

September 15, 1969 PHILIPPINE BUTTERFLIES

PHILIPPINE BUTTERFLIES STAMPS (September 15, 1969)

Certain to emerge among the choice items of philatelists is a set of stamps issued today, September 15, 1969, by the Postmaster General. It features, for the first time, four of the beautiful butterflies found in the Philippines.

These four species of Philippine butterflies are each held in bondage within a perimeter of 25.5 x 36 mm, perforation to perforation postage stamps. The stamps were designed by Antonio Chuidian, Jr. and Angel Legaspi, under the supervision of Chief Philatelic Designer, Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., and heliogravure processed in four colors by the Government Printing Bureau of Tokyo, Japan.

To meet the anticipated demands of collectors and postal patrons alike, quantities of 10,000,000; 1,000,000; 2,000,000 and 1,000,000 have been printed in denominations of 10, 20, 30 and 40-centavos, respectively. All four have been printed in sheets of 50.

Briefly, we have -----

10s *Troides Magelianus* -- (The Common Birdwing)

The wing expanse of this species equals and often exceeds that of the *Trogonoptera trojana*. The forewing is black, but in the female the vein stripes are whitest beyond the cell. The hindwing is rich golden yellow with black veins and a black marginal border which extends from the apex tornus (tip of the hindwings).

(The species occur at all usual elevations. It frequents forest clearings, and is seen occasionally near villages and even in town gardens. Both sexes may be taken flying near flowering trees in the forest. The female is more abundant than the male. The larvae feeds on climbing species of *Aristolochia*.)

20s *Graphium agamamnon* -- (The Tailed Jsy)

The markings of the upper wings comprise an apple-green spot on a black background. The hind wings have short tails at vein 4 which is longer in the female. The underside of the wings is purple-green and has the same green spots as the upper wings as well as dark patches and red spots on the hindwings.

(The butterfly is widely distributed in the open country on the plains and clearings throughout the country. It is often seen on Lantana flowers. The food plants of the larvae include *Anona*, *Saccopetalum*, *Guatteria* and *Polyalthia* (tall trees belonging to the *Anonaceae* and *Michelia*.)

30s *Papilio hystaspes* -- (The Red Halen)

The forewing is black above, and on both surfaces, the hindwing has a white disc patch with three large spots and a series of submarginal spots which are usually obsolete on the upperside in the male. The hindwings have spatulate tails at vein 4.

40s *Trogonoptera trojana* -- (The Green Marvel)

This is a large "Swallow-tail" butterfly with emerald green feather-like markings on the back forewings and with a wing expanse of six to seven inches. The female has the green markings whitened towards the apex on the forewing and a series of white submarginal spots on the hindwing. In flight, it presents quite a different appearance from that of the male.

(The female is somewhat rare, while the males are usually found along the river banks. The females prefer higher elevations occurring from seven hundred to 3500 feet and flies higher than males. During flight, the white markings on the forewing of the female are very conspicuous which usually give the impression of being in rapid motion. In certain conditions these moving white wing tips show up almost like white lights in the jungle shade. The food plant for the larvae is a climbing species of *Aristolochia*. The *Trogonoptera* is only found in the island of Palawan, being confined along the mountain forests of Central Palawan.)

