

March 9, 1962  
**PHILIPPINE ORCHIDS - PERFORATED & IMPERFORATED ISSUES**

**ORCHIDS**  
**(Pride of the Philippines)**

For the first time in the world of stamps, the Philippines commemorates the most beautiful and perhaps the most exotic aristocrat of the woodland, the Orchid.

Orchids which are cherished for their exquisite blossoms, lasting quality and strikingly unusual designs abound in the Philippines in hundreds of varieties. Nature has made them the prettiest, whether blooming wild in forests or raised in well-tended gardens, yet they acquire deeper color and softer texture if they are hybridized.

Mr. Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., philatelic artist, has delicately captured four gorgeous Philippine Orchids in four 26½ x 40 mm stamps, each flower printed in its exciting natural color on different backgrounds with different denominations. These are the much-prized Waling-Waling (*Vanda Sanderiana*) at 5-centavos, the free-blooming White Mariposa (*Phalaenopsis Aphrodite*) at 6-centavos, the Baguio Orchid (*Dendrobium Sanderiae*) at 10-centavos and the purple Sanggumay (*Dendrobium Anosmum*) at 20-centavos.

Most spectacular and expensive is the Waling-Waling, a native of Mindanao and nowhere else in the world. The flowers are unusual, flat and often nearly six inches across. The upper sepal and the two petals are whitish purple with dark reddish brown spots near the base, while the lower sepals are greenish with purplish crimson netted lines and spots. It is not fragrant but it is considered the most magnificent species of *Vanda* and most sought-after orchid for hybridizing purposes.

The White Mariposa is generally white in color with round petals and is also known as Butterfly Orchid. It is grown extensively as a decorative plant because it gives flowers the year round and because it is highly useful for crossing. It grows in abundance in the mountains of Southern Luzon, at elevations from sea level to about 2000 feet.

More elaborate and with more petals than the White Mariposa is the Baguio Orchid. It derives its name from Baguio City, its natural habitat, as it grows better in cold climate. Baguio is 5,000 feet above sea level and is pleasantly cool all year round. The petals of the Baguio Orchid are white with pinkish brown center part.

Sanggumay flowers are purple and often are four inches across its pointed petals. Its thick stems measure from two to three feet long. The species can be collected from low, hot valleys of Central Luzon. It is also native to Bontoc, Lepanto, Nueva Vizcaya, Malay Peninsula, Celebes, Amboina, Borneo and New Guinea.

Here, we meet the first of a series of Philippine Orchid stamps which the Bureau of Posts will issue from time to time. The stamps were printed by the Joh. Enschede En Zonen of Netherlands by heliogravure process in a se-tenant arrangement with 40-stamps in either perforate or imperforate sheets.

