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Literary Survey-1955

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Money is lacking. But the know-how is here, the men are willing and the future is bright.

VICENTE MARASIGAN

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¹ Miguel M. Varela, "Scientific Research and Philippine Progress", PHILIPPINE STUDIES II (Dec. 1954), 360-366.

² Dr. Marañon is the director of the Institute of Science and Technology. Dr. Valenzuela is the executive secretary of the National Research Council.

³ Drs. Alfredo C. Santos, Conrado Dayrit, Gerardo V. de Leon, Horacio R. Estrada, Ernesto V. Valdez, Natividad E. Diaz, Romulo Guevara and Mrs. Gertrudes Aguilar-Santos. In this connection, Dr. Dayrit was named the "Outstanding Young Man in Science" by the *Sunday Times Magazine*.

⁴ One by Ricardo Cruz, chief astronomer of the Weather Bureau, and the other by Hans Arber, amateur astronomer in Pasay City. Mr. Arber is in collaboration with Professor Waldmeier of the International Astronomical Union.

⁵ See also PHILIPPINE STUDIES III (June 1955) 164-186.

⁶ Engaged in these projects are Dr. Solita F. Camara-Besa, Minerva Bataclan, Mrs. Carmen Ll. Intengan, Leon G. Alejo, Velona A. Corpus, Rosita D. Salud, Isabel del Rosario, Rosario Gomez, Jesusa Henson and Isabel Concepcion. The partial results of the latter study are published in the *Philippine Journal of Science*, (June 1955), pp. 263-273.

⁷ *Araneta Journal of Agriculture* (April-June 1955), pp. 15-27.

⁸ Ralph Blanco, a technician in the division of Tests and Standards, formerly an instructor in mathematics at De La Salle College.

⁹ First expounded by Dirac in 1930, and later called into doubt by Louis de Broglie in *Revolution in Physics* (transl. by Niemeier, Noonday Press, N.Y. 1953), pp. 256-257.

Literary Survey-1955

In March 1954 and again in March 1955 PHILIPPINE STUDIES presented a general picture of the literary output of the preceding year. Continuing this effort, the present writer through the courtesy of the personnel of the copyright office made a study of the books registered there during the year 1955. Though some books were probably published without copyright, we may in general assume that the list presented below contains all the worthwhile titles that appeared in the period under consideration.

In all there were a few over two-hundred books registered with the copyright office. Of these more than half were texts,

and of the texts a large number were of American origin. Thirty of the items were law-books. No attempt has been made to describe either law books or texts though unquestionably some would merit attention in legal and educational journals. Of the seventy remaining titles only nineteen seem to this writer to deserve description. The rest are ephemeral little efforts: novels in news-print, cook-books, hand-books, religious booklets, reprinted addresses, etc.

First place among the year's publications must be assigned to E. Arsenio Manuel's *Dictionary of Philippine Biography*,¹ which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. Two other historical books treat of the revolution. Gregorio F. Zaide has given us *The Philippine Revolution*.² Dr. Zaide is well known as the author of several other books on Philippine history, notable among them *History of the Katipunans*. Antonio K. Abad has written the story of *General Macario L. Sakay*.³ This revolutionary leader continued to fight against the United States after the other Filipino leaders had capitulated. He was finally captured, and executed on Sept. 13, 1907. Mr. Abad thinks that Sakay was a hero, not a bandit as is generally alleged. The book has a foreword by Teodoro A. Agoncillo. The author presents a number of original documents but his impassioned style will not commend itself to the student of history. If the volume in the copyright office is a fair sample, the printing is wretched. Cayetano Montemayor Villamor is a prolific writer whom Charles O. Houston, Jr. in a bibliography of Philippine writing credits with ten books.⁴ Mr. Villamor has recently added another: *My Guerrilla Years*,⁵ which he subtitles "Experiences and Observations during the Japanese Occupation in the Province of Cebu." The book is printed on poor paper and its style sounds uncritical in some passages. Nevertheless it should be valuable for its record of names, dates and places, when a full-scale history of the war is written. Mariano A. Henson's *The Province of Pampanga and Its Towns*⁶ is an unusual book. It is more than a history of Pampanga; it is a miniature encyclopedia of that province. Sample chapters are: Analysis of Soils, Unemployment, Art and Culture, Cuisine, Coinage. This is the second edition. The first edition, according to the author, was noticed by the University of Denver's School of Sociology and by the University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology. With this encouragement the author undertook a second edition in which he says "he started from scratch." The work is mimeographed and the style leaves much to be desired, but the result

is obviously a unique compilation of information on this phase of Philippine history and culture.

The year 1955 marked the golden jubilee of the feminist movement in the Philippines. Hence the National Federation of Women's Clubs prevailed upon Tarrosa Subido to write a history of the movement: *The Feminist Movement in the Philippines* (1905-1955).⁷ Former Senator Geronima T. Pecson writes the preface. The book is the story of increased participation by women in public life, of the legislation which made this participation possible, of the noteworthy achievements of groups and persons. The writer is a poet of some note. There is a hint in the book that feminist efforts have been towards a restoration of Filipino women to the position they occupied before the Spanish came, and that whatever progress has been made is due to the system of schools established since 1900. Regarding the latter point it should be noted that the feminist movement is a worldwide phenomenon and that the reasons which held it back as well as the reasons which released it are not peculiarly Spanish or American. As for the status of women under Spain, Margarita Roxas de Ayala (1826-1869) and Benigna Cui (1846-1929) are two witnesses that the door was not closed to careers of influence and leadership.

In the June issue of PHILIPPINE STUDIES Father Bernad reviewed Leonard Casper's *Six Filipino Poets*.⁸ Professor Casper has written the preface to Alejandrino G. Hufana's *13 Kalisud*.⁹ This is a special issue of the *Collegian News Review*, literary supplement of the *Philippine Collegian*. These poems belong to what Mr. Ivor Brown calls "barbed-wire verse which is difficult to penetrate." To say that Professor Casper in his graceful preface adds any light to Hufana would be the sheerest flattery. Demy (for Demetrio) P. Sonza has produced *Stirred Pool*.¹⁰ This youthful author, writing in the *Philippines Free Press*, first attracted the attention of the authorities of Central Philippine University, Iloilo City, who offered him a scholarship. The preface to this volume is written by Dr. Almus Oliver Larsen, president of that University. There are sixty-seven poems in the modern manner. We are informed in the preface that Mr. Sonza has also written a novel for which he is seeking a publisher.

Last year in this survey we noted Severino Montano's *3 One Act Plays*.¹¹ Mr. Montano has since then written *The Love of Leonor Rivera*,¹² A Tragedy in 3 Acts. This is the love story of Jose Rizal and the young woman who was a partial inspiration of

his Maria Clara. Mr. Montano is associated with the Arena Theatre created in Philippine Normal College in 1953, a movement to develop Philippine drama. Another dramatic publication was Senator Francisco Rodrigo's translation of Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*¹³ into Tagalog.

Francisco Morelos and Cornelio Faigao, both of Cebu City, have each gathered into a volume some slight essays, originally written for Cebu newspapers. Those of Mr. Morelos *Soundings in Spiritual Depths*,¹⁴ are of a moral character. Mr. Faigao's *69 Minutes of America*,¹⁵ were written from the United States while he was there on a Smith-Mundt grant and contain reactions of the author to the American environment.

Juan C. Tuvera has produced an anthology called *Katha 1*,¹⁶ containing thirteen stories, twenty-two poems by fourteen poets, and seven essays. "Katha" Mr. Tuvera informs us means "a literary piece." This volume will be reviewed in a future issue of our Quarterly. Another anthology—this one of oratory—is *Great Filipino Speeches*,¹⁷ edited by Nicolas V. Pacifico. There are fifty-two speeches in all and every name prominent in recent or contemporary public life seems represented. All the presidents from Quezon to Magsaysay are there, together with Archbishop Rufino Santos, Arsenio Lacson, Pacita Warns, Vicente Gullas, Jorge Boboco, to name only a few. This is truly variety. There is a supplement of five speeches by Senator Claro M. Recto on the Formosa Resolution delivered in March 1955, with interpellations by Senators Gil Puyat, Emmanuel Pelaez, Jose P. Laurel, Cipriano Primicias, Justiniano Montano, Tomas Cabili, Macario Peralta, Jr., Alejo Mabanag. Each speech is preceded by a brief identification of the orator.

There are two books on education. One of these Cresencio Peralta's *Current Issues in Philippine Education*,¹⁸ was reviewed in the December issue of our magazine. The other educational book is a solid, carefully written volume called *Philippine Rural Problems and the Community School*.¹⁹ The authors are Isabelo Tupas and Vitaliano Bernardino. There is an introduction by Paul R. Hanna. The first part of the book gives the sociological milieu in which the community school in the Philippines has been established. The second part describes the community school of the Philippines in the concrete—what it is and aims to be.

*The Golden Book of the Philippine Medical Association*²⁰ contains thirty essays by various authors on the progress of Philippine medicine during the last fifty years. The volume commemorates the jubilee of the Association (1903-1953). The editors are Antonio S. Fernando, Manuel D. Peñas and Mariano M. Alimurung.

The output this year is somewhat lighter than in the previous two years. What factors determine the volume of the national flow is hard to conjecture. The printing of most of the books is of poor quality. The Benipayo Press is doing some good work, but they seem to be almost alone. The prevalence of news print and flamboyant yellow paper covers, of bombastic introductions and testimonials leaves an impression of superficiality. There seems to be a lack of leisure in writing and editing; one gathers that the books are dashed off at breakneck speed amid a thousand other occupations.

One is reminded of the remark Samuel Johnson made when a woman presented him with a manuscript and asked him to read it. In the course of the ensuing conversation the woman informed Johnson that she had many irons in the fire. Johnson suggested that she put the manuscript with the irons.

LEO A. CULLUM

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¹ *Dictionary of Philippine Biography*. By E. Arsenio Manuel. Vol. I. Quezon City, 1955. Pp. xiii-511. Index. Plates.

² *The Philippine Revolution*. By Gregorio F. Zaide. Manila, 1954. Pp. xi-382. Bibliography. Index. Reg. with copyright office 1955.

³ *General Macario L. Sakay*. (The Only President of the "Tagalog Republic") Was He a Bandit or a Patriot? By Antonio K. Abad. Foreword by Teodoro A. Agoncillo. Manila, 1955. Pp. iv-138. Index. Plates.

⁴ "Bibliographical Note and Bibliography" *Journal of East Asiatic Studies*, IV (Apr. 1955) 185-6

⁵ *My Guerrilla Years*. Experiences and Observations during the Japanese Occupation in the Province of Cebu. By Cayetano Montemayor Villamor. Cebu City, 1955. Pp. 214. Plates.

⁶ *The Province of Pampanga and Its Towns (A.D. 1300-1955)*. By Mariano A. Henson. Second Edition. With a Genealogy of the Rulers of Central Luzon. Manila, 1955. Pp. xii-169. Mimeo.

⁷ *The Feminist Movement in the Philippines (1905-1955)*. A Golden Book to Commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines. By Tarrosa Subido. Foreword by Geronima T. Penson. Manila, 1955. Pp. vii-76. Plates.

⁸ *Six Filipino Poets*. Edited by Leonard Casper. Manila, 1954. Pp. viii-75. Cf. PHILIPPINE STUDIES, III (June 1955) 233.

- ⁹ *18 Kalisud*. By Alejandrino G. Hufana. Introduction by Leonard Casper. Manila, 1955. Pp. 13.
- ¹⁰ *Stirred Pool*. By Demy P. Sonza. Foreword by Almus Oliver Larsen. Iloilo City, 1955. Pp. 111
- ¹¹ PHILIPPINE STUDIES, III (Mar. 1955) 95.
- ¹² *The Love of Leonor Rivera*. A Tragedy in 3 Acts. By Severino Montano. Foreword by Catherine E. Fosdick. Manila, 1954. Pp. xiii-167. Plates.
- ¹³ *Cyrano de Bergerac*. By Edmond Rostand. Tr. into Tagalog by Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo. Manila, 1955. Pp. viii-243. Plates
- ¹⁴ *Soundings of Spiritual Depths*. By Francisco Morelos. Cebu City, 1955. Pp. 64
- ¹⁵ "69 Minutes of America". 31 Essays. By Cornelio Faigao. Cebu City, 1955. Pp. 65.
- ¹⁶ *Katha I*. Philippine Writing. By Juan C. Tuvera. Manila, 1955. Pp. 272
- ¹⁷ *Great Filipino Speeches*. Edited by Nicolas V. Pacifico. Supplement containing five speeches of Senator Claro M. Recto on the Formosa Resolution with interpellation by various senators. Cebu City, 1955. Pp. 378. Index.
- ¹⁸ *Current Issues in Philippine Education*. By Cresencio Peralta Manila, 1955. Pp. 203. Appendixes A & B. Cf. PHILIPPINE STUDIES III (Dec. 1955) 432.
- ¹⁹ *Philippine Rural Problems and the Community School*. By Isabelo Tupas and Vitaliano Bernardino. Introduction by Paul R. Hanna. Manila, 1955. Pp. vi-370. Index.
- ²⁰ *The Golden Book of the Philippine Medical Association*. Containing Articles by Various Authors on the Progress of Philippine Medicine During the Last 50 Years. Edited by Antonio D. Fernando. Associate editors, Manuel D. Peñas and Mariano M. Alimurung. Manila, 1953. Pp. 323

For the Farmer

Farmers and agricultural institutions will be interested to know that efforts like some of those described in the last issue by Jeremias U. Montemayor, to bring useful information to the small farmer, are not a twentieth century invention. We have before us a magazine called *Revista Popular de Filipinas* which began publication on September 1, 1888 and is described as *semanario religioso*. Its director was D. Baldomero de Hazañas and its *administrador propietario*, D. Pascual H. Poblete.

This weekly is entirely bi-lingual, printed throughout in two parallel columns, one in Spanish and the other in Tagalog. Its purpose was primarily religious but it endeavored also to communicate other useful information to the people: *mañga carunungang paquiquinabañgan ng bayan*.