

# philippine studies

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## **Through A Glass, Darkly: View to the Southeast**

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ture of the worst of war — the change in those who have somehow managed to live and must some day teach others to live! Alas, I find no mention of GAR in this or the preceding volume.

One other note. On p. 167 we have a wonderful account of Lt. Commander Flechsenhar's report of a U.S. destroyer trying to sink his precious submarine thinking it to be an enemy sailing vessel. Now "Flash" Flechsenhar's sub, the ROCK, was making 14 knots into the wind, and in any language, even Japanese, that is a very remarkable sailing vessel indeed. He records this in his log, and pointedly too. "Flash" was in Manila recently and told me he sent a follow-up signal to higher authorities that his "sail boat was unharmed and still proceeding into the wind at 14 knots." Here is a fine climax to a fine tale and it is regrettable that Admiral Morison was unable to get in touch with "Flash". The inevitable frustrations of the historian! The tiny sliver of the broken vase which always gets left out, no matter how closely and hard we look.

To sum up. This is an extremely well written book. The action comes alive and the research is superb. What is even better is the confident knowledge which the reader has that the story is written by a sailor, and one of the first water. The only real weakness of this series is that it is about to end. The next volume, *Liquidation of the Japanese Empire*, is the last volume planned. But the Navy is still out there, ploughing the seas day after day as it always has and always will. May we persuade Admiral Morison that all has not yet been told about naval operations in Korea? Or Indo-China? Or Suez? Or Lebanon? I hope we may, for if anyone can write these latest chapters of the Navy's history, the Admiral can. He is unquestionably the outstanding historian of the sea today, and will be for a long time to come.

CAPT. RUSSELL H. SMITH, USN

## THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY

VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST. By Santha Rama Rau. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1957. 240p.

This book is definitely not a "must" for social science majors. Indeed, one of its most refreshing features is a sturdy repugnance for statistics. If figures and percentages occur they are the kind that one passes on over a leisurely gin-and-tonic while discoursing on "my recent experiences in the East." On the other hand, the book is more than merely a glorified travel brochure. It is a collection of feature articles published serially through several months of HOLIDAY, the slick-paper magazine for *bon-vivants*. As such it is

engagingly written and exudes wit and grace if not always accurate information.

Since this does not pretend to be a scholarly study, certain naive generalizations will have to be overlooked, such as that the Burmese are perpetually happy, that Cambodians live in Utopia, that Indonesia is the third biggest democracy in the world, and that Filipinos generally flatter Americans.

One must also smile politely, forbearing comment, when the *rigodón de honor* is Frenchified into *rigodon d'honneur*; when the *patadiong* is put down as the national dress of Filipinas; and when the Philippines is said to have been converted to Christianity in the *fifteenth* century. What after all is a hundred years more or less to the readers of HOLIDAY?

The chapter on the Philippines concentrates on three topics: the pagan tribes of Northern Luzon, the Muslim communities of Southern Mindanao, and Manila. There is apparently nothing in between. The attitudes, values and idiosyncrasies of present-day Filipinos are seen — as through a glass darkly — in a poem which Mr. Zulueta da Costa wrote in the early thirties. One hesitates to gauge the accuracy of the author's observations on other lands by the accuracy of her observations on our own.

ANTONIO G. MANUUD

## CHRISTIANS UNDER STRESS

THE AGE OF MARTYRS: CHRISTIANITY FROM DIOCLETIAN TO CONSTANTINE. By Giuseppe Ricciotti. Tr. by Anthony Bull, C.R.L. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co., 1959. viii, 350p. \$4.95.

The period beginning with the coming of Diocletian (A.D. 284) and ending with the death of Constantine (A.D. 337) is shorter than an ordinary lifetime, but it is crowded with decisive events. When it began, Christianity was a somewhat disreputable religion subject to sporadic persecutions. At the period's end, Christianity had become thoroughly respectable and was no longer contending with hostile emperors but with two of the greatest heresies: Arianism and Donatism. The book under review presents this period to "historians and generally educated people." It is hard to imagine what new facts or interpretations it might hold for historians; generally educated people can at least find in it a few hours of interesting reading.

The style is simple narration without benefit of footnotes. However, a section captioned "Sources" (pp. 292-95) mentions enough documents to give "generally educated people" the feeling that they