

Editorial Introduction

The Kinaadman Journal in its ultimate thrust to present a distinctly Mindanaoan perspective in various fields of disciplines, is proud to come up with Volume 37 which merges the thoughts and passions of great Mindanaoan minds.

Volume 37 maybe somewhat different from its precursors in that, for the first time, it includes a raw interview of a prominent Mindanaoan poet and fictionist, Dr Anthony L Tan. Interviewed by Professor Ricardo de Ungria, himself, a distinguished man of letters, Dr Tan's achievements as a writer exude the uniquely Mindanaoan consciousness, specifically defining the experiences of a Filipino in Sulu, among other things. Still, despite this exotic specificity that characterizes the works of Tony Tan, his writings unfailingly capture universal appeal and resonance. This interview would definitely be a treasure trove for literature scholars in appreciating the distinctive literary taste of Dr Tan's craft.

We consider a very special feature in this volume, a long awaited analysis of the late Mindanaoan fictionist's magnum opus. *Samboangan: A Cult of War* by Antonio R Enriquez, a novel published in 2006 seemed to be a formidable historical novel to fathom and assess. Nevertheless, another Mindanaoan, who too, belonged to the ranks of Enriquez, has finally tackled this impressive work. Focusing on the myth and orality of the novel, Francis C Macansantos has taken up the challenge to scrutinize and evaluate Enriquez's masterpiece. Macansantos posits that the novel synthesizes realistic narrative, fantasy, folklore, oral epic elements and history bringing out a quasi-mythical narrative of the Zamboanga community. Macansantos' analysis empowers the reader to realize the extent of Enriquez's knowledge and prowess in presenting history through fiction.

Also, in this volume, we include a research article by a team of archaeologists and anthropologists who undertook an extensive archaeological excavation and historical research on the original location of the municipality of Jasaan, Misamis Oriental during the Spanish colonial times. Based on archaeological evidence, the research comes up

with a reconstruction of the design of this sophisticated Spanish complex. This article would be of interest to those who have a mind for history and archaeological records.

To put a balance to the heavy materials making up this volume, we have included also under the literary section, three light poems of Ferdinand T Cantular. The poems, “The Answer,” “Bird in Space” and “Rudy,” capture what could otherwise be mundane daily experiences, encapsulated in the art of poetry writing.

Four books, all published in 2016, are reviewed in this volume. One is, *Mindanao: The Long Journey to Peace and Prosperity*, which is a collection of essays centering on the peace process in Mindanao, edited by Paul D Hutchcroft. The second book, *The Mystery on 17th Street*, is a novel intended for young adults, written by Annie Gorra, a native-born Cagayanon, now based in Vancouver, Canada. The third one, *Snail Fever* by Francis C Macansantos, is a collection of poems spanning two decades of his poetic mind. Finally, *The Axolotl Colony: Stories* is written by Jaime An Lim, also a full-bloodied Mindanaoan. We urge our readers to savor the work of our seasoned book reviewers to be apprised of the reading pleasure these four books have in store for all who delight to know more about Mindanao.

We thank all our precious contributors for making this volume possible. We also acknowledge the highly valued support of all our subscribers who, through the years, have kept themselves abreast with the distinctly Mindanaoan pleasures, concerns and interests.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Francis C Macansantos was born in Cotabato City, grew up in Zamboanga City, and has been a resident of Baguio City since 1981. He earned his AB (English) degree from Ateneo de Zamboanga, started graduate studies at Xavier University (Cagayan de Oro City), and finished his MA degree in Creative Writing at Silliman University in Dumaguete City. He is a five-time Palanca Award winner in English Poetry. He won the NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts) Writer’s Prize for epic poetry in 2003, and has four books of poetry : *Snail Fever* (University of the Philippines Press, 2016), *The Words and Other Poems* (UP Press 1997), *Womb of Water, Breasts of Earth* (NCCA 2007), and *Balsa: Poemas Chabacano* (NCCA 2011). Balsa was finalist in the National Book Awards 2013 for poetry in English. He was also editor (for Mindanao, and Northern Luzon) of *Ubod*, an anthology of poetry and fiction written in various Filipino regional languages, published in 2016. Macansantos has taught at several universities, including Mindanao State University and the University of the Philippines Baguio, and has served in panels of critics in creative writing workshops throughout the Philippines.

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Ricardo M de Ungria received the Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas from the Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas in 1999. An awardee of writing fellowships in the United States (1987), Scotland (1991), and Italy (1993), he has published here and abroad and has won the prestigious National Book Award given by the Manila Critics Circle nine times.

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