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Cebuano Literature: A Survey and Bio-Bibliography with Finding List

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these conclusions, indeed scarcely discusses Blessed Ezequiel's Philippine career, but they are clearly evidenced in the narration of his subject's saintly life.

John N. Schumacher

DIGENETIC TREMATODES OF PHILIPPINE FISHES. By Carmen C. Velasquez. Quezon City, University of the Philippines Press, 1975. 140 pages, with illustrations.

This book answers the need for a comprehensive study of the known digenetic trematodes of Philippine fishes. Written by an internationally known Filipino parasitologist, it deals with the classification of the known parasitic trematodes (commonly called *flukes*) of local fishes, together with a description of their structure, life history, mode of life, and distribution. Identification keys for all known families, genera, and species in this country are given. Helpful illustrations of the parasites are also provided for. Also included in the book are a host-parasite list in which the scientific and vernacular names of the hosts are mentioned; an index in alphabetical order according to families with their respective genera and species; an extensive bibliography; techniques of parasite collection and preservation; and certain preventive measures against infection from these parasitic flatworms.

Needless to say, the book would serve as a valuable source of information to advanced students and researchers in the field of parasitology.

Jaime Joaquin

CEBUANO LITERATURE: A SURVEY AND BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH FINDING LIST. By Resil B. Mojares. San Carlos Publications, Series A: Humanities, no. 10. Cebu City: University of San Carlos, 1975. 194 pages.

Interest in research in the field of Philippine vernacular literature is a fairly recent development. In the past, Filipino critics and scholars focused their attention on studies in Western literature, neglecting vernacular writings which form the greater bulk of Philippine literary history. Libraries offered no encouragement either by way of providing the necessary bibliographic tools or research guides. At most, they yielded one or two unreliable survey essays and an often negligible number of primary materials. It took courage and patience then, as it still does today, to attempt to venture into the field.

Realizing that the grave neglect of our native literature cannot go on if we earnestly desire to understand ourselves as a people, committed scholars have begun to undertake valuable research in the field. Some Filipino writers in

English who have been exposed to foreign influences and whose works consequently manifest an alien sensibility have likewise seen the need to enlarge their awareness of our literary traditions. One such writer is Resil B. Mojares.

Appalled by the lack of serious studies on the once rich and active literature of the Cebuanos, but armed with the conviction that "recovery of texts . . . reconstructing their context" could lead to the literature's "metamorphoses into forms and visions more relevant to the changed times" (p. 1), Mojares directed his efforts to paving the way for intensive research in Cebuano literature. For two years, he patiently worked at recovering texts, gathering and compiling an extensive bibliography of Cebuano materials never before catalogued, collating data for a biographical index of Cebuano writers, and researching into the history of vernacular publishing in Cebu. The result is *Cebuano Literature: A Survey and Bio-Bibliography with Finding List*.

Mojares's *Cebuano Literature* is designed to give a bibliographic overview of the scope and content of Cebuano literature with the purpose of encouraging critical and historical studies on it. A valuable research guide for the literary scholar, it is divided into two main parts: the first gives a historical overview of Cebuano printed literature, and the second contains an annotated bibliography of periodicals, books, literary materials, graduate theses on Cebuano literature, and a biographic listing of Cebuano writers.

Considering the wealth of materials and information in the bibliographic and biographic sections of the book, one would expect the first part, the "survey," to present a literary history that puts in proper perspective the data presented. Mojares gives instead a history of printing in Cebu. He does explain, however, that many problems are still to be threshed out, facts and insights to be organized before what he calls "a synthesizing study of the total situation" (p. 8) in Cebuano literature can be had:

A number of veils still separate us from vernacular literature in the country. These veils are there primarily because of our neglect of the subject As a consequence, we still have to go beyond "suspensions" about the anemic nature of contemporary Cebuano writing for the simple reasons that we cannot as yet place our encounters with that writing within the proper framework of the tradition and environment which have either nourished or constricted its development (p. 8).

In opting to provide a history of vernacular publishing in Cebu instead of a critical survey of Cebuano literature, Mojares does shed light on certain conditions and problems in vernacular writing. He emphasizes, for instance, that a study of Cebuano writing would also have to be a study of publishing conditions, since Cebuano writing has for its outlets newspapers, tabloids, and commercial magazines. The prewar period, he notes, was characterized by a rise in printing activities resulting in the circulation of many periodicals. This he attributes to the nationalistic zeal of early writers and their conviction that "the use of the native language was crucial for the cultivation of

nationality" (p. 16). Vernacular publishing steadily declined after the war such that by 1972 only the magazine *Bisaya* remained the outlet for Cebuano literary pieces. Examining possible factors that brought about this decline, Mojares points out that (1) English alienated the educator and the educated from vernacular literature, (2) the promotion of Pilipino as the national language hindered the revival of interest in Cebuano writing, (3) radio and the movies lured away many readers of the literature, and (4) the failure of writers to free themselves from conventions contributed to stagnation in writing. Concluding this first section of the book, Mojares provides direction for future studies in Cebuano literature. What is needed, he says, "is a sympathetic understanding of the various interlocking social forces in the formation of Cebuano letters," more serious critics and researchers like Bienvenido Lumbera and Epifanio San Juan, Jr., in order "to create the kind of situation that will encourage the rise of acceptance, the deeper penetration of creative vision, and the improvement of craft in vernacular writing" (p. 38).

Mojares's history of printing shows his understanding of publishing conditions that gave rise to vernacular writing. It provides a good background for a literary history of Cebuano writing that still needs to be written. It is evident, however, that he has not entirely shaken off certain prejudices that have, in the past, alienated the educated reader from vernacular writing. The prejudice of considering vernacular magazines as nonliterary because they cater to mass taste emerges in his discussion of postwar vernacular writing (p. 20):

Vernacular writing, at its nadir, became associated almost exclusively with the lower classes, with rig drivers and housemaids, dismissed as popular pulp entertainment of *minimal literary value* — a far cry from the time when it was the language of poet-statesmen in the Visayas, the language heard at the old Teatro Oriente, where Manuel C. Briones delivered his eloquent speeches and . . . Vicente Padriga and Joseph Arcache jousted in verse. (*Italics supplied.*)

And yet, it is during this postwar period that many significant literary pieces saw print in the pages of *Bisaya*. Such a prejudice, therefore, can only harm rather than help advance the cause of vernacular writing.

In the second part of the book, Mojares presents the bibliography he has been patiently working on for two years.

The first section of the bibliography is an annotated list of 29 graduate theses written on Cebuano literature from 1917 to 1972. Although these theses indicate that Cebuano literature has not been entirely neglected, Mojares feels that they "leave much to be desired in terms of comprehensiveness and scholarship" (p. 2) and are therefore not very reliable sources of information.

The second section of the bibliography is a chronological list of 119 major and minor Cebuano Periodicals published from 1900 to 1972. The great majority (88) of these periodicals were published before the war, attesting

to the active prewar publishing done in Cebuano compared to the decline after the war.

Mojares provides the following standard information for each listed periodical: editorial staff, publisher, place printed, length of existence, whether issues of the periodical are still available and where they are available. Included in the list are periodicals published during the Second World War. There is no mention, however, whether these periodicals served as literary outlets.

The third section is an annotated list of 188 Cebuano books published from 1801 to 1972. Among others, these books include anthologies of Cebuano writing, fiction (including several translations of Rizal's novels and stories), original novels and collections of short stories, novels, plays, biographies and memoirs, and popular religious works.

Surprisingly, the fourth section, a list of 144 manuscripts, typescripts, and the like comprise a rather small collection. Plays account for three-fourths of the list. Obviously absent from the list are several plays written by such prolific dramatists as Piux Kabahar and Buenaventura Rodriguez. Considering the many studies that have been done on these writers, Mojares could have provided more titles than he has: he lists only four under Kabahar (the list does not even include the famous *Fifi*) and five under Rodriguez.

The final section of the book is a biographic index of 119 Cebuano writers. For this section, Mojares acknowledges as having provided him with much information Domingo M. Estabaya's "Sa Natad sa Katitikang Bisaya," a weekly column in *Bisaya* which featured Visayan writers. The list is far from complete and omits many important writers like Eustaquio Cabras, short story writer, poet, and critic who ran a column in *Bisaya* (from 1954 to 1957) assessing for the vernacular reader the literary pieces published weekly in the magazine; Tiburcio Baguio, a noted novelist and short story writer who helped formulate *Bisaya's* editorial policies to encourage experimentation in writing; the prize-winning short story writer Eugenio Viacrucis, who gave to Cebuano readers well-crafted stories; the editor Nazario Bas who was once a prolific short story writer; Benjamin Abellana, a short story writer and novelist who helped found LUDABI (a Cebuano writers' organization); Fausto Dugenio, an important novelist in the 1930s; and a host of other short story writers like Melecio Abatayo, Sinforsa Alcorido, Ben Barrientos, Hermogenes Cantago, Felino Diao, Pomposo Derecho, Gil Gabiano, Rodrigo Gamboa, Ricardo Hynson, Luis Ladongga, Leon Laput, Benjamin Maligad, Diosdado Mantalaba, and Fermin Poloyapoy. Since this section is one of the more valuable research aids, Mojares should have endeavored to give a more complete listing. Furthermore, certain information in this section seems doubtful and needs rechecking, as when Marcel Navarra is cited as having written a novel and a play when Navarra has actually remained purely a short story writer.

There is no doubt that Resil B. Mojares's *Cebuano Literature* will be an invaluable aid to the scholar and researcher who now can more easily locate materials to examine and to study. While a section on the literary history of Cebuano letters would have proved more valuable than the author's essay on vernacular publishing, his work as a whole provides the groundwork for such a historical survey. Mojares's book is a good beginning; for the scholar, it is a door that opens to the vast field of Cebuano literature that is waiting to be studied.

Teresita Gimenez-Maceda

BIRTH AND DEATH IN CAGAYAN DE ORO: POPULATION DYNAMICS IN A MEDIUM-SIZED PHILIPPINE CITY. By Francis C. Madigan. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1972. 239 pages.

Many questions remain unanswered even as research in Philippine population dynamics progresses. The country's present population is increasing rapidly due to the large excess of births over deaths as a consequence of a rapidly declining mortality level coupled with a persistently high fertility level. Explanations like this may prove inadequate when evaluating a more local situation. The book distinguishes itself as a demographic study concerned more specifically in evaluating the dimensions of population growth in a Philippine urban center, namely, Cagayan de Oro. For this reason, it can be considered as an urban case study whose main concern is to analyze recent fertility and mortality levels and patterns, and how these would compare to the national experience and to that of selected countries. Madigan and his associates can be singled out (and for that matter the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture) for their efforts in promoting population research on the regional level, particularly concentrating their efforts in the province of Misamis Oriental. This work is a collective endeavor. It is a welcome contribution to Philippine population research. Likewise, it provides valuable insights to policymakers in promoting population control programs on the regional and provincial levels.

The analysis is basically descriptive. Its primary concern is assessing recent demographic patterns, more concretely, by determining current fertility and mortality levels, and the effect of these vital components on the city's population growth. It also includes an evaluation of migration patterns and characteristics. Data from past censuses could not be fully used, since the tabulations for Cagayan de Oro City were unavailable. A general overview of the area and its people is presented and is greatly substantiated by secondary data drawn from various sources. This discussion is, perhaps, one of its kind ever published and is a valuable reference for researchers and development planners whose interest and concern are in the area itself.