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## **Morga: Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas**

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SUCESOS DE LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS, by Antonio de Morga. Translated and edited by J. S. Cummins. London: Cambridge University Press [Published for the Hakluyt Society, Second Series, Volume 140], xvi + 347 pp. Glossary, illustrations, maps, select bibliography, index.

Morga's *Sucesos* is a classic in Philippine historiography. First published in Mexico in 1609, there have been at least six other editions, four of which are in English, besides a Japanese translation in 1966 (*Moruga Filipin Shotoshi*) and possibly a French in the 1890s. The volume under review is the best English translation so far and will perhaps remain the standard text for years, especially for those who cannot read the original Spanish.

A notable feature of the present edition is the copious annotation provided by the translator. Morga understandably had a limited view when he wrote his book; but Cummins has brought together the findings of later scholarship. This is exemplified by footnote 2, page 250 (among others), by which the diverging views of earlier editors of Morga are brought together, leaving the reader to make his own conclusions on controverted points. This procedure shows the intellectual honesty of a true scholar.

Annotations, of course, are not enough; the translation must be good. Cummins has succeeded in clothing a Spanish text in an English version, so that, were it not for the Spanish proper names he has retained, one would not easily guess this is a translation. There are many passages where the English text is not only exact, but picturesque; e.g., (p. 65) the text reads "...the bare-footed Fransicans" instead of the overworked "descalced Franciscans."

One hopes that a second printing would correct the typographical slips that have escaped the proofreader's eye; e.g., "advanatage" for *advantage* (p. 144). Perhaps, too, the maps could be improved to indicate the areas in the Philippines that were under *actual* Spanish rule in the time of Morga. Everyone knows these were not extensive, a geographical fact that must always be kept in mind in order to make a proper evaluation of the Spanish colonial experience in the Philippines. And one notices at least one omission in the bibliography, since it was published too late for inclusion in the list, namely, Nicholas P. Cushner, *Spain in the Philippines From Conquest to Revolution* [IPC Monographs, no. 1] (Quezon City : Ateneo de Manila University and Rutland, Vermont-Tokyo, Japan: Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc., 1971).

This book is highly recommended both for teachers of history and the general reader, although the price tag (\$16.00 in U. S. A., and £5 in U. K.) may be a bit too high for the interested reader in the Philippines.

JOSÉ S. ARCILLA