

October 4, 1965

FOURTH CENTENNIAL OF THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS MARKING THE 400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (1565 - 1965)

The Christian Faith came to the Philippines with the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, but it was not until 1565, with the coming of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Fr. Andres de Urdaneta in Cebu City, that the systematic christianization began. From Cebu, it spread to Manila and to other parts of the archipelago.

Today, the Philippines has the distinction of being the only Christian nation in the Far East.

In commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Christianization of the Philippines, Cebu City which is now known as the "Cradle of the Catholic Religion in the Philippines", was the site of the nine-day celebration held from April 25 to May 3, 1965.

His Eminence, Ildebrando Cardinal Antoniutti, the Papal Legate to the Fourth Centennial of the Christianization of the Philippines; visiting dignitaries and officials of the Roman Catholic Church, distinguished guests, visitors and friends from various parts of the world, joined the Catholic festivities in Cebu City. It was a proud moment in the history of this country.

As the world of philately would not let this historical occasion pass unnoticed, the Bureau of Posts, in compliance with Republic Act 4082 requiring the printing and issuance of postage stamps to commemorate the event, in different denominations, with inscriptions in Pilipino and Spanish, issues on October 4, this year, a set of four beautiful stamps which depict the ever-lasting memory of the 4th Centennial of the Christianization of the Philippines.

The 3-centavos stamp portrays a missionary's hand holding a cross on which a rosary hangs, against a Philippine map background.



The 6-centavos stamp portrays the Legazpi-Urdaneta monument against a Philippine map background and an illusion of the white cross, the foot of which rests on the Island of Cebu.

The 30-centavos airmail stamp portrays the mass baptism of the early Filipinos during Legazpi and Fr. Urdaneta's sojourn in Cebu.

In the picture is a Filipino child in the arms of its mother or its godmother in the presence of a group of natives and some Spaniards. On the right side of the altar besides the Cibary may be seen the Image of the Santo Niño. On the background are some boats; on the left side is a pair of coconut trees and below them are some jars and a basket filled with fruits of the country.

The 70-centavos airmail stamp portrays two galleons against a background of the map of the Philippines, Mexico and Spain, and the route of the cross of Christianity to the Philippines.

Printed on the four stamps is the text equivalent to "Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Evangelization of the Philippines," in Pilipino and Spanish.

The stamps were designed by philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., and printed by heliogravure process by the Government Printing Bureau, Tokyo, Japan.

The denomination, quantity, color and size from border lines of the design, excluding marginal space of the stamps are as follows:

- 3-ctvo - 5.000.000 - 4 colors 22.5 x 37.9 mm vertically composed
- 6-ctvo - 15.000.000 - 4 colors 22.5 x 37.9 mm vertically composed
- 30-ctvo - 7.000.000 - 5 colors 27 x 48 mm horizontally composed
- 70-ctvo - 3.000.000 - 5 colors 27 x 48 mm horizontally composed

stamps in a sheet - 50

500.000 Souvenir Sheets - P1.09 105 x 171 mm

