

January 21, 1959
HONORING THE BULACAN PROVINCE

PROVINCE OF BULACAN

Bulacan has a land Area of no less than 2,508 square miles, about half of which are highlands and the rest are lowlands. From sea level along the northern shores of Manila Bay in the south. The topography of Bulacan gradually rises through the rich plains of Central Luzon to the foot of the Sierra Madre Mountains in the northeast. Thus Bulacan has the distinction of being one province in the Philippines that supplies nearby markets with the varied yields of the sea, the fields, and the forests. With such economic prominence as is now attributed to Bulacan, one is apt to forget the insignificant beginnings of the province many years ago.

History records that many years before the Spaniards came to the Philippines, what is Bulacan now was a mere group of native settlements. Later, these settlements were utilized by the Spaniards to build the first towns, such as Calumpit, which was founded in 1572, Meycawayan in 1576, Bulacan in 1578, Hagonoy in 1581, Bocaue in 1582 and Malolos, which is presently the capital, in 1580. In 1948, Bulacan was extended to include the town of San Miguel de Mayumo and the neighboring places which previously were part of Pampanga. Now the province is comprised of 24 progressive towns and 400 barrios.

Bulacan is popularly regarded as important in both, the literary and political history of the Philippines. It enjoys the distinction of being the birthprovince of the "Father of Filipino Poetry", Francisco (Balagtas) Baltazar, who was born in Panginay, Bigaa, on April 2, 1788. The vital role that the province of Bulacan played in the shaping of the political destiny of the country established its importance in the history of the Philippines. In 1643, a certain Pedro Ladia, who claimed that he was a descendant of Raja Matanda, led one of the early unsuccessful revolts against the Spanish rule. During the British invasion in 1782; Bulacan served as center of the resistance movement under the leadership of Anda. In 1898, Malolos became the seat of the short-lived Philippine Republic. The famous Barasoain Church served as the session hall of Congress during the brief lifetime of that independent government. Among the contributions of Bulacan to the Philippine Revolution, were Marcelo H. del Pilar and Mariano Ponce, both active propagandists during the revolutionary years. General Isidoro Torres, a revolutionary officer who led the Katipuneros in a victorious battle in Masukol. Pablo Tecson, a brilliant figure of the Revolution who led the attack at the Spanish garrisons in San Miguel, San Rafael and other towns in Bulacan and Gen. Gregorio del Pilar, the hero of Triad Pass.

In honor of the province of Bulacan, the Bureau of Posts is issuing stamps in two denominations, 6 and 20 centavos, depicting as central motif, the official provincial seal.

