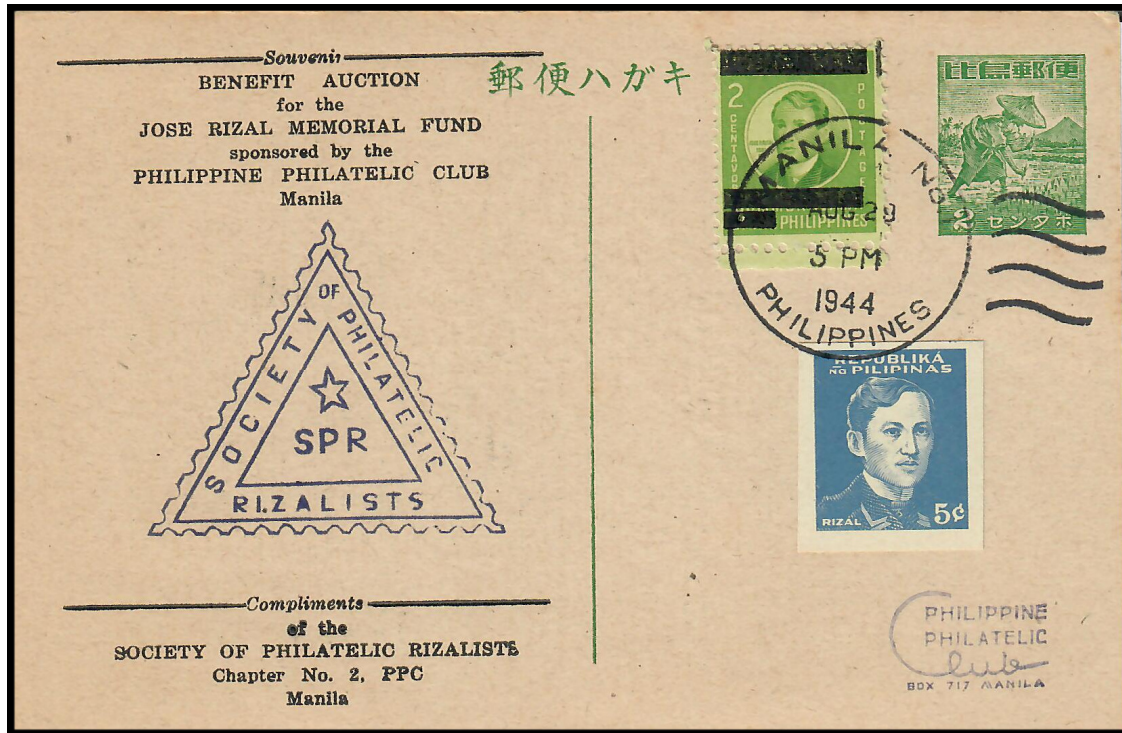


PHILIPPINE PHILATELIC CLUB

AUGUST 29, 1944

BENEFIT AUCTION- JOSE RIZAL MEMORIAL FUND

Printed Postal Card promoting a Benefit Auction for the Jose Rizal Memorial Fund sponsored by the PPC. Card sent complimentary from the Society of Philatelic Rizalists, Chapter No. 2 PPC. Uprated 2c Planters Postal Card with two Rizal issues affixed and tied with 'Manila No. 1' Duplex Cancel.



Glimpses on a Philatelic Rizaliana...

JOSE RIZAL—AN APOSTLE OF LIBERTY
...by Rizalino D. Arispia, Sr.

To serve as daily reminders how free government came to the Philippines, the picture of Dr. Jose Rizal, the most revered Filipino patriot and martyr, is depicted on more than 83 different postal issues and relative stamps of the Philippine Islands. No other figure has appeared and so popular on all the stamps and postal stationery of the Islands than that of the likeness of Rizal. Indeed there must be a reason for such reverence. Verily there must be a reason for such popularity.

Why Filipinos pay so much philatelic tribute to Rizal, may be explained on account of his deeds and ideals. There was his unswerving devotion to his country; there were his sacrifices for the oppressed; there were his beliefs in reforms; there was his faith in the education of his people which he believed was their salvation; and there was his unflinching creed in the exercise of civil liberties—the freedom of thought, freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. Believing in these democratic ideologies, Rizal sacrificed his life for his country. Thus he died for his duty and his principles, and died a martyr, a champion of truth—an apostle of liberty.

As an apostle of liberty, Rizal fought for his country neither with a gun nor with a sword; but with his fearless pen, true to the old maxim that "The pen is mightier than the sword." Thus he wielded his pen against his enemies. Using it as his sole weapon, the two famous products of his fearless pen were the *Noli Me Tangere* and the *El Filibusterismo*. Both books he wrote in Spanish and were published in Europe.

True to his convictions, Rizal, writing to Ferdinand Blumentritt, his intimate Austrian friend and a stout champion of Filipino rights and liberties, he confided: "I want to give an example to my people, that I write not for myself, not for my glory, but for my country. Hence, I prefer truth to fame. May my countrymen also sacrifice their passions for the welfare of the country, may they not seek their good in honors, employments, bribes, adulations, but in virtues that distinguish and adorn free peoples."

Not that Rizal was only a fearless writer, but he was also a journalist, dreamer, idealist, thinker, scientist, philosopher, agronomist, scholar, naturalist, engineer, linguist, traveler, patriot, hero, martyr, and the "Great Malayan." In short, he was a citizen of the world—a great believer in democracy, a champion of truth, and an apostle of liberty.

Philatelically, Rizal was the first Filipino to appear on the stamps of the Philippines. Significantly, to him goes the honor of being the first Filipino to have been accorded the first Philippine philatelic tribute.