

philippine studies

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

Ateneo Expedition to Sulu

Frank Lynch

Philippine Studies vol. 10, no. 2 (1962): 314—316

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

would have then gone on to the fiery, twin canvases of Luis Feito (coldly furious, ember-like studies of red on black: useless each, I am afraid, without the other); the controversial representations from the work of Antonio Tapies (reportedly exhibited against the artist's wishes); the intelligent collage-patterns of Francisco Ferreras (wraith-like in deep, cavernous creations of space); or he may have decided to hover nostalgically about the turn-of-the-century paintings of Isidro Nonell, with their eminently successful capture of light upon forms not yet unrecognizably abstract.

Zóbel's kinship with the East struck me even more when, a week after my visit to the Tate, I decided to examine a group-show from South Asia (India, Pakistan, Ceylon, and—unexplainably, I thought—Saudi Arabia) in the University of Durham's new Gulbenkian Museum of Oriental Art. A fair portion of the paintings on exhibit made part of the show look like a Zóbel "retrospective", though perhaps the pictures were not as well painted. F. N. Souza of India was represented by a "Madonna and Child" which recalls not so much the hieratic "Carroza" as the fine drawings in the "Sketchbook". Manuel Fernández, also of India, had a blue, black and tangerine abstraction called "Symbolic Presence" which in turn recalls the Zóbel of the later 1950s, though perhaps Fernández (as *The Guardian* of Manchester suggested) was really interested in exploring the New Vision/Univision line. It must be added that one does get the feeling that Zóbel has grown away from all this; but if he must now tap Europe for the kind of critical and popular response upon which his future as a painter vitally depends, he does so with a vision and a tradition not altogether uncolored by his long and happy exposure to the East.

ANTONIO G. MANUUD

Ateneo Expedition To Sulu

On Wednesday April 4 a Fokker Friendship aircraft swept into Manila's afternoon skies and headed for Zamboanga. A routine take-off for a routine flight. But the passenger list was anything but routine. It included six names belonging to young Filipino and American anthropology students. Their destination: Sulu. Their purpose: seven weeks' field study of the Tawsog, Sama!, and Badjaw.

They were well prepared for their task, for their study plans had been scrutinized and sifted by the Ateneo de Manila's

department of sociology and anthropology, where they are enrolled. All of them are anthropology graduate majors.

Miss Nena Eslao, who taught at Notre Dame of Jolo College before coming to the Ateneo graduate school, will study aspects of child-rearing among the Samal of Siasi. On her return from Sulu she will prepare for travel to the States for she has been awarded a research assistantship in the department of anthropology and sociology at UCLA.

Miss Mary Gonzalez is another grantee. She recently received a Fulbright travel grant and a Hazen Foundation Fellowship for doctoral studies in anthropology at Harvard. In Siasi she will study several life-crisis rituals among the Samal.

Mr. Richard L. Stone, an instructor at the Ateneo, will try to delineate some patterns of intergroup relations among the Tawsog, Samal, and Badjaw. Mr. Stone came to the Philippines as an American Fulbright scholar assigned to the University of the Philippines. After a year at the State university he transferred to the department of sociology and anthropology of the Ateneo. Just after his departure for Sulu word came that he had been granted a fellowship for study at the East-West Center, University of Hawaii.

There are also two Peace Corps Volunteers: Miss Dolores Ducommun and Mr. David Szanton. Both were in anthropology as undergraduates and are taking the opportunity to further their studies while in the Philippines. Mr. Szanton will do a reconnaissance of Sulu art, while Miss Ducommun will study ritual kinship among the Samal of Siasi.

The sixth passenger on the April 4 flight was Jorma Kaukonen, Jr. Jerry is an Ateneo undergraduate soon to transfer to the University of San Francisco. He will act as the team photographer.

Joining the flight at Zamboanga was Bro. J. R. Arong, a major seminarian of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who conduct Notre Dame of Jolo College and other schools in Sulu. Bro. Arong will study economic survival among the Badjaw of Bongao, near Tawi-Tawi. He prepared for his field study by a three-week survey in October last year.

The field director of all the studies is Wilfredo F. Arce, an Ateneo M. A. in sociology who has been doing fieldwork in Sulu since June 1961.

The entire program, including Mr. Arce's lengthy study of Jolo, is part of the long-range Coordinated Investigation of Sulu Culture (CISC). First plans for the CISC were made when, as

Director of the Ateneo de Manila's Institute of Philippine Culture, I was invited by Notre Dame of Jolo College to come to Sulu and, after a survey of the archipelago, to suggest how the College might increase its own and others' understanding of the peoples of Sulu. The first step was the full-time employment of a research social scientist, Mr. Arce. The second step was the financing of the series of connected summer studies. A third step, also underway, is the training of students from Sulu to continue the CISC operations by further research.

The CISC is the second area investigation to be directed by the Institute of Philippine Culture. The first, begun in 1957 and still in progress, is the Bikol Area Survey, supported in part by the Ateneo de Naga. The other major concerns of the IPC are research in Philippine language and language teaching (conducted by the affiliated Ateneo Language Center, directed by Father John McCarron), and research into Philippine values and social structure. The values study is being conducted from the anthropology viewpoint by myself and Mrs. Mary R. Hollnsteiner, research associate of the IPC. The psychological approach is taken by Father Jaime Bulatao and his associates of the Ateneo's Department of Psychology. From this multi-disciplinary effort will come greater understanding of the Filipino, be he Moslem or Christian or pagan, and from this understanding, it is hoped, will come greater national unity.

FRANK LYNCH