
Local Filipino Community Commemorates Execution Of Patriot, Jose Rizal

With more than 300 members of the local Filipino colony present, with the great ballroom of the Astor House Hotel beautifully decorated with the colors of the United States and the Philippines, and with the Filipino ladies wearing the picturesque costume of their country, the Filipino community of Shanghai yesterday commemorated the execution of Dr. Jose Rizal, outstanding patriot and martyr of the islands during the Spanish regime.

It was on December 30, 1896, two years before American occupation of the Philippines, that the patriot, Rizal, was executed by a firing squad of Spanish soldiers on the famous Luneta at Manila.

Educated abroad, Rizal had devoted his life to the redemption of his people and in attempts to free them from the rule of Spain. He was educated far above the average, even of Europeans, and was the author of books that had attracted wide attention.

Returned to Islands

It was while living and studying in Germany that he published the first book, "The Social Cancer," a novel exposing the despotism of the oppressors of the Filipino people.

In 1890 he finished his masterpiece, "The Reign Of Greed," in which he depicted how the Filipinos were being goaded into outlawry and butchery. While he was absent in Europe his parents and family had been persecuted and driven into exile.

Against the advice of friends he returned to the Philippines, stopping a short time in Hongkong where he married a charming English girl, a girl whose father Rizal had saved from blindness by his skill as an oculist.

Dr. Rizal was arrested shortly after his arrival in Manila and,

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on a trumped-up charge, was condemned to death and shot.

Rizal Day

Shortly after American occupation of the Philippines and when civil government had been established the 30th of December was declared a holiday in memory of his sacrifice, and is now the outstanding day of the year in the islands. Scarcely a village in the Philippines but what has a statue or bust of Rizal in the most public place.

Throughout the world, wherever a colony of Filipinos have gathered, Rizal Day is likewise celebrated.

In Shanghai, yesterday, the day was given over to a spree given in the ballroom of the Astor and lasting from early in the afternoon until dancing was finished after nine o'clock.

Musical Program

During the course of the afternoon program an address was given by Dr. G. R. Manlangit, prominent Filipino doctor, who reviewed the life of Rizal and advised his hearers, particularly the younger generation, to keep Rizal's life as an example.

The musical program was most interesting, the Filipinos being naturally musical and generally fine musicians. Harry Languns was master of ceremonies, while the

overture was played by a selected Filipino orchestra.

An instrumental trio, consisting of piano, violin and cello was given by Messrs. Fernando, Reyes and Alberto, while next came "A Popular Song" played by an all-professional string band supervised by Mr. Andy Andico.

This was followed by a number that was received with most hearty approval, that being a vocal solo by Miss Corazon Mapa, with Mr. H. Fernando at the piano.

National Anthem

A number of the local colony then danced the beautiful and typical "La Carinosa," with the Filipino string band assisting. The original Filipino saxophone band of 11 pieces was next, the music having been arranged and scored by Mr. M. N. Panganiban.

Rousing applause also greeted Miss Carmen Toledo in the next number, a piano solo, while the last number on the program, a declamation, "My Last Farewell," by Jose Rizal, was recited by Mrs. M. D. Alobog most beautifully and with deep feeling. Mr. M. Andres was at the piano.

The Filipino orchestra then played the Philippine National Anthem, after which dancing was commenced and refreshments were served.

Those in charge of arrangements for the afternoon included Dr. G.

R. Manlangit, Mr. V. D. Alobog, Dr. R. C. Riego, Mrs. Mercedes D. Alobog, Mr. M. N. Panganiban, E. Nazario and Bernabe Andres. An interesting incident was the presence of a number of local Spanish residents as invited guests, showing that time has almost healed the wounds of former years.