

philippine studies

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

Onorato: Leonard Wood as Governor General

Review Author: John N. Schumacher

Philippine Studies vol. 20, no. 1 (1972): 191

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

LEONARD WOOD AS GOVERNOR GENERAL: A Calendar of Selected Correspondence. By Michael Onorato. Manila: MCS Enterprises, Inc., 1969. ix, 116 pp.

The substance of this book originally appeared in a series of installments in this journal during the years 1964-1966. It consists of abstracts of correspondence concerning the administration of Leonard Wood as Governor-General of the Philippines, 1921-1927. Some twenty manuscript collections in various depositories in the United States have been examined to locate these letters to and from a very large number of Americans and Filipinos involved to some extent in Philippine affairs during those years. The significant letters have been abstracted with occasional brief direct quotations where it has seemed important to give the exact words of the writer. The collection has been extensively annotated by the editor.

This is not simply a reproduction of the original articles in this journal, since certain errors of the original version have been corrected, a number of footnotes added and others modified, generally in the direction of amplification, and with addition of interpretative material. This points up, however, the limitation of the book. Selection of materials and abstracting are, of course, already interpretative to a certain extent, however conscientiously done. But the fact that four major collections—the Quezon, Forbes, and Wood papers, and those of the Bureau of Insular Affairs—have not been included because of their voluminousness, makes it quite impossible to form an accurate estimate of the interpretation of the Wood regime implicit in this volume. It is indeed a more favorable interpretation than has generally been given by Filipino historians, and there are sufficient indications that such a more favorable attitude has a good basis. If, however, the book does not supply an adequate picture of the Wood years—something which the editor does not claim to do—it nonetheless provides valuable information or hints of information from the letters abstracted. No history of the period or biography of the principal figures involved can afford to ignore it.

Its main value, however, will be to serve as a well-informed guide through the extensive collections of papers abroad which are needed for the serious history of American colonial rule which is long overdue. Though some recent solid monographs have begun the task, the work of serious evaluation (or re-evaluation) of American colonialism has not yet progressed very far. Such an evaluation based on documents here and in the United States, shorn of the rhetoric so often found in the accounts of the period (from which the present compilation does not wholly escape—e.g., the frequent use of the derogatory term *politicos*), is badly needed. It is to be regretted that faulty proof reading mars this book, which will serve as a useful guide to scholars undertaking that task.

JOHN N. SCHUMACHER