



Philippine Numismatic  
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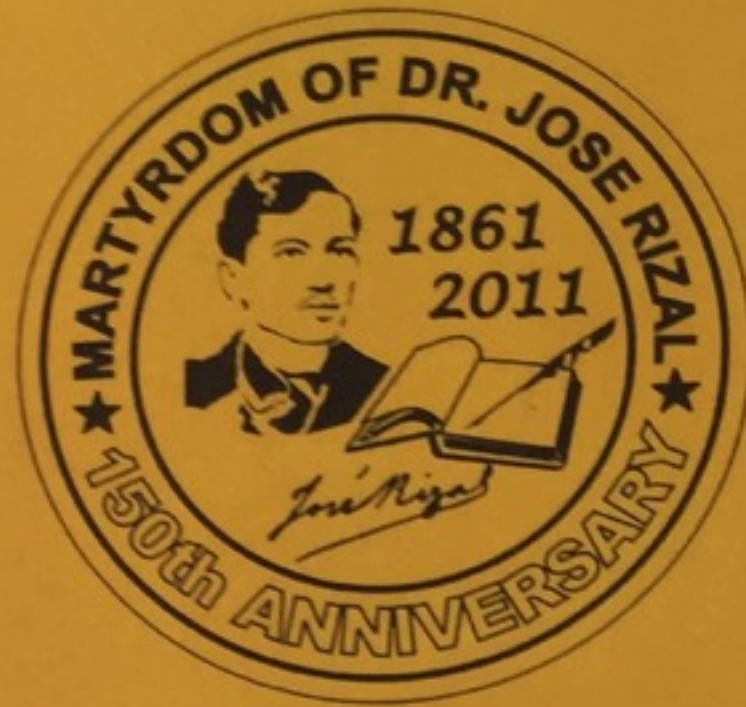
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**BIRTH OF DR. JOSE RIZAL**

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**MARTYRDOM OF DR. JOSE RIZAL**

*Jose Rizal*

RIZAL  
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE  
1861/2011



## RIZAL SWEETHEART PLATE



### RIZAL SWEETHEART PLATE

Presented to

Dr. Jose P. Rizal

In Tokyo, Japan

by his Japanese Sweetheart

O-SEI-SAN

1888

From the ANTONIO BANTUG COLLECTION\*

*(A gold-rimmed polychrome IMARI plate, 5 1/2 inches diameter, showing a long-tailed Japanese cockerel, perched on a rock in a garden of multi-colored flowers, featuring chrysanthemums.)*

### PROVENANCE

\*THIS PLATE WAS GIVEN TO JOSE RIZAL BY HIS JAPANESE GIRL FRIEND (O-SEI-SAN) WHEN HE VISITED JAPAN.

THIS WAS INHERITED BY NARCISA RIZAL (ELDER SISTER OF JOSE RIZAL) WHO IN TURN GAVE IT TO LEONICIO LOPEZ-RIZAL (HER SON).

THIS WAS IN TURN PASSED ON TO ANTONIO BANTUG (SON-IN-LAW OF LLR).

THIS WAS EVENTUALLY PASSED ON TO ME, ANTONIO BANTUG JR.

*A. Bantug Jr.*

ANTONIO BANTUG JR.



# MEDALLIC RIZALIANA

By: Jorge T. delos Santos

A hero for all seasons, Jose Rizal embodies not only the best qualities of his race and people but also the greatness of his nation. Admired as a martyred libertarian, he was also a peerless journalist and gifted writer, poet, linguist, agriculturist, physician, ophthalmologist, engineer, sculptor and artist – truly, a Universal Man. Hence, Rizal richly deserves the supreme accolade heaped upon him by his grateful and admiring countrymen. It is, therefore, not at all surprising that Rizal was honored even during his lifetime by the revolutionary organization, the KATIPUNAN, a sector of which called "Bayani" had for its password the name "Rizal". The different councils or sections set up by the Katipunan in various parts of Manila and environs were given symbolic names. The one established at Trozo, Manila was called Dapitan (after Rizal's place of exile). And as an inspirational light of the secret society, Rizal without his knowledge, was chosen the honorary President.



After Rizal's execution on December 30, 1896, the wide acclaim accorded him gained even greater intensity and fervor. As he preferred reforms over revolution, some sectors believed that the Americans had favored him over other Filipino heroes with revolutionary bent for they considered him the safest symbol of the Filipinos' rising nationalism at that time and thus allowed and even encouraged his popularity to grow to unprecedented heights. This, of course, is a misconception as the choice of Rizal as our National Hero was then and even now generally accepted by the overwhelming majority of Filipinos who, according to Leon Ma. Guerero, "love peace, freedom and justice", and "reserve their highest homage and deepest love for the Christ-like victims whose mission is to consummate by their tragic failure the redemption of our nation"



From the halcyon days of the American colonial rule to the Commonwealth era, and even during the troubled years of the Japanese Occupation, Rizal Day was religiously observed on two occasions, Rizal's birth and death anniversaries. However, the December 30 celebrations were gala and elaborate affairs complete with programs, oratorical and beauty contests, civic parades, and floats vying with one another in their colorful designs and nationalistic symbolism. Expected to be in attendance were the national and local officials, community leaders, teachers and students.

After the Liberation, these celebrations lost much of their gaiety and color having become more subdued and sober affairs observed throughout the country by simple ceremonies, consisting mostly of raising of the flag, singing the National Anthem, laying wreath before Rizal's monument and brief program with the usual speeches being delivered by local officials.



Of course, this year marked the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Rizal last June 19.

Obviously these historic events merited permanent recording for posterity.. And what better means to preserve memories of these events with patriotic significance than by issuing commemorative medals on their anniversaries? Thus Rizal medals were struck almost annually in silver, bronze, gilt but rarely in solid gold. Unidentified engravers struck some but many carried the names of the more popular ones like Crispulo and Luis Zamora, C. Valdez and El Oro.



As far as is known, the earliest Rizaliana medal was issued in late 1901, five years after Rizal's execution. Struck in bronze and having a diameter of only 22mm. the miniature medal had the bust of Rizal on the obverse and the inscriptions "Al Ilustre Patricio Filipinas/Doctor Jose Rizal/Manila/30 December (sic) 1901" at the reverse. A variety of this tiny medal was struck the same year in bronze but it was uniface and only the reverse of the other medal appeared on its face.



Very much coveted by the citizenry is the Rizal Pro Patria medallion. Government awards this to citizens and institutions who gained recognition for their distinguished and outstanding contributions to the advancement of national progress, stimulation of the love of country and civic citizenship, and responsibility to the general community and the Republic. Obverse of the medallion has Rizal's bust facing left and legend with two circular lines (blue enamel) PRO PATRIA above and JOSE RIZAL below; while the reverse in blue enamel is the seal of the Philippine Republic. Large in size, it measures 85mm., and is struck in gilt bronze.



More Rizal medals and related memorabilia became available to collectors in 1996, which marked the hero's death centenary.

Noted pre-war Filipiniana collectors had specialized in Rizaliana medals, the more prominent ones being the late Antonio Bantug, Don Pablo Esperidion, Dr. Mena Crisologo, Dr. Jesus Celis and Don Pablo de Jesus.



Those desiring to specialize further in these medals will find the following publications and articles very helpful:

1. "Coins, Medals and Tokens of the Philippines 1728- 1974", Second ed. (1975), by Aldo Basso.
2. "Jose Rizal in Numismatics" by Dr. Mena Crisologo published in the U.S. magazine, "The Numismatist" issues of December 1961 and March 1966.
3. "Rizal in Medallic Art" by Jose J. Tupaz, Jr., published in the Philippine Numismatic Monograph, issue of December, 1956.

The list of these medallic issues continues to grow longer every year, hence, an updated and more comprehensive catalogue will certainly be appreciated and welcomed by collectors.





# RIZAL POSTCARDS

By: Edward Nocom

Rizal means everything to the Filipino. He is the National Hero, he is the icon, he is the standard by which every Filipino should aspire to be. He was a man of many talents: doctor, scientist, philosopher, painter, sculptor, teacher, social worker, linguist and writer.

There are those who even worship him. They are called Rizalistas. They believe that Rizal possessed some sort of divinity; he could have saved the nation had he lived for a longer period of time; he could "heal"; he had the gift of prophecy and he was a miracle worker.

Then, there are those who carry on the task of passing down his teachings to the Filipino of today. His books, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, are still being printed wholesale, with numerous versions, translations and editions already out.

These works bring Rizal back to the lives of his countrymen, a reminder on patriotism and love of country.

Images of Rizal and anything attributed to him have been the subject of postcards. One of the earliest postcards to show Rizal is a privately made turn-of-the-century postcard showing Rizal and Aguinaldo.







The illustration of Rizal in the top left corner of the cover of the book 'Jose Rizal and His Writings' published in 1909.

Jose Rizal, Philippine Librarian  
 The book 'Jose Rizal and His Writings' published in 1909. The illustration of Rizal in the top left corner of the cover of the book 'Jose Rizal and His Writings' published in 1909.



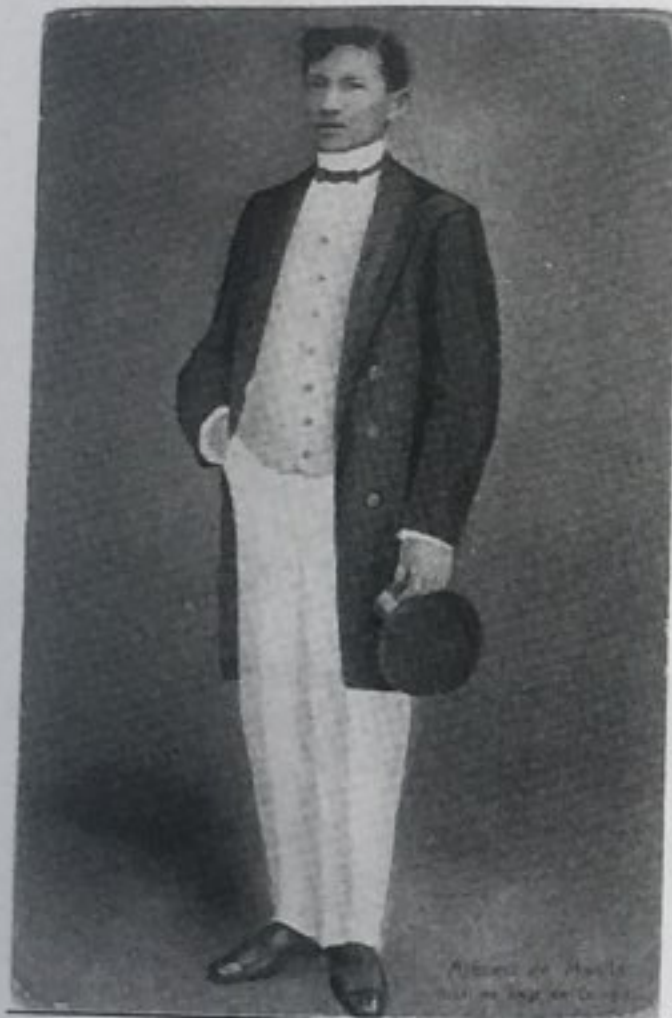
Copyright, 1910, Philippine Librarian

The illustration of Rizal and Marcelo del Pilar in the top right corner of the cover of the book 'Jose Rizal and His Writings' published in 1909.

Jose Rizal and Marcelo del Pilar in the top right corner of the cover of the book 'Jose Rizal and His Writings' published in 1909.

During American rule, there were a couple of postcards with the caption "One of four hundred illustrations in Craig's Jose Rizal and His Writings, to be published during 1909". One has Rizal's front-facing portrait and the other has Rizal and Marcelo del Pilar (the two disagreed on the methods of achieving their mutual revolutionary goal). There might have been other postcards in this series.

The famous series of Ateneo postcards shows the full-figured Rizal with the caption "Rizal en traje de Colegial". This is easily the most coveted in the series.



Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt  
 (AUSTRIANO)  
 ILUSTRE FILIPINÓLOGO Y  
 ARDIENTE DEFENSOR DE NUESTRO PAIS  
 EN LOS DIAS DE ADVERSIDAD.

Manila Filatelica 1907

The Manila Filatelica produced a postcard depicting Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt, the Austrian friend of our national hero. They usually addressed one another as "Mein Bruder" (my brother). Manila Filatelica also produced a series of postcards more popularly called "Postales Rizal". One of the most striking is "La tumba de Rizal 30 Obre. 1907".

One of the most intriguing Rizal postcards thus far is the one by Escolta News Co., Manila, P.I. It is a full-figured drawing of Rizal. The one shown here has a handwritten message with the date "May 14, 1912". Curiously, no other postcards by Escolta News Co. have been encountered after all these years.



Manila Filatelica

No. 411 - Manila, P.I.

Lastly, a note on the famous 14-Stanza (*Mi Ultimo Adios*) Rizal Postcards. Rizal reportedly wrote the poem on the eve prior to his execution. When his family paid their last visit, Rizal told his sister, Trinidad, in English that there was something in the small alcohol stove (*cocinilla*) he had been using. The stove as given to Narcisa, another sister, by the guard when the party was about to board



*In the heady days of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in Balayan, Batangas, stood a grand old house which served as the home of one of Balayan's most famous families – the LOPEZ FAMILY. CASA GRANDE, as it was fondly called, was the home of SIXTO LOPEZ, his brothers and sisters, revolutionaries all. SIXTO LOPEZ, a very close personal friend and colleague of JOSE RIZAL, served in various capacities in the earliest days of the struggle for freedom. While CASA GRANDE still stands as a silent witness to countless stories over the years, this is a loving tribute to the Great House as told by one of SIXTO LOPEZ's own grandnieces.*



"CASA GRANDE" of the Lopezes of Balayan



JOSE RIZAL with his old schoolmate, friend and brother revolutionary, SIXTO LOPEZ

# PAMANA:

By: Ma. Victoria B. Lopez

The home of my earliest recollections and fondest memories is a very old "Bahay naBato" situated at the corner of La Calle de Nuestra Senora de la Constancia and La Calle de Nuestra Senora de la Antorcha. There, I lived my earliest days waking up to the strong aroma of *baraco* coffee and the sounds of a household awakening to the sky pink colors of the Balayan dawn.

Those were the days and I count myself fortunate to have experienced them. The Philippines was in the midst of what remained of Spanish colonization, the American occupation and the aftermath of a World War that had given rise to the many hopes and dreams of bright and modern times.

Balayan or Valayan, as it was called in one account dated 1394, was believed to be the center of the ancient Kingdom of Ma-I, inhabited in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century by the scattered descendants of Datu Belensusa (Balingsukla or "Broken Silk", one of the original Ten Royal Datus from Borneo). It was then inherited by Datu Kumintang. Thus from 1570 to 1578 Balayan was known as Kumintang. In 1570 Miguel Lopez de Legazpi proclaimed Balayan as the Islands' capital and the seat of the Spanish Government of the East Indies. It was thus made a Spanish settlement in 1578 and in 1581 the Province of Balayan was created with Balayan town as the provincial capital. It was composed of : Batangas, Mindoro, Marinduque, Nasugbu, Lian, Calatagan, Tuy, South East Laguna and even reached as far as Camarines Sur.

Because it was a coastal town, it was subjected to fierce attacks by Moro Pirates. They would launch their attacks from Mamburao in Mindoro, and return with slaves in tow to be sold to Chinese merchants who would bring them to Malacca and other parts of Asia. Because of these attacks, a watchtower was built in Talibayog near Calatagan, and a *farola* (lighthouse) was built in Bonbon. It was recorded that the pirates would enter Taal Lake from the sea through a tributary of the town in an area called Cay Ponce, named after the Spanish Gobernadorcillo Ponce who, with his son, defended the town in a bloody battle against the pirate raiders.



# For Love of a Home

In 1812 the original Bahay na Bato of the Lopez Family was built. Sometime between 1854 and 1862 our great grandfather Natalio Narciso Lopez established his family residence there.

In that setting we moved back and forth from Manila, with the old Tia Lolas Clemencia and Juliana Lopez, parents, uncles and aunts, cousins and visitors, who were plentiful, as well as a vast household staff. Together we were all part of that home.

Meals were still cooked over a wooden stove although an American electric range stood unused beside it. There were always so many people, seating rotations in the long dining room table were inevitable. To me, it always seemed we were constantly in fiesta mode. On Sundays, the ground floor office would be filled with all the *kasamas*, dark from their work in the sugar fields, garbed in loose cotton clothing, their straw hats in hand, bringing with them, as was the custom, a variety of fruits, range chicken and other delights and *cuentos* from the *bukid*.

The Sunday breakfast table had all my favorites: plates of *puto* cut in squares, *suman* and hot chocolate (made from native chocolate balls stirred liquid by a wooden *batidor*). There was also my favorite: *tuyo* and *sinangag* with plenty of garlicky white cane vinegar, *chamorado* with *tapa* (this one was not particularly to my liking) and the all-time lunch request of my brother and myself: *adobo* and *kibal* (the best meal ever because it was cooked over the wooden stove). During those meals and thru the night, we would hear the household gecko's "tuko-tuko" calls, to which we would make a wish and alternately count *yes* and *no* till its last "tuko".

Life was idyllic, we observed with gusto all the old traditions: during the Lenten season, the dressing and preparation of our family patron saint, the Magdalena, and her *carrosa*, the singsong *Pabasa* of the *Pasion* and the Easter *Salubong* (where my sisters once were angels). In June, the feast of San Juan had us throwing water safely from atop the sugar trucks. In November, on the feast of all the Holy Souls and Saints, a huge truck would arrive filling the *zaguán* with tons of flowers: cosmos, dahlias, African daisies, to stick with *tingting* on



HongKong: Clemencia, Sixto and Mariquita Lopez.  
Standing: Fiske Warren and Thomas Patterson.



The second floor had canvassed walls and ceilings that were elegantly painted. It consisted of the staircase ceiling on which was painted "The Lady of Liberty", her hand clutching a torch of glass shaped like a flame, the *caida*, painted green with garlands of white flowers, a huge round table, topped with *carrara* marble edged with its traditional grooves, Batangas style and smooth and cold to the touch, an altar table that had Tio Pepe's pipes and a deck of tarot cards. The main salon or *sala* had gilded arches, more garlands and playful angels painted on its ceiling's center. A master bedroom and a *volada* led to other bedrooms. The dining room was painted with trellises and birds under a pale blue sky. Finally, the kitchen, *azolea* and bathrooms exited to a *balon* or water well. In between the kitchen and the *azolea* is a spiral staircase that leads to a tower or *mirador* where the family, who were in the shipping business at the time, would look out for the steamships with names like "The Purissima Concepcion", "Oretano" and "Balayan" as they came into Balayan Bay.

The House got its name "Casa Grande" (according to our aunt Nena Liboro Benitez) during the Second World War, when the entire clan evacuated from Manila to the relative safety of Balayan. The different families were scattered among different houses in the town but would gather at the "big house" of the old folks, Sixto, Clemen, Pepe, Ninay, Jose and Charing. Thus the name "Casa Grande".

Built by the old town walls, the Casa saw a rich history from the early Spanish times to the struggle against Spain, where every member of the family was an active revolutionary. Together with many other nationalists and patriots, they continued fighting for the cause of the Motherland into the Philippine-American War of 1898-1915 "where in Batangas the family witnessed and were singled out for special retaliation during one of the most brutal campaigns of the Phil-Am War" (Jim Zwick). This led to the arrest and imprisonment in Talim Island of the Lopez brothers Lorenzo, Cypriano and Manuel and the confiscation of the family's entire holdings. Casa Grande was made into the American Military Quarters (an interesting feature of the Casa Grande on the second floor is a small corridor with "cowboy style" saloon doors that leads to a bathroom, surely a leftover or influence of that occupation).

Before 1898, Sixto Lopez, as secretary to the delegation of Teodoro Agoncillo, left to attend the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Later on, during the time of the "Hongkong Junta", he was sent to London as the Philippine envoy to England. There he met Thomas Patterson of Australia and Fiske Warren of the Boston Warrens and the American Anti-Imperialist group who invited Sixto to speak in America. Soon after, his sister Clemencia left the Philippines to join him. In Boston

## Headquarters Third Separate Brigade.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH PHILIPPINES

Batangas, Batangas Prov., P. I. May 12th, 1902.

To the Commanding Officers,  
in Batangas and Mindoro.

S i r s : -

The male members of the Lopez family have been prisoners during the war in Batangas, their property has been seized and held for government uses, and the family has been punished for their participation in the war in this manner.

Now that the war is over and they have settled their differences with the Government, it is my desire that their interests in Mindoro and Batangas should be protected. With this in view officers commanding troops in Mindoro are forbidden to seize any of their property or otherwise do them damage without my authority. Their persons will also be respected and they will not be arrested without consulting me. In case their arrest should become necessary it should be reported here and they can be obtained at any time.

Very respectfully,

Brigadier-General, U.S. Army,  
Commanding.

RMS.

U.S. Army "Safe Conduct" document



The Grand Old Dame



both Sixto and Clemencia worked closely with the Anti-Imperialist League and were the most visible and outspoken Filipino opponents of the U.S. conquest of the Philippines" (Jim Zwick). There Clemencia appealed for the release of her brothers in an audience with President Theodore Roosevelt (making her the first Filipino ever to enter the White House). Both Sixto and Clemencia appeared before the American Senate Committee in 1901 and testified to the conditions in the Philippines at the time. Clemencia returned to the Philippines after her English studies in Wellesley College, giving a speech on "The Women of the Phiippines" in 1902 (included in 2000 "One Hundred Speeches That Moved a Nation") where she championed women's right to suffrage, giving women a voice during that era. Because Sixto had refused to take an oath of allegiance to the United States of America, he was allowed to return to the Philippines only in 1915 without ever taking that oath.

During the American Liberation of the Second World War, the people of Casa Grande were evacuated to the *bukid* and the contents of the Casa were sent to a family residence at the outskirts of town called Gumamela. Balayan, like the rest of Batangas, had been ordered burnt by the retreating Japanese forces. By the grace of God, Balayan was spared. Unfortunately, the residence in Gumamela was torched, and it is said that two American soldier prisoners were locked under its staircase and lost in that fire. My older cousins, Lorenzo, Carmelo and Ramon have many stories about Gumamela, stories of finding shallow graves, grenades and other artifacts of war in the premises. Next door to Gumamela, Cayponce was the site of the Japanese garrison. The story goes that the Japanese had to abandon the site due to the appearance of a ghostly lady, said to be the Virgin Mary, patroness of Balayan. To this day many people still claim to see her.

In 1963, my aunt Clemencia died. After a weeklong wake at the our Singalong Street residence and Malate Church, we proceeded to take her on her final journey home. All the while, a long black car with a lone occupant accompanied her cortege to the border of Balayan. When I inquired as to who it was, my sister whispered that it was General Emilio Aguinaldo, President of the First Philippine Republic. We arrived in Balayan to see the Casa, its entire second floor façade encircled with a long black cloth, ushering in another weeklong wake before Tia Memeng's burial at the Balayan Cemetery on the hill. Her death marked the end of the old traditions and of life in the old house for all of us.

Our parents, the fifth generation, became busy with life in Manila, as all their children were now enrolled in schools there. The Seventies



Grand Facade, always a welcome sight.



Formal Sala



BALAYAN continued  
SECOND and THIRD generation of LOPEZES of BALAYAN: ENRIQUE S. LOPEZ, JULIANA LOPEZ MANZANO, EMILIO LOPEZ and CLEMENCIA LOPEZ (seated).