

philippine studies

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

Editor's Preface

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Philippine Studies vol. 24, no. 1 (1976) 3–4

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Fri June 27 13:30:20 2008

Editor's Preface

An article in a recent issue of *Philippine Studies* analyzed the history of the Tagalog novel. Other vernacular literatures have been less deeply studied generally than Tagalog. Edna Manlapaz offers an overall survey of the various genres of Pampangan literature, on which relatively little has yet been published, and brings together the results of some unpublished studies of individual authors.

Contemporary efforts by government technocrats and experts to plan and implement measures for the modernization and development of the nation often meet with determined opposition from the ordinary people affected by these planners, even from those for whose benefit the measures are professedly being taken. "People power" is a force which can be met with repression or utilized for community development. Mary Hollnsteiner, illustrating her point from the Philippine experience, shows the need for participation of the people in the planning of the experts as well as in the implementation of the plans. Analyzing the various modes of encouraging such participation, she shows how people power must be reckoned with, and indicates the kind of education needed by the experts and management personnel as well as the people themselves to make people power a constructive force for development.

Related to the subject of people power is the issue of human freedom, not only an important philosophical and theological issue, but one which has manifold practical implications in contemporary Philippine life. The theme of freedom appears in several articles in this issue, both on the theological and philosophical, as well as the practical levels. *Philippine Studies* is not a theological or philosophical journal, but as the publication of a university built on the Catholic humanistic tradition, we believe that theology and philosophy, no less than history, literature, or sociology, have much to contribute to the understanding of Philippine culture and

contemporary problems. The concerns of Philippine and Asian theology, to be sure, are, or ought to be, quite different from those springing from the theological problematic of the European and American world. Hence articles treating their theological problems or themes are not the concern of this journal. At first glance, the review article by C. G. Arévalo, dealing with human freedom, might seem to belong to one of those general theological themes. Its relevance to contemporary Philippine life, however, is made evident by a recent paper reproduced in the Texts and Documents section, by the author of the book reviewed by Arévalo, Antonio B. Lambino. In it Lambino concretizes the theme of his book by dealing with concrete issues of religious freedom facing the Christian churches in the Philippines today. Another aspect of human freedom is discussed by Vitaliano R. Gorospe, who has written widely on family planning and population control, when he examines the respect for that freedom which is demanded from both government and Church in these matters. Finally, a review article by Walter Ysaac, though not dealing specifically with Philippine theology, analyzes an effort by an Asian Christian theologian to confront Thai culture with Christian theology. Though the cultural background of Thailand is predominantly Buddhist rather than Christian, as in the Philippines, the effort should have something to say to Filipino philosophers and theologians as well.

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