

BEAUTY IN PHILIPPINES RESISTS MELTING POT

(Illustrations from Philippine Magazine, Manila)

By Joseph U. Dugan



(From a painting by Pablo Amoroso.)
Above: An Igorot girl of Luzon. She represents a pure racial type.

FILIPINO is the name applied generally by foreigners to the inhabitants of the Philippine islands. It is natural, if one is uninformed, to think of the Filipinos as members of one race. Soon after the Spanish war, when the United States took formal possession of the Philippines, American school books were translated into Spanish and thousands of them were printed and sent to the islands as a part of our government's educational program for the natives. It was assumed because the islands had been under the rule of Spain that the national language was Spanish. Then the fact became known, to the embarrassment of the officials who sent the books, that only a very small percentage of the islanders understood Spanish; that the population of the Philippines was composed of eighty-two separate tribes representing several different races, many of which had their own distinct languages.

Because of the success and the influence of the American educational program, the common language of the Philippines today is English. Next in importance, from the standpoint of general usage, is the beautiful Tagalog language, chiefly because the descendants of the original Tagalog nation outnumber the descendants of other tribes. The dialects and languages of the latter still are spoken, as are Chinese and Japanese.



(From a painting by Fabian de la Rosa.)
At right: Selling hot corn, a seasonal scene in Filipino markets.



(From a painting by Fernando Amoroso.)
This modern Manila girl is representative of the mestizo, or mixed racial type.

As sharply defined as the various languages and dialects spoken by the Filipinos are the differences of racial characteristics. This fact is adequately illustrated by the pictures of Filipino girls printed on this page. Although it is probable that all of the Filipinos, with the exceptions of the Negritos, Chinese, and Japanese, sprang from a common Malayan ancestry, a comparison between the picture of the Igorot girl and that of the Pampangan young lady reveals striking racial divergencies.

Mixture of the various races of the islands has produced another type, called the mestizo, also represented in our pictures. The mestizos today compose a large portion of the total population and are to be found mostly in the larger towns and cities.

Considered by scientists the aborigines of the islands, the Negritos, a race of black pygmies, form an interesting component of the Philippine population. The Negritos are the most backward of the island peoples. They have been the least tamed by the Spanish and American influences of civilization and some of them still practice, in the fastnesses of their mountain jungle retreats, the once generally popular Philippine pastime of head hunting.

In spite of the increasing number of mestizos, the divergent characteristics of the various tribal types composing the



(From a painting by Fernando Amoroso.)
A girl of Pampanga province, Luzon. The Pampangans were one of the first tribes converted to Christianity.

masses of Philippine population remain unchanged and uninfluenced by American political and cultural domination of the islands. Thus the work of the artists reproduced on this page reveal striking contrasts of feminine beauty and racial lines as sharply distinguished today as they were 36 years ago when the islands came under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Unification of these widely differentiated groups of peoples inhabiting the Philippines has been brought to achievement

under the rule and influence of the United States government.

In view of the current position of the peoples of the islands in respect to political independence from the government of the United States, an ethnic study of the Filipinos is of particular interest at this time. Such a study is necessary, in fact, for a complete understanding of the meaning of independence for the peoples of the Philippine archipelago. Highly intelligent Americans still commonly consider the Filipinos



(From a painting by Fabian de la Rosa.)
This mestizo girl of Manila is wearing one of the attractive native dresses.

a racial unit. If that were only true, the problems presented in working out a plan for Philippine independence which would benefit rather than injure the recipients would be greatly simplified.

From the first the native population has been a vexing problem for the Americans. On the 7,083 islands that make up the Philippine group there are scattered nearly 13,000,000 inhabitants.

All of the wild tribes of the mountains, including the Negritos, practiced head hunting until American officials, backed by soldiers, finally stamped out that evil. Army men who campaigned in the Philippines in the early days of American occupation had a song, one line of which ran, "We'll civilize 'em with the Krag." This subjection by force of arms was made necessary by the savage nature of the population.

There were only a few missionary schools along the coast 36 years ago; today there are 8,000 public schools and more than 700 private schools in the Philippines.