

INTERESTING PLACES**THE CHINESE CEMETERY**

FORTUNATO ASUNCION *

Have you ever seen a Chinese cemetery?

Viewed from the Rizal Avenue extension, a stone-throw from the Manila-Rizal boundary line, the Chinese cemetery would be mistaken for a progressive Chinese community. The resting places of prominent and wealthy Chinese resemble none but the homes of rich Mandarines. A beautiful newly painted structure looks more of a residence than a mausoleum. A white strongly built piece of architecture, fenced by

strong iron bars, looks more of a mission house than a tomb. Not to omit the one that looks like a pagoda, and the other that resembles a church, that portion of the cemetery is indeed a wealthy Chinese community when viewed from afar.

Where there is a sign of wealth there, too, is a sign of poverty. Further away are scattered in an unkept manner scores of half-sunken tombs, mostly unmarked; worn-out crosses totally neglected and weather-beaten niches. There is none in this part of the cemetery to conceal its identity.

* Teacher, Rizal Elementary School.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Public Works and Communications
Manila

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(Required by Act 2580)

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