

# philippine studies

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## **Western Ships in Eastern Waters: Dutch-Asiatic Trade and the Manila Galleon**

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mended. We look forward to future volumes of the series characterized by an equally balanced and scholarly treatment of the other moral questions which are so crucial in our atomic age.

GERALD W. HEALY

## WESTERN SHIPS IN EASTERN WATERS

**DUTCH-ASIATIC TRADE, 1620-1740.** By Kristoff Glamann. Niels Haislund, trans. Copenhagen: Danish Science Press; The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1958. xi, 334 p.

**THE MANILA GALLEON.** By William Lytle Schurz. New York: E. P. Dutton Paperback, 1959. 453 p. \$1.75.

*Dutch-Asiatic Trade* is an outstanding piece of scholarship which painstakingly analyzes the commercial activity of the Dutch East India Company from 1620 to 1740. Professor Glamann, after an introduction to the organization of the "Nederland Factory" and a rather detailed chapter on the bullion used in the business transactions of the Company, discusses the principal commodities of the trade: pepper, spices, silk, piece-goods, sugar, copper, coffee and tea. Each article is examined for its importance in the trade, fluctuations of its price, its demand and methods of supply, as well as the quantity purchased over the years, and finally, the rapidity or lag in its disposal in Europe. The work is so thoroughly done that it is probably definitive.

We are used to thinking, as Professor Glamann says, that the Dutch monopoly was simply an ever-green pagoda-tree whose golden fruits the Heeren XVII (company directors) shook into their collective turban at suitable intervals. In reality change and competition rather than constancy characterized the Dutch Company. Spices were soon superseded by textiles and tea as the main commodities. English and French encroachment was constantly to be met even in such distant places as coffee-growing Yemen. Contraband returns by Dutch sailors grew to sizable proportions. New areas in the Far East were constantly being sought for and opened as bases for Dutch purchasing. All of which "are aspects of the relations of the Dutch to Asiatic peoples."

A number of valuable appendices are added: quantity lists of pepper, amounts of silver and gold shipped from Amsterdam, and tea and coffee purchases, to mention a few.

Professor Glamann has put English-speaking historians in his debt by allowing the translation of his monograph, and although there are

a few lapses in grammar and untranslated Dutch phrases to cope with, they diminish but slightly the considerable value of this excellent study.

At long last, William Schurz's *Manila Galleon* has been reprinted. The classic work on the Acapulco trade once again carries us on the lumbering galleons across the Spanish Lake, through the dangers of the world's worst sea voyage, to Acapulco and the silver cities of New Spain. The story, though told so often, has lost none of its charm and romance. And the valuable introduction which sets the background for the voyages and the yet unchallenged chapters on the Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese are in themselves valuable contributions to the palimpsest of Philippine history.

The recent study of Woodrow Borah (*Early Colonial Trade and Navigation between Mexico and Peru*, Ibero-Americana 38, University of California Press, 1954) has put us one step closer to a synthesis of the colonial commerce of the whole Pacific area. One wishes that the position of the Philippines in the commercial orbit of the Spanish Empire were as well represented. We have yet to assess the exact position of the Acapulco trade in the colonial economy of New Spain and the Philippines. Price fluctuations in Manila of Chinese and other Asiatic goods have not yet been studied. The volume of trade between India, Japan, China and the Philippines is relatively unknown. And the often (in the past) hotly-debated topic of silver exports to China by way of Manila is still in the main a question mark. These are merely a few of the many questions as yet unanswered in Philippine economic history.

Until such questions are made the subjects of careful investigation we can profitably turn to *The Manila Galleon* to find out something about Philippine economic history in the Spanish colonial period, and we can only hope that future investigations will be as carefully written and as thoroughly enjoyable.

NICHOLAS P. CUSHNER

## THE INNER LIFE OF ST. IGNATIUS

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNAL OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, February, 1544-45. Translated by William J. Young, S.J. Woodstock, Md.: Woodstock College Press, 1958. x, 63 p.

A first reading of this document of the soldier-saint leaves one with a dominant impression that would not have been expected before-