

The Women of Jose Rizal



Segunda Katigbak



Leonor Valenzuela



Leonor Rivera



Consuelo Ortiga



O-Sei San



Gertrude Bequette



Nelly Boustead



Suzanne Jacoby



Josephine Bracken

WOMEN OF RIZAL

There were at least nine women linked with Rizal; namely Segunda Katigbak, Leonor Valenzuela, Leonor Rivera, Consuelo Ortiga, O-Sei San, Gertrude Beckette, Nelly Boustead, Suzanne Jacoby and Josephine Bracken. These women might have been beguiled by his intelligence, charm and wit.

Segunda Katigbak



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Leonor Valenzuela



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Segunda Katigbak and Leonor Valenzuela

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Leonor Rivera



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Consuelo Ortiga



Consuelo Ortiga y Rey, the prettier of Don Pablo Ortiga's daughters, fell in love with him. He dedicated to her *A la Senorita C.O. y R.*, which became one of his best poems. The Ortiga's residence in Madrid was frequented by Rizal and his compatriots. He probably fell in love with her and Consuelo apparently asked him for romantic verses.

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O Sei San



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Gertrude Beckett



While Rizal was in London annotating the *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas*, he boarded in the house of the Beckett family, within walking distance of the British Museum. Gertrude, a blue-eyed and buxom girl was the oldest of the three Beckett daughters. She fell in love with Rizal. Tottie helped him in his painting and sculpture.

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Nellie Boustead



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Rizal used to fence with the sisters at the studio of Juan Luna. Antonio Luna, Juan's father and also a frequent visitor of the Bousteads, courted Nellie but she was deeply infatuated with Rizal. In a party held by Filipinos in Madrid, a drunken Antonio Luna made remarks against Nellie.

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- Their love affair unfortunately did not end in marriage. It failed because Rizal refused to be converted to the Protestant faith, as Nellie demanded and Nellie's mother did not like a physician without enough paying clientele to be a son-in-law. The lovers, however, parted as good friends when Rizal left Europe.

Suzanne Jacoby



In 1890, Rizal moved to Brussels because of the high cost of living in Paris. In Brussels, he lived in the boarding house of the two Jacoby sisters. In time, they fell deeply in love with each other. Suzanne cried when Rizal left Brussels and wrote him when he was in Madrid.

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Josephine Bracken



In the last days of February 1895, while still in Dapitan, Rizal met an 18-year old petite Irish girl, with bold blue eyes, brown hair and a happy disposition. She was Josephine Bracken, the adopted daughter of George Tauffer from Hong Kong, who came to Dapitan to seek Rizal for eye treatment.

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Josephine Bracken cont.

- Rizal asked Josephine to marry him, but she was not yet ready to make a decision due to her responsibility to the blind Taufer. Since Taufer's blindness was untreatable, he left for Hon Kong on March 1895. Josephine stayed with Rizal's family in Manila. Upon her return to Dapitan, Rizal tried to arrange with Father Antonio Obach for their marriage. However, the priest wanted a retraction as a precondition before marrying them. Rizal upon the advice of his family and friends and with Josephine's consent took her as his wife even without the Church blessings. Josephine later give birth prematurely to a stillborn baby, a result of some incidence, which might have shocked or frightened her.