

philippine studies

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

Editorial

Bornean Hospitality

Miguel A. Bernad

Philippine Studies vol. 6, no. 3 (1958): 247–248

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.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>

Editorial

BORNEAN HOSPITALITY

AMONG the many ties between Borneo and the Philippines, surely not the weakest is the striking similarity between Bornean and Philippine hospitality. A case in point was the warm cordiality of the reception accorded to the rector of Xavier University (Father Francisco Araneta S.J.) and the editor of this Quarterly during our recent visit to Sarawak and Brunei and the island of Labuan.

For the invitation to visit Borneo and for the generous hospitality during our stay there, we are grateful to the Sarawak Museum and the government of Sarawak, and in particular to that energetic and erudite gentleman and excellent companion, Mr. Tom Harrisson, government ethnologist and curator of the Museum.

We are also grateful to His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak; to the chief secretary (lately demised); the British Resident in Brunei and the secretary to the Resident; the district officer at Tutong and the administrative officer at Limbang, Mr. Lawrence Tan; the Shell petroleum officials at Seria for use of private aircraft; Mr. Philip Jones of the Kuching information office, and the officials of Radio Sarawak, Radio Brunei and the British Council.

For their friendship and for numberless courtesies during our stay in their country we are grateful to the chief information officer of Brunei, Pengiran Mohamad Yussof bin Pengi-

ran Haji Abdul Rahir, and to the assistant information officer, Shali Kadir. That excellent man, Mr. George Jamuh, assistant curator of the Sarawak Museum, and that splendid companion, Awangku Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Matali, devoted an entire week (most pleasant for us, most laborious for them) to escorting us through Brunei and the Limbang area. We envy any organization that can count on the services of two such men as George Jamuh and Sharifuddin.

To the Mill Hill Fathers at Kuching, Seria, Brunei Town, and Labuan, our appreciation for warm and genial hospitality.

While sincerely appreciative of the wide publicity accorded our visit in the Bornean and the Singapore press (particularly in the *Sarawak Tribune* of Kuching which devoted much front-page space in three issues to the story), it was with some alarm that we found ourselves described in very flattering but unfortunately quite inaccurate terms. We were merely plain people seeking plain answers to a few plain questions, and all within a very modest compass. The only big thing about the affair was the bigness of the Bornean welcome—and for *that* we are grateful.

To the Asia Foundation which made the trip possible by a travel grant; to Mr. John Reed of the Foundation's Manila office; to Mr. Keith Jones of the British embassy in Manila; and finally, and by no means least, to His Excellency the British Ambassador in the Philippines, Mr. George Clutton, our very sincere gratitude for many things.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD