

May 13, 1962
APOLINARIO MABINI - DEFINITIVES

APOLINARIO MABINI
(The Sublime Paralytic)
1864 - 1903

Postmaster General Enrico Palomar released today the first, since 1946, Philippine postage stamp which is completely worded in the Filipino language, the Tagalog.

The stamp, designed by Philatelic Artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., of the Bureau of Posts, portrays one of the greatest heroes of the Philippines, Apolinario Mabini, otherwise known as "The Sublime Paralytic" and "The Brains of the Revolution". Measuring 19x30 mm, the vertically arranged 3-centavos (3-sentimo) denomination stamp was printed by the Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., Ltd. of England by Intaglio steel plate and issued in sheets of 100.

A short sketch of the life of Mabini reveals that he is remembered as "The Sublime Paralytic" because his physical handicap of having become permanently paralyzed in both legs did not stop him from fighting hard for his country. He sustained a sublimity of character up to the time of his death.

He was born on July 22, 1864 Tanauan, Batangas, the second of eight sons of Inocencio Mabini and Dionisis Maranan. As a boy he was studious and obedient. He endured poverty, privations and humiliations in his struggle to acquire knowledge. In 1877 he obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Professor of Latin, meritissimus; and in 1894 he received his licentiate in law with highest honors.

It was in 1896 when he became paralyzed, first in the right leg and then in the left. Yet he bore this misfortune with calm resignation and even took part in the Philippine Revolution of 1896. In the second period of the Revolution, he was most active as the President of the Council of Secretaries and Secretary of the Exterior. He wrote decrees and the Programma Constitutional de la Republic Filipina. These activities gave him the title of "The Brains of the Revolution".

As the "Brains" of the Revolution, he was captured and held prisoner by the Americans until September 23, 1900 when he was released and exiled to Guam. He, along with other exiles, was permitted to return to the Islands after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. He refused to do this at first, but later convinced that the Filipino nation could become a reality only through the help of America, he took the oath on February 26, 1903.

He came back to his native country with a body sick, weary and weakened by paralysis and disappointed in the outcome of his greatest dream, that of his country's freedom. He died, shortly afterwards, on May 13, 1903.

With this issue, the first in the series of Revised Famous Filipino Stamps which the Bureau of Posts will release from time to time, we honor one of the architects of the Philippine Republic, Apolinario Mabini.

