

January 23, 1963 EMILIO JACINTO - DEFINITIVE

EMILIO JACINTO (Brain of the Katipunan - 1875-1899)

The Famous Filipino stamps Series being released by the Bureau of Posts comes out today with an issue to coincide with the 54th anniversary of the first Philippine Republic which was inaugurated on January 23, 1899.

The stamp draws special attention to one of the national heroes of the Philippines, better known as the "Brain of the Katipunan", the young Emilio Jacinto.

Jacinto was born at Trozo, Tondo, Manila on December 15, 1875. His mother was Josefina Dizon, a midwife and his father was Mariano Jacinto, a businessman.

As a scholar in the University of Santo Tomas, he was brilliant. As a great lover of his country, he found inspiration in the literary works of Rizal and Marcelo H. del Pilar and was a member of the Katipunan, the historical vehicle of the Filipino Revolution.

The Katipunan was a secret society made up of the proletariat of the capital and the peasantry in the provinces. This Most High and Most Venerable Association of the Sons of the Nation (Katipunan), did not seek reforms but independence.

Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan, was so impressed by the talent and bravery of Emilio Jacinto that he made Emilio his right-hand man in the organization.

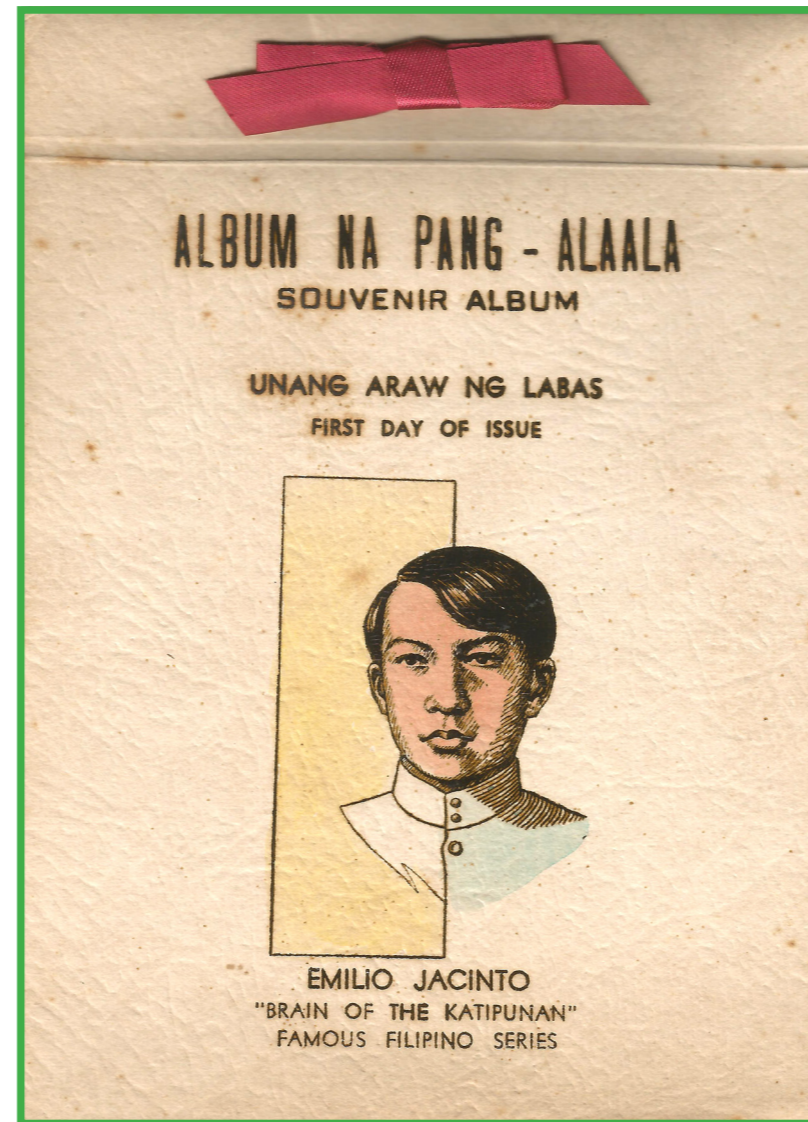
Emilio devised the famous code of the Katipunan which embodied the principles of the society, established its printing press and became so valuable to the work of the organization that, as the second only to the leader, he rightfully earned the name "Brain of the Katipunan."

In 1896 Jacinto headed a group of Katipuneros in a daring attempt to free Rizal during exile at Dapitan, Mindanao, and to convince him to join the organization. Rizal, however, choose to remain in exile rather than let his countrymen die in the attempt to escape.

Though Jacinto failed in his mission, Mabini, after Bonifacio's death, made Jacinto the commander of an army against the Spaniards in Majayjay, Laguna.

He was wounded during the battle. With blood flowing from his wounds, he took refuge in a church. Little is known of the existence of the traces of the blood that flowed from Jacinto's wounds which are still preserved in this church.

For in a corner of the Magdalena church, Laguna, may be seen the trace of the bloody footprint and on the wall the brownish smudges of blood left by Jacinto as he must have staggered in the church holding on to the wall for support.



The footprint has been preserved under a pane of glass while the wall with the blood smears is marked off with a cordon. On the spot is an inscription in Tagalog which partly reads, in English: "these are the bloodstains left by our hero, Emilio Jacinto, when he was wounded and took refuge in this church."

Jacinto died from his wounds in defense of his country on April 16, 1899, a hero.

In a 90x30mm stamp, philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., has designed the youthful image of Emilio Jacinto. Eight million has been intaglio steel printed of this vertically composed stamp in deep green, at one piso denomination, in sheets of 100 by the Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company, Ltd.

A dual significance is therefore embodied in this stamp. We commemorate the anniversary of the inauguration of the first Philippine Republic and we honor one of our revered national heroes who died for the freedom of our country.

