

Conférence

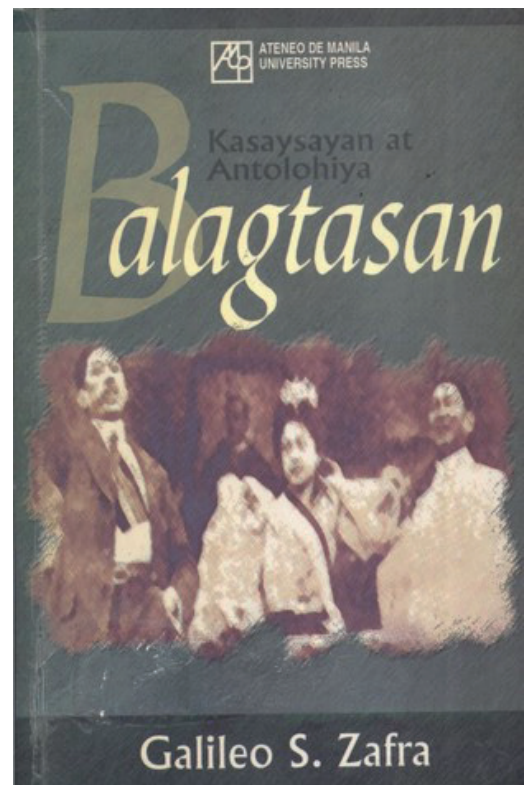
The Balagtasan: Debate in Verse During the American Colonial Period in the Philippines

Par Galileo S. Zafra

Mercredi
24 octobre 2018
17h30-19h00
Salle 3.15

Inalco
65 rue des Grands
moulins
75013 Paris

Organisateur :
Elisabeth Luquin



Galileo S. Zafra est professeur de littérature et de langue
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sera en anglais, et les extraits en tagalog seront traduits.



The *balagtasan* is a form of debate in verse form. It was developed by predominantly Tagalog writers in the 1920's to honor one of Filipinos' foremost poet, Francisco Balagtas. It became more popular in the 1930's, and even after the war, not only on stage but also on radio and print media. Up to this day, there are *balagtasan* performances by students in Manila and in the provinces during the *Buwan ng Wika* (Language Month) and by veteran poets during town fiestas and other literary events. The form is new, but it is traditional as well, as it looks back to the literary heritage to counter the spread of colonial culture. An analysis of the form and content of representative examples reveals that the *balagtasan* is the Filipino writers' response to uphold Filipino culture and identity and serves as a mental exercise for the poet and the audience at a time when strategies of colonialism were more subtle and sophisticated.