

JOSE PACIANO LAUREL
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
1943 - 1945

Philatelic Souvenir Album

JOSE PASCANO LAUREL: PHILOSOPHER
OF DEMOCRACY AND NATIONALISM

Adapted from the work of the same title by
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Among Filipino leaders who dominated the national stage during the first six decades of the 20th century, the one who must deserve the title of philosopher of democracy and economic nationalism is the late Dr. Jose P. Laurel, the 7th anniversary of whose death falls on November 6, 1946. Many Filipinos in those eventful decades spoke and wrote of democracy as well as of economic nationalism, in the political, academic and educational fields, with competence and sometimes brilliance, but none presented or committed to print a whole body of ideas, beliefs, and correlations on those two great issues of the work of the 20th century better or more comprehensively than the Sage of Tausan whose name literally became a byword in Philippine politics, education, and economics in the years following the establishment of Philippine independence.

More than any of his contemporaries, Dr. Laurel understood clearly the problems that democracy must needs face in a Philippine that was for the first time politically sovereign since the Filipinos' brief acquaintance with this form of government and political faith in 1898-1899. More than any at his contemporaries, Dr. Laurel also understood sharply the role of economic and cultural nationalism in the building of a democratic society in a developing country which is heir to all the defects and weaknesses caused by long centuries of domination by western powers.

His articles of faith are easily summarized, thanks to the lucidity and vigor of both his speaking and writing style. He believed in a condition of humanity sustained by a moral order emanating from the Creator.

He believed in the "vigilant impulse" of searching after the truth with courage and dedication, and in the unswerving development of Man's God-given endowments through inquiry, open-mindedness, and conscientious study and work.

Like a true philosopher, Dr. Laurel reduced the basic ideas of personal and international relations to the simple formula that "Integration and Digestion of the Human Personality" must be the major desideratum of all human efforts and institutions if an "egalitarian" both in the relations of classes within a nation and in the relations of nations on the world stage is to be achieved with inalienable success and durability. His political science came directly from Plato, though he was familiar with, and often quoted, Oriental philosophers and thinkers. No admirer of Dr. Laurel's synthesizing mind reduced the concept of economic and cultural nationalism to a couple of simple



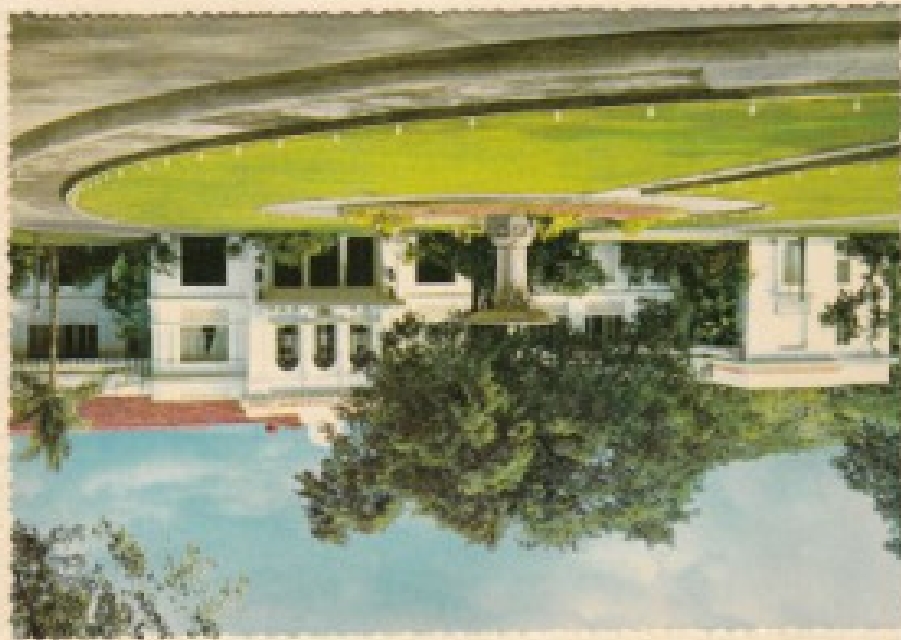
Jose Pascano Laurel

1887-1959

Official Presidential Portrait

Subsannang Pilosop

Manula



LIVING ARRIVING LABAS

*President Jose P. Laurel Postage Stamps
 Presidential Great Series
 Issued by the Bureau of Posts
 November 6, 1966
 Manila
 Republic of the Philippines*