

# philippine studies

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

---

## **Two Carloses: I Walked with Heroes and Sound of Falling Light**

Review Author: Miguel A. Bernad

*Philippine Studies* vol. 9, no. 3 (1961): 551—552

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](mailto:philstudies@admu.edu.ph).

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>  
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

lacking; the one item in the general bibliography (7531) giving the text of constitutions is not noted either "A" or "B". Though it receives an undue proportion of "A" and "B" notes (4 "A" and 11 "B" out of a total of 33; thus 45% instead of 30%) the Philippine section seems decidedly one-sided, the Spanish background wholly unrepresented except through liberal Filipino and American eyes.

These limitations do not vitiate the high value of this list even for non-American collegiate institutions. It will no doubt be the standard bibliography for collegiate work for the next decade. The fact that all items are made available by University Microfilms of Ann Arbor assures easy acquisition. Each locality will supplement this, probably by using the bibliographies supplied, with more local materials. An annual supplement, published perhaps in one of the general periodicals, of a maximum of five new items in each major division is highly desirable—this would overcome the main drawback of being out-of-date.

ROBERT J. SUCHAN

## TWO CARLOSES

**I WALKED WITH HEROES.** The Autobiography of General Carlos P. Romulo. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961. 342 p., illus. \$5.00.

**SOUND OF FALLING LIGHT.** Letters in Exile. By Carlos Bulosan. Edited by Dolores S. Feria. Quezon City, 1961.

At first glance no two men are more unlike than Carlos Bulosan and Carlos Romulo. Bulosan was born among the illiterate peasantry of Pangasinan and lived most of his life in wretched poverty in California where he died of tuberculosis and malnutrition in 1956. Romulo comes from the slightly more opulent middle class in the neighboring province of Tarlac, and has risen to the exalted position of Philippine Ambassador in Washington and at one time President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Yet beneath the surface differences between the squalor of Bulosan's world and the glittering elegance of Romulo's, there is a basic similarity between these two men whose Christian names are identical.

Both are Filipinos, intensely conscious of their Philippine heritage, who grew up in the shadow of America. Both were led to entertain the highest expectations of American ways and American democratic institutions. Both experienced sharp disillusionment. Bulosan's disillusion-

sionment was permanent and found bitter expression in his autobiographical essay *America is in the Heart*. Romulo has lived to see the change from the old days of American snobbery, when even cultured Filipino "natives" were denied access to the Baguio Country Club or the Manila Polo Club, to the present more enlightened days when (as he puts it) "on warm evenings in Manila, I watch groups of white-clad, laughing young Filipinos, among them sometimes my own sons, going in and out of the Army and Navy Club with never a thought of being denied entry. The same freedom reigns in the Baguio Country Club."

The title of Romulo's book, like the titles of some of his earlier works (*I Saw the Fall of the Philippines; My Brother Americans; etc.*), has occasioned some unkind comments in Manila, where the distinguished Philippine Ambassador is not regarded with the same universal affection and esteem as he is in America. Yet the title is amply justified: Romulo has walked with heroes, and he himself has participated in events of world-wide significance. This book is full of interesting material; and though the numerous calls upon General Romulo's time has prevented his writing the type of absorbing narrative which a winner of the Pulitzer Prize is so well qualified to write, nevertheless this book should be read by all who wish to gain a deeper insight into the events and attitudes during those important four decades when the Philippines grew into nationhood under the benevolent shadow of America.

The benevolence of that shadow is not quite as evident in the case of Bulosan. He went to the United States quite young, and found that America at the time of the Great Depression was not the terrestrial paradise of his dreams. Like the thousands of Filipinos in the western States he starved and slept on park benches and fell into debauchery and suffered the outcast's fate. For a moment he emerged as a literary celebrity, only to sink back into obscurity. The letters of such a man, telling of these unpleasant things, are hardly pleasant to read. But Mrs. Feria, in collecting these letters, has done the Philippine literary world a service, for Bulosan's writings will be much easier to understand in the light of these letters. Two in particular are very interesting. One, written to Federico Mangahas, enumerates the authors (mostly American) whose works shaped his mind. The other, written to Grace Cunningham, describes in detail a visit which Bulosan made to the ailing President-in-exile, Manuel Quezon, in a hotel in Washington.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD