

# philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University · Loyola Heights, Quezon City · 1108 Philippines

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## **Foreigners in the Philippines in 1600 Relacion De Las Islas Filipinas - The Philippines in 1600**

Review Author: Nicholas P. Cushner

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confession, I received absolution. In the Luneta where thousands of people were gathered to celebrate the International Eucharistic Congress, I received Holy Communion. From that time on, I practiced my obligations as a good Christian."

Mr. Diaz, twice a widower, now lives, surrounded by the affection (which he gratefully acknowledges) of children, grandchildren and relatives. From the tone of his narrative, it is obvious that he is of a sunny disposition. Even at his advanced age, he still makes an occasional flying trip to Manila. He unveiled the Ateneo Memorial for the War Dead on 8 December 1969, and he revisited his Alma Mater on 13 February 1970 (on which occasion he gave the Spanish edition of his book to the present reviewer, autographed with trembling hand but with many a laugh).

His Memoirs, published in Spanish, have also been translated into English. The English version (completed in April 1969) contains 106 pages, but without the 10-page supplement which brings the Spanish edition up-to-date.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

## FOREIGNERS IN THE PHILIPPINES IN 1600

RELACION DE LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS—THE PHILIPPINES IN 1600. By Pedro Chirino, S.J., translated by Ramón Echevarria. Manila: Historical Conservation Society, XV, 1969. 499 pp.

A NEW VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD. By William Dampier, with an introduction by Sir Albert Gray and a new introduction by Percy Adams. New York: Dover Publications, 1968. 376 pp.

The authors of both of these books were familiar with the Philippines. Pedro Chirino was a Jesuit missionary who was principally active in the Visayas region between 1590-1635. William Dampier was an English adventurer whose travels took him to the Philippines in 1687-1688.

Chirino's *Relación* is a standard source of information on the extremely important period of early evangelization. With sympathy, understanding and clarity the Jesuit missionary described the peoples, customs and environment which he and his fellow-missionaries encountered. Methods of evangelization and their relative success are recounted in detail, making his account almost indispensable for the study of the Philippines at the time of its contact with Spain.

The Historical Conservation Society is once again to be congratulated for making available in an inexpensive edition a minor classic

of Philippine history. However, the edition could have been improved. Nowhere are we told which text (1604 or 1879) has been used in preparing the present edition. There are no explanatory footnotes making the text more understandable, and most important of all, there is no index. In a work such as this which is filled with so many facts, names and places, the omission of a full index is almost inexcusable. Nevertheless, the translation is good and one should be grateful to the editors for at least making Chirino available in the original Spanish and in English translation.

William Dampier's *A New Voyage Round the World* is a travel classic. Most of his descriptions and adventures take place in America. However, he crossed the Pacific in company of Capt. Swan and on June 2, 1686, left Guam for Mindanao. On June 21, he arrived "at the Island St. John, which is one of the Philippine Islands." St. John's Island, Dampier said, was three or four leagues east of Mindanao. He continued describing the controversial island: "It is in latitude about 7 or 8 North. This island is in length about 38 leagues, stretching N.N.W. and S.S.E. and it is in breadth about 24 leagues, in the middle of the Island. The northernmost end is broader, and the southernmost is narrower. This Island is of a good height, and is full of many small hills...[the island] looks all over like one great grove" (p. 212). Apparently Dampier was describing the island of Siargao off the northeastern coast of Mindanao. He was unsure of the exact location and size of Mindanao but he does put the northernmost tip of Mindanao at 8°, and he also puts the Island of St. John in approximately the same latitude. Dampier crossed the channel to Mindanao on June 22 and remained in the island or coasting around it until January 14 of the next year. His vivid descriptions of the Muslim peoples, as well as the flora and fauna of the island make Dampier's account of the island one of the most valuable we have for the seventeenth century. It is not as accurate or detailed as Combes' *Historia de Mindanao y Joló* (1667) but it is eminently readable and thoroughly enjoyable.

NICHOLAS P. CUSHNER

## A TEACHER'S PRIMER ON ENGLISH

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION: A MANUAL FOR TEACHERS. By Kenneth Croft. New York: Collier-Macmillan International, 1968. vii, 97 pp.

This book was originally written by Kenneth Croft, but was expanded and revised by members of the Materials Development Staff of English Services, Inc., under the co-direction of Edwin