New Ilocano Grammar
Iloko Grammar
by Morice Vanoverbergh C.I.C.M.

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NEW ILOCANO GRAMMAR

ILOKO GRAMMAR. By Morice Vanoverbergh C.I.C.M. [Baguio

This reviewer feels it both an honor and a pleasure to review
this latest production from the pen of the learned scholar and
zealous missionary of the Mountain Province, Father Morice Van-
overbergh. We have known Father Vanoverbergh for over forty
years. We have followed his career as a missionary and as a
scholar with interest and with admiration. He has worked hard
for many years among the Ilocanos of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur and
Bangar, La Union. To the people of these two towns he lovingly
dedicates the present book. He has worked also and is still work-
ing among the pagans and new Christians of the Mountain Prov-
ince. Wherever he has been, Father Vanoverbergh has distin-
guished himself for his linguistic ability and his scientific accu-
racy joined with diligent research. He is an outstanding example
of the priest who is also a scientist and is a living refutation of
the superstition that religion and science cannot mix.

This Ilocano grammar will be welcomed with great joy in
Ilocano circles. It is far superior to many other attempts at com-
piling a grammar for the Ilocano language and it compares favor-
ably with the old grammar of the Augustinian, Father Lopez, and
those of native writers like Bukaneg, Fojas and others.

The Ilokó Grammar of Father Vanoverbergh follows the gen-
eral divisions of Latin and European grammar. The grammar
proper is preceded by twenty-five exercises of great value, de-
signed to enable the student and beginners to read, pronounce and
talk the language. The vocabulary used in these exercises is varied
and rich and may be considered sufficiently adequate for the be-
ginner in the language. The author shows mastery of the lan-
guage in his discussion of the formation of Ilocano words by the
use of prefixes, infixes and suffixes. Everything is illustrated
with copious examples.

His treatment of the Ilocano verb deserves special mention.
Of the 348 pages of the entire work 100 are devoted to the verb.
What he calls the adjectival and the substantival voice are worthy
of study. There is a long list of transitive, irregular, effective
and auxiliary verbs. Of great value are the English and Ilocano indexes at the end of the book arranged alphabetically.

The author in at least two instances mentions different pronunciations or differences in meaning of words in "some districts." Perhaps a more accurate way of putting the matter would be to say that the same object is known by different names in different districts. For example, scissors are called getteng in the south and cartib by people of the north, in Abra, La Union and other places. An earthen jar for water is called malatib in the north and caramba in the south. The coconut shell used for drinking is called buyubuy in the north but ongot in the south: but the same word ongot in the north is used to refer to the coconut husk when used as a plate for eating, etc.

There are two or three points on which we might offer constructive criticism. Father Vanoverbergh seems to feel that all Ilocano words need an orthographical accent: all the words used in this book are marked with a written accent. It seems to us that the orthographical accent is necessary only when the word may be used in two different meanings and when they are differentiated only by the way they are pronounced. For example, dagá means earth and dága dagger. Dayá means function and dáya east. Bagí means body and bagi part. More commonly those who speak and write Ilocano do not employ an orthographical accent but merely a prosodic.

The second remark which we might make is that Father Vanoverbergh seems never to use the word "Ilocano" at all. He prefers the term Iloko. But "Ilocano" is in common use both as a noun and as an adjective, both as a proper or patronimic substantive and as a qualitative or substantival adjective.

Thirdly, it might have helped towards clarity and would serve for easy memorization if, when many words are given as examples of certain rules, they were set down alphabetically.

Fourthly, the name of the publisher, the place and date of publication have been omitted.

But these are minor matters. To Father Vanoverbergh our warmest congratulations for his painstaking work which has resulted in this excellent grammar of the Ilocano language. Our warmest congratulations likewise to the Catholic School Press in Baguio for a beautiful printing job. And to the "Belgian Fathers"
(the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) we wish to express our deep respect for the type of missionary-scientist that that Congregation has been sending to and developing in the Philippines. They have been a great help not only in fostering religion but also in fostering Filipino culture.

Isaias X. Edralin

**IGNORANCE AT THE SORBONNE**

MALAYA, INDONESIA, BORNEO AND THE PHILIPPINES.


Monsieur Charles Robequain, Professor of Colonial Geography at the Sorbonne and one of the best known French authorities on Southeast Asia, has written a book which is extremely readable in its survey parts on the area as a whole, but incredibly bad in its more narrow focus sections treating the Philippines. A number of mistakes in the latter can be explained away on the basis of poor translation (the edition reviewed is an English translation of Le monde malais first published in France in 1950) but the book's most serious shortcomings must be described as sins of careless and sloppy scholarship.

As the title indicates, the area covered is Malaya and non-mainland Southeast Asia. The author does not limit himself to descriptive treatment of geological and topographical data but attempts to canvass the area systematically from an integrated ethnological, botanical, zoological and archeological-historical point of view. With this generalized treatment the author marshals substantial evidence to support existing theories of land-bridge connections and migration patterns between non-mainland and mainland Southeast Asia.

Unfortunately in his extensive treatment of the Philippines as a specific area, all pretenses of scholarship collapse. The Philippines has been in the "backwaters" of serious scholarship on Southeast Asia over the past half century and Robequain has obviously relied on few and inadequate source materials related to