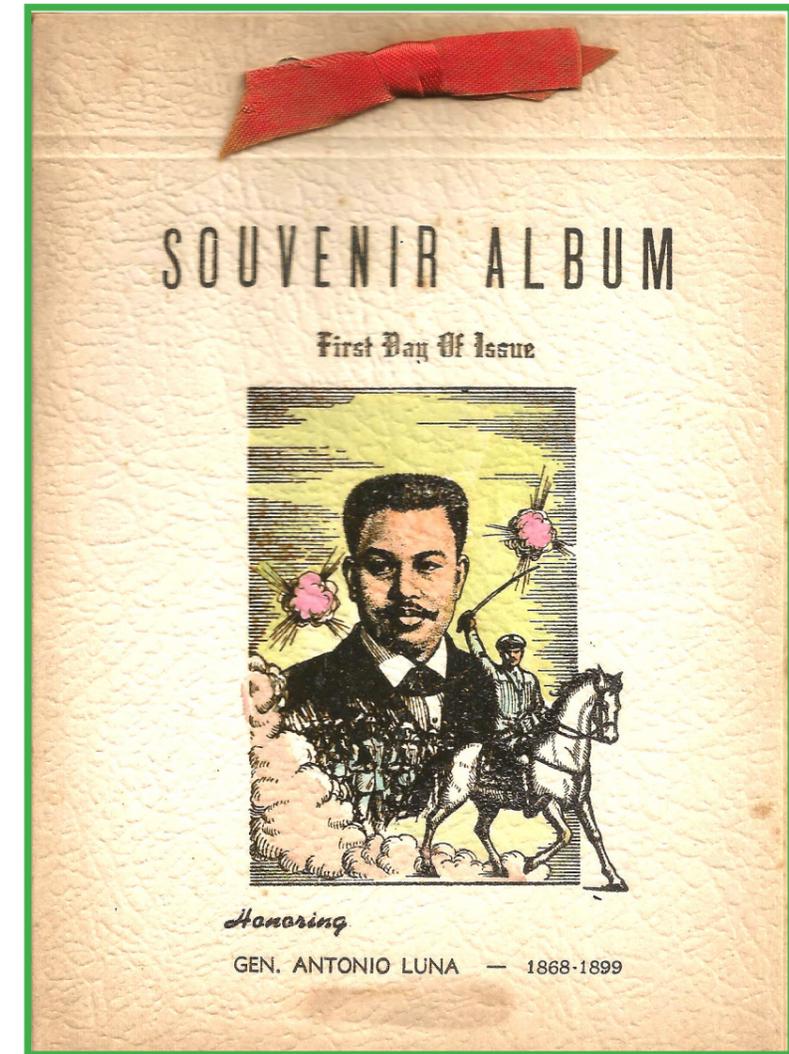
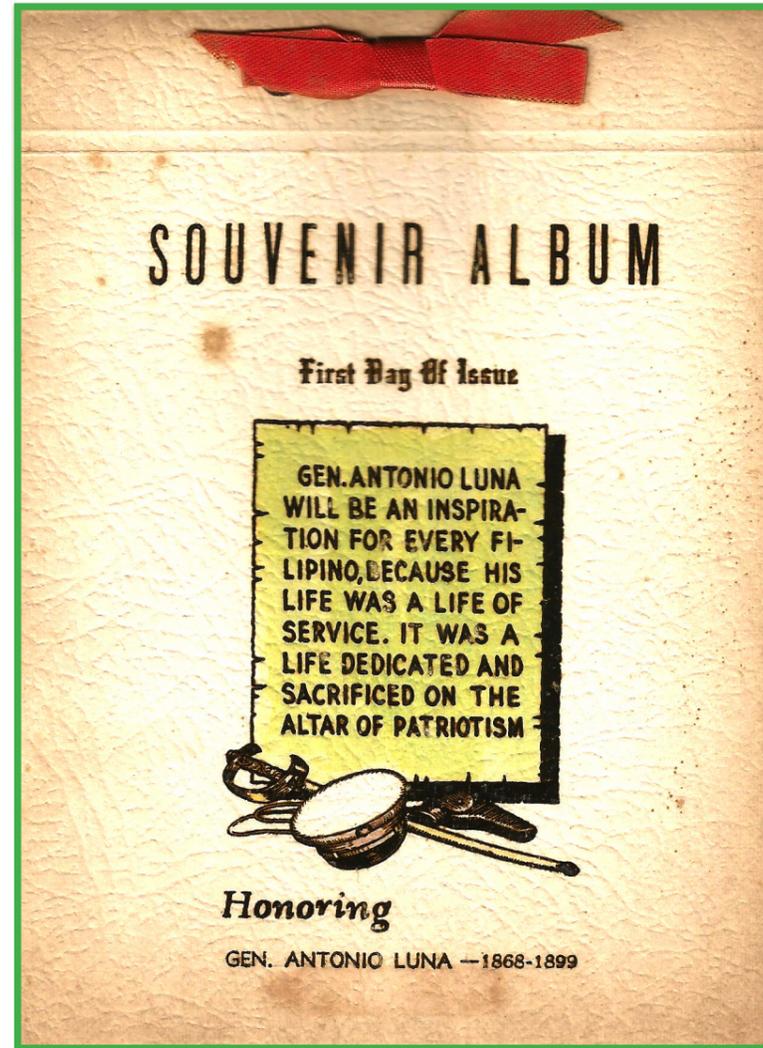
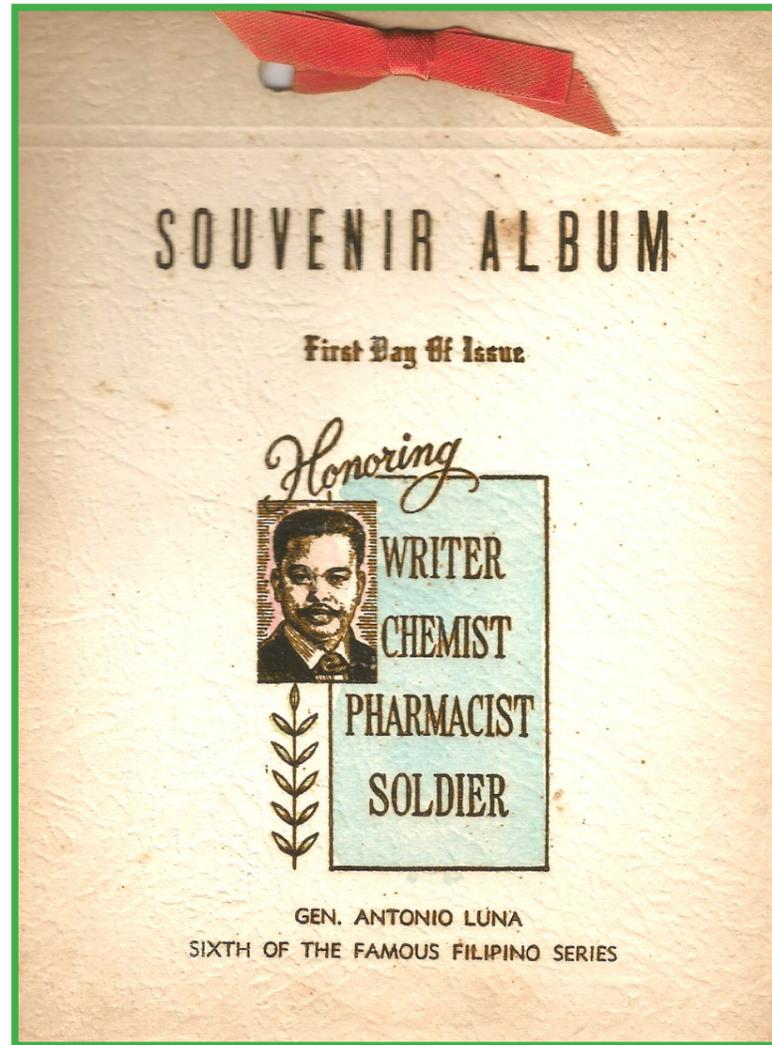


October 29, 1958
HONORING GENERAL ANTONIO LUNA



STAMP HONORING GENERAL ANTONIO LUNA

General Antonio Luna stands out in Philippine History as the military genius of the Revolution. Stern, aggressive, tempestuous - he commanded the respect not only of his men but also of his enemies. Historians say that he was Rizal's choice to lead the Filipino against Spain.

Strangely though, Luna did not undergo formal military training. Born on October 29, 1868 in Urbistondo Street, Manila, he finished his AB in Ateneo at 15, took up pharmacy in the University of Santo Tomas later, and then specialized in Chemistry at Ghent, Belgium. But, as fate might have willed it, he was thrown into the maelstrom of anti-Hispanism on his return from Europe. A good writer, he wrote many articles defending the rights of his countrymen and consequently suspected of being one of the instigator of the "Cry of Balintawak" and exiled to Spain. Here he realized the need for a Filipino military leader and decided to study assiduously the art and science of war.

Bringing with him an ambitious plan for a strong Filipino army, he came back to the Philippines only to find the Revolutionary forces ill-organized and badly disciplined. Immediately, after Aguinaldo appointed him Commanding General and

Director of War, he hastened to centralize the army corps and put up a military academy. Such was his passion for order and discipline that some revolutionary leaders mistook him as trying to rival General Aguinaldo. His success in whipping into line an army composed of former farmers, fishermen and plain streetwalkers couldn't, however, be impugned. The brilliant victories over Spain and the gallant defense against the superior Americans of the Filipinos attested to his greatness.

Luna died on June 5, 1899, at the age of 31, under circumstances that history must yet thoroughly clarify.

To render him honor, the Bureau of Posts is featuring him in a stamp, the sixth of the Famous Filipino series, issued October 29, 1958, his ninetieth birthday.

