

Two More Philippine Poems by Gilbert S. Perez

**Cabaret**

She arrived late  
 And the child  
 At home  
 Coughing and struggling  
 For life-giving breath  
 Needed a mother's  
 Care.  
 She arrived late  
 With overly carmined lips  
 And the stiff  
 Mechanical smile  
 That conceals  
 An aching heart.  
 The orchestra strummed  
 A jazz-bedraggled  
 Waltz  
 While the rays  
 From the red and blue  
 Lights  
 Timidly pierced  
 The heavy tropical  
 Darkness.  
 Rhythm and softened  
 Notes  
 Glided on and over  
 The glistening ballroom  
 Floor  
 And mingled with the grim  
 Laughter  
 That hides a breaking  
 Heart.

Smile, lips, smile—  
 Smile away the fountain of tears;  
 Slide along, aching feet,  
 Slide;  
 Shuffle away,  
 Cobra skinned dancing  
 Slippers,  
 Tired slippers,  
 Slippers that pay for hammer  
 Strokes,  
 Nails  
 And tinsel-spattered  
 Cradles of death.

**The Pilgrim**

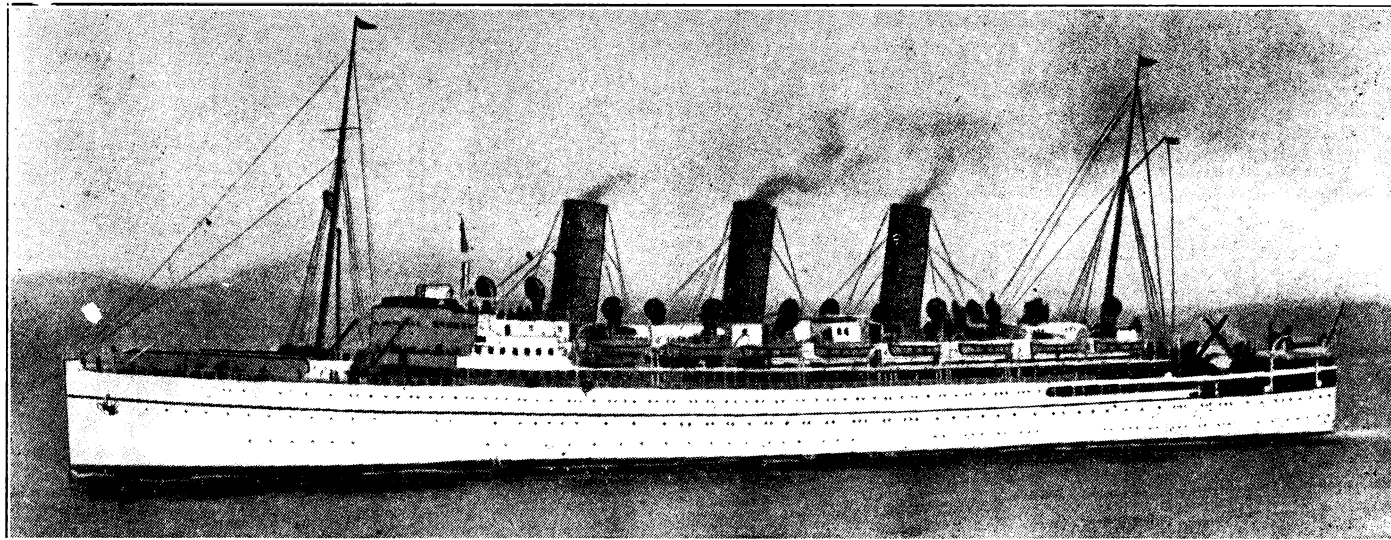
For thirty years  
 And four  
 He had followed  
 The dusty road  
 That leads  
 To the old stone church  
 At Antipolo.  
 For thirty years  
 And four  
 He had knelt  
 And prayed  
 At the Holy Virgin's  
 Shrine.  
 He saw  
 The dark gray  
 Packard,  
 But did not see  
 The pilgrim freighted

Laboring  
 Train  
 At the crossing,  
 Till he heard  
 The sickening  
 Crunching press of steel  
 On shattered bone.  
 So he lay on his cot  
 At San Juan  
 De Dios  
 With his face  
 Turned to the wall,  
 And both legs  
 Chopped off near the hips.  
 The Doctor said,  
 That his heart was weak.  
 Weak nothing!  
 He died of a broken heart!  
 For what is the use  
 Of a Virgin shrine  
 To a man who may not  
 Kneel?

**Schwulst Foregoes Salary**

An error appeared in a *Journal* editorial in the March issue, relative to Earl B. Schwulst's compensation as bank commissioner. The commissioner's salary is ₱7,200, which was stated as going to Mr. Schwulst together with additional compensation making up a sufficient salary. He informs us he thinks his pay under the Belo act enough, and is not drawing the commissioner's salary; he believes the bureau does not make sufficient demands upon his time to warrant payment to him of the salary.

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