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Literary Survey—1953

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Literary Survey-1953

There does not exist in the Philippines as far as this writer knows any composite list of publications by which the world of scholarship might be enabled to keep abreast of the national literary out-put. The following pages are an attempt at something of this sort for the year 1953 based solely on the titles registered in the copyright office. Acknowledgment is due to the officials of that office for their courtesy in allowing access to their lists and shelves.

The year 1953 saw about 160 books copyrighted, which originated in the Philippines. This figure is not meant to be statistical but rather to convey a quantitative impression. There are many elements of the study that make accuracy difficult, and since mathematical correctness in the matter is not particularly a desideratum, we shall spare ourselves the labor of striving for greater precision.

One of the difficulties is with the definition of a book. It is easy enough to define a book out of a dictionary, but in the sense of intellectual interest, is, for example, a business directory a book? Or a memorial volume published on the occasion of a city's anniversary, and composed mostly of ads?

The second difficulty is that not all "books" are copyrighted and therefore are not easy to list without a lot of detective work, not worth the candle.

In spite of these misgivings, we can assume that most of us understand what a book is in the sense in which it is a subject of interest to this review. If some items escape us because we have confined our classification to the copy-

right list, we can feel confident that they are not very important and that their absence will not be a great loss. (Our confidence in this principle is somewhat shaken by the discovery that neither J. M. Hernandez' *Education or Chaos*¹ nor Father James P. Moran's *Analysis of Apologetics* is copyrighted!)

The vast majority of the books copyrighted are texts, about one-third of the total number falling under this category. Another big division is that comprising law books, which constitute another 15% of the whole. Many of these could, of course, also be classified as text-books.

There is a small group of devotional books, a certain number of directories, a half-dozen cook-books. In addition there are miscellaneous and highly specialized publications like *Love Letters*, which, however fascinating they may be for the audiences for which they were intended, will not be of interest in a survey of literature.

The predominance of text-books indicates the important role played by the schools in Philippine publication. The same sector of the country's life has also produced a relatively large number of books on education. The most important of these is Father F. Evergisto Bazaco's revised edition of his *History of Education in the Philippines*,³ which has established itself as the recognized reference on the subject. Pedro T. Orata has gathered his ideas on community education into *Education for Better Living*.⁴ Dr. Orata's theories are familiar to the newspaper reading public since he has serialized some of them in the dailies.

Several books support the integration vogue. Such is *Integrated Teaching*⁵ by Geronimo Mejia, assisted by Jose

¹ *Education or Chaos*. By José M. Hernandez. A pamphlet reprint of ten articles previously published singly in the *Manila Times*. 1953. Pp. 2-64. Appendix.

² *Analysis of Apologetics, Catholic Doctrine, Morals*. Book I, Parts I and II; Book II, Part II. By James P. Moran, S.J. Catholic Trade School, Manila. 1953. Pp. 211, 201, 321.

³ *History of Education in the Philippines*. F. Evergisto Bazaco, O.P. Second Revised Edition. Manila. 1953. Pp. xiv-423.

⁴ *Education for Better Living*. By Pedro T. Orata. Foreword by Pedro G. Guiang. Manila. 1953. Pp. xv-495. Index.

⁵ *Integrated Teaching*. By Geronimo Mejia assisted by José Peñaranda. Cosmopolitan Educational Supply, Ormoc City. 1953. Pp. iv-106. Appendix.

Peñaranda. Both authors are former public school superintendents and at present professors in Western Leyte College. Emilio Edualino, Patrocinio A. Aguita and Florencio Sugue have collaborated on *Integrated Activities: Long Range Plans for Grade V*.⁶ This is one of a series of teachers' manuals for each of the six grades of elementary school.

*Guidance in the Elementary School*⁷ by Epifanio Madali and José T. Cortés, both connected with the Department of Education, professes to put method into an activity which must in any case constitute a major portion of any teacher's work. Teachers who want to know the Philippine laws governing their profession, and statistics about it, etc., will find these data presented in an unattractive little book called *Handbook for Teachers*⁸ by Cesár V. Callanta.

History has fared better than most departments of learning. A. V. H. Hartendorp is the author of the attractively printed *Short History of Industry and Trade of the Philippines: From Pre-Spanish Times to the End of the Roxas Administration*.⁹ This indication of scope is somewhat misleading, as pre-American times receive only nine pages. The parts on the Japanese occupation are especially good. The author is editor of the *American Chamber of Commerce Journal*. Pedro Ortiz Armengol, Secretary in Charge of Cultural Affairs, Spanish Embassy, has raised certain objections to Mr. Hartendorp's treatment of the Spanish period and the latter has published these in the *Journal's* Jan. 1954 issue. Dr. W. H. Waterous has written his account of the Japanese times in a multigraphed volume: *Reminiscences of Dr. W. H. Waterous Pertinent to World War II in the Philippines*.¹⁰ Physicians especially will find this work interesting as the author, himself

⁶ *Integrated Activities. Long Range Plans for Grade V*. By Emilio Edualino, Patrocinio A. Aguito, Florencia Sugue. Philippine Book Co., Manila. 1953. Pp. 108.

⁷ *Guidance in the Elementary School*. By Epifanio Madali and José T. Cortés. Manila. 1953. Pp. viii-164. Index.

⁸ *Handbook for Teachers*. By Cesár V. Callanta. Dagupan City. 1953. Pp. iii-101.

⁹ *Short History of Industry and Trade of the Philippines. From Pre-Spanish Times to the End of the Roxas Administration*. By A. V. H. Hartendorp. Manila. 1953. Pp. x-276.

¹⁰ *Reminiscences of Dr. W. H. Waterous Pertinent to World War II in the Philippines*. By W. H. Waterous. Manila. 1953. Pp. 139. Multigraph.

a medical doctor, offers many minute observations on the medical problems that arose from the hardships of war. Dr. Waterous could speak as an eye-witness of what happened on Corregidor, in Bataan and the Old Bilibid. Elias M. Ataviado has contributed to a little known phase of revolutionary history in *The Philippine Revolution in the Bicol Region*.¹¹ This is the first volume of four and covers the period from August, 1896 to January, 1899. The work is from the Spanish *Lucha y Libertad*. Medical men will welcome Dr. José P. Bantug's *A Short History of Medicine in the Philippines During the Spanish Regime (1565-1898)*,¹² one of the most scholarly productions of the year. And just the thing for the sala table would be *Pictorial History of the Philippines*,¹³ if the flimsy newsprint used did not prohibit much handling or exposure to light. An imposing array of authors collaborated in this interesting and informative work: Pedrito Reyes, Mercedes Grau-Santamaria, H. Otley Beyer, Jaime de Veyra.

In the field of biography the national hero receives most attention. Judge Leonardo Garduño's *Rizal and His Enemies* and Encarnacion Alzona's *Rizal's Legacy to Women*¹⁴ treat special phases of his life. The latter is a brief study of 21 pages which gathers from letters, novels, etc., of Rizal, whatever he said pertinent to women. We were not able to examine Judge Garduño's work. *José Rizal for Children*¹⁵ by Paz Mendez though copyrighted this year belongs to an earlier date, 1950. It was published before Father Cavanna's definitive work and thus can contain the remark: "Controversial subjects such as Rizal's conversion are treated to a minimum so as not to burden the young mind with speculative ideas."

¹¹ *The Philippine Revolution in the Bicol Region*. By Elias M. Ataviado. Vol. I. Prologue by Theodore M. Kalaw. Manila. 1953. Pp. xvi-204.

¹² *A Short History of Medicine in the Philippines During the Spanish Regime. 1568-1898*. By José P. Bantug. Colegio Médico-Farmacéutico de Filipinas, Inc. Manila. 1953. Pp. xv-182. 2 appendices, index.

¹³ *Pictorial History of the Philippines*. By Pedrito Reyes, Mercedes Grau-Santamaria, H. Otley Beyer, Jaime C. de Veyra, and others. Manila. 1953. Pp. viii-512. Index.

¹⁴ *Rizal's Legacy to Filipino Women*. By Encarnación Alzona. Pasay City. 1953. Pp. 21.

¹⁵ *José Rizal for Children*. By Paz P. Mendez. Manila. 1950. Pp. 204.

I. V. Mallari's *Rizal and You*¹⁶ and Benjamin Cailles Ungson's *Rizal*¹⁷ complete the list. The latter is a publication in Tagalog by the *Iglesia ng Watawat ng Lahi*. Mallari's book is a life of Rizal with applications for children. It not only does not mention the hero's conversion but not even the visits of the priests.

The President had a campaign biography by J. V. Merritt, *Magsaysay Man of the People*, and Herminia M. Ancheta continued her *Leading Filipino Women*,¹⁸ a series of biographies for children. The present volume is number five, and contains the lives of twenty-three women, among whom it is gratifying to find Mrs. Quezon and Mrs. Sofia de Veyra.

In Sociology and Economics the most significant work has been done in government reports and surveys. Outside this field there was *Questions and Answers on the Magna Carta of Labor*¹⁹ by Cipriano Cid and Vicente A. Rafael. This is a publication of PAFLU (The Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions) and carries forewords by José Figueras and Quintin Paredes. The appendices are useful. Antonio Isidro's *Philippine Social Life and Youth*²⁰ will be reviewed in a future issue.

*Planting Rice Is Never Fun*²¹ by Francisco Ortigas was one of the most discussed books of the year. The author was formerly a member of NARIC, and though not an economist drew from his experience to offer suggestions on the vital topic of producing the nation's staple. Nemesio Mendiola treated the same subject from an agriculturist's point of view in *Rice Culture in the Philippines*.²² The author is a professor at the Araneta Institute of Agriculture and editor

¹⁶ *Rizal and You*. By I. V. Mallari. Bookman, Inc., Manila. 1953. Pp. x-145.

¹⁷ *Rizal*. By Benjamin Cailles Ungson. 1953. Pp. xi-111.

¹⁸ *Leading Filipino Women*. By Herminia M. Ancheta. Book V. Manila. 1953. Pp. xiv-136. Glossary.

¹⁹ *Questions and Answers on the Magna Carta of Labor*. By Cipriano Cid and Vicente A. Rafael. Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions, Manila. 1953. Pp. iv-100. Appendices A to L.

²⁰ *Philippine Social Life and Youth*. By Antonio Isidro. Philippine Education Co., Manila. 1951. Pp. xiii-476.

²¹ *Planting Rice Is Never Fun*. By Francisco Ortigas, Jr. Manila. 1953. Pp. vii-174.

²² *Rice Culture in the Philippines*. By Nemesio Mendiola. Malabon. 1953. Pp. 5-108. Mimeo.

of the *Araneta Journal of Agriculture*. Sugar News published a *Handbook of the Sugar and Other Industries in the Philippines*.²³

Some of the best work in the socio-economic field has not got beyond the stage of periodical or mimeographed publication. Such for example, in addition to Mendiola's book mentioned above, is Jeremias U. Montemayor's serialized *Plows and Peace*. Also mimeographed and used at the University of the Philippines in the strictly sociological field is *Elementary Sociology*²⁴ by Chester Hunt, Caller, Corpus, Guiang and Nelson. Another mimeographed text, *Sociology*²⁵ by Benicio T. Catapusan and Flora Diaz Catapusan, second edition, will be reviewed in a future issue.

The title would classify Richard N. Thompson's *Languages of the Philippines*²⁶ as philology but the contents are wider. And that is the difficulty with this attractive little book. It attempts too much. Another work that defies classification is *The Skyland of the Philippines*²⁷ by Laurence Lee Wilson, an encyclopedia *in parvo* about the Mountain Province, containing, as its preface says, "a bit of anthropology, mineralogy, government, study of human relations, folklore, social investigation, all blended . . . into history."

In philosophy Ricardo R. Pascual produced *Fundamentals of Logic*.²⁸ This book was really published in 1952, though not copyrighted till 1953. George Earle Owen's *Faith and Freedom: The Problem of Religious Freedom and the Christian Answer*²⁹ is a publication of the Philippine Federation of Christian Churches. Chapter VII will serve to identify its

²³ *A Handbook of the Sugar and Other Industries in the Philippines*. Sugar News, Manila. 1953. Pp. 168.

²⁴ *Elementary Sociology*. By Chester Hunt, Caller, Corpus, Guiang and Nelson. University of the Philippines, Quezon City. 1953. Pp. vi-428. Glossary. Mimeo.

²⁵ *Sociology*. By Benito T. Catapusan and Flora Diaz-Catapusan. Second Edition. Manila. 1953. Pp. xxvi-567. Mimeo.

²⁶ *Languages of the Philippines*. By Richard N. Thompson. Community Press, Pampanga. 1953. Pp. 111.

²⁷ *The Skyland of the Philippines*. By Laurence Lee Wilson. Baguio. 1953. Pp. xvi-188.

²⁸ *Fundamentals of Logic*. By Ricardo R. Pascual. Manila. 1952. Pp. ix-352. Index.

²⁹ *Faith and Freedom*. The Problem of Religious Freedom and the Christian Answer. By George Earle Owen. The Philippine Federation of Christian Churches, Manila. 1953. Pp. xi-116.

genre: "Political Roman Catholicism. A Totalitarian Church." This book leans heavily on Blanshard. Recommended reading for Dr. Owen: James M. O'Neill's *Catholicism and American Freedom*.

In literature two anthologies head the list. The first, *Philippine Writing*,³⁰ edited by Agcaoili, reviewed in this magazine, Vol. I, 3-4, p. 278, contains short stories, poems and essays by Filipino writers. The second is *Philippine Harvest*,³¹ edited by Maximo Ramos and Florentino B. Valeros. The collection contains fourteen short stories, seven essays, six poems, four biographies and three dramatic pieces. Questions for study are listed after the several contributions and a series of short biographies of the contributors concludes the work. *Watch in the Night*,³² a novel by Edilberto K. Tiempo is reviewed in this issue.

Two other collections serve to perpetuate the ideas of two very prominent political figures. Carlos R. Lazo has published *Quirino Selected Speeches*,³³ with a short biography and a foreword by the former President's running mate in the last elections, José Yulo. At the same time José P. Laurel has given the public *Bread and Freedom*,³⁴ a series of essays on political subjects derived mostly from speeches on various occasions. The idea behind the title is that Filipinos must choose between temporal advantages and fidelity to democratic principles.

Spanish literature was increased by a small collection of poems edited (and nearly all written) by Remigio S. Jocson, called *Luciérnagas*.³⁵ Mr Jocson is a journalist and teacher of Spanish in various local educational institutions.

The first comment that is provoked by this list is that

³⁰ *Philippine Writing*. An Anthology. Edited by T. D. Agcaoili. Archipelago Publishing House, Manila. 1953. Pp. xxxi-351.

³¹ *Philippine Harvest*. Edited by Maximo Ramos and Florentino B. Valeros. Manila. 1953. Pp. x-287.

³² *Watch in the Night*. By Edilberto K. Tiempo. Archipelago Publishing House, Manila. 1953. Pp. 212.

³³ *Quirino Selected Speeches*. Edited by Carlos R. Lazo. Foreword by José Yulo. Brief Biography. Manila. 1953. Pp. xvi-333.

³⁴ *Bread and Freedom*. By José P. Laurel. Manila. 1953. Pp. vii-159. 2 indices.

³⁵ *Luciérnagas*. Colección de Poesías. By Remigio S. Jocson. Manila. 1953. Pp. 105.

Catholic schools are producing very little writing. If we except Father Bazaco of the University of Santo Tomas and one or two others, hardly anything, whether in the anthologies or out of them, is issuing from Catholic Schools. Granted that most of the material published is not of very high quality, nevertheless it holds the field and is circulated and read, whereas the good but, alas, unwritten treasures lie locked in ivory towers.

The second reflection is that many of the publications are very poorly gotten out. There are notable and encouraging exceptions: Father Bazaco's *History of Education*, Orata's *Education for Better Living*, Agcaoili's *Philippine Writing*, Hartendorp's *History* and others. But many are done in cheap newsprint, which indeed is understandable in the case of purely ephemeral items, but in the case of Laurel's *Bread and Freedom*, and the *Pictorial History* the question arises why, if these works were considered worth publishing (and they definitely were) they were not considered deserving of a more enduring and becoming format.

A final thought, and this is probably connected with the preceding, is that the publishing firms do not seem to be making the contribution they should to the intellectual life of the nation. At present their activities seem to differ little from the activities of any other manufacturer. They make books and sell them.

It is true that their leading representative, Mr. M. J. Enriquez, not long ago expressed himself in terms of higher idealism but the performance does not seem to support his professions. At the Biennial Conference of the Philippine Library Association, in April 1953, Mr. Enriquez, who is President of the Philippine Book Dealers Association and of the Filipino Textbook Publishers Association, made a plea for a greater volume of purchase of the products of the organizations he represents. He said that the book dealers and publishers of the Philippines were "committed to the worthy task of spreading knowledge and enlightenment among our fellowmen." ". . . dispelling ignorance wherever it is found, opening to everyone the boundless opportunities for self-betterment which libraries unfailingly offer."

Professor Gabriel Bernardo, who just at that time was finishing his term as President of the Philippine Library Association, asked Mr Enriquez if the associations he represented could furnish the Philippine Library Association with the list of books published in the Philippines. Mr. Enriquez assured Professor Bernardo and the Philippine Library Association members that the proposition would be given full attention.

As far as this writer knows nothing has come of this suggestion of Professor Bernardo, but if such a list could be made available it would help to accomplish the purposes of Mr. Enriquez's organization, and make their products more widely known and read.

An example of this indifference to the ordinary media traditionally employed by publishing houses for reaching their public is the impossibility of getting books for review. The books sent *gratis* to this magazine for review have all come from the United States with one exception. That was *Watch in the Night*, reviewed in this issue, which was sent *gratis* by Archipelago Publishing House, the first book so received from a Philippine publisher; copyright 1954. It is true that the circulation of our magazine is unimpressive, but certainly if American houses think it worth their publications, local firms should find it equally so.

Mr. Enriquez pleaded for the presence in libraries of "an appreciable quantity of reading matter written on their [the Filipino readers'] knowledge level and laid against a background that is typically Philippine." This appeal is not likely to be productive of results as long as it is so difficult to find out what the local publications are. The publishers of this country belong, as Mr. Enriquez pointed out, to a cultural profession. Traditionally book publishing is their art, the promotion of learning and culture is their ideal. But there is some suspicion that as education and medicine have been in certain quarters degraded to mere money making occupations, with the resulting diploma mills and commercial hospitals, so too the book publishing profession is being guided too exclusively by the profit motive, Mr. Enriquez's fine professions to the contrary notwithstanding.

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