

AMONG the foreign scholars who became interested in the poem are Blumentritt, Rost, Kern, Meyer, Minguella, Glanco and Retana. The first four went as far as to study Tagalog in order that they may read *Plorante* in the original. The Spanish scholars praised the work lavishly.

Balatgas' other known works include *La India Elegante y el Negrito Amate*, *Mahomet at Constanza*, *Almanzor at Rosalinda*, *Orosman at Safira*, *Don Nuño at Zelinda*, *Clara Balmori*, *Nuno Gordoneo*, *Rodolfo at Rosemondo*, *Auredata at Astrone*, *El Amante de la Corona*, *Abdol at Miserana*, *Bayaceto at Dorlisca*, and others. Most of his works were burned in the fire in Orion in 1892.

At his death-bed on February 20, 1862, Balagtas told his wife: "Don't permit that anyone of our children should ever embrace the writing of poetry as a calling." Two of his sons, Ceferino and Victor, became poets. Ceferino wrote *Pagpupuri sa Virgen Maria* and other poems while the literary works of Victor were included in an anthology compiled by the late Hermenigildo Cruz.

The achievement of Balagtas is summed up by Director E.B. Rodriguez in this manner: "He fashions a world where justice reigns supreme, where everyone finds enjoyment in his relation with nature and men . . . such is the world he envisioned — a world of perfection, love and romance."

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The Tulingan

ALTHOUGH the Islands sit on one of the world's richest tuna spawning areas, tuna fishing on a scale known in Japan, the United States and the Mediterranean countries does not exist in the Philippines. Depletion of tuna stocks in Japanese and Formosan home grounds has induced their fishermen to stalk Philippine waters for tuna, reaching out as deep as the Macassar Strait.

Local fishermen's acquaintance with tuna is limited to its midge varieties known in Batangas, Zambales and Pangasinan and other coastal areas bordering the China Sea as "tuliñgan."

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