

philippine studies

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Philippine Periodicals:

Index to Philippine Periodicals
by Maxima M. Ferrer

An Annotated Guide to Current Philippine Periodicals
by Donn V. Hart and Quintin V. Eala

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Philippine Studies vol. 5, no. 4 (1957): 486–489

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Book Reviews

PHILIPPINE PERIODICALS

INDEX TO PHILIPPINE PERIODICALS. First Annual Cumulation October 1955-September 1956. Edited by Maxima M. Ferrer. University of the Philippines. Inter-Departmental Reference Service. Institute of Public Administration. Manila. 1956. Pp. x, 459 mimeographed.

AN ANNOTATED GUIDE TO CURRENT PHILIPPINE PERIODICALS. By Donn V. Hart and Quintin V. Eala. Yale University. Southeast Asia Studies Bibliography Series. New Haven. 1957. Pp. xxi, 116 mimeographed.

I

FROM both sides of the globe come these two listings of Philippine periodicals, both of them excellent. One is a detailed analytical index for the year 1955-56 published by the Inter-Departmental Reference Service of the University of the Philippines in Manila. The other is an annotated guide to the periodicals in current circulation, published by Yale University in New Haven.

The *Index* is a thorough piece of work in the style of the best periodical indices published in America or elsewhere. The thoroughness is attested to by the 458 pages in double columns of the text proper. If there were any improvement we would wish to see, it would be in the direction of greater completeness as regards book reviews. For instance, while we notice with pleasure that all the articles published in *PHILIPPINE STUDIES* are indexed in this work, we regret the omission of the book reviews. We like to think that our book review section is no less important than

our articles, for it is in evaluating the books published about Asia and the Philippines that the current problems affecting these areas are discussed.

To give a few examples. Panikkar's book *Asia and Western Dominance* has been widely discussed and widely hailed. It was praised by no less a person than Christopher Dawson. Yet a different impression would be had of that book if it were read in the light of Father de la Costa's long and detailed critique of its thesis (PHILIPPINE STUDIES IV 95).

Similarly we still find prominently displayed in the book-stores and art galleries Lawrence Lee Wilson's *The Skyland of the Philippines*. The naive reader, inclined to swallow Wilson hook, line and sinker, would be shocked to learn the facts of life from the quietly humorous review of the book by Father Francis Lambrecht. The review is gentle but devastating (PHILIPPINE STUDIES III 100).

Or to mention our own field, it is mostly in the book review section that discussion will be found of such novels as Gonzalez's *Season of Grace* or Tiempo's *Watch in the Night*; or of the short stories in Gonzalez's *Children of the Ash Covered Loam*; or of the poetry of R. Zulueta da Costa or Bienvenido Santos or of other contemporary Philippine poets.

A person who goes to an *Index to Philippine Periodicals* will perhaps be looking for just such material as we have mentioned. It would be a great service to such a person if the *Index* gave him the information he wanted, inclusive of book reviews.

II

The *Annotated Guide to Current Philippine Periodicals* is one of the fruits of Dr. Hart's long-standing interest in the Philippines and his three protracted visits to our shores. Donn Hart is one of the growing number of American scholars whose interest in the Philippines is more than merely professional: they have developed a personal affection for our land and our people. I first met Donn Hart at New Haven in 1948, several years before he set foot on Philippine soil: yet he had already published a little booklet on Rizal, the Filipino national hero. A country and a people that can produce such a man as Rizal, he said, must be really worth knowing. He has since come to know us rather well, by the only means by which a foreigner could really know us: by

living in the barrios and small towns. He spent a year in the little town of Siaton in Negros Oriental, which he calls the happiest year of his life. He spent a similar period (this time with Mrs. Hart) in the little town of Borongan in Samar. The fruit of that protracted stay in Samar is, a large collection of folklore which may soon be published. A third visit to the Philippines was spent largely in Diliman at the University of the Philippines: though we suspect that Dr. and Mrs. Hart would have been more at home in the little towns and barrios which they have come to love.

It was during an interval between such protracted visits to the Philippines that the idea of this annotated list of periodicals was born. Hart was then at the University of Denver and in his desire to increase the holdings of the Social Science Foundation Library of that university he sought information regarding Philippine periodicals. Father Cullum's survey of Philippine periodical literature for 1953-54 which appeared in *PHILIPPINE STUDIES* came to his hand. This and similar studies have been incorporated in Hart's introduction. On his next visit to the Philippines, he tried to ferret out every known periodical publication—a difficult thing to do in the disorganized state of the publishing trade in this country. The resulting *Annotated Guide* by Hart and Eala looks very modest: but it must have been born of no uncommon patience and persistence.

If animadversions are in order we would offer two. The first is that a too rigid adherence to a classification according to subject matter (agriculture, anthropology, etc.) has led to an imperfect classification of some periodicals. Such pigeon-holing is possible only in the case of specialized journals devoted to only one field. There are such specialized journals in the Philippines. But there are others also devoted to a wider field. *PHILIPPINE STUDIES* is listed under "Social Science." The classification is correct to a degree, for this Quarterly does publish articles in the social sciences (history, anthropology, economics, sociology, legal, social or civic problems, etc.). But the classification is also misleading, for a large proportion of the articles published in this Quarterly are in areas other than the social sciences. In the last five years no less than seventeen articles were in the strictly physical (or "natural") sciences (astronomy, meteorology, the ionosphere, chemistry, seismology, etc.). Many other articles were in fields not generally included in the term "social science" (agriculture 3, art 7, drama 7, literature 8, philosophy 3, etc.).

Furthermore, the descriptive notices do not seem to be always accurate and may be the result of a too cursory examination of the periodical in question. To mention a modest instance: HEIGHTS, the literary quarterly published under my direction, is incorrectly described on page 94. The August 1954 issue of that magazine was not Volume I Number 1 but Volume III Number 1. Mr. Severino was not editor in August 1954 but came to the editorship later (editors are changed every semester or so). And finally HEIGHTS does *not* publish "news of the Ateneo and personal items about faculty and alumni" (such items are found in the three newspapers and three yearbooks published by the Ateneo de Manila): HEIGHTS is a literary magazine which publishes stories, essays, verse, plays, drawings, illustrated travelogues, and reviews of current books, drama and music.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

SOCIAL WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORKERS, Manila, as published by the Philippine Association of Social Workers (PASW) in *Social Work* 2 (April to July 1957) 35-80.

"THIS is the first conference of social workers in this country. It is a small beginning as beginnings generally are and should be." The modest greeting by Mrs. Virginia A. Paraiso, president of the PASW, fails to prepare the audience for the high quality of prepared talks and participant-discussion which followed on 16-17 November 1956. The theme of the Conference ("Social Work and Community Development") was clarified by definitions of "social work" and "community development." For "social work" Stroup's definition is employed: "the art of bringing various resources to bear on individual, group, and community needs by the application of a scientific method of helping people to help themselves."

Following an address by the Honorable Carlos P. Garcia, then Vice-President of the Philippines and Secretary of Foreign Affairs, a forthright recognition was made of the Filipino's economic situation by Ernest E. Neal, Special Assistant for Community