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Marian World: Shrines To Our Lady Around the World by Zsolt Aradi

Review Author: Luciano Gonzalez

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MARIAN WORLD

SHRINES TO OUR LADY AROUND THE WORLD. By Zsolt Aradi, New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1954. Pp. 214.

"The veneration of Mary," the author writes in the introduction, "can be explained in terms of theology, but it would be a hard task to explain the extent of this veneration, its constancy and the fact that it is not limited to Christians. This book does not attempt to explain, it merely tries to describe this living faith, to suggest the vastness of this veneration and the richness of its historical and geographic context."

Zsolt Aradi, in his beautifully illustrated book, successfully achieves this purpose by taking the reader across the continents the world over to numerous Marian shrines and Churches built over a period extending from the early days of Roman catacombs to the latest miraculous event of the Weeping Madonna in Sicily in 1953.

The reader can walk in the footsteps of Mary, as he visits the various churches commemorating every phase of her life, from the Church of St. Anne, which marks her birthplace, near Jerusalem's Gate of the Lady Mary, to the Church of the Dormition, which honors her Assumption, on Mt. Zion of the same city. From the Holy Land he can journey to the most ancient monuments established in veneration of Mary, the time-consecrated shrines of Rome, the magnificent Cathedrals of Chartres and Notre Dame; to the other hallowed memorials of faith set up in Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, England, Ireland, Hungary, Roumania, Belgium and Austria. He will be further impressed with the extent of Marian devotion as he goes from shrine to shrine set up through the centuries by Mary's devotees in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Of great interest to the reader of PHILIPPINE STUDIES will be the pages devoted to Our Lady of Antipolo, to the shrine at Zamboanga, and to the Statue of the Virgin at Santa Rosa which is carried throughout the country in May.

Behind the graphically written narratives which sketch the tradition of each pilgrim place, Mary figures prominently as the Mother of Man, his intercessor with God, seeking to help him in the countless crises of his history. One living in these days darkened by the Communist threat cannot help but catch the glow of hope in the pages picturing the icons of Mary

in the cathedrals of Moscow and of Kiev and portraying the deep-seated devotion of the Russian people to the Mother of God. The apparitions of our own century at Fatima, Beaurain and Banneaux, each with a stirring message for our age — all these are very well narrated with accompanying photos.

The impressive picture of a forty-foot bronze statue, the largest image of Our Lady in the world, on Monte Mario, Rome, aptly crowns the book. And this with significance — for though historically styled defender of geographic Rome, Our Lady, portrayed with lifted arms, truly extends them in protection over Eternal Rome, the capital of the entire Marian world.

LUCIANO GONZALEZ

SHORTER NOTICE

RIZAL'S UNKNOWN STORIES. Edited by Juan Collas. Manila, 1953. Pp. 107.

This volume contains "The Vision of Fray Rodriguez", "By Telephone," "Tears and Laughter" and the "Letter to the Young Women of Malolos." The author says he has published these selections because they are not easily available. Perhaps a subsidiary purpose is latent in the dedication: "To the first major victim of resurgent religious intolerance and fanaticism in the Philippines, President Elpidio Quirino, in friendship and gratitude." Scholarly editing would have suggested a note that a maturer Rizal retracted some of the things in this book.

FREEMASONRY IN THE PHILIPPINES TODAY. By Mauro Baradi. Manila, 1954. Pp. xxxii-29.

This is principally an address delivered at the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America, held at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D.C., on February 23, 1954. The address itself was largely an account of the Putong-Trinidad-