

NOTES ON THE AUTHORS

GÉMINO H. ABAD is University Professor Emeritus of literature and creative writing at the University of the Philippines. He took his PhD in English at the University of Chicago, and as poet, fictionist, and literary critic, has won various honors and awards. Among his many works are *A Makeshift Sun* (stories and poems, 2001), *In Ordinary Time: Poems, Parables, Poetics* (2004), *Getting Real: An Introduction to the Practice of Poetry* (2004), and the three-volume historical anthology of Filipino poetry in English: *Man of Earth* (1989), *A Native Clearing* (1993), and *A Habit of Shores* (1999). He has served his University as its Secretary, VicePresident for Academic Affairs, and Director of the U.P. Creative Writing Center.

CARLOTTA LADY IZUMI ABRAMS holds a PhD in Asian American literature from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has twenty-two publications of articles, fiction, poetry, and non-fiction.

THELMA E. ARAMBULO taught English and American literatures at the Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of the Philippines. She was former Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature and Acting Dean in the Open University. She has written articles on Filipino women writers, Cebuano literature, Filipino American literature and books on words and punctuation. She is now based in Toronto, Canada.

HARRY AVELING holds the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy in Malay Studies, NUS, and Doctor of Creative Arts, University of Technology, Sydney. His translations include *Secrets Need Words: Indonesian Poetry 1966-1998* (Ohio University Press) and *Saint Rosa, recent poetry of Dorothea Rosa Herliany* (Indonesia Tera, 2005: winner of the Khatulistiwa Literary Award 2006). He received the Anugerah Pengembangan Sastra (Literary Development Award) in 1991, from GAPENA, the Federation of Malay Writers' Associations) for his contributions to the international recognition of Malay literature.

BRUCE BENNETT was a graduate of the Universities of Western Australia, Oxford and London. He is Emeritus Professor of the University of New South Wales and Adjunct Professor at the Australian National University and the University of Queensland. In 2005-2006 he was Professor of Australian Studies at Georgetown University, Washington DC. His books include *Homing In* (2006), *Australian Short Fiction: A History* (2002), *The Oxford Literary History of Australia* (1998), *Spirit in Exile* (1991) and *An Australian Compass* (1991). He was an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. With Professor Edwin Thumboo, he founded the biennial series of symposia on literatures and cultures of the Asia-Pacific in 1982.

JOSE Y. DALISAY JR. teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines, where he has also served as Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature and Vice-President for Public Affairs. He has been a Hawthornden, British Council, David TK Wong, and Rockefeller fellow. He has BA in English from the University of the Philippines, cum laude, 1984; MFA in Creative Writing, University of Michigan, 1988; and PhD in English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1991. His second novel *Soledad's Sister* was shortlisted for the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize. He is currently Director of the Institute of Creative Writing of the University of the Philippines.

VIJAY DEVADAS received his PhD from the School of Arts, Murdoch University for a dissertation on postcolonial theory, deconstruction, ethics and responsibility. He has published a number of articles on postcolonial theory, South Asian diaspora, Tamil cinema, and Southeast Asian literatures. He held a lectureship at the University of Otago where he teaches and supervises research in the areas of critical and cultural theory, postcolonial theory and diaspora studies, and transnational studies and globalisation.

FRIEDA EKOTTO is Associate Professor of Francophone and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan. Her first book project was on the French writer Jean Genet and questions of literature of incarceration. She has since researched and published in a variety of fields, and is presently completing a new book manuscript on Jean Genet, the Francophone Negritude thinkers and their connections to the African American Civil Rights movement.

DENNIS HASKELL is Professor Emeritus of English and Cultural Studies and was Co-editor of the magazine *Westerly* at the University of Western Australia. He has held a number of fellowships and visiting professorships, including at the National University of Singapore, Georgetown University (USA) and Université Charles de Gaulle (France). He is the author of 17 books, including 5 volumes of poetry. Some of his works include *All the Time in the World*, (Cambridge 2006), *Beyond Good and Evil? Essays on Literature and Culture in the Asia-Pacific* (UWA Press, 2006), “*What Are You Doing Here?*” (2015).

CRISTINA PANTOJA HIDALGO is a much-awarded author of more than a dozen books of fiction and creative nonfiction, including the two novels, *Recuerdo* and *A Book of Dreams*. Her stories and essays have been included in anthologies and journals in the Philippines and abroad, such as *Babaylan* (Aunt Lute Books), *Going Home to a Landscape* (Calyx), *Virtual Lotus: Modern Fiction of Southeast Asia* (University of Michigan) and *World Englishes* (Blackwell), *Sky Blue after the Rain: Selected Stories* (UP Press, 2005). She has also written and published a textbook in creative nonfiction and co-written a textbook on Philippine literature in English. Among the national literary awards she has won are the Gawad Balagtas for Fiction in English (given by the Union ng Manunulat sa Pilipino), the Carlos Palanca Grand Prize for the Novel, and the National Book Award for both her short stories and her essays (given by the Manila Critics’ Circle). Some critics believe that her travel writing is one of her major contributions to Philippine literature; others credit her with being one of the first to focus critical attention on creative nonfiction, particularly by women.

She taught literature and creative writing at the University of the Philippines, and served as Director of the UP Creative Writing Center, Director of the UP Press, and Vice President for Public Affairs for the University of the Philippines System.

JUDY CELINE ICK teaches at the Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of the Philippines Diliman. She is the author of *Unsex Me Here: Female Power and Shakespearean Tragedy* and co-editor of *Bearers of Benevolence: The Thomasites and Public Education in the Philippines*. She was an Asia Fellow at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur conducting research on Shakespeare and colonial education in British Malaya. She is currently one of the vice-chairs of Asian Shakespeare Association.

ASHRAF JAMAL was a South African who currently taught at the University of Malaya and the Eastern Mediterranean University in N. Cyprus. He is the co-author of *Art in South Africa: the Future-Present* (David Phillip Publishers), the author of plays, the novel *Love Themes for the Wilderness* (Kwela/Random House), the prize-winning collection of stories *The Shades* (Brevitas), and the critical study *Predicaments of Culture in South Africa*. His other works include essays in *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* and *Concentric*, the co-edited book *Black Water: Indian Ocean Cultural Studies* and the full-length critical study *Coastlines: Littoral Fictions/Amphibian Cultures*.

AGNES S. L. LAM taught at the English Centre of the University of Hong Kong. She has published widely in the areas of language education in China, Asian poetry in English and is also a poet.

SUCHEN CHRISTINE LIM is author of *Fistful of Colours*, winner of inaugural Singapore Literature Prize, 1992; *A Bit of Earth*, short listed Singapore Literature Prize 2004; *Ricebowl* and *Gift from The Gods*. Other publications include a play co-authored with Ophelia Ooi, *The Amah: A Portrait in Black and White*, awarded Short Play Merit Prize 1989; *Stories of the Overseas Chinese*, a non-fiction book, published in 2005; a collection of short stories, *The Lies That Build A Marriage: Stories of the Unsung, Unsaid & Uncelebrated in Singapore* (2007); and several children's books written for schools. Her latest publication is *The River's Song* (2014).

Awarded a Fulbright fellowship at the International Writers' Program in the University of Iowa in 1997, she was the University of Iowa's International Writer-in-Residence in 2000. Since then she has been dividing her time between Singapore and writing residencies in Australia, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines and the UK, where she was the first Singapore writer-in-residence at the Arvon Foundation's Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre, Scotland. She was a Visiting Writer in Ateneo de Manila University. She has given readings in Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, USA, UK, Australia and New Zealand.

BIENVENIDO LUMBERA taught at the Ateneo de Manila University where he served as Chair of the Department of English from 1968 to 1970 and as Chair of the Department of Philippine Studies from 1970 to 1972. During the early years of the Marcos dictatorship, he was with the underground movement until his capture and incarceration in 1974. He joined the

Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature of the University of the Philippines in 1976, retiring in 1997 and became Professor Emeritus.

A literary historian and critic, he has authored *Tagalog Poetry (1570-1898): Tradition and Influences in its Development* (1986); *Revaluation: Essays on Philippine Literature, Cinema and Popular Culture* (1984); *Abot-Tanaw: Sulyap at Suri sa Nagbabagong Kultura at Lipunan* (1987); *Revaluation 1997* (1997); and *Writing the Nation/Pag-Akda ng Bansa* (2000). He is general editor of *Filipinos Writing: Philippine Literature from the Regions* (2001). He is co-editor with his wife Cynthia Nograles of *Philippine Literature: a History and Anthology* (1982, rev. 1997).

He received the National Artist Award for Literature in 2006 and the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts in 1993.

ERNEST MacINTYRE, a playwright, was born in Sri Lanka, where he had his formative years as a writer. He migrated to Australia in the 70s and continued his writing and theatre activities there. In Sri Lanka his landmark plays were *The Education of Miss Asia* and *The Grotesque Comedy* (Sri Satguru Delhi, 1991), both coming out of his reaction to the violence and terror of young Sinhalese rebels as well as of the state in the early 70s. *The Education of Miss Asia* (Department of Education Sri Lanka Publications, 1995) was a high school text in Sri Lanka for over ten years.

In Australia his writing continued to look at Sri Lankan society as it continued to be in turmoil, but now the plays were identifiable as the writings of a migrant. *Let's Give Them Curry* (Heinemann Australia, 1985), about a Sri Lankan migrant looking at his new environment, his first play after migration, was Australian enough to be included in the school syllabus of the State of Victoria. Some of his other works include *Rasanayagam's Last Riot* (Wordink Sydney 1990) and *He Still Comes From Jaffna* (Vijitha Yapa Sri Lanka, 2006).

MARK E. MALBY studied at the University of British Columbia and has taught at the English Centre of the University of Hong Kong, where he was also involved in course development to support the teaching of creative writing in Hong Kong schools.

NOR FARIDAH ABDUL MANAF taught at the English Language and Literature Department, International Islamic University Malaysia. She received her BA (Hons) in English from the University of Waikato, New Zealand; MA in English Renaissance Studies from the University of Liverpool, England; and PhD also in English from The Flinders University of South Australia. Her areas of specialization are Malaysian Literature in English, women's writing and English Renaissance Literature. She has three published books: *Colonial to Global: Malaysian Women's Writing in English, 1940s–1990s* (co-authored with Prof Quayum, 2001, 2003 second edition), *The Islamic Interpretation of 'Tragic Hero' in Shakespearean Tragedies* (2001, 2004 second edition), and a book of poetry, *The Art of Naming: A Muslim Woman's Journey* (2006). She also has academic articles published in various journals around the world.

PRISCELINA PATAJO-LEGASTO is a Full Professor at the Department of English and Comparative Literature (DECL), College of Arts and Letters, U.P. Diliman, where she teaches literary, cultural, feminist theory and criticism; Philippine theater history; and postcolonial studies. She also held the following positions: Coordinator of the Comparative Literature Program of the DECL, Editor of *Diliman Review*, member of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Studies Association, and member of the Board of NCR-NOTED (the honor society of Metrobank's Outstanding Teachers). She edited *Filipiniana Reader: A Companion Reader of Filipiniana Online*, which won the Manila Critics Circle's National Book Award. She also co-edited *Philippine Post Colonial Studies: Essays in Language and Literature* and *Prism of Literature*; and compiled *Sarswelang Pangasinan*, which earned for her the title UPD Gawad Tsanselor for Best Researcher, and another National Book Award. Her essays and articles have appeared in various books as well as in local and foreign journals.

RAJEEV PATKE was born in India, educated in India and in the UK, and has taught at the National University of Singapore. He is the author of *The Long Poems of Wallace Stevens* (Cambridge UP, 1985), *Postcolonial Poetry in English* (Oxford UP, 2006), several co-edited books on the literary cultures of Southeast Asia, and essays and articles on topics such as Irish poetry and the cultural criticism of Walter Benjamin. Some of his works include a co-authored *History of Southeast Asian Writing in English* (Routledge, 2009) and a co-edited *Historical Companion to Postcolonial Literatures: Continental Europe and its Empires* (Edinburgh University Press, 2008).

CHITRA SANKARAN taught at the Department of English Language & Literature, National University of Singapore. Her areas of research interest are Singapore/Malaysian Literature, South Asian Literature and Feminist Theory. She edited volume of essays on Amitav Ghosh and has also worked on global Indian fictions. She has published several books, edited volumes, chapters in texts and articles in *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *ARIEL*, *World Literatures Written in English*, etc. She has been a member of the Editorial Committee for the IRJ *The Postcolonial Text*.

MATTHEW CONSTANCIO MAGLANA SANTAMARIA taught Asian Studies at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines. He received the degree of Doctor of Law in Political Science from Kyoto University, Japan in 1999. He is a noted scholar of Asian culture, society and politics. He is also a dance artist-choreographer who specializes in the Sama Dilaut Igal dance tradition of the Southern Philippines. A veteran performer with a long theatrical experience with theater companies such as Dulaang UP, Repertory Philippines, Dance Theatre Philippines, Philippine Ballet Theatre, Powerdance, Alun-Alun Dance Circle and Tanghalang Ateneo, Dr. Santamaria combines the disciplines of performance and the social sciences in his research and academic work.

JONATHAN JAMES WEBSTER received his PhD in linguistics from the State University of New York at Buffalo. At City University of Hong Kong, he was Head of the Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics, and Director of The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies. Before moving to Hong Kong, he taught at the National University of Singapore in the Department of English Language and Literature. His research interests include text linguistics and computational lexicography. He is the editor of the ten-volume Collected Works of M. A. K. Halliday, and the journal *Linguistics and the Human Sciences*.

ROBERT YEO, one of the pioneers of Singaporean drama in English, is also a poet, editor, novelist, literary critic, (former) lecturer at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, and (present) teacher of creative writing, Singapore Management University. He received the Public Service Medal in 1991 for services to drama.

Yeo has published three poetry collections: *Coming Home, Baby* (1971); *And Napalm Does Not Help* (1977); and *A Part of Three* (1989). He is one of

the five poets in *Five Takes* (1974). *Leaving Home, Mother* (1999) is a selection of eighty-five published poems. Yeo's only novel, *The Adventures of Holden Heng* (1986), is a *bildungsroman* concerned with the sexual education of its antihero. Yeo has written six plays. *The Singapore Trilogy* (2001) comprising "Are You There, Singapore?" (1974), "One Year Back Home" (1980) and "Changi" (1996). Yeo has edited collections of short fiction, plays and textbooks.

AGNES S. K. YEOW teaches at the Department of English, University of Malaya. She received her PhD from the National University of Singapore in 2004 with a dissertation on Conrad's Eastern vision and has published in *The Conradian*, *Conradiana* and the *Southeast Asian Review of English*. She was also one of the editors of and contributors to a volume of critical essays, *Critical Voices from Malaysia*, published by the University of Malaya Press. She has worked on ecocritical approaches to literature.