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A Bibliographical Note: Ibrahim A. Jubaira, 1939-1979

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Notes and Comments

A Bibliographical Note: Ibrahim A. Jubaira (1939-1979)

PACITA HABANA

Born in Jolo, Sulu, in 1920 of an Arab father and a Tausug mother, Ibrahim Jubaira received his early education in his birthplace. His well-to-do parents belonged to the highest class of Muslim royalty which set him apart from those of other classes. Although his childhood was a happy one, he was quite sensitive to surroundings outside his home and he began to feel the plight of his less fortunate companions. He remembers the Arab immigrants that swarmed through Jolo when he was a child. The incidents in the lives of those immigrants later became material for his stories. In 1933 his parents decided to send him to Singapore to join his uncles. But he escaped to Zamboanga when he was thirteen and continued his education in Zamboanga City, eventually completing a teacher's course at the Zamboanga Normal School and acquiring an Associate in Arts degree at the Zamboanga A. E. Colleges. While in college, he was editor-in-chief of the *Zamboanga Collegian*. He also found time to write for the local newspapers. For a time he was also a regular columnist for the *Zamboanga Inquirer* and, from 1957 to 1959, served as editor of the *Crescent Review*, a monthly magazine for Muslims. For seventeen years, Jubaira taught in the public schools of Zamboanga, and then became a technical researcher for the Congress of the Philippines in Manila. Jubaira was also information officer of the Philippines Commission on National Integration, and Cultural Affairs Officer of the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. He is presently third secretary and vice consul of the Philippine Embassy in Sri Lanka.

Jubaira started writing in his native Zamboanga and Sulu at the age of eighteen. His first story, "Death and My Father Dying," ap-

peared in the *Graphic* in 1939 when he was only nineteen years of age. This was later listed among Jose Garcia Villa's Best Short Stories of the 1940s. In 1956, he was the recipient of a Smith-Mundt grant in creative writing and journalism. In 1959, the University of the Philippines honored him with the Golden Jubilee Award. In 1970, Jubaira received the Presidential Medal and Certificate of Merit in Literature and in 1978, he was granted the Republic Heritage Award.

He is presently at work on two collections of short stories, *Children of Araby* and *Random Harvest*, and a collection of poetry and essays, *Whispers By Candlelight*.

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