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Manifest Destiny: In The Days of McKinley

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library materials: in about one quarter of the courses the subject is such that the text-book is the "laboratory"; v.g., languages, accounting, mathematics; (b) needed materials not expected of the library: v.g. economic analysis relies on services for economics students; (c) class and level: the smaller the class, the more emphasis on library; introductory classes emphasize the text more than advanced courses; (d) lack of a reference librarian; (e) lack of understanding of library capability to contribute to coursework.

In the light of the previous parts, it is concluded that the Knox Library did not accomplish adequately the general educational objectives assigned to it.

A closing chapter summarizes and draws inferences for college librarianship. Library functions are not sufficiently determined nor pursued. There is too much faculty inertia, and too much conformity to this by library personnel. Collaboration of both is urged, and an outline of a program is suggested to determine the library contribution to each course, and to achieve that contribution in practice.

Perhaps this long summary will indicate the value of the book. The book itself should be read and studied by college librarians, deans, administrators, department heads, faculty members. It is firmly practical, and it punctures an illusion only to show the way to better reach an ideal.

ROBERT J. SUCHAN

MANIFEST DESTINY

IN THE DAYS OF McKINLEY. By Margaret Leech. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959. viii and 686 pp.

A good biography of this somewhat enigmatic President of the United States, whose term of office had such an impact on the course of Philippine history, has been lacking until now. The book under review takes a long step toward filling this gap, though its somewhat summary review of McKinley's life up until his election as President prevents it from being a full biography. Likewise, the period which the title promises to describe is illuminated chiefly in its political aspect, so that the social and institutional history of the times is somewhat neglected. However, as far as students of Philippine history are concerned, it is precisely the period from 1897 to 1901 which is of interest, and it was McKinley's political activity which had repercussions in the Philippines, so that the book is of importance for the Philippine historian.

Miss Leech has made copious use of the extensive but hitherto unexploited collection of McKinley's papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, as well as those of other prominent figures of the period in this and other libraries and archives. Extensive use of contemporary newspapers and magazines, as well as of secondary sources and interviews with contemporaries of McKinley and his family, were also skilfully employed in making live the man who was William McKinley.

He emerges as a deeply religious man, conscientious in the proper fulfillment of the duties of his office—though unfortunately this was not so of some of his political friends and supporters, for whose corrupt practices McKinley must bear some responsibility. This consciousness of duty played an important part in the evolution of McKinley's attitude towards the annexation of the Philippines. It seems clear that at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, which he had opposed as long as he could against the Congressional expansionists, he not only had no desire to take the Philippines, but confessed he did not even know where the country was. The arrangements between Aguinaldo and the American consuls Pratt and Wildman, whatever they were, as well as those between Aguinaldo and Dewey, were made completely without the knowledge of McKinley.

Yet once Dewey had defeated the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, the President's ideas began to undergo an evolution under various pressures to which he was subjected from expansionist, commercial, and Protestant missionary circles. He was anxious to get the port of Manila for American trade with China, which seemed in danger of being partitioned by the European powers and Japan. Once having made this decision, he was made to see that Manila could not be separated from the rest of the country, and came to believe that the only feasible way of preventing the Philippines from falling into the hands of one of the Powers was the annexation of the whole Archipelago. By the time the peace treaty was made with Spain, it was McKinley who insisted, against the opinion of the majority of the peace commissioners and the bitter unwillingness of the Spaniards, on the complete cession of the Philippines.

The historian may well be moved to a smile of cynicism at McKinley's well-known statement to the delegation of Methodist ministers that while on his knees in prayer one night, the Almighty had given him light to see the American duty of taking the Philippines so as "to educate the Filipinos, and uplift them and civilize and Christianize them". Clearly he had forgotten, or was ignorant of the fact that the Filipino people had been Christian in large part years before the first English settlers set foot on the eastern coast of what was to become the United States. One may well wonder, as Miss Leech points out, how much of McKinley's conviction was light from God, and how

much was the fruit of the wild enthusiasm which swept the country in these years for America's "manifest destiny" to bring the blessings of American civilization to the rest of the world. Yet, however much he may have deceived himself on this point, it seems clear that McKinley was personally sincere in his conviction of an American duty to the Philippines.

One factor in this conviction which emerges from the book is the President's appalling ignorance of the Philippines and the situation there. Even after more than a year of warfare between Filipinos and Americans, he continued to cling to his belief that there was no popular sentiment for independence in the Philippines, considering that only a small faction around Aguinaldo opposed American sovereignty. Cautious though he was in taking a position, he held on to it stubbornly once adopted, though it should be pointed out that others who had more access to the facts encouraged this view, as Otis, Schurman, and for a time, even Taft.

The book is a well written and vivid account of McKinley's presidency, rich in detail, even to excess at times, as in the prolonged discussions of Mrs. McKinley's illnesses. It will not offer anything new to the Philippine side of the story, but provides a revealing insight into the man who had so much influence in shaping the course of twentieth-century Philippine history, as well as into the forces which influenced him in his policy. For a full understanding of these years in the Philippines, a knowledge of this American background is essential.

From a scholar's point of view, however, criticism must be made of the disconcerting and somewhat confusing method used in citing sources. This makes it rather difficult to identify the source for a particular statement, in spite of the evident deep investigation into the documents which Miss Leech has made, and for which we must be grateful.

JOHN N. SCHUMACHER

FATHER MCKINNON

THE FIRST CALIFORNIA'S CHAPLAIN: THE STORY OF THE HEROIC CHAPLAIN OF THE FIRST CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. By Brother V. Edmund McDevitt, F.S.C. Fresno, California: Academy Library Guild, 1956. 259 pp.

This book is not primarily a study of Philippine history, but the biography of a California priest of the late nineteenth century, Father