

May 26, 1969
THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES - 50th ANNIVERSARY

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES STAMPS
50th Anniversary, Commemorative Issue

A set of commemorative stamps, with the following particulars, will be issued today, May 26, 1969 by the Postmaster General in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the League of Red Cross Societies:

Kind of issue:	Commemorative
Size:	25.5 x 40 mm perf. to perf, vertically composed.
Denomination and Quantities:	10-sentimo - 8.000.000 40-sentimo - 1.000.000 75-sentimo - 1.000.000
Sheet Compos.:	50
Print. Process:	Heliogravure (3 colors)
Printer:	Harrison & Sons, Ltd. London, England
Designer:	Angel Legaspi under the supervision of Chief Philatelic Designer Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr.

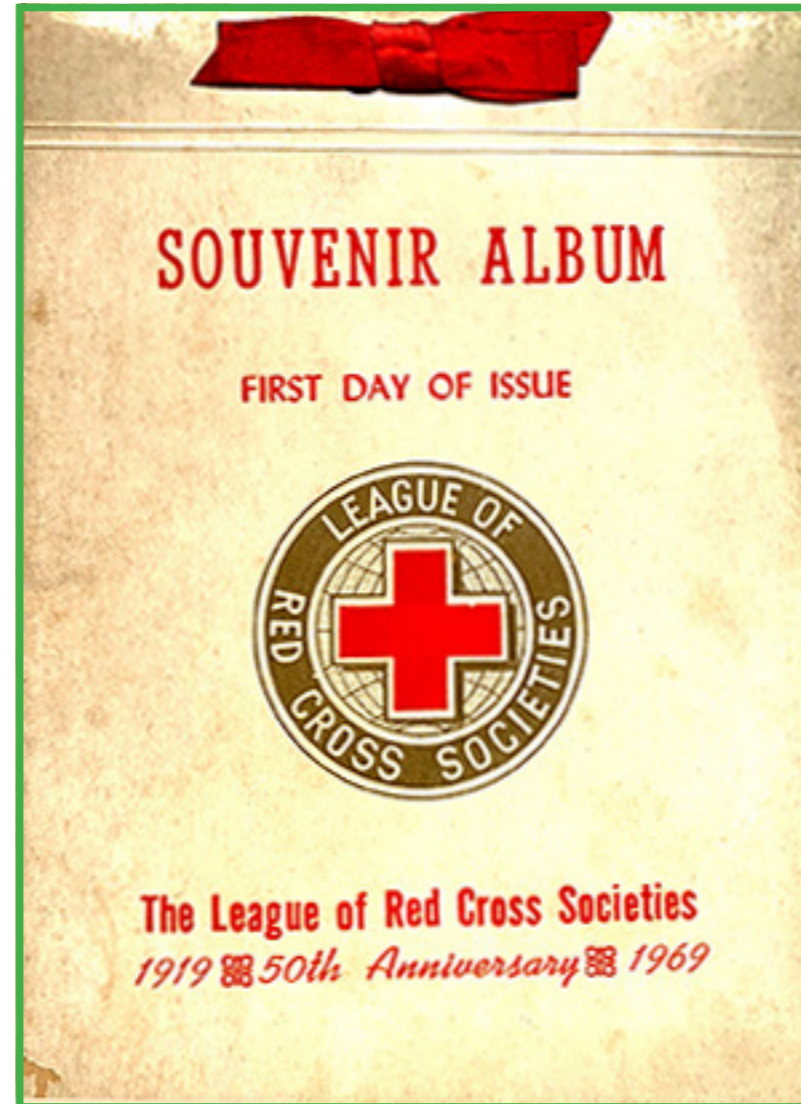
The League of Red Cross Societies was founded on May 5, 1919, right after World War I when the Red Cross had attained a position of primary importance in the world. It was conceived by Henry P. Davison, chairman of the American Red Cross War Council, to perpetuate in peace time the momentum gained during the war and to augment the efficacy of national red Cross Societies by welding them into a federation in order to bring about closer contact and greater coordination of effort. Originally, there were 26 member societies. Since then, this universal federation had grown until today, it involves 111 members incorporating over 220 million members.

The League is the federation of Red Cross Societies throughout the world. Its object is to encourage the cooperation of all its members, to represent them on the international level, to assist them in their development and to defend their moral and material interests. It periodically assembles their representatives in a world Red Cross "Parliament", where all the Societies have a right to speak, compare methods of action and work together in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding.

To carry out its mission, the League maintains permanent liaison, coordination and study facilities between the societies in order to help them organize and carry out their national and international activities. It also cooperates with them in all spheres of their work, particularly in the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering. In addition, it collaborates with the International Committee of the red Cross, the founding body of the World Red Cross and the Guardian of the Geneva Conventions, in matters affecting the work of both institutions.

The League represents national societies at the international level and alone expresses the views of its members as a whole concerning resolutions adopted by the Board of Governors. Finally, the League encourages and promotes the establishment and development of a duly authorized Red Cross or Red Crescent society working in accordance with the principles of the Geneva Conventions, of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the Board of Governors.

The League's program is financed by the contributions of Member Societies. It receives no government grants and is an institution free of any political, racial or religious ties.



The League is composed of two governing bodies, namely, the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee, which exercise their power assisted by advisory committees.

Since its foundation, the League has accomplished innumerable undertakings for the alleviation of suffering and the improvement of mankind's conditions. Among its outstanding achievements are the repatriation of some 4,500 Greek children from Eastern European countries from 1952-1956; its collaboration with the ICRC in the Joint Relief Commission during World War II; its extensive relief operations during the destructive North Sea Flood in 1953; the repatriation of 30,000 Japanese exiles from China in 1954-1955.

The League has also been particularly active in major disaster relief operations. During the 1965 eruption of Taal Volcano, it issued an appeal circular to all Red Cross societies urging them to assist the PNRC by contributing donations in cash or in kind for the relief operations of the victims.

At present, the League, together with the ICRC is carrying out medical, relief and rehabilitation work in war-torn Vietnam, Nigeria and Biafra. With other humanitarian organizations, it is in close association with the United Nations to find ways and means for world peace.

The incumbent Chairman of the League's Board of Governor is Jose Barroso of Mexico, while the Secretary General is Henrik Beer.

