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The Wainwright Papers

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rescued and the rest who merely read about it today. But why was this included in such detail? If it needed to be made part of the story of Laguna, more research into the stories of the ex-prisoners themselves is called for. Many of these accounts are still available, although only in manuscript form (the archives of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus keeps a number of these accounts: in reading them one feels the human dimension of the painful three years when the Philippines was under Japanese rule).

This is what is missed in reading *Laguna in American Times*, namely, the flesh and blood reality that is Laguna. Juan Cailles, the first governor of the province under the American government, would be a less wooden figure if he had been described as a classmate of Artemio Ricarte at the Jesuit *Escuela Normal* in Manila. Both finished their studies in 1890, graduating with the general grade of "bueno," although in his first year, Cailles had received the higher rating of "sobre-saliente." A significant point of this essay is the link between the "revolutionary elite to the proto-industrialists to the politicians" (p. 152). That is the story of Laguna province, but as already indicated, it is not too clearly explicated. Perhaps in a later edition this can be clarified further such that useless repetition and overlapping of chapter divisions can be avoided. And certainly, a much more diligent proofreader of the text should not be too much of an expense.

Jose S. Arcilla, S.J.

THE WAINWRIGHT PAPERS. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PHILIPPINES. Edited with notes and comments by Celedonio A. Ancheta. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1980-82. 4 volumes. vii, 213; vii, 198; vii, 301; v, 212 pages; maps, plates, appendices, bibliography.

Besides offering information, the editor hopes that the publication in book form of this collection of military documents may help pave the way "for the prevention of war" (I, 189), and due honor be paid to the soldiers who in defense of their country died in Bataan. I do not presume to deny or agree that these three purposes are possible. But these four volumes — which could more conveniently be issued in just a single volume — now make some primary sources of an important episode in recent Philippine history easily available to interested parties. For this the editor is to be congratulated.

These documents are reports of the military operations undertaken during the Pacific war, 1941-42. They were prepared at the end of the war on orders from General Jonathan Wainwright, MacArthur's substitute when the latter sailed for Australia, and commanding officer when the Fil-American troops surrendered to the Japanese. Prepared in "Japanese prison camps and

under surveillance of Japanese guards" (I, iv), they were put down in writing four years later, in 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This naturally limits the documents and they must be used accordingly. They refer only to the American side of the war, and they need to be evaluated and rechecked for accuracy.

Aside from the documents themselves, the editor's "Notes, Comments, and Recommendations" at the end of each volume draw the reader's attention. A few points invite clarification.

One finds in these comments a concern for history and its corollary, expressed in meticulous detail, namely, a plea that budding historians write military history properly. But knowledge of historical method by itself does not guarantee good historiography. It can become a strait-jacket that paralyzes scholarship.

The editor laments that good historical writing on the Philippines is usually by a foreigner. The reason is simple. Trained Filipino historians have neither the leisure nor the financial resources to support scholarship. Even if they do produce good history, how popular are their books? How extensive is the Filipino reading public? More often than not this writing is in English. How many would spend money on a good book on Philippine history written in English?

Bataan is an event of deep significance and, for those of the older generation who personally tasted the pain of defeat and torture at the hands of the Japanese, a traumatic experience. To help avoid a similar tragedy in the future, the editor is not at all shy about his ideas regarding defensive measures the country should adopt. There is only one drawback. Given the sophistication of modern nuclear war, can the Philippines afford such costly ammunition and weaponry? What about a neutral status for the Philippines, like that of Switzerland?

If a future edition is planned, I suggest placing the editor's "Notes" as a single essay at the beginning of a single volume instead of four. This will avoid repetition. The English style needs improvement: it is not always free of basic grammatical errors. More importantly, an index should be provided. It will add to the usefulness of these documents.

Jose S. Arcilla, S.J.