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Editor's Preface

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Editor's Preface

The lead article for the present issue is a lengthy article, John N. Schumacher, S.J.'s "Recent Perspectives on the Revolution." Though some writers consider the history of the Revolution an overworked subject of study, Fr. Schumacher claims the contrary. He maintains that the subject has until recently scarcely been touched, owing to "the narrowness of the frameworks within which it has been studied, and the monolithic explanations of the course of events which have been advanced." Fr. Schumacher then proceeds to assess the positive contributions made to Philippine historiography of five recent studies. The new approaches and wider perspectives employed in these and other studies, claims Fr. Schumacher, render it "no longer tenable to advance a monolithic explanation of the Revolution." Instead, Fr. Schumacher sees the need to ascribe the revolution to a variety of causes operative in different parts of the country.

On 1 September 1981 the MEC celebrated what it called "the 80th Anniversary of the Philippine Educational System." Unless it were understood that the anniversary refers to the foundation of the public school system by the Americans with the inauguration of the Philippine Normal School on 1 September 1901, readers may be misled to suppose that no normal school had existed before then. In fact, the *Escuela Normal de Maestros de Instrucción primaria* was founded by royal decree in 1865 and put under the direction of the Society of Jesus. Fr. James Meany, S.J.'s article is a chronicle of that Normal School's history from its founding in 1865 to its closure in 1905. The article will be nostalgic for older residents of Manila because Fr. Meany has located many important institutions in the area bordered by Taft Avenue, Padre Faura, Pedro Gil (Herran Street) and M. Adriatico Street.

Did Jose P. Laurel live out his political philosophy, or to put it differently, did he apply his political views during the Japanese occupation? This is the question that Rolando M. Gripaldo proposes to answer in his article "Laurel: The Political Philosopher and the Man." Gripaldo's answer is a qualified yes. How Gripaldo qualifies his affirmative reply should be of lively interest to Laurel's admirers and critics alike.

This issue's "Documents" section contains Florentino H. Hornedo's investigation of the source of Nick Joaquin's short story "Doña Jeronima." Hornedo traces the bibliographical genealogy of the Joaquin story to a manuscript *leyenda* signed by Jose Rizal. The literary sleuthing demonstrated in Hornedo's study is certain to be of interest to bibliophiles and scholars.

Despite Pope Paul VI's call to "rediscover" popular religiosity, there remains relatively few studies on the subject; of these, an even fewer number successfully avoid the negative bias that usually, if unconsciously, informs them. Fr. Vicente Marasigan S.J.'s case study of a local religious sect, "Tatlong Persona Solo Dios," which is featured under Notes and Comments, is free of this bias. His article is a moving first person account of his contact with its members during the course of several visits he made to their headquarters on Mt. Banahaw.

The phenomenal growth of knowledge in the life sciences has created the new interdisciplinary science known as bioethics. Though bioethics may not appear of immediate concern to a Third World country like the Philippines, Fr. Vitaliano Gorospe presents a persuasive case for its relevance in his review article of Richard A. McCormick, S.J.'s *How Brave A New World?: Dilemmas in Bioethics*. Fr. Gorospe outlines the significance of McCormick's bioethics in the Philippine context in the areas of morality, medicine and law. Though intended primarily for the specialist in these three areas, the book appeals to a wide audience of laymen concerned with such current issues as contraception, abortion, sterilization, artificial insemination and euthanasia.

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