

November 30, 1969
COMMEMORATING THE 50th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF
MELCHORA AQUINO (TANDANG SORA)

TANDANG SORA STAMPS
(Melchora Aquino - 1812 - 1919)

To commemorate the 50th death anniversary of Tandang Sora (Melchora Aquino in Philippine history) the Bureau of Posts will issue on November 30, 1969 the Tandang Sora Stamps.

Born in Banilad, Caloocan, on January 6, 1812, Melchora Aquino is known as Tandang Sora in Philippine history because she was already old when the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896. She had never gone to school and very little is known about her parents save that they were poor hardworking parents. She was married to Fulgenico Ramos and had six children.

Tandang Sora was tending a small sarisari (variety) store in Balintawak when Andres Bonifacio and the other Katipuneros staged the First Cry of Balintawak that started the Philippine Revolution. Her store became a refuge for sick and wounded Katipuneros whom the old lady fed, treated and encouraged with her motherly evidence and prayers. Thus, she was aptly called the "Mother of the Katipunan." When the Spaniards learned about her activities, she was arrested and deported to Marianas Islands.

When the Americans took possession of the Philippines in 1892, Tandang Sora like other exiles returned to the Philippines poor and aging. For a time she lived with her daughter Saturnina.

She died at the age of 107 in poverty on March 2, 1919. In grateful recognition by the government of her heroic services to the nation, she was buried in the mausoleum of the veterans of the Philippine Revolution at La Loma Cemetery. The commemorative stamps were designed by supervising philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., and printed by Harrison and Sons, Ltd. London.

Other particulars of the stamps are:

Size: 25.5x40 mm perforation to perf.
 Denominations 10s - 10,000,000
 and 20s - 5,000,000
 Quantities: 30s - 5,000,000
 Sheet
 Composition: 50
 Printing process: Heliogravure, three colors

As November 30, 1969 falls on a Sunday, actual cancellation of the stamps will be made on December 2, 1969.

