

April 4, 1968
BIRTH CENTENARY OF Dr. FELIPE G. CALDERON

FELIPE G. CALDERON
(Author of the Malolos Constitution)
(April 4, 1868 - June 6, 1908)

A 10-40-75-centavos denomination set of stamps will be released by the Postmaster General on April 4, 1968 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Felipe G. Calderon.

The stamps in 26 x 44 mm, excluding perforation, in dimensions, arranged horizontally, printed by heliogravure process in 3 colors, and issued in sheets of 50.

It has for its motif a reproduction of the Barasoain Church with an inset portrait of Felipe G. Calderon at the left, and at the right, the Constitution of the Philippines in scroll with a feather pen in an ink well beside it. Arranged in two lines across the top of the stamps are the words: "Pilipinas" and "Ika-100 Anibersario Ng Kapanganakan" (100th Anniversary). The denomination is written on the lower left-hand corner.

The stamps are designed by philatelic artists Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., and Antonio Chuidian, Jr., and printed by Thomas de la Rue and Co., Ltd.

Don Felipe G. Calderon was the author of the Malolos Constitution known in history as the document which became the foundation of the First Philippine Republic. He was born in Tanza, Cavite on April 4, 1868. He graduated in 1885 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Ateneo Municipal and at the age of 26, he finished his law course at the University of Santo Tomas, in March 1893.

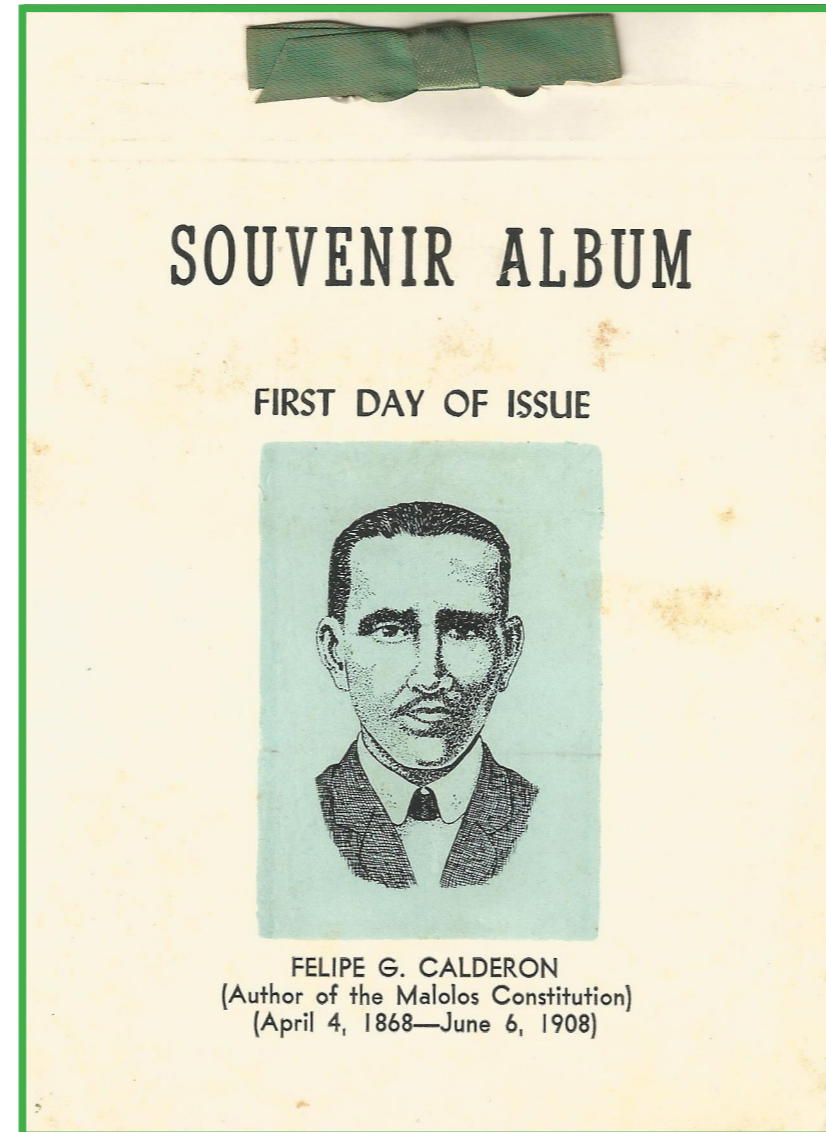
When the revolution broke out in August 1896, he was arrested but set free. As one of the Filipino leaders who believed that declaration of independence by blood was not enough, he offered his services and was appointed to the Malolos Congress.

The Congress assembled at the Barasoain Church on September 15, 1898 and after thorough discussions the Malolos Constitution was drawn and approved on November 28, 1898.

This was a charter drawn by God fearing leaders that served as a guide and inspiration for the formation of a free and independent nation.

Gen. Aguinaldo finally approved the historic document on January 21, 1899 and two days later, it was proclaimed at Malolos amidst impressive rites.

January 21, 1899 marked the first attempt of the Filipinos to write off the chains that shackled their liberty. It is therefore of special significance that the country commemorates on April 4, 1968 the centenary of the birth of Don Felipe G. Calderon and focus special attention on the Malolos Constitution from which were drawn much of the ideals and concepts of freedom embodied in the present Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.



The famous Preamble of the Malolos Constitution written by Don Felipe Calderon reads as follows: -

"We, the representatives of the Filipino people legally assembled to establish justice, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty, imploring the aid of the Supreme Legislator of the Universe in order to attain these ends, have voted upon, decreed and sanctioned the following Political Constitution."

