**JOSE RIZAL TRIP IN BELGIAN, BRUSSELS**

On January 28 , 1890

Rizal left in Paris for Brussels capital of Belgium

**Reasons:**

1. The cost of living in Paris was very high because of the Universal Exposition

2. The gay social life of the city hampered his literary works especially the writing of his second novel El Filibusterismo.

**Rizal life in Brussels**

* Rizal was accompanied by Jose Albert when he moved to Brussels. They lived in a modest boarding house on 38 Rue Philippe Champagne, which was run by two Jacoby sisters (Suzanne and Marie). Later, Albert, left the city and was replaced by Jose Alejandro, an engineering student.
* Rizal was the first to advocate the Filipinization of its orthography.
* He was busy writing his second novel.
* Wrote articles in La Soladaridad and letters to his family and friends.
* He spent part of his time in the medical clinic.
* He had gymnastics. Target practice and fencing.

**NEW ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE TAGALOG LANGUAGE**

* He was the first to advocate the Filipization of its orthography.
* Rizal also busied himself in advocating the Filipinization of its orthography as he wrote the article “Sobre la Nueva Ortografia de la Lengua Tagala” in La Solidaridad (April 15, 1890).
* Rizal mentioned that the Tagalog letters “k” and “w” should be used instead of Spanish “c” and “o.” (e.g. salakot- salacot/ araw-arao)
* Rizal gave the credit for the adoption of his new orthography to Dr. Trinidad H. Padro de Tavera. author of the celebrated work El Sanscrito en la Lengua Tagala (Sanskrit in the tagalog Language) which was published in Paris, 1884.

**Rizal Critizes Madrid Filipinos for Gambling**

* Rizal received news from Juan Luna and Valentin Ventura that the Filipinos in Spain were destroying the good name of their nation by gambling too much.
* Accordingly Rizal wrote to M. H. Del Pilar on May 28, 1890 to remind the Filipinos in Madrid that they did not come to Europe to gamble, but to work for their fatherland’s freedom.
* The gambling Filipinos in Madrid were angry when they learned of Rizal’s moralizing
* They called him papa (Pope) instead of Pepe

**LETTERS RECEIVED IN BRUSSELS**

**1.** The Calamba agrarian trouble was getting worse.

**2**. The management of the Dominican hacienda continually raised the land rents until such time the Rizal’s father refused to pay his rent which results to filing a suit in the court.

**Presentiments of his death**

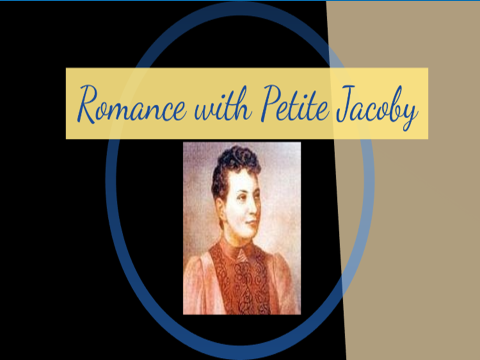
**\*** In his moment of despair, Rizal had bad dreams during the nights in Brussels when he was restless because he was always thinking of his unhappy family in Calamba. Rizal feared the he would not live long. He was not afraid to die, but he wanted to finish his second novel before he went to his grave.

\* In the face of the sufferings which afflicted his family, Rizal planned to go home. He could not stay in Brussels writing a book while his parents, relatives and friends in the distant Philippines were persecuted.

**July 29, 1890** – another letter to Ponce written at Brussels by Rizal, he announced that he was leaving Brussels at the beginning of the following month and would arrive in Madrid about the 3rd or 4th (August)

**“To my Muse’” (A Mi…)** – 1890, Rizal wrote this pathetic poem, it was against a background of mental anguish in Brussels, during those sad days when he was worried by family disasters

Rizal did not heed the dire warnings of his friends. No threat of danger could change his plan. Something however, happen that suddenly made him change his mind. It was a letter from Paciano which related that they loss the case against the Dominicans in Manila, but they appealed it to the Supreme Court in Spain. Rizal wrote to M.H Del Pilar on June 20, 1890, retaining the latter’s services as lawyer. He was going to Madrid in order to supervise the handling of the case.

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**Description:** Belgian petite lady, the niece of his landladies in Belgium, aged 17

**Rizal’s Age:** 29

**How it started:** Rizal boarded with Suzanne and where aunts during his stay in Brussels, Belgium starting in January 28, 1890.

**Pet Name:** La Petit

**Love Story:** On January 28, 1890, Rizal left for Brussels, Belgium. He stayed for a considerable time, paying for room and board. His landladies had a pretty niece named Petite Suzanne Jacoby. She was taken by Rizal’s charm and gallantry and provided him good company. Rizal could have flirted with the lady, considering that his beloved Leonor was far away and he was a lonely man in a strange and foreign land, but he realized he could not deceive her.