philippine studies

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

Jocano: Sulod Society

Review Author: Frank Lynch

Philippine Studies vol. 20, no. 2 (1972): 344

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 wanted for the Philippines before granting her political freedom was far from realized even when independence was already seriously considered just prior to the commonwealth period.

Braisted has admirably accomplished his main purpose of showing how America sought to increase and maintain her naval strength in the entire span of the Pacific Ocean. This work is an expansion of an earlier book by the same author dealing solely with United States naval operations in East Asia. To support his thesis, it is evident that the author engaged in systematic and exhaustive spadework. Braisted went through voluminous and hitherto unavailable records at the United States Naval War College and the War Department.

On the whole, the book is factual and accurate. His literary style is easy to read and understand, his chapters are logically organized. Undoubtedly, the book is intended for students of naval history, but it is my opinion that non-experts can read it without necessarily being plunged into complexities which presuppose a general knowledge of the subject on the part of the reader. The author's narrative approach succeeds in conveying the excitement of the original historical situation discussed.

LESLIE E. BAUZON

SULOD SOCIETY, by F. Landa Jocano. Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 1968. 303 pp.

Dr. Jocano here presents a data-packed volume about the "Sulod," the name outsiders give to a group of Kiniray-á speakers who live and make kaingin in the mountains of Central Panay. The field research was done in 1957-58. Following introductory sections orienting the reader to the Sulod's location, language, and history (pp. 1-33), Jocano gives us an overall picture of Sulod settlements and economic activities (34-66). Then he gets into what is, for him, the heart of the matter the kinship system (67-100) and kinship behavior (101-24). After this there follows the longest chapter of all, an amply illustrated discussion of the typical Sulod life cycle ((125-240). Between this chapter and his summary (271-84), Jocano inserts an interesting but (to my mind) out-of-place section on ceremonies (214-70). There is a bibliography and an index.

The volume is, as I said above, a copious collection of facts. It also makes many pronouncements on "the" Sulod view of various aspects of reality. As a matter of fact, these broad generalizations make me more than a little uneasy. For my own experience prepares

344

me for considerable variability among even remotely situated people. The author's 50 case studies might have supplied some of this difference of opinion, but they are used mostly to illustrate the same kind of consensual statements. The fact that almost three-fifths of these cases came from just one knowledgeable but highly placed couple, together with the contradictions that sometimes apppear between generalizations in text and the unattended-to details in unrelated cases, makes one wish that Dr. Jocano had struck a better balance between the ideal and the actual, analysis and synthesis. But the professional reader will know how to deal with this problem in an otherwise very informative volume.

The book is marred by a considerable number of type-setters' and artists' errors which will annoy the reader almost as much as they do the author.

FRANK LYNCH

CONCISE DICTIONARY OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION. Edited by Stephen Neill, Gerald H. Anderson, John Goodwin. Nashville and York: Abingdon Press, 1971. xxi and 682 pp. \$10.50.

This volume is basically more an "encyclopedia" than a "dictionary" in the usual sense, because the articles are much fuller than normal dictionary definitions. It also rightly claims to be the first of its kind in the field. It describes the entire Christian world mission, both Protestant and Catholic, since the year 1492; roughly 80% of the articles are by Protestant authors about more specifically Protestant themes.

The authors are well known in their field. For example, Stephen Neill, a Bishop for twenty years in South India, has written many books on various aspects of Christian world mission. Gerald H. Anderson who has published widely on mission topics will be of special interest to Philippine readers, since he taught in the Philippines for some years at Union Theological College, and only recently returned to the United States to be the President of Scarritt College in Tennessee.

The book is both valuable and important because it gathers within two covers varied information not otherwise easily available. As every encyclopedia, it is to be consulted more than read, to be on the reference shelf rather than on the bedside table. Nonetheless, any readers interested in mission can find themselves so fascinated by page after page of different topics as to read on successively for some hours.

With regard to the articles themselves, it is clear that the historical articles are more valuable, because the data and facts have some permanence. The more current theological and sociological topics, as in-