

philippine studies

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

Inside the Philippines Today

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Philippine Studies vol. 7, no. 1 (1959): 126–127

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Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

INSIDE THE PHILIPPINES TODAY

PHILIPPINE FREEDOM 1946-1958. By Robert Aura Smith.
New York, Columbia University Press. 1958. Pp. 378.

IN many ways the most interesting part of this book is the first chapter, where, defining his terms, Mr. Robert Aura Smith makes the rather startling assertion that "Men are free primarily as they think, believe, and feel that they are free." A few pages farther on however, he apparently forsakes the seeming relativism of this statement in favor of an absolute "yardstick" to determine when men's rights are being inhibited by the government, which "is simply 'Look for the Opposition.' When opposition is lawful, vocal, and even honored and 'loyal,' it is proper to assume that 'just powers' are being used to secure those rights."

Philippine Freedom is thus an attempt to trace the rise of a lawful, vocal, honored and loyal opposition in the Philippines, with special emphasis on the dozen years since our independence. In fact the recentness of most of the events described and the breezy journalistic style (once one has gotten through the first chapter) make the book a sort of *Inside the Philippines Today*. The historical part of the book will hold little that is new to local readers, since the overwhelming majority of the events described are well within their memory and perhaps first-hand experience. (Mr. Smith skips lightly through the Spanish occupation, and then goes through the period of the Commonwealth, the Second World War, and the years of independence.)

Finally, Mr. Smith's cheerily optimistic conclusion on "the outlook for the Philippines" is at least understandable, if one considers his "yardstick"—the opposition—and the fact that he wrote this book not long after the last election, when the Filipino people elected a president and vice-president of opposing political affiliations. Writing from an economic viewpoint, say, he might not have been so optimistic.

A valuable portion of this book is the series of appendices which contain the full text of the following important documents: (1) The organic act of the Philippine Islands, the Jones Act; (2) the Tydings-McDuffie Act; (3) amendments to the Tydings-Mc-

Duffie Act; (4) the Constitution of the Philippines; (5) the Philippine Trade Agreement Revision of 1955.

RAMON KATIGBAK JR.

THREE TEXTBOOKS ON RIZAL

RIZAL'S UNKNOWN WRITINGS. Translated by Juan Collas. Manila. Bookman Inc. 1957. Pp. 126.

RIZAL AND YOU. By I. V. Mallari. Manila. Bookman Inc. 1953. Pp. 145.

LIVING THE RIZAL WAY. By Juan F. Rivera and Petra O. Rivera. Quezon City. 1958. Pp. xii, 287.

WITH the passage of Republic Act 1425 obliging all schools to give a course on Rizal a large market has been created overnight for textbooks on Rizal and his writings. We examine here three such textbooks that have been sent to us for review.

Collas' *Rizal's Unknown Writings* contains four of Rizal's papers which are bitterly anti-friar in tone and content. The "Vision of Father Rodriguez," "By Telephone" and "Laughter and Tears" are given in both English translation and Spanish text. The English translation appears to be reasonably exact and idiomatic, but the Spanish text is poorly presented, without mention of sources, and with typographical errors. The letter to the women of Malolos is given in translation only, without mention of where the original might be found. (For those interested, the Tagalog original and Spanish translation are in the *Epistolario Rizalino* Vol. II pp. 122-139.) This is therefore not a scholarly edition.

Mallari's *Rizal and You* is obviously intended for elementary schools, telling the story of Rizal in simple fashion and holding him up for imitation. Questions and word lists are given at the end of each short chapter. This book is on the whole unobjectionable, except that some of the incidents given are obviously unhistorical, and some of the actions attributed to Rizal and held up for imitation