

# *HEAR YE, HEAR YE*

## *By order of His Worship The Honorable Lord Mayor of London*

It came to pass that many years ago, in the district of  
*QUIAPO of the Great City of MANILA*

was born a little baby who, by order of his parents, was named Angel, surnamed Arando. Angel grew up in the Quiapo streets of Tuberias, San Rafael, Arlegui and later in the district of San Juan. He received his elementary, secondary and tertiary education under the guidance of the Benedictine monks in a school named San Beda, consistently obtaining the highest academic honours, and a reputation as an impish prankster. It came to pass that in early adulthood this veritable Angel met, courted and married Maria Victoria Ortigas, also from the great city of Manila who, aside from bringing forth and raising a beautiful and happy family, inspired Angel to even higher levels of excellence and achievement. Angel distinguished himself in the maritime and shipping business in the Philippines and also in the great, historic cities of New York and London. He must have done some good because ...

In recognition of the above achievements and in appreciation of his many other contributions to the community, the authorities of the old historic City of London agreed to confer upon this young Quiapo boy membership to a 14<sup>th</sup> century old and distinguished Guild, an honour which is shared by such distinguished persons of renown as Sir Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela. So, it came to pass that on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of September of the year 2007, in a solemn ceremony in the Court of the Chamberlain, Angel Arando was conferred the title

*Freeman of the City of London.*

Faithful to his Filipino heritage and citizenship, Angel was elegantly dressed in a Philippine Barong Tagalog when he accepted the honour. Forever loyal to his country of origin, even after many years in London, Angel retains his Filipino citizenship, which gives additional merit to his new status, for being an honour that is usually given to British citizens. During the process, Angel was also declared a *Citizen of London*. The Ceremony, which was presided by the honorable Chamberlain, was witnessed by the Arando family and close friends which included the Honorable Ambassador of the Philippines and his wife. This humble friend from the old City of Manila and his wife, Tita, were fortunate to have been invited to the historic event and to hereby attest to the transformation of a Quiapo boy to a distinguished gentlemen who is henceforth to be known as

*Angel (Freeman of the City of London) Arando.*

Federico B. Gimenez and Teresita S. Gimenez



Seal of the City of London



Freeman Angel Arando with the Certificate



Congratulations from Ambassador and Mrs. Espiritu



... from the Arando family



All well-wishers attending the Ceremony



... flanked by the Ambassador and Freddie G.



... explaining to his daughter and Tita G.



"I did it my way ..."