

March 2, 1959  
HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE CAYETANO ARELLANO

**CAYETANO S. ARELLANO**

To Cayetano Arellano belongs the distinction of being the first Chief Justice of our Supreme Court. And many hold the well-founded opinion that his was the keenset mind in law and jurisprudence the Philippines ever had.

Born March 2, 1847 in Orion, Bataan, to a Filipina mother and a Spanish father, Arellano came to Manila at the age of five to live with a Dominican frair. Here he worked his way through the primary and secondary courses in San Juan de Letran. Later he entered the University of Sto. Tomas, where he received successively the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Laws.

Unusually brilliant as a law practitioner, he also taught law and, from 1887 to 1889, served as city councilor for Manila. Once he was offered the civil governorship of Manila, but he refused it. During the Revolution, he served as secretary of foreign affairs for the revolutionary government.

In 1904, he represented the Philippines and the United States in the International Congress of Jurists in St. Louis. In the same year, Yale University honored him with a doctorate of law.

For twenty years, beginning 1899, he occupied the highest seat in the Supreme Court. He was humble, peaceful, religious, faithful and devoted to his duties. He died on December 23, 1920.

In his honor this stamp, the 8th of the Famous Filipinos series is issued by the Bureau of Posts on March 2, 1959, his 112th birthday.

