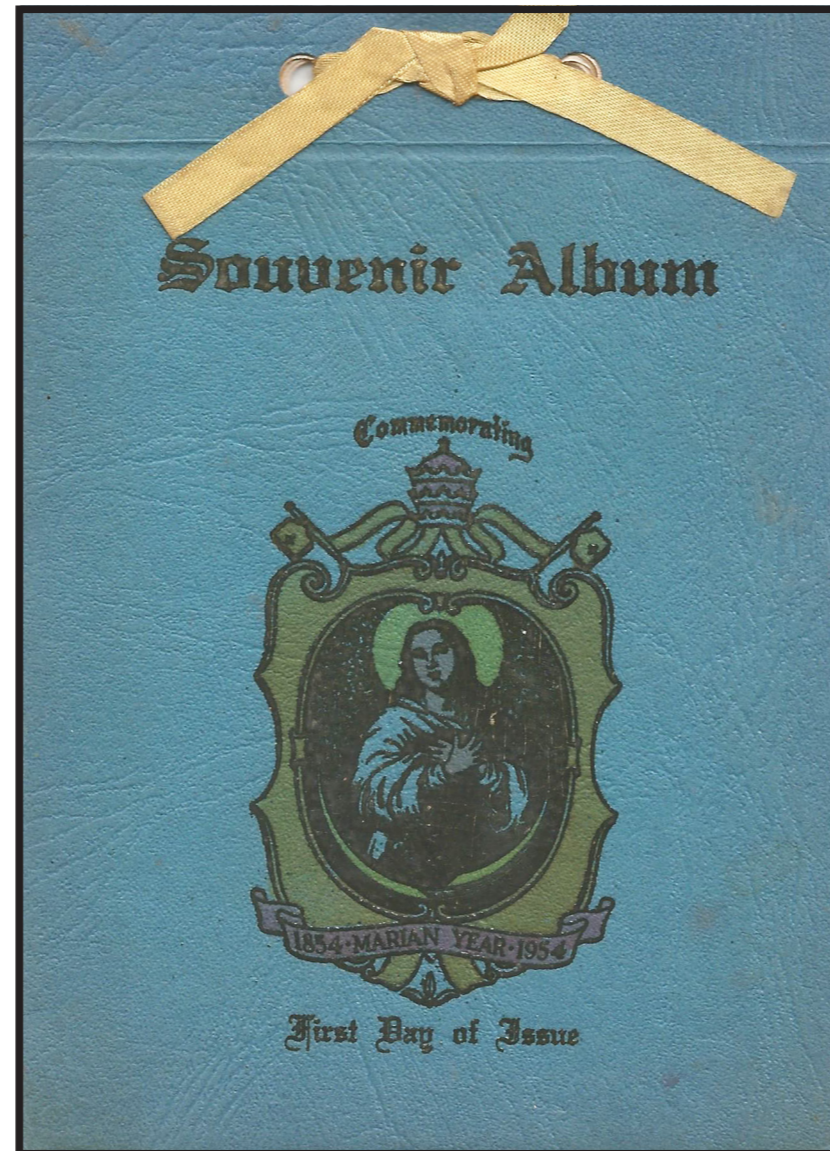


December 30, 1954
MARIAN YEAR



THE MARIAN YEAR STAMP

"The merits of Christ prevented Virgin Mary from being subjected to original sin, therefore her redemption was highly sublime," affirmed Pope Pius IX. On December 8, 1954 His Holiness proclaimed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as contained in the teachings of the Apostles. Incidentally, the feast of the Immaculate Conception which began to be celebrated as early as the thirteenth century and has been carried on up to the present, falls on December 8.

This year (1954), therefore, is the one hundredth year of the proclamation of Our Lady's sanctity and is popularly known as the Marian Year. In honor of this very rare and exceptionally glorious occasion the Philippines, together with other countries throughout the world, held grand religious ceremonies and festivities. Once more, the faith in Hoéy Mary, Mother of Christ is reaffirmed by the Christian world.

To commemorate this memorable event, the Bureau of Posts issued a five-centavo stamp bearing the reproduction of the Immaculate Conception. The stamp was designed by the philatelic designer Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. from the famous painting by Murillo, and printed by The American Bank Note Company, New York, U.S.A.

