

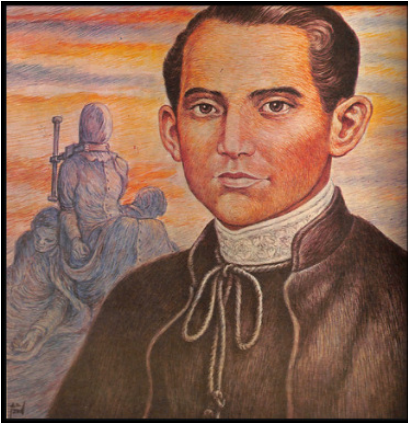
CIRCULO FILATELICO DE VIGAN

CIRCA 1944

No information has been found on the Circulo Filatelico do Vigan (Vigan Philatelic circle), which appears to have been founded by Jose P de los Reyes. To date, only two commemorative correspondences were issued, marking the birth and death anniversaries of Dr Jose A Burgos. Assumed to only have been in existence for a relatively short period of time during the Japanese Occupation period.



Dr Jose Apolinario Burgos y Garcia was a Filipino Catholic priest, accused of mutiny by the Spanish colonial authorities in the Philippines in the 19th century. He was placed in a mock trial and summarily executed in Manila along with two other clergymen, Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora, who are collectively known as the 'Gomburza'.



Jose Burgos was born in Vigan, Ilocos Sur on February 9, 1837 to a Spanish officer, Don Jose Tiburcio Burgos, and a Filipino mestiza mother named Florencia Garcia. He obtained three undergraduate degrees with honors, two master's degrees and two doctorate degrees from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran and from the University of Santo Tomas. He conducted his first mass in Intramuros.

Burgos' nationalist views, codified in editorial essays, championing political and ecclesiastic reforms in favor of empowering more native clergymen, made him a target of opposition to civil authorities. In 1864, an anonymous pamphlet was published in Manila, criticizing the prejudice in the Church, and providing rebuttals against several canards against the native clergy. Although the document was unsigned, historians believe the author to be Burgos, based on its style and content. Burgos also penned several signed articles later in his life, in response to a series of anonymous written attacks on the Filipino clergy. Though Burgos offered few new ideas, his name caught the attention of Spanish authorities, who would report that the native clergy was becoming separatist.

Burgos had established a reputation as a defender of the native clergy. His debates over the rights of native priests had extended to include questions of race and nationalism. This reputation would eventually cause him to be implicated as the instigator in a mutiny in Cavite.

After the Cavite Mutiny on January 20, 1872, the trial of mutineer sergeant Bonifacio Octavo revealed that a man named Zaldua had been recruiting people for an uprising. Octavo testified that this man claimed to be under the orders of Burgos, but inconsistent details during Octavo's cross-examinations called into question the validity of his testimony. Nevertheless, Governor-General Rafael Izquierdo reported to Madrid that the testimony had confirmed his suspicions, and pinned the blame on Burgos and two other priests, Jacinto Zamora and Mariano Gomez, for sedition.

The three underwent a tribunal amidst a list of dubious charges and false witnesses, and where their own lawyers double-crossed them. On February 17, 1872, the three priests were garrotted in the middle of Bagumbayan field (now Luneta Park).
