The Thomistic View of Man and Metaphysics:  
Spirit in the World

Review Author: Rudolph H. Visker

*Philippine Studies* vol. 16, no. 4 (1968): 794–795

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder’s written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.
indication to what extent the work has been revised. From a com-
parison of the two editions, it would seem that the revisions have been
principally, if not exclusively, stylistic in nature.

Since the first edition was extensively reviewed in this journal in
1957 by Horacio de la Costa, S.J., the present reviewer will only repeat
both the former's high appreciation of a stimulating study, and likewise
his reservations, particularly with regard to chapter six, on the historical
background of the problem of church and state in the Malolos
Congress. As Father de la Costa pointed out, the chapter is rather a
summary of the hostile attitudes of members of the revolutionary
government than a critical historical account of the actual conditions of
the Friar orders. Since Professor Majul has himself given a somewhat
more nuanced account in his later work, Mabini and the Philippine
Revolution, it is regrettable that the edition under review has simply
reproduced the discussion of the first edition.

The sections of this work concerning Mabini have largely been
superseded by the more extensive treatment given by Majul in his
later books on Mabini. Nonetheless it retains its value for the dis-
cussion of the thought of other Filipino thinkers of the Revolution,
and we can be grateful for the appearance of this new and attractively
printed edition.

JOHN N. SCHUMACHER

THE THOMISTIC VIEW OF MAN AND METAPHYSICS

SPIRIT IN THE WORLD, by Karl Rahner. Translated by William

That Rahner's first large publication has become available in the
English language is a significant fact at a time when this theologian
has acquired world-wide reputation. For the philosophical position ex-
panded by the author in his Geist in Welt in 1939 has continued to be
decisive for his theological thought. As Rahner states in the introduc-
tion to the second German edition, prepared in 1957 by John B. Metz,
this position has remained unchanged in its fundamental conception.

Is metaphysics, or, reaching out beyond the world, possible for man,
the "spirit in the world," who has in immediate experience access pre-
cisely to this world? Rahner's answer is that the Thomistic view of
man does indeed prove such a possibility. The author acknowledges
his indebtedness to Pierre Rousselot and Joseph Maréchal for his inter-
pretation of Thomas Aquinas.
This English edition has become even more valuable because of a Preface by John B. Metz and an Introduction by Francis P. Fiorenza. The former brings out the meaning of Rahner's "anthropocentrically oriented theology," the latter deals mainly with the confrontation which *Spirit in the World* presents between Thomas Aquinas and Immanuel Kant.

The quality of the translation is easily guaranteed by the fact that William Dych, as Rahner's student, has become intimately familiar with his thinking and that, moreover, he was his teacher's able interpreter on a recent lecturing tour through America. Several years ago the writer of this review translated some passages from *Geist in Welt* for classmates. Going over the same passages in Dych's translation makes him wish that this fine piece of work could have been presented at an earlier date.

RUDOLPH H. VISKER, S.J.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHILIPPINE ETHNOGRAPHY**


Although this book is not published in the full sense of the word (it is "privately circulated for annotation and comments"), its importance and the fact that it has been given wide distribution would seem to call for at least passing notice. The importance of the work can not be overstated. The compiler, who is Reference Librarian of the Sinclair Library in Hawaii, worked for several months in the Filipiniana Room at the Ateneo de Manila, and compiled this impressive list of books and articles on the ethno-ology of the Philippines.

Just how many titles are included, it is hard to say. The compiler in his introduction mentions his target as "a select list of about 1,000 titles." Quite probably he has achieved that number; but the exact number of titles is hard to ascertain because of duplication—a point to which we shall return.

The work is divided into four main sections. The first section ("General") takes up the first 216 pages. The entries are subdivided in to the various subject-headings related to cultural anthropology: Adolescence, Adulthood and Old Age; Property; Clothing; Marriage; Warfare; Women; Education; Language and Communication; etc.