Editor's Preface

John N. Schumacher

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In this first issue of the new editor, we try to offer a judicious balance of articles and notes dealing with the Filipino cultural and historical past on the one hand, and with contemporary Philippine issues and problems on the other. It is our hope to be able to maintain this twofold orientation of *Philippine Studies*, in the belief that a university-sponsored journal can thus best participate in the university's mission. This we conceive to be the investigation and transmission of the historical and cultural roots of the nation on the one hand, and the attempt, on the other, to confront contemporary problems in the light of its store of knowledge, so as to contribute to human as well as material development. As a professional historian, the editor would be the last to suggest that the past will "teach us lessons" on how to confront the present, but hopefully it will give some light in which to see it more clearly.

The Tagalog novel as a literary form came into existence only in the twentieth century. Its themes, however, and the types of traditions which have characterized it, clearly have their sources in the Spanish period. Soledad Reyes in an extensive survey of representative novelists and novels up to the recent present shows how the pre-novel Tagalog literary tradition has continued to be operative in the novel, and indicates the importance of judging the Tagalog novel against that indigenous tradition rather than solely by norms derived from Western literary criticism.

Since the partial constitutional exemption of educational institutions disappeared in the closing days of the 1972 Constitutional Convention, there has been an effort on the part of certain sectors of government to extend the taxes on private

schools. Thomas Fitzpatrick, who has been responsible for
several of the position papers presenting the case for government
assistance to, rather than penalization of, the massive private
contribution to the task of education, presents a report on the
state of the question up to the time of writing. It includes
several of the papers presenting the position of the privately
financed schools, together with the relevant decrees, actual and
proposed, concerned with this question.

The article of Salvador Escoto on the disposal of Jesuit
properties after their expulsion in 1768 traces the vicissitudes
of an eighteenth-century government confiscation of the re-
sources of private educational institutions and the difficulties
experienced in making these resources fruitful again for the
public welfare, even after the disappearance of most of the
institutions they had supported.

Though inflation is today a world-wide problem, Vicente
Valdepeñas, Jr. analyzes the Philippine case, which both began
earlier, and has continued to increase at an accelerating rate.

Other contemporary issues are discussed in the Notes and
Comments. Emy Pascasio outlines requirements for a bilingual
educational policy which will respond to all the needs of the
nation's youth. Thomas J. O'Shaughnessy attempts to arrive at
a more reliable estimate of the size of the nation's Muslim
minority than the various figures that are frequently put forth
in contemporary discussions of minority problems.

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