

WONDER IN SELECTED FILIPINO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

---

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School

University of San Carlos

---

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts in Literature

---

by

Juliet Villaluz-Basa

March 1978

162392 C.2  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS  
LIBRARY

PROPERTY OF UEC LIBRARY SYSTEM

9 MAR 1979

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled WONDER IN SELECTED FILIPINO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, prepared and submitted by Mrs. Juliet Villaluz-Basa, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Literature, has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval for ORAL EXAMINATION.

Thesis Committee

LOURDES C. SALAS, M.A.  
Adviser

ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Member

RUTH N. FOY, Ph.D.  
Member

PANEL OF EXAMINERS

Approved by the Committee on Oral Examination with a grade of Pass.

ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Chairman

LOURDES C. SALAS, M.A.  
Adviser

RUTH N. FOY, Ph.D.  
Member

MARCELO M. BACALSO, M.A.  
Representative

DEC, Region VII, Central Visayas

Accepted and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Literature.

Comprehensive Examinations Passed July 26-27, 1974.

ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Dean, Graduate School

Date February 27, 1978

PROPERTY OF UEC LIBRARY SYSTEM

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer wishes to express her deep gratitude to the following people:

Captain Augusto L. Basa, for his untiring moral support;

Mrs. Lourdes C. Salas, for her unlimited efforts as Adviser of this thesis;

Dr. Ruth N. Foy, for her valuable suggestions and spiritual encouragement;

Dr. Alicia J. Tan, for her critical reading of the original manuscript and for her valuable suggestions;

Mrs. Marilou P. Tadlip and the Library Staff of the University of San Carlos for their sincere efforts in helping this writer with library materials and services;

The following ladies who have graciously permitted the writer to hold storytelling sessions in their schools;

Mrs. Teodorica M. Severino, Principal of the Barrio Luz Elementary School;

Sr. Trinidad Dosdos, High School Principal of Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion;

Mrs. Luz T. Pinonggan, Grade V homeroom teacher of Banilad Elementary School;

Mrs. Esperanza Buenaventura, Literature teacher of Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion;

Mrs. Anita J. Rosal, for her unceasing professional encouragement and suggestions;

Lastly, to the Villaluz Family headed by Valentin M. Villaluz and Menena V. Villaluz, this writer's parents, who were the very first storytellers she knew.

Juliet V. Basa

This is lovingly dedicated to

Tito,

Jill, Jingle, Andy and Alec

who were patient and loving  
even in the most trying moments.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Statement of the Problem . . . . .	3
Significance of the Study . . . . .	4
Scope and Delimitation of the Study . . . . .	7
Method of Study . . . . .	10
Definition of Wonder . . . . .	11
Organization of the Study . . . . .	13
2. WONDER IN RETROSPECT . . . . .	15
The Povedano Manuscript . . . . .	16
Children's Literature--A Mainstream Current.	17
In Celtic Fairyland . . . . .	18
The Wonder of Rip Van Winkle and Ichabod Crane . . . . .	20
Related Studies . . . . .	21
Filipino Children's Literature from 1901- 1975 . . . . .	22
Last Few Words on Related Studies . . . . .	24
3. WONDER ILLUMINATES FILIPINO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE . . . . .	26
Arrangement and Grouping . . . . .	27
Order of Selections to be Studied . . . . .	27
Fables . . . . .	29
Summary Comment of Group A Fables . . . . .	29

PROPERTY OF UEC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Chapter	Page
	vii
The Ant's Journey . . . . .	30
The Frog Who Hated School . . . . .	30
The Drum that Ran Away . . . . .	31
The Betel Tree that Wanted to be a Christmas Tree . . . . .	31
The Adventures of Pikoy . . . . .	32
Analysis of Group A Fables . . . . .	33
Summary Comment of Group B Fables . . . . .	38
A Crocodile's Tale . . . . .	39
The Cat Kingdom . . . . .	39
The Wind King . . . . .	39
Ba-i the Mountain Boy . . . . .	40
Analysis of Group B Fables . . . . .	40
Fairy Tales . . . . .	41
Summary Comment of Group A Fairy Tales . . . . .	42
Horgle and the King's Soup . . . . .	43
Juan and the Asuangs . . . . .	43
Analysis of Group A Fairy Tales . . . . .	43
Summary Comment of Group B Fairy Tales . . . . .	46
The Star Maiden . . . . .	46
The Princess of the Mountain . . . . .	47
The Swimming Princess . . . . .	47
Analysis of Group B Fairy Tales . . . . .	47
Summary Comment of Group C Fairy Tales . . . . .	50
Was It Coincidence . . . . .	50

## Chapter

## Page

Bulan's Adventure . . . . .	50
Analysis of Group C Fairy Tales . . . . .	51
Love Tales . . . . .	54
Summary Comment of Three Love Tales . . . . .	55
Mir-i-ni-sa . . . . .	55
The Tale of Tarhata and Abdula . . . . .	55
The Sultan's Choice . . . . .	55
Analysis of the Three Love Tales . . . . .	56
Myths . . . . .	60
Summary Comment of Group A Myths . . . . .	61
Makisig, The Little Hero of Mactan . . . . .	61
The Story of Napigsa . . . . .	61
Anak Datu . . . . .	62
Analysis of Group A Myths . . . . .	63
Summary Comment of a Group B Story Based on Archaeological Discovery . . . . .	66
Once Upon a Hilltop . . . . .	66
Analysis of Group B Story . . . . .	67
Stories . . . . .	68
STORIES OF MANUEL ARGÜILLA . . . . .	70
Summary Comment of "A Son is Born" . . . . .	70
Analysis of "A is Born" . . . . .	71
Summary Comment of "Morning in Nagrebcan". . . . .	76
Analysis of "Morning in Nagrebcan" . . . . .	77
Summary Comment of "How My Brother Leon Brought Home a Wife" . . . . .	80



Chapter	Page
STORIES OF CARLOS BULOSAN . . . . .	83
Summary Comment . . . . .	83
The Laughter of My Father . . . . .	83
My Father Goes to Court . . . . .	83
The Politics of My Father . . . . .	84
Analysis of Carlos Bulosan's Stories . . . . .	84
4. STORYTELLING . . . . .	87
Method of Storytelling . . . . .	88
Storytelling at Barrio Luz Elementary School . . . . .	89
A Second Session at Banilad Elementary School . . . . .	92
A Third Session at Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion . . . . .	94
Suggestions for Effective Storytelling . . . . .	97
Conclusions . . . . .	98
5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS. . . . .	101
SUMMARY . . . . .	101
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	102
Wonder in Filipino Children's Literature . . . . .	102
Wonder and Movement . . . . .	103
Incidents and Instances of Wonder . . . . .	104
The Significance of Wonder in a Children's Tale . . . . .	104
RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	105
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	109

## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

The successful flight and return of a man-made rocket to an orbit around the moon was a triumph of the imagination. Behind millenia of astronomical observations and the development of physics and mathematics since the Renaissance lurked man's sense of wonder, which according to the ancient Greeks was the cause of man's beginning to philosophize.

It was the marriage of man's innate sense of wonder and his newly won technical expertness that made a trip to the moon possible. At all times however, his imagination and outstripped his facility; and children, who have been reading Jules Verne's From the Earth to the Moon since the latter half of the nineteenth century, and later space novels by writers such as C. E. Lewis and Andre Norton, probably looked upon the recent event as a foregone fait accompli.

It is noteworthy that the voices of the celestial navigators struck, not a note of human pride, but the fundamental tone of human wonder.<sup>1</sup>

Man's innate sense of wonder animates the foregoing editorial by Paul Heins of the Horn Book Magazine in which he distinctly points out that this element combined with technology made the trip to the moon possible. Neil Armstrong's one-small-step-a-giant-leap for mankind followed not long after and finally man planted a flag

---

<sup>1</sup>Paul Heins, "Wonder," The Horn Book Magazine, XLV (February, 1969), 13.