
3. Period of Self-Discovery and Growth (1925-1941)

Filipino writers had acquired the mastery of English writing, can now write on a lot of subjects although the old-time favorites of love and youth persisted, and went into all forms of writing.

1. POETRY

Characteristics: Original, spontaneous, competently written, incorporated social consciousness.

Artists known in this field: Marcelo de Gracia Concepcion, Jose Garcia Villa, Angela Manalang Gloria, Abelardo Subido, Trinidad Tarrosa Subido and Rafael Zulueta da Costa.

- turned out not only love poems but patriotic, religious, descriptive and reflective poems as well.
- wrote in free verse, in odes and sonnets and in other types.

Jose Garcia Villa placed the Philippines on the literary map with the publication of his books in the US.

Some writings during this time were:

1925 - The Philippine Writers Association was organized to Manila

1926 - Manila: A Collection of Verses by Luis Dato

1932 - **Bamboo flute** by Marcelo de Gracia Concepcion

1934 - **Moon Shadows on the Water** by Aurelio S. Alvero

1934 - English German Anthology of Filipino poets by Pablo Laslo

1936 - **My Book of Verses** by Luis Dato

1937 - **First Leaves** by Rafael Zulueta da Costa

1939 - **Nuances** by Aurelio S. Alvero

1940 - **Like The Molave and Other Poems**, a first-prize winning collection of poems by a single author in the Commonwealth Literary Contest won by Rafael Zulueta da Costa

1940 - **Many Voices** won second award in the Commonwealth Literary Contest

1941 - **Poems** by Doveglion: by Jose Garcia Villa

2. THE SHORT STORY (1925-1941)

Characteristics: There were still remnants of Spanish influence in the use of expressions that were florid, sentimental, exaggerated and bombastic. The influence of the Western culture also was already evident.

Poetry and the short story flourished during this times because of the incentives provided by publications like the Philippine Free Press, The Graphic, The Philippine Magazine and college publications like the UP Literary Apprentice.

Some writings of our authors during this time were:

1927 - Paz M. Benitez published her First Anthology of Filipino short stories entitled **Filipino Love Stories**

1929 – Jose Garcia Villa published *Philippine Short Stories*

1930 – Jose Garcia Villa's **Mir-in-isa** won first place in The Age Press short story writing contest

1932 – Zoilo M. Galang published his first volume of short stories entitled **Tales of the Philippines**

How my Brother Leon Brought Home a Wife by Manuel Arguilla was awarded by the Commonwealth Literary Contest with the first prize

Other writers during this time include Osmundo Sta. Romana, Arturo Rotor, and Paz Latorena's *Sunset* from 1930 to 1940, the Golden Era of Filipino writing in English saw the short story writers "who have arrived," like Jose Lansang's *The Broken Parasol*, Sinai C. Hamada's *Talanata's Wife*, Fausto Dugenio's *Wanderlust*, Amando G. Dayrit's *His Gift and Yesterday*, Amador T. Daugio's *The Woman Who Looked Out of the Window*.

3. Essays and Other Prose Styles (1925-1941)

Characteristic: Improved in quality and quantity, in content, subject and style

Carlos P. Romulo became more eminent editorial writers

Notable writers of essays during this time:

a. Political, social reflective essays: Federico Mangahas, Salvador P. Lopez, Pura S. Casterence. Vicente Albano Pacis, Ariston Estrada and Jose A. Lansang (through their newspaper columns, they became more popular)

b. Critical essays: Salvador P. Lopez, I.V. Mallari, Ignacio Manlapaz, Jose Garcia Villa, Arturo B. Rotor, and Leopoldo Y. Yabes. An example of this is Maximo V. Soliven's **They Called It Brotherhood**.

c. Personal or Familiar essays: F.B. Icasiano (Mang Kiko), Alfredo E. Litiatco, Solomon V. Arnaldo, Amando G. Dayrit and Consuelo Gar (Catuca).

Some of the notable works during this time were:

1940 – Salvador P. Lopez' **Literature and Society** (a collection of critical reflections and serious essays) won first prize in the Commonwealth Literary Contest of 1940.

1940 – Camilo Osias published **The Filipino Way of Life** (a series of essays on the Filipino way of life as drawn from history, folkways, philosophy and psychology of the Philippines)

1941 – F.B. Icasiano (Mang Kiko) was reprints of the best of Icasiano's essays in the *Sunday Times Magazine* under the column *From My Nipa Hut*. It is an essay of the common "tao" and is written with humor and sympathy.

August 16, 1941 – Carlos P. Romulo had an editorial printed in the Philippines Herald . Entitled **I am a Filipino**, it was reprinted in his book **My Bother Americans** in 1945 in New York by Doubleday & Co.

Other essayists include: Ignacio Manlapaz, Vicente Albano Pacis, I.V. Mallari, Jose M. Fernandez, Leopoldo Y. Yabes, Isidro L. Ritizos, Pura Santillan.

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