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## Editor's Introduction

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# Editor's Introduction

Entering a new terrain in Philippine historical geography, Daniel Doeppers draws from archival sources, interviews, and various types of underutilized materials to piece together a history of home fuel in Manila from 1850 to 1945. As urban growth proceeded and population numbers increased, the city's aggregate household energy requirements mounted. This pattern of change was inscribed on the landscape. Nearby sources of fuel wood and charcoal were exhausted rapidly, and increasingly distant sources were utilized—because there was hardly any deliberate planting and raising of fuel wood sources. Other activities, such as tobacco curing and brick making, also led to deforestation, but these are outside the scope of Doeppers's article. In any case, no entity arbitrated the public loss in the face of private gain. By the early 1870s—otherwise remembered for the Cavite mutiny—fuel wood supply from Zambales and other relatively proximate areas had plummeted and outer fringes, such as Tayabas, Masbate, Romblon, and Mindoro, met the need. In the first half of the twentieth century new kitchen technologies, which were being devised for the working middle-class woman in the West, became status symbols in Manila, thereby creating a demand for new fuel sources such as cooking gas.

Glenn May picks up a theme with which this volume started—men of prowess in the precolonial past, which has been borrowed from Southeast Asian studies. May marshals the notion advanced by Oliver Wolters to make sense of the divergent leadership styles of Bonifacio and Aguinaldo. As gauged from his consultative approach in reaching crucial military decisions Bonifacio apparently fitted the broad portrait of men of prowess. Although appropriate in other contexts, at the end of the nineteenth century

this approach had deleterious consequences on Bonifacio's fighting forces. In contrast, Aguinaldo preferred a centralized, hierarchical military style, which May attributes to Aguinaldo's experience as a *gobernadorcillo*, a town magistrate, which exposed him to occasional small-scale military operations. Circumstances in Cavite also favored centralization. May recasts the conflict between the two men as a Weberian struggle between the charismatic and the bureaucratic poles of leadership and authority, and thus proposes a theoretically informed way of coming to terms with one of the most perplexing episodes in Philippine history.

The past as depicted in three Cebuano novels published before the Second World War occupies the analytical focus of Erlinda Alburo. Rather than appearing under a single cover, these novels were serialized in Cebuano newspapers. Their authors were journalists who believed in the serious mission of the press in educating the public and effecting social change. Notwithstanding many questionable allusions to the past, these novels were patriotic; at the same time, they also sought to develop pride in being Cebuano. Alburo suggests that these works should be seen as products of a transitional period: from orality to literacy, from colonial to independent status. Needing greater examination is the relationship between regionalism and nationalism, and the seldom-recognized creative possibilities in this nexus.

The article by Michael Fabinyi bridges environmental concern with cultural analysis. Rather than resort to poverty and corruption as catchall explanations, Fabinyi deepens our understanding of the prevalence of illegal fishing methods—cyanide fishing and fishing within Marine Protected Areas in the Calamianes—by studying the participants and their motivations. He observes that young (not older) men are prone to go illegal fishing less so as an act of resistance against the state but primarily for the thrill of it. In taking such risky actions they demonstrate bravery and earn quite large sums of money, which enhance their masculinity and provide them bragging rights among peers during drinking sessions. These young men do not see the link between their behavior and the depletion of fish stocks, which make it harder and less remunerative for older men to fish. However, the generational conflict is not explicit, and mediating and mitigating factors may need further study. Nevertheless, from a problem-solving perspective, the fact that the mode of cultural analysis employed in Fabinyi's study can reveal interconnections among seemingly unrelated factors is a hopeful sign that new interventions can be designed.