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Philippine and Indonesian Archives

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http://www.philippinestudies.net Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008 illegitimate prince, son of King James IV of Scotland. The boy grew up to be a fine young man, studious and honorable, trained by Erasmus in the University of Padua, who became Archbishop of St. Andrew. He founded a college "for the training of poor students." Unfortunately, this young, learned and pious Archbishop was also a prince. And when his father (who was also his king) marched against England in the battle of Flodden, he felt it his duty to be by his side. This is how Stirling describes it: "When King James invaded England in the fatal expedition of 1513, the young Archbishop, barely twenty, insisted on accompanying his father and was killed beside him in the battle, along with 'half Scotland', the flowers of the forest. They say that on the night of Flodden the ghost of the Archbishop was seen to say Mass before the nigh altar of his own cathedral at St. Andrew's for the dead army lying around its king"

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

PHILIPPINE AND INDONESIAN ARCHIVES

A SURVEY OF HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIALS IN JAVA AND MANILA. By Robert Van Niel. Asian Studies at Hawaii, No. 5, University of Hawaii Press, 1970, 255 pp.

This survey is the result of the author's year of investigation of available written historical sources in Java and Manila. However, it should be observed from the outset that only one month of this period was spent in Manila, and hence the survey of Philippine archival material, as the author notes in his introduction, was intended only to "provide a basis of comparison with the Indonesian experience." (p. 2). The fact that in the final result the Manila survey emerged as something substantial in itself he attributes principally to the "facilitated working conditions for historians in the Manila area and to the general understanding and kind assistance given by persons working in the libraries and archives." Even a cursory reading of the section of this book devoted to Indonesia makes clear that the problems of archival research there are indeed formidable in comparison with Manila.

Though only some forty pages of the book are devoted to Manila source materials, this review will limit itself to these three chapters, as being both the focus of interest of the readers of this journal and the area of competence of the reviewer. One chapter is devoted to the Philippine National Archives, one to manuscript collections in several major Manila libraries, and a final chapter to the religious archives. Shelf lists are provided for the Philippine National Archives, the Dominican archives of Santo Domingo, and the archives of the University of Santo Tomas. Though the brevity of the section precluded more than a listing of summary headings, these lists will be useful to historians not only abroad, but also within the Philippines, as a convenient indication of the type of materials which may be expected to be found in these major depositories.

Other institutions discussed are treated very briefly. They include the National Library, the University of the Philippines Library, the University of Santo Tomas Library, the Magsaysay Foundation Library, the American Historical Collection, the Ayala Filipinas Foundation and Ayala Corporation Library, and Lopez Memorial Museum. The brevity of the listing given to the archives of the Archbishopric of Manila is quite misleading as to the wealth of material contained there, and even as to the nature of the categories included, but as the author notes, these archives are difficult of access, and it would appear that he did not actually see them.

Since the book does not pretend to completeness of coverage, its failure to mention that not only the Augustinian and Franciscan archives were transfeired to Spain before the War, but also those of the Recoletos. can be overlooked. But there is a curious bit of misinformation concerning the Jesuit archives, which are declared to have been "destroyed in the fighting of World War II." Presumably there is a confusion here with the records of the Ateneo de Manila. The archives of the Jesuit province of the Philippines, however, are generally intact for the period 1859 to the present, except for certain items transferred to Spain in the early twentieth century. The Jesuit records to 1768 were, of course, shipped back to Spain and widely scattered after the expulsion of the Society in that year. A very large part of them, however, together with several thousand other pages of manuscript material. religious and secular, from Spanish and Roman sources on the Philippines exist on microfilm in the library of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Finally, it is unfortunate that the book is marred by a large number of misprints, or more likely faulty transcriptions of Spanish headings from the National Archives list, which make some of the headings unintelligible to one not familiar with the Archives themselves. There is also some inconsistency in translating or retaining the Spanish categories of the Dominican archives, and a few apparent errors in translation or transcriptions (e.g. *Batangas* for *Batanes*, on p. 248).

It is, no doubt, unfair to judge a volume primarily devoted to the archives of Java on the basis of its chapters dealing with the Philippines. Given the limitations outlined for this review, however, the Philippine section of the book may be said to be of considerable help in the dearth of information on available historical source material in Manila, but surely not adequate for its subject. Hopefully it may encourage an attempt at more thorough and accurate coverage.

John N. Schumacher

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