

July 23, 1964
APOLINARIO MABINI - CENTENARY

APOLINARIO MABINI CENTENARY STAMPS
(1864 - July 23, - 1964)

To mark the centennial anniversary of the birth of Apolinario Mabini, a great Filipino patriot and philosopher during the Philippine revolutionary period, the Bureau of Posts issues today a special stamp in his honor.

Mabini is lovingly remembered in history as "The Sublime Paralytic" who did his work in his invalid's chair. For this reason, the stamp depicts him seated in a wicker chair, his left hand holding a book on his left knee while his right hand gently rests on the right arm of the chair. "Pilipinas" runs on top of the stamp; "Koreo" (mail) is written vertically on the right side; and on the left side is the denomination. Across the bottom are the two lines - "1864 - Apolinario Mabini - 1964" and "Ang Dakilang Lumpo" (The Sublime Paralytic).

This vertically composed design is the work of philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. It measures 22.5x37.9 mm along the border, excluding marginal space. The denominations of 6-centavos, 10-centavos and 30-centavos have been printed in quantities of 10,000,000, 3,000,000 and 2,000,000 each, respectively with 50 stamps to a sheet. The heliogravure process was used by the Harrison and Sons, Ltd. London, England in printing the stamps in three colors.

Mabini was born in Tanauan, Batangas on July 23, 1864, the second son of Inocencio Mabini and Dionisia Maranan. His life was a long struggle against poverty and pride. As a result of a severe fever he contracted in 1896, both of his legs became permanently paralyzed. The calm resignation with which he bore this handicap under trying circumstances gave him the name of "The Sublime Paralytic".

His legal talents as a brilliant lawyer and his innate patriotism served the country well in its struggle for liberty. It was in the second period of the Philippine Revolution of 1898 that he was most active. As the Secretary of State of the first Republic under Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, he wrote decrees and planned the revolutionary government. In short, he was the "Brains of the Revolution", another title by which he is recorded in history.

After his capture and exile to Guam, he returned to his country to take the oath of allegiance to the United States on February 26, 1903. It was only then that he was convinced and assured of the eventual liberty and independence of the Filipino nation through the help of America.

Weakened by paralysis, Mabini died on May 13, 1903.

