



# THE EXECUTION OF A HERO:

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DR. JOSE P. RIZAL

# Introduction

In 1886, Rizal published in Berlin a Tagalog novel in the Spanish language with the title *Noli Me Tangere*, a book that overflows with hatred against the mother country. In it, he lashes at the Spaniards with the most infamous insults, defiles the Catholic religion and attempts to prove that the Philippine nation can never be civilized as long as it is ruled by those whom he calls decadent and contemptible Castilians. It goes without saying that after the authorities received knowledge of it, the distribution of this work in the islands was forthwith prohibited.

The sequel to Rizal's *Noli* came off the press by the middle of September 1891, entitled *El Filibusterismo*. In veneration of the three priests, he dedicated the book to them.

However, Rizal succeeded in eluding the government order and in distributing the book throughout the archipelago - with the foreseeable deleterious effects.

# The Trial and Martyrdom of Rizal

- November 3, 1896- Rizal arrived in Manila with the steamer Colon.
- Rizal was brought to Fort Santiago pending the persecution of his case.
- The Spanish authorities were very much preoccupied with the gathering and fabrication of evidences to be used against him.

# The Preliminary Investigation

- Colonel Francisco Olive, the Judge Advocate of the Spanish military tribunal, summoned Rizal to appear before him on November 20, 1896.
- Two kinds of evidences brought up against Rizal
  - ✓ Documentary
  - ✓ Testimonial
- The Investigation took 5 days
- After 6 days, Rafael Dominquez evaluated the case and a prima facie case was against Rizal, for the crime of rebellion and formation of illegal organization.
- The judge Nicolas dela Pena, gave Rizal some recommendations to Governor Blanco
  - ✓ Accused be kept under the custody of law
  - ✓ Accused be brought to trial
  - ✓ Order of attachment be issued against his property
  - ✓ Accused be defended in court by an army officer

# The Arraignment of Rizal

- On December 8, 1896, Rizal was informed that his arraignment was set on December 11, 1896.
- Rizal pleaded not guilty to the crime charges against him.

# The Trial of Rizal

- Trial commenced on December 19, 1896 for prosecution.
- Taviel de Andrade defended Rizal by saying that the alleged accusations were biased.
- Rizal was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt and to be condemned to death by a firing squad.

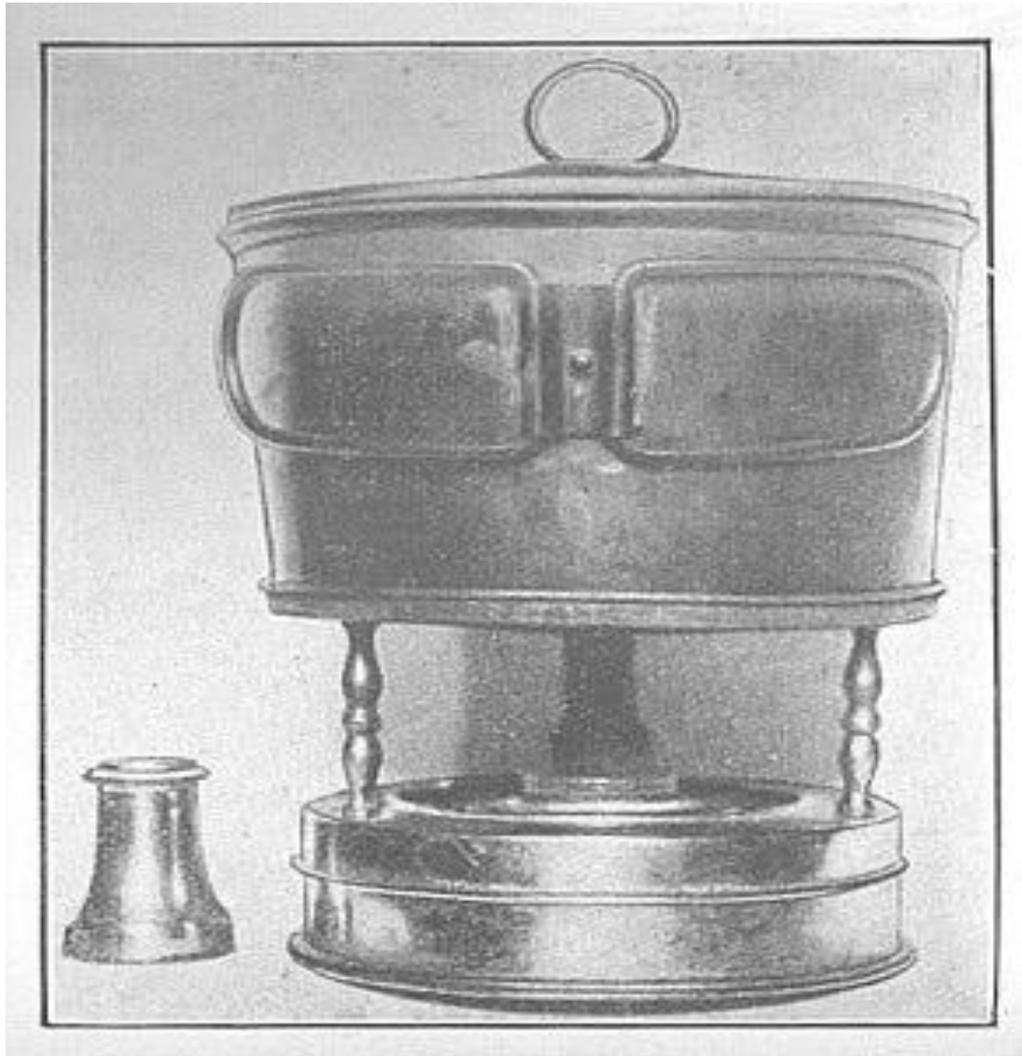
# Rizal's Trial and His Alleged Guilt

- ❑ Rizal was a civilian but was tried by a military tribunal
- ❑ Rizal was already condemned guilty even before the trial
- ❑ All allegations against Rizal were accepted by the court but not the arguments and evidence in his favor
- ❑ Rizal was not allowed to confront witness against him nor his counsel to cross-examine them
- ❑ Evidence to convict Rizal didn't have any bearing on his alleged commission of the complex crime of rebellion

## Rizal's Last day

- Rizal spent his last 24 hours in his death cell where he received members of his family and writes his letter of farewell, the first one to his "second brother" Ferdinand Blumentritt. He gave his sister, Trinidad, an old petroleum lamp and whispered to her in English that there is something inside the lamp. Thus is Rizal's famous farewell poem "Mi Ultimo Adios", (Last Farewell) was found.
- Rizal said to have married his Irish girlfriend Josephine Bracken according to catholic rites in the very last hours of his life.

# The Old Lamp given to Trinidad



# The Execution of Dr. Jose Rizal

- A few minutes before seven on the morning of December 30, Dr. Jose Rizal walked from Fort Santiago to Bagumbayan Field (now the Luneta). His arms were tied behind his back. “His head was erect, his conscience was clear, and there was a smile on his lips.” Beside him walked Lt. Luis de Andrade, who had defended him in the trial, Fathers Vilaclara and March. Before and behind him were soldiers.



- Rizal, ready and calm, took his position opposite his executioners. His last words were those of Jesus Christ: "*consummatum est*",--*it is finished*. Then Roll of drums and a volley of artillery accompany the firing of the soldiers. And even at the moment of his fall, Rizal turns his body so that he ends up lying on his back, with his face to the sun. The elegant Spanish ladies wave their handkerchiefs, the Gentlemen applaud. And while the Filipinos see the execution in enraged silence, calls of "Viva España!" resound thunderously.



- Rizal was secretly buried in Paco Cemetery in Manila with no identification on his grave. His sister Narcisa toured all possible gravesites and found freshly turned earth at the cemetery with guards posted at the gate. Assuming this could be the most likely spot, there never having any ground burials, she made a gift to the caretaker to mark the site "RPJ", Rizal's initials in reverse.