

September 15, 1967
BUREAU OF POSTS - 65th ANNIVERSARY

**65th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUREAU OF
POSTS STAMPS (1902 - 1967)**

In writing the history of a country, it is very necessary to write about its communication system or else its history will not be complete.

Postal service is part of this communication system which affects every individual wherever he may be in this wide world. The Bureau of Posts, as the agency which handles the postal service of the Philippines, will therefore, remain a vital part of the history of the islands.

As it celebrates the 65th anniversary of its creation today, we pause for a quick glance at its birth and growth.

In the early days after Magellan landed in Homonhon, Samar, the King of Spain and the islands used the "galleons" as the only means of communication. But it took between 3 to 4 years before the "galleon" arrived bringing news about the colony. Mail matters were carried by "badegeros" free of charge, while inter-island ships were required to carry them from island to island. In 1767, the first post office was established under the Spanish regime. Only the more important commercial ports had post offices.

On August 13, 1899 with the capture of Manila by the Americans, the Spanish general post office on the Escolta was taken over by the Americans and opened for business to the public the following day.

A Bureau of Post Offices under the department of Commerce and Police in the Civil Government was legally established in September 1901. The postal entity known as the Department of Posts retained its nomenclature until the following year when it was renamed Bureau of Posts. By Act No. 462, the present Bureau of Posts was created on September 15, 1902. The designation of the agency was correspondingly changed from Director General of Posts to Director of Posts. This title was subsequently changed to Postmaster General on July 1, 1958.

The post Office Building was destroyed during the Japanese occupation in 1945, but in spite of the loss of all postal equipment, printed forms and supplies stored therein, operations was resumed on April 17, 1945.

After years of financial difficulties and acute shortage of personnel and equipment, the Bureau of Posts now stands as it has grown from year to year with its three additional annexes, the transorma letter-sorter, its mail launch to take care of foreign mails that come in by the thousands every week, its various mobile post office and mini-post offices its electric conveyors and with various postal projects in the offing.

To commemorate the 65th anniversary of its establishment, the Bureau of Posts issues a set of postage stamps especially designed by philatelic designer Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. and printed by Thomas de la Rue, Ltd., of London.

The stamps which measure 24x48 mm excluding marginal space and horizontally composed, depict a panoramic view of the post office building as viewed from across the Pasig River with its three annexes seen on the foreground, on the right and on the left.

There are three values of 4, 20 and 50 centavos, of which two million, five million and three million have been printed respectively, done in 4 colors by heliogravure delacryl process.

