

Chapter 14

Rizal in London (1888–89)

After Rizal visited the United States, he then lived in London in May 1888 to March 1889. He lived in London for three reasons.

1. To improve his knowledge of English Language.
2. To study and annotate Morga's book, Sucesas De las islas Filipinas.
3. And to carry on his fight against Spanish tyranny.

Trip Across the Atlantic (1888).

- Voyage Trans-Atlantic Route from **New York** to **Liverpool**.
- Befriend many people of **different nationalities**.
- Entertain the American and European Passenger using **Yo-yo**.
- But didn't enjoy the companionship of the Americans, because of their **lack of knowledge regarding geo-politics**.
- Arrive at Liverpool, England on **May 24, 1888** and stayed only a day in **Adelphi Hotel**.

Life in London.

- On **May 25, 1888**, Rizal went to London for a short time and stayed at first at the place of **Dr. Antonio Ma. Regidor**.
 - An exile of 1872 and a practising lawyer in London.
- In the **End of May**, Rizal found a boarding house in **No. 37 Chaleot Crescent, Primrose Hill**. It is located near the public parks and also walking distance to the British Museum.
 - Owned by the **Beckett Family**.
 - Mr. Beckett, organist of St. Paul's Church.
 - Mrs. Beckett, wife.
 - Has two sons and four daughters.
 - Oldest daughter is **Gertrude** or called by her friends "**Gettie**" or "**Tottie**".

Life in London.

- **Dr. Reinhold Rost**

- Librarian of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an Authority in Malayan Language and Customs.

- Called Rizal "**a pearl of a man**" (**una perla de hombre**) because of his brilliance.

- **Spend most time in the British Musuem.**

- study **Morga's Book (Sucesos De las Islas Filipinas)** and other rare historical works about the Philippines.

- Frequently visiting Dr. Regidor and discussed problems about Philippines affairs.

- On Sundays, visit Dr. Rost and discuss about linguistics and also played **cricket** (popular English Game) and sometimes boxed Dr. Rost sons.

News from Home, Good and Bad.

- **Bad News were the injustices of Spaniards authorities to the Filipino people and Rizal Family, some of these injustices are:**
 - **First, persecution of the Filipino patriots who signed the "Anti-Friar Petition of 1888"**
 - **Second, persecution of the Calamba tenants, including the Rizal Family.**
 - **Third, Furious attacks on Rizal in Spanish News Papers.**
 - **Fourth, Rizal brother in law, Manuel T. Hidalgo was Exiled.**
 - **Fifth and last, Laureano Viado a medical student of University of Sto Tomas and friend of Rizal was arrested because of Noli Me Tangere copies find in his house.**

News from Home, Good and Bad.

- **The Good News of Mariano Ponce.**

- The one Good News that cheered Rizal was about **Rev. Vicente Garcia** about **defending the Noli towards the friars**. Rizal **heard this news** to his friend, **Mariano Ponce**

Annotating Morga's Book

- The greatest achievement of Rizal in London.
- Morga's Sucesos de las islas Filipinas (Historical Events in the Philippine Islands)
 - Published in **Mexico in 1609.**
 - **Annotated** by Rizal throughout his stay in London.
 - Spent Many days in reading room of **British Museum.**
- Additionally, Rizal also read other books that regards to Philippine History.
 - in these different books of Philippines History, the works of **Fr. Morga** was the one **Rizal considered the best.**

Annotating Morga's Book

- **Rizal's Analogy to Mariano Ponce.**
 - In **10 months (May 1888 to March 1889)** Rizal was really focus on studying history in London while his Spanish Compatriots are waging the crusade for Philippines reforms.
 - **Mariano Ponce** once request to Rizal to edit a newspaper, but Rizal refuses and said, he is busy.
 - **October 12, 1888**, Rizal wrote to Ponce: **“I am dedicated day and night to certain studies, so that I do not want to edit any newspaper.”**

Short Visit to Paris and Spain.

- **September, 1888**
 - **Visited Paris for a week** for more historical material in the Bibliotheque Nationale.
 - He was entertained by **Juan Luna** and his wife **Paz Pardo de Tavera**.
- **December 11, 1888**
 - Rizal **went to Spain**, visiting **Madrid and Barcelona**.
 - **Surveyed the political situations** with regards to the **agitation of Philippines Reforms**.
 - Met for the first time **Marcelo H. Del Pilar** and **Mariano Ponce**.

Christmas in London.

- **December 24, 1888**

- Rizal returned to London from Spain.

- **Spent Christmas and New Year with the Beckett's**

- **Wrote a letter for Blumentritt** about how he feels the nostalgia when he was a kid when celebrating the Noche Buena (Christmas Eve) in Beckett Family and how he is shocked on how some people use the name of Jesus Christ to do evil acts.

- **Give Blumentritt and Dr. Czepelak a gift.**

- For Blumentritt, **a bust of Emperor Augustus, ruler of Roman Empire** when Jesus Christ was born.

- For Dr. Czepelak, **a bust of Julius Caesar.**

Christmas in London.

- **Rizal received a gift.**
 - **From Mrs. Beckett, a book, titled "The life and Adventure of Valentine Vox, the Ventriloquist"**

Rizal becomes leader of Filipinos in Europe.

- **Asociacion la Solidaridad (Solidaridad Associatiton)**
 - Inaugurated in **December 31, 1888.**
 - The **officers** of Asociacion la Solidaridad are:
 - **Honorary President:** Jose Rizal
 - **President:** Galiaciano Apacible
 - **Vice-president:** Graciano Lopez Jaena
 - **Secretary:** Manuel Sta Maria
 - **Treasurer:** Mariano Ponce
 - **Accountant:** Jose Ma. Panganiban

Rizal and The La Solidaridad Newspaper

- On February 15, 1889, Graciano Lopez Jaena founded the patriotic newspaper called La Solidaridad in Barcelona.

Objectives of La Solidaridad

- To establish reform for our country
- To show the unfortunate conditions in the Philippines committed by the Spaniards
- To promote free and progressive ideas
- To implement the patriotic vision of the Filipinos

Rizal and The La Solidaridad Newspaper

- Two days after the birth of La Solidaridad, M.H. del Pilar wrote to Rizal in London: "At last our little newspaper was born. It is democratic in its opinion, but very much more so in the organization of its staff."

Rizal and The La Solidaridad Newspaper

- Rizal congratulated Lopez Jaena and his associates in founding La Solidaridad. As evidence of his approval and cooperation, he prepared articles for the periodical which were subsequently published.

First Article in La Solidaridad

- Rizal's first article which appeared in La Solidaridad was entitled Los Agricultores Filipinos (The Filipino Farmers). It was published on March 25, 1889, six days after he left London for Paris.

Writings in London

- While busy in research studies at the British Museum, Rizal received news on Fray Rodriguez' unabated attack on his Noli. In defense, he wrote a pamphlet entitled La Vision del Fray Rodriguez (The Vision of Fray Rodriguez) which was published in Barcelona under his name Dimas Alang.

Writings in London

- Rizal wrote the famous "Letter to the Young Women of Malolos" (February 22, 1889) in Tagalog. 16 He penned it, upon the request of M.H. del Pilar to praise the young ladies of Malolos for their courage to establish a school where they could learn Spanish, despite the opposition of Fr. Felipe Garcia, Spanish parish priest of Malolos.

Writings in London

- Dr. Rost, editor of Trubner's Record, a journal devoted to Asian studies, requested Rizal to contribute some articles. In response to his request, the latter prepared two articles
 1. Specimen of Tagala Folklore – published in May, 1889
 2. Two Eastern Fables – published in June, 1889.

Romance with Gertrude Beckett

- Oldest of the three Beckett sisters
- English girl with brown hair, blue eyes, and rosy cheeks
- Rizal affectionately called her "Gettie," in reciprocation, she fondly called him "Pettie."

Romance with Gertrude Beckett

- Finished four sculptural works
 - Prometheus Bound
 - The Triumph of Death over Life
 - The Triumph of Science over Death
 - A composite carving of the heads of the Beckett sisters

Adios, London

- Suddenly on March 19, 1889, Rizal bade goodbye to the kind Beckett family (particularly Gertrude) and left London for Paris.



**THAT'S ALL
THANK YOU!**