

June 24, 1966 NEW SEAL OF THE CITY OF MANILA

NEW SEAL OF MANILA STAMPS (June 24, 1966)

Manila, the most progressive city in Southeast Asia, is the vital center of a dynamic republic and the first among the 41 cities of the Philippines. It was founded by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi on June 24, 1571. Twenty-five years after, the first seal of the City was decreed.

The seal had three Castilian Tower and the figure of a sea-lion which symbolized the ocean-spanning might of sixteenth-century Spain. In 1574, Felipe II - after whom the archipelago was named - had bestowed upon Manila the royal title 'Insigns y Siempre Leal Ciudad' (Distinguished and Ever Loyal City). This title was incorporated into the first official seal of Manila.

Nearly four centuries later, and 70 years after the end of Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines, the sea-lion, the Spanish castle and the title from the King of Spain still dominate the seal of the City of Manila. Historians, writers and heraldists have since then been agitating for the updating of this seal in keeping with the dignity of free Manila as well as the Republic that it represents.

The updating of the seal properly began during the celebration of Andres Bonifacio Centennial Year in 1963.

Under the guidance of His Honor, City of Manila Mayor Antonio J. Villegas with his keen historical sense and pride in Filipino cultural accomplishment, the new seal was created by Artists Carlos Francisco and Mauro Malang Santos.

The Spanish castle was replaced with the Gate of Intramuros, the sea-lion was replaced with St. Paul's Church - better known as St. Agustin Church, Manila's oldest.

This seal is set against a background of the ten historical events that tell the story of Manila: 1) pre-Spanish glory under Rajah Soliman and Lakandula; 2) founding of Manila and its incorporation as City and capital of Filipinas under the Spaniards; 3) the literary renaissance typified by Balagtas' Florante at Laura; 4) immolation of three priests, Gomez, Burgos, Zamora (GOMBURZA); 5) revolution and upheaval of the Great Revolution of 96; 6) the American occupation; 7) the Commonwealth; 8) the Japanese occupation and Liberation; 9) Independence, 1946 and 10) the winning of local autonomy under an elective city major.

The ten pictorial epochs depicted on the stamp were designed by philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. By heliogravure (Delacryl) process the special stamps were printed by Thomas de la Rue and Co., Ltd., London, England, in multi-colors, in denominations of 6c and 30c.

The sunburst emblem of the Mayor of Manila with its fifteen golden yellow rays on a light red field dominates the seal, rising across and above the river-motive - the Pasig river on whose banks Manila was founded. These rays pertain to the fourteen municipal districts embraced within the territory of Manila while the 15th ray represents the city itself. The inner circle after the river-motif is made up of a crown of 'nilad', the flowering sea plant from which Manila took its name. The rays of the sunburst are balanced by the vertical lines of the bamboo palisades which document the pre-Spanish Manila of Raja Sulayman (Soliman). The bamboo also indicates the basic Malayan base of our culture and further reflects the resiliency of the Filipino character.



The ten palisades represent the ten epochs of Manila's history. The Malay script K stands for Bonifacio's Katipunan, the great revolutionary organization which forged the Filipino nation and made the Filipino race the true pioneers of freedom and democracy for Asia and Africa. Surrounding the circular excutcheon is a band on which the text "Timbulan ng Laya at Diwang Dakila" (Mainspring of Freedom and Noble Ideas), the years 1571 and 1963 in gules and "Lungsod ng Maynila" (City of Manila) are properly inscribed.

The dates 1571 and 1963 designate the founding of Manila as a modern city by Legazpi and Bonifacio Year, when the first "Araw ng Maynila" was proclaimed and celebrated.

The seal symbolizes the city in its total concept, in form and content, in its several dimensions, past present and future.

"It is a change long overdue," stated Mayor Villegas. "a part of the unfinished business of our independence, an act to rectify the present as well as the past, as an obligation to ourselves and our posterity."

To the Postal Service, it is an obligation to record for posterity the great importance of the occasion and of the seal that has been changed for the first time since 1574.



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