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The American Historical Collection of Filipiniana

E. VICTOR NIEMEYER

IN the challenging and informative Ateneo Centennial Report, *Higher Education and Philippine Culture*, the statement is made (p. 33) that the bulk of the source materials for a major portion of Philippine history is "outside the country in widely scattered archives and libraries." It is further stated (p. 37) that "for much of the documentary and printed material on the Revolution and the American period of our history the Filipino historian must go to the United States" where material may be found in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Harvard University Library in Cambridge, and the Newberry Library in Chicago. While these statements are undoubtedly true, the present writer would like to call attention to an extensive collection of materials existing in Manila: the American Historical Collection, covering mainly the U.S. period of Philippine history.

How this collection of Filipiniana came into being is an interesting tale. Former Ambassador Myron M. Cowen conceived the idea in 1949 of accumulating materials on the American phase of this country's history to serve as a reference library and as a contribution toward the restoration of library services interrupted by the War and the destruction which it brought. He succeeded in interesting the American Association in the Philippines in the project and a joint committee of three mem-

bers appointed by the Association and three appointed by the Ambassador was formed.

Ownership of the collection is vested in three trustee members of this committee. The collection itself comprises some 31 manuscripts, typescripts, photostats, and microfilms; 2142 books; 586 pamphlets; 5 photographic albums, including one of Rizal; 2 stamp albums; and 125 miscellaneous items including coins, medals, coats of arms, seals, and flags. It is located in the American Embassy on Dewey Boulevard. The materials are almost all post-war acquisitions.

After the War, the Department of Interior of the U.S. Government was requested to send duplicate copies of its publications on the Philippines to replenish materials destroyed during the fighting. These publications bear the stamp of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, a bureau whose functions were transferred in 1937 to the Department of Interior. While the exact number received is not known, it was considerable. The bulk of the acquisitions since 1950, however, have been by purchase or by donation. In October, 1950, the Historical Committee of the American Association bought some 400 *Filipiniana* items from James Wingo, a Washington book dealer. Following this initial purchase came donations from American residents of the Philippines and from others: 26 books, mostly reports of the Philippine Commission, donated by Kenneth Day from the collection of former Philippine Commissioner Dean C. Worcester; 14 early textbooks used in the Philippines donated by Ginn & Co. of New York; a collection of 19 books, 5 pamphlets, and various periodicals from Mrs. T. J. Wolff; an assortment of 29 books, 15 pamphlets, and numerous clippings and whole newspapers donated by Mr. G. N. Hurd, a former Justice of the Peace in Zamboanga; the official files of the Santo Tomás Internment Camp (10 volumes) and loose mimeographed materials donated by Mr. Frederick H. Stevens; and the Forbes Collection donated by the former Governor General William Cameron Forbes.

Forbes, or "Caminero" Forbes as he was affectionately called by many because of his attention to the building of

roads in the Islands, was the Boston blue-blood who served as a member of the Philippine Commission from 1904 to 1908 and as Governor General from 1909 to 1910. Although the master set of his collection had been donated to the Harvard University Library, he turned over to the Collection in 1951 his duplicate set plus some additional materials that Harvard did not need. His donation constitutes the true backbone of the Collection. It consists of 842 books, 179 pamphlets, the seal of the Philippines made in Bilibid, a Bagobo *bolo* and pouch, 2 very old guns, 2 brass Moro bowls, and various flags and picture albums. While there have been other individual contributions, the principal ones are mentioned above. In passing it might be well to mention a single contribution that evokes sentimentality. It is a small book titled *William Jones* that was published in 1912. William Jones, born in the Indian Territory that is present-day Oklahoma, was a distinguished anthropologist who had received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Harvard and who had gone to Luzon in 1907 to conduct investigations among the Ilongots. In their territory he was killed by hostile tribesmen in 1909. Upon hearing of the Collection his fiancée, who never married, donated the book in 1951.

Some attention will now be given to the American Historical Collection from a substantive standpoint. Although this should be considered as an incomplete survey, since there are many materials remaining to be classified and catalogued, the principal items in the various subjects included in the Collection will be mentioned. One only has to browse through the pamphlets to realize the impact that the acquisition of the Philippines made upon the American people. Chiding Americans for their limited geographical knowledge at the turn of the century, a historian has said that upon hearing of Dewey's victory in 1898, some seventy-five million Americans, including President McKinley, rushed to the nearest atlas to find out where the Philippine Islands were. Whether this is true or not, the fact is that the American people were to learn a great deal about the Philippines and the Filipinos in the next few years. No sooner had the treaty with Spain been signed when the proponents and opponents in the United States of Amer-

ican colonialism began firing away at each other with both barrels. Some thirty pamphlets of speeches by congressmen, judges, industrialists, and other civic-minded people attest to the fury of the debate. An example of the criticism of American policy with respect to the Philippines are the speeches found in the 14th, 17th, and 19th *Annual Meeting* of the Anti-Imperialist League (these three numbers are unfortunately the only ones in the Collection), an organization founded in 1898 to secure immediate independence for the Filipino people. More impartial are the publications of the Philippine Information Society of 1 Otis Place, Boston, which was established "to place within reach of the American people the most reliable and authoritative evidence obtainable in regard to the people of the Philippine Islands and our relationship to them." Persons joining the Society were expected to inform themselves well of the "true state of affairs in the Philippine Islands" and "to circulate accurate information by informal conversation and by inducing others to study the facts collected." Toward these noble ends the Society published ten pamphlets every other week from May to September, 1907, titled *Facts About the Filipinos*, which cover all the period prior to the establishment of civil government. A complete set of these pamphlets, which appear to express both American and Filipino points of view during the difficult early years, is in the Collection.

The attention which the Philippines received in the Congress of the United States during the American period of its history is well documented by volumes containing the hearings before various committees of House and Senate in different Congresses. Of special importance with reference to American policy toward independence are *Hearings on Philippine Independence*, 3 vols.; *Bills and Resolutions on Philippine Independence*; and *Reports, Remarks, and Other Literature on Philippine Independence*. There is also a copy of *Acts of Congress and Treaties Pertaining to the Philippines* (1919).

Perhaps the richest part of the Collection treats of the civil government and administration of the islands from 1900 to 1935. Typescript copies of the Minutes of Public Sessions of the U.S. Philippine Commission (9 vols.) covering the period

from September 1, 1900 to October 15, 1907 are complete except for the period March 1, 1903 to August 31, 1903. Type-script copies of the Executive Minutes of the Philippine Commission are, unfortunately, not so complete, there being five volumes in poor condition covering the periods September 1, 1903 to March 1, 1904, September 1, 1904 to August 31, 1906, and September 1, 1907 to January 31, 1909. Complete sets include the *Reports of the Governor General of the Philippine Islands*, 42 vols. (1916-1935); *Reports of the Philippine Commission*, 69 vols. (1900-1915); *Executive Orders and Proclamations, Government of the Philippine Islands*, 34 vols. (1901-1902, 1903-1935); and *Executive Orders Relative to Sugar Allocation*, 4 vols. (1935). Other important publications include the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th *Annual Report of the Executive Secretary of the Philippine Islands*, 4 vols; the *Revised Administrative Code of the Philippine Islands* (1934); the *Manual of Information, Philippine Civil Service* (Revised to September 1, 1909); *Opinions of the Attorney General on the Philippine Islands*, Volumes I to VII with volume III missing; and *Report of the Philippine Commission to the President, Volume I* (January 31, 1900). There are also 33 volumes of *Messages of the President of the Commonwealth*.

While the legislative history of the period prior to 1935 is incomplete, there are, nevertheless, important publications in the Collection. These include *A Compilation of the Acts of the Philippine Commission Together with the Organic Laws of the Philippine Islands to October 15, 1907* (1908). There are five volumes of *Public Laws Passed by the Philippine Commission* covering the period completely from September 1, 1900 to October 15, 1907. It will be recalled that the First Philippine Legislature held its inaugural session on October 16, 1907. In addition there are 24 volumes of *Public Laws Enacted by the Philippine Legislature*, a complete set except for two missing volumes. There are also numerous volumes of the *Diario de Sesiones de la Asamblea Filipina*, *Actas de la Asamblea Filipina*, *Actas de la Cámara de Representantes*, *Diario de Sesiones (Senado)*, and *Actas del Senado*. The latter set alone contains 16 volumes. There is a copy of *Philippine Assembly, 1st Phil-*

ippine Legislature, Official Directory (1908) and the *Commission Journal*, 1st through 3rd Philippine Legislature (19 vols.). Legislation for the period 1907 to the present that may not be found in the above references may be found in the *Official Gazette* which, except for volumes 23 to 25 (1925-1927), is complete.

It would seem that collections of military history in the History Section of General Headquarters, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the collection known as "Philippine Insurgent Records" in the Bureau of Public Libraries would be well supplemented by the items of a military nature in the Historical Collection. These include *Annual Reports of the Secretary of War*, 1899-1903 (5 vols.); *Report of the War Department*, Vol. I for the years 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901 and Vol. IX for 1902; *Annual Report of the Major General Commanding the Army*, In 3 parts, Part 1, 1899; *Annual Report, Major General Arthur McArthur*, 1900, Vols. I, II; *Annual Report of the Lieutenant General Commanding the Army*, in 5 parts, part 5, 1901; *Annual Report of the War Department*, Fiscal Year 1902, 1905, 1907, and 1910; *Annual Report of the Secretary of War*, 1912, 1913, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1927; *Special Orders, Army Provost Marshal General*, 1898, 1899; *General Orders and Circulars*, 1898, 1899, 1900; *Special Orders, Headquarters, Division of the Philippines*, 1902; *General Orders, Circulars, and Special Orders*, 1906, 1907, 1909 and others for a total of 45 volumes. In addition there are many personal accounts of American soldiers in the Philippines, picture albums of their experiences, and *Harper's History of the War in the Philippines* (1900). The campaigns of the Philippine-American War (1899-1902) appear to be well covered.

Many of the volumes from U.S. Government sources bear the stamp of the Bureau of Insular Affairs. These contain pamphlets and reports which make even a cursory listing very difficult. For instance, Number 374 is a compilation of pamphlets and documents on the election of the Philippine Resident Commissioner, Mining Laws, Coconuts, Uses of Philippine Woods, Quarantine Regulations, Criminal Statistics, Persons Wanted, and Sailing Directions. Number 760 contains

subjects as diverse as Mabini's Manifesto, Pre-Spanish Chronology, Geological Notes, and Hospital Investigations. There are a whole series of miscellaneous unbound pamphlets, bulletins, and reports covering anthropological, ethnological, sociological, educational, geographic, agricultural, geological, and cultural themes. The common denominator is that all treat of the Philippines and their people. To illustrate the wide range of topics covered, the following may be cited: *First Report, Philippine Women's Club* (July, 1906); *Visayan Interscholastic Athletic Association Iloilo Meet, January 1-4, 1913*; publications of the *Liga Antipornográfica de San Francisco Javier* (Manila, 1905), *Studies in Moro History, Law, and Religion* (1905) by Najeeb M. Saleeby, a publication of the Department of Interior; and seven copies of *Mineral Resources of the Philippine Islands* covering the years 1908 to 1914, a publication of the Department of Interior that appeared annually over the period covered.

For the student of economic history there are scattered items to supplement a voluminous collection of U.S. Government publications on trade and commerce, finance, mining operations, and agriculture. Among the former may be found bound volumes of the monthly *Far Eastern Review*, complete from June, 1904 to May, 1912 except for the period June, 1906 to May, 1907, *Manila, Pearl of the Orient*, a publication of the Manila Merchants' Association (1908); *Port of Manila, Philippine Islands: Port Facilities — Trade Statistics, 1922-1923, Annual Reports of the Manila Harbor Board* (also for the years 1924, '25, '26, '27, '28, '33, '34, and '35). An illustrated pamphlet but somewhat on the lines of a tourist guide is J. R. Arnold's *The Philippines, Land of Palm and Pine, An Official Guide and Handbook* (1912).

In the field of periodicals there are two that should be cited among the many that are found in the Collection: the *Philippine Journal of Science*, Vol. I (1906) to Vol. XIII (1918), Vol. XXIV (1924) to Vol. XXXVII (1928) and Vol. XLVII (1932) to present. *Philippine Craftsman*, a publication of the Bureau of Education dedicated to vocational education, contains Volume I (July, 1912) to Volume V (March, 1917).

The Spanish period of Philippine history also receives considerable attention in the Collection. While there are quite a few monographs, the major emphasis is on reference materials. These include *Colección general de documentos relativos a las islas filipinas*, 5 vols. (1918-1923); *Catálogo de los documentos relativos a las islas filipinas*, 9 vols., (1925-1934); Alcubillas, *Diccionario de la administración española, compilación de la novísima legislación de España peninsular y ultramarina en todos los ramos de la administración pública*, 5^a edición, 8 vols. (1892-1894); Joaquín Escriche, *Diccionario razonado de legislación y jurisprudencia*, 4 vols. (1874-1876); and Combés, *Historia de Mindanao y Joló*, 2nd edition, 1897. Occupying a position of singular importance on the shelves is the monumental work of Blair and Robertson, *The Philippine Islands*, 55 vols. (1905-1908). As the Spanish period drew to a close there appeared the detailed and thorough *El archipiélago filipino, colección de datos geográficos, estadísticos, cronológicos, y científicos relativos al mismo, entresacados de anteriores obras u obtenidos con la propia observación y estudio por algunos padres de la misión de la Compañía de Jesús en estas islas*, 2 vols. (1900), of which there are two sets in the Collection. Although not complete there exists a set of fifteen volumes, some published and others in typescript, covering the invasion of the English from 1762 to 1765. These are titled *Records of Ft. St. George, Manila Consultations*. Printed and typed in 1940-1941 from documents in the archives in Madras, India, they were donated by Mr. H.P.L. Jollye of Manila.

Since "Rizal and Education" is the theme for the June celebrations of the Rizal Centennial, reference should be made to the works available on or by the man who symbolizes the struggle for Philippine independence and the forging of a national consciousness: José Rizal. The Collection contains some 28 volumes in this category, all of which are well known, including the *Epistolario Rizalino*, 5 vols. Perhaps an item not so well known is an album from the Forbes collection which contains pictures of Rizal's parents, members of the Rizal family, scenes of his travels in Spain and Germany, important events and happenings in his life, and his execution. There are also photostats of some of his letters.

The publications cited in the preceding paragraphs have largely been from government organs. It would be like leaving out a part of the story to conclude without mentioning the Collection's assortment of memoirs, travel accounts, biographies, and description of Filipino life and institutions by foreigners as well as Filipinos themselves. The more than four hundred volumes in this category range topically from descriptions of the Islands by Massachusetts whalers of the last century to guerrilla accounts of the last War. In addition there are many more listings in this category which are uncatalogued. One which should be cited is Paul P. de la Gironière's *Twenty Years in the Philippines* which was translated from the French and published in New York in 1868.

Since 1953 the Collection has been under the supervision of Mrs. Magdalena Manuel who finds the job of classifying, cataloging, answering requests for information, and caring for the Collection in general to be more than a full-time job. Because of the value of the materials and the poor condition of many bindings, the Collection has been designated for research purposes and for reference use only. Materials may not be checked out.

A preliminary survey of the American Historical Collection of Filipiniana indicates that it is a rich source of information on the American phase of Philippine history and possibly the most complete collection of its kind in the Philippines. Since much of the material in other collections covering the same period was destroyed during the War, it may be said that this Collection is an extremely valuable contribution toward the filling of the gap resulting from such destruction. For the scholar and researcher the true value of the Collection lies in the fact that it is accessible to the public and that it is in the Philippines and not somewhere else. As historians begin to tell the objective story of a past that was common to the Philippines and the United States, they will undoubtedly avail themselves more and more of this splendid Collection.