

June 19, 1964
Dr. JOSE RIZAL in BARONG - DEFINITIVE & OFFICIAL

Dr. JOSE RIZAL in BARONG PILIPINO
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As the Filipino nation celebrates the 103rd anniversary of the birth of its foremost hero, the Bureau of Posts, to mark the occasion, issues a regular postage stamp of Dr. Jose Rizal in barong pilipino.

The barong pilipino is an attire for men made of very thin, fine and soft plain material, cut like a longsleeved shirt worn outside the pants, usually more elegant with intricate and delicate embroideries on its front and on its cuffs.

To deviate a little from the usual historical significance of the birth of Rizal (which is already or world reknown) the Postmaster General pauses today to focus the public eye on the new image of Rizal in a barong pilipino.

The novel idea of depicting our national hero in barong tagalog has been endorsed by no less than Dr. Leoncio Lopez Rizal, the hero's nearest living kin, Secretary of Education Alejandro Roces, Director Galo Ocampo of the National Museum and Director Carlos Quirino of the National Library.

As this is the first time that a picture portraying our national hero in barong pilipino comes out, reliable authorities were consulted to confirm the fact that Rizal on several occasions wore the barong.

Prof. Diosdado Capino of the Arellano University who made an extensive research on Rizal in barong tagalog brought out the fact that an affidavit made by Soledad, a sister of Rizal, attest to the positive evidence that Rizal owned a barong. The affidavit as translated reads: - "I, Soledad Rizal, hereby certify that the two embroidered piña-cloth, camisas herewith belonged to my deceased father, Francisco M. Rizal, and that the piña cloth camisa, embroidered up to the cuffs, also herewith belonged to my deceased brother, Dr. Jose Rizal." If Rizal owned a barong, he would not have had it for anything but to use it. During that time, the Spanish regime, the barong was called barong gaza. "Gaza" is the Spanish word for a very thin transparent material of silk, cotton or linen.

Prof. Esteban A. de Ocampo, President of the Philippine Historical Association, refers to the letter written in Madrid by Rizal to his younger sister Josefa on December 30, 1882 to confirm the fact. In English, the translation of the letter reads: -

In the forthcoming carnival I shall wear my barong gaza. If only my horn salacot were here, I think they will be surprised. It's a pity that I did not ask for it."

The nearest kin of Rizal, Dr. Leoncio Lopez Rizal, wrote: "It can't be doubted that he (Rizal) might have worn barong Pilipino several times in his life for several reasons: some of Rizal's sisters have referred to him occasionally dressed in barong Pilipino (Rizal must have attended town fiestas in this attire); Rizal's father, brother and brother-in-law used to wear barong Pilipino in special occasions and Rizal sometimes was with either of them in these occasions."

It is hoped that philatelists will also welcome the new picture of Rizal in this new stamp.

In dark blue green, the 19x30 mm stamp which is vertically composed and itaglio steel plate printed by the Government Printing Bureau, Tokyo, Japan comes in quantities of 190,000,000 of the 6-centavos ordinary denomination and 10,000,000 of the 6-centavos O. B. There are a hundred stamps to a sheet.

The stamp was designed by philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr.

