

philippine studies

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

Die Missionarische Erschliessung Ozeaniens

Review Author: John N. Schumacher

Philippine Studies vol. 21, no. 3 (1973): 395–396

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

Book Reviews

**DIE MISSIONARISCHE ERSCHLIESSUNG OZEANIENS: Ein quellen-
geschichtlicher und missionsgeographischer Versuch zur kirchlichen
Gebietsaufteilung in Ozeanien bis 1855.** By Reiner Jaspers. Münster:
Aschendorff, 1972. xxiv, 288 pages. 4 maps.

This comprehensive study of the opening of Oceania to the Christian missions is the latest in a series of scholarly publications of the International Institute for Missiological Research of the University of Münster. The geographical area included in its scope extends south and east of the Philippines to Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, and the numerous island groups of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Its time span ranges from the early Spanish contacts in the Pacific, many of them intimately linked up with early Spanish contacts with the Philippines, in the sixteenth century, to the comprehensive organization of the ecclesiastical jurisdictions of the Pacific by the Holy See in 1855. It does not pretend to be a complete history of Christian mission activity in this area, but rather a history of the efforts to organize the missionary work in a systematic way under the hierarchical structure of the Church, efforts which proceeded under many different auspices — political, diplomatic, commercial. Without such backing the work of the missions could scarcely have been begun in that age, but the support of such non-religious influences not rarely embarrassed or compromised the work of preaching the Gospel.

The book is divided into two major sections: the missionary enterprise under the jurisdiction of the Spanish *Patronato* and the Portuguese *Padroado*, and that under the responsibility of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. A brief intermediate section traces the organization of Protestant missions in Oceania, 1796-1852, under the auspices of British and American missionary societies. This intermediate section is not meant to be an exhaustive study, but rather to provide background for understanding the inter-action — often hostile, and strongly mixed with the political and commercial rivalries of Britain and France — of Protestant and Catholic missionaries. After an introduction to the geography, peoples, and cultures of Oceania, and the European concept of these, the first major section of the study treats the various Spanish efforts from Mexico and Peru to found an empire for God and King in the Pacific world. Among the former were the expeditions of Magellan, Loaysa, Saavedra, and Villa-

lobos, all of which not only extended to the Philippines but to other parts of Oceania as well. Though Spain was successful only in the Philippines, the years up to 1634 witnessed other abortive efforts, proceeding from Peru, to evangelize under Spanish auspices the Solomons, New Guinea, and other islands to the south. The seventeenth century saw increasing English, Dutch, and French penetration into the area, in spite of Spanish claims to keep the Pacific an Iberian ocean. But as first Portuguese, then Spanish power waned, the only new efforts were the successful Spanish Jesuit mission from the Philippines to the Marianas in the late seventeenth century and the abortive one to the Carolines in the eighteenth century. Unable to prevent the entrance of other powers into the Pacific, by the Nootka Sound Convention of 1790 Spain finally conceded the freedom of the seas for all areas not actually under Spanish rule.

Though the renunciation of Spain removed the jurisdiction of the *Patronato* from the greater part of Oceania, it was only some decades later, after the Napoleonic Wars, that the Holy See found itself in a position to begin the evangelization of the vast area. The second major section of the book recounts the gradual division of the Pacific, apart from Australia and New Zealand, into apostolic vicariates entrusted to the newly founded French missionary congregations, the Picpus Fathers and the Marists, the former in the east Pacific, the latter in the west. The gradual achievement of this organization by 1855 was accompanied by many painful vicissitudes due to the lack of personnel, European ignorance of the regions, and Protestant-Catholic rivalries, augmented by the rivalries stemming from British, French, and American commercial and colonial interests in the Pacific. All of this is traced in careful detail, principally from the Archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, and those of the Picpus and Marist congregations.

The author has drawn widely not only from archival material but other primary and secondary sources in many languages, and produced a solidly reliable account. If there is relatively little of the life of the Church in Oceania itself, he has not proposed to do this, but rather to provide a comprehensive framework up to 1855 within which that story can be securely written. In this he has succeeded. This is a work intended for scholars and specialists, and they will be served well by it.

John N. Schumacher

A CENTURY OF ACTIVISM. By Corazon Damo-Santiago. Manila: Rex Book, 1972. 334 pages.

Student activism of the early 1970s, especially in its violent and bloody manifestations, is easily in the mind's consciousness. However, student activism is not a new phenomenon in Philippine history. There were student