

## BOYS AND GIRLS OF OTHER LANDS

by gilmo baldovino

**SIAM**  
**H**AVE you ever seen a Siamese in the Philippines? Perhaps you have seen one but you really do not know if it was a Siamese or a Chinese. Most Siamese look like the Chinese: some look like Malaysians.

Siam is a small country located south of China. Much of the country of this nation is a great river delta. Siam is a rice producing country. There are so many rice fields that if you stand in one end of the fields you cannot see where they end. They resemble a great ocean of green.

In this country, boys and girls have brown or yellow skins. They have flat faces with high cheek bones. Their eyes are dark while their hair is straight and black.

Siam is a hot country. People who do not live in cities wear very little clothing. And because of this hot climate, in some parts of the country, children are left alone to play with no clothes at all. The simplest and most popular way of clothing oneself in this country is to twist a strip of colored cloth around the waist.

Most of the Siamese houses are built of teakwood. As floods are frequent in this country, the houses are constructed high up on stilts.

The Siamese boys are helpful. They help their parents in plowing the fields. Most of them take care of the water buffaloes or carabaos.

The Siamese are religious. Their temples are among the wonders of the world. Their religious ceremonies are very different from ours.



## Incredible, But--

By A. B. L. R.

Proportionally, more Filipinos during the Spanish times marry than at present.

Francisco Balagtas suffered financial losses in the publication of his immortal masterpiece, "Florante at Laura." Few read his book and those who read it criticized it bitterly. It was only fifty years later, when he was already dead, that the public began to appreciate and realize the greatness of "Florante at Laura."

In Benguet, Mountain Province, there are caves which contain mummies placed there in a squatting position. Those caves were used by the mountain people as burial places and the mummies which could still be found there prove that several hundred years ago, they already knew the science of embalming.

During the Spanish regime, on big celebrations or "fiestas," along the street which is now called Escolta in Manila, the Governor General and the Archbishop were escorted by a procession. This gave the name *Escolta* (escort) to Manila's most famous street.

During the Spanish times, a foreign commercial house once offered to answer for all the expenses of the Philippine government provided it was granted the tobacco monopoly in the Islands.

### MOONLIGHT PRANKS

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were many interesting sword fights accompanied with merry music. The courageous soldiers were always given their due reward. Each character spoke very clearly in the dialect.

We were very much satisfied with the "moro-moro" that we even repeated some of the selections on our way home. We selected only the

funny portions of the play:

Love me, oh love for bold and brave  
one I.

When each corner gets dark sending  
me on errands don't try.

But when I hear the clatter of our  
china plates,

Like lightning I run lest no more  
food be left.

For I am Mr. Frog.

Son of his highness, the Count

Short

When I fail to drink buri sap—  
After you I shall run amuck.

I am Sir Cucumber  
Who went hither and thither  
All I'm looking for—  
Is Sir Onion who can't be found  
here.

We laughed heartily at the jokes  
contained in the selections. We  
reached home very happy.