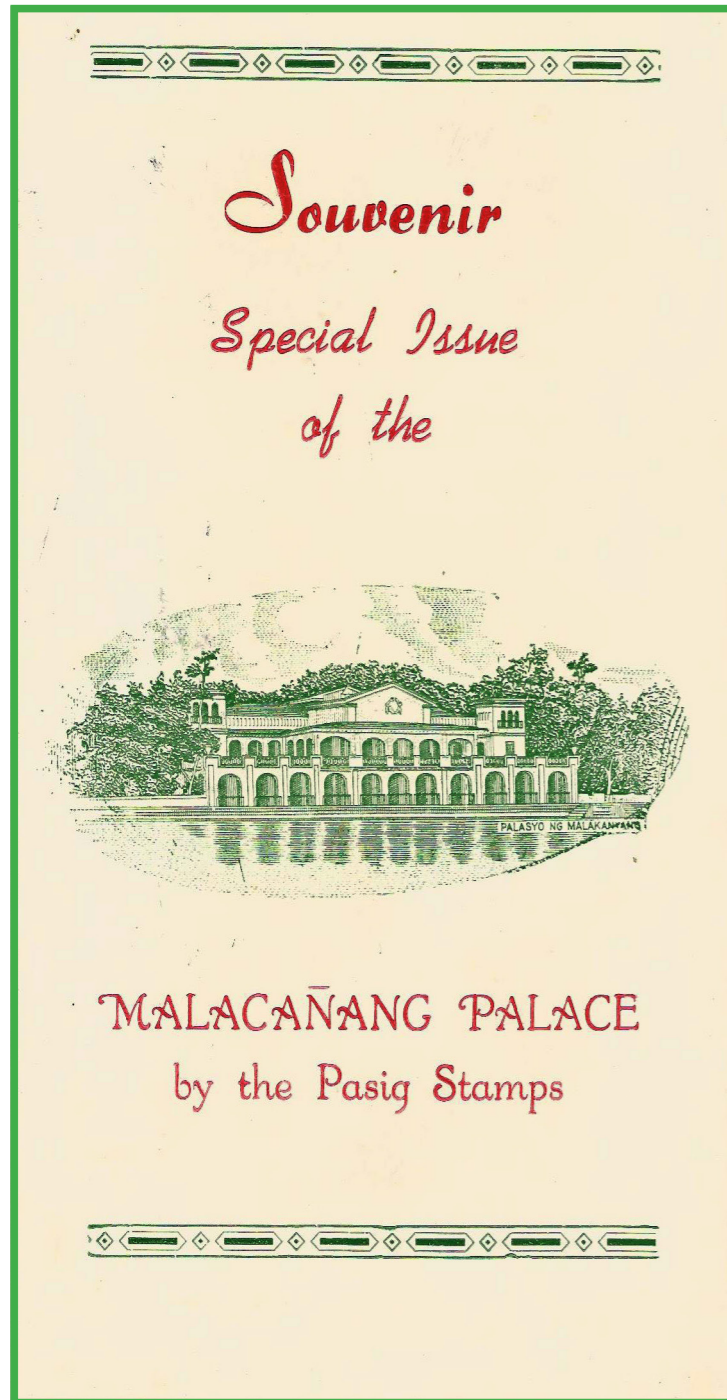


**November 15, 1973
MALACAÑANG PALACE BY THE PASIG**



MALACAÑANG PALACE BY THE PASIG

The Bureau of Posta issues today, November 15, 1973 the 38th Anniversary of the Philippine Commonwealth Government, the Malacañang Palace by the Pasig stamps with the following particulars:

Kind of Issue:	Special
Size:	33x48 mm printed size
Denomination:	15-sentimo - 2,000,000
and	50-sentimo - 4,000,000
Quantities:	60-sentimos - 4,000,000
Sheet Composition:	50
Printing Process:	Heliogravure (five colors)
Printer:	Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd. (London, England)
Designer:	Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr.

Malacañang Palace by the Pasig River was originally the private villa of Luis Rocha. It was an imposing country house with typical gardens, half hidden from the street by a massive stone fence. On November 16, 1802, this estate was bought by Don Jose Formento of the Spanish Army for a modest sum of P1.100. When Colonel Formento died, it was offered for sale, but no ready purchaser could be found.

It was not until 1824, when Juan Antonio Martinez, field marshall of the Spanish Army and the 54th governor general of the Philippines, offered to purchase it for the Spanish Government. Governor General Mariano Ricafort, the successor of Martinez, completed the acquisition on the property on January 22, 1825 for a price of P5.100.

There are several versions as to how it got its present name. Artigas y Cuerva, well known chronicler of Philippine History, wrote that Malacañang meant sitio de pescadores (village of Fishermen), in Tagalog "mamamalakaya".

Other scholars claimed that the word was originally may lakan diyan (there are nobles there), and that with the passing of time and Castillian influence it degenerated into a single hispanized word, Malacañang.

The Malacañang we know now is the result of the major and minor renovations done on the original building and around from time to time.

The distinction of having been the first Filipino Chief Executive to live in the palace by the Pasig goes to the late President Manuel L. Quezon, then followed by Presidents Jose P. Laurel, Sergio Osmeña Sr., Manuel A. Roxas, Elpidio Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay, Diosdado Macapagal and the incumbent President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Incidentally the issuance of these stamps coincide with the project launched by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the beautification of Pasig River and its environment.

