

philippine studies

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

Some Notes on the Philippine Revolution: Julio Nakpil and the Philippine Revolution

Review Author: H. De La Costa

Philippine Studies vol. 12, no. 4 (1964): 747–748

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

the late Renaissance. This, after all, is all that the author intended. Indeed, he has succeeded in his work of chronicling the 'atheism' of the period. An added attraction in the book is an appendix in which Professor Allen studies the history and authenticity of the "famous, but invisible, polemic against the three major religions of Europe . . . assumed by men of the Renaissance and the early eighteenth century to be the charter of the 'atheists' confederation, a truly horrid protocol awaiting the signatures of the godless of all nations!"—the treatise, *De tribus impostoribus*.

ANTONIO V. ROMUALDEZ

SOME NOTES ON THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION

JULIO NAKPIL AND THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION. With the Autobiography of Gregoria de Jesús. Edited and translated by Encarnación Alzona. Manila, 1964. Copyright by the Heirs of Julio Nakpil. v, 181 pp.

Julio Nakpil (1877-1960) joined the Revolution on 2 November 1896, just in time to take part in the attack on San Mateo under Bonifacio's command. The following December Bonifacio gave him the difficult and dangerous mission of stealing—perhaps we should say surreptitiously requisitioning—gunpowder from the Spanish powder magazine at Binangonan. When Bonifacio went to Cavite for the Tejeros Convention he left the northern command to Isidoro Francisco and attached Nakpil to him as staff officer. After Bonifacio's death Nakpil served under Emilio Jacinto and, somewhat later, General Pío del Pilar. On 10 December 1898 he married Gregoria de Jesus, the young widow of Bonifacio, by whom he had eight children.

In 1925 Nakpil annotated Teodoro M. Kalaw's *La revolución filipina*, drawing for the purpose on his own personal experiences and what he had learned from eyewitnesses. These notes he inscribed to the National Library, but directed that they were not to be published until after his death. They are reproduced in facsimile in the book under review, which is edited at the request of Nakpil's heirs by the distinguished historian, Dr. Encarnación Alzona.

Included in the same book are several other manuscripts left by Nakpil and facsimile reproductions of his published musical compositions. The manuscripts, which are in Spanish, are accompanied by an English translation by Dr. Alzona, who also provides introductory material and explanatory footnotes. An appendix contains the autobiography written in Tagalog by Gregoria de Jesús Nakpil, with an English translation by Dr. Alzona.

The heirs of Don Julio Nakpil have rendered a public service by causing this valuable documentary source on the Revolution to be published. Dr. Alzona is likewise deserving of our gratitude for performing so competently her task of editor and translator.

Nakpil roundly asserts that both Bonifacio and Antonio Luna were murdered and that in both cases Aguinaldo was chiefly responsible. It should be noted that Nakpil did not have first-hand knowledge of these tragedies nor of the events that led up to them, although he was close to persons who did. Historians will have to decide what weight to give to his testimony.

Nakpil corrects Kalaw's narrative on a number of points. He notes, for instance, that it was Emilio Jacinto alone and not a delegation from the Katipunan who managed to communicate with Rizal on board the *España* just before the latter left Manila to serve as an army surgeon in the Cuban war. Nakpil adds that he had this from Jacinto himself.

The reader will be impressed by the burning patriotism and blunt sincerity manifest in every page of these notes. One supposes that the same qualities distinguish Don Julio's music, which is almost invariably on a patriotic theme. That, however, is mere conjecture, the present reviewer being completely unmusical. What he is able to appreciate to some extent is Nakpil's high regard for historical truth and for the critical reading of sources as a principal means of arriving at it. "Si acaso he incurrido incorrecciones," he says, "en estas mis apreciaciones, los que ésto leyeren pueden rectificarlo, y de este modo tendremos historia fiel y verdadera."

A hearty Amen to that.

H. DE LA COSTA

PROGRESS IN PHILIPPINE BIOLOGY TEACHING

BIOLOGY FOR PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOLS: THE LABORATORY, PARTS I AND II, AND THE TEACHER'S GUIDE.
Adapted from *High School Biology—Green Version*. Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, American Institute of Biological Sciences. [A joint project of the University of the Philippines, the Bureau of Public Schools, and the Bureau of Private Schools, with the support of the National Science Development Board.] Manila.

Seeing the need to revitalize the teaching of biology, the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) organized in 1959 the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) under the chairmanship of Profes-