



**Manila Central Post Office**, designed by Architect Juan Arellano, was built in 1926, and rebuilt in 1946 after being severely damaged by WWII. The National Museum declared the iconic building an “Important Cultural Property” in 2018. It is located at the Liwasang Bonifacio, approaching MacArthur Bridge, Plaza Lacson, and then Avenida. The nearly 100-year-old neoclassical landmark was one of Manila’s busiest office as the country’s main mail-sorting and distribution hub, and the central office for the Philippine Postal Corporation, before a massive fire engulfed the historic building on May 22, 2023.

While travelling in Europe, Rizal resorted to letters to cope with homesickness. He even suggested a way to save on mailing cost to urge his sisters to write him more often. His friend and traveling companion Dr. Maximo Viola once asked Rizal why he treasured his letters so much that he carried them with him in his small bag all the time; Rizal shared how he enjoyed getting a glimpse of the character and mood of his family and friends, along with the changes in their lives, through their letters.