

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University · Loyola Heights, Quezon City · 1108 Philippines

**Filipiniana in Chicago:
Calendar of Philippine Documents in the
Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library
by Paul S. Lietz**

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Philippine Studies vol. 5, no. 2 (1957): 221–223

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Book Reviews

FILIPINIANA IN CHICAGO

CALENDAR OF PHILIPPINE DOCUMENTS IN THE AYER COLLECTION OF THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY. Edited by Paul S. Lietz. Chicago. The Newberry Library. 1956. Pp. xvi, 259. Index.

IT is perhaps safe to say that no one can write a good history of the Philippines without going outside the Philippines. The documents are very often not available here: we must look for them abroad—in Rome, Seville, Washington, Chicago and other places. This is not to say that there are no documents of any importance kept in the Philippines. The bulk of the material that the historian must use is probably right here but it would be foolhardy to ignore the great mass of material that is kept abroad.

This makes the writing of history a difficult and expensive affair. Thus Father de la Costa of our staff, for his current work on the history of the Philippines, has had to spend an entire year at Georgetown University (where incidentally one of the best authorities on Philippine Jesuit history is archivist). He has had in addition to obtain microfilm copies of documents in Rome and Seville. Father Fox, also of our staff, wrote most of his manuscript history of Philippine public education before 1900 in the Hispanic Room of the Library of Congress in Washington where much of the material is available.

What happens when the material in European and American archives and libraries is not sufficiently taken into account may be seen in a history of Philippine pharmacy submitted as a dissertation to a local university and published in that university's

journal. The work omits mention altogether of Kamel: yet Kamel (who lived and died in the Philippines) was well known to botanists in England, Java and India precisely because of his contributions—much of them published—to natural history and the pharmacopia. The camellia was given its name by the great Linné in honor of Georg Kamel. The curious thing is that while a historian writing in the Philippines has apparently found nothing worthy of mention about Kamel, Dr. Joseph Gicklhorn of the University of Vienna has found enough material for a book—material gathered from London, Rome and other places in Europe. His book—entitled *Georg Joseph Kamel S.J. (1661-1706) Apotheker, Botaniker, Arzt und Naturforscher der Philippineninseln* (Eutin, Internationale Gessellschaft der Pharmazie, 1954)—has been reviewed at length by Father Cullum in our pages (IV:319-339). It is an added irony that this book on an “apothecary, botanist, physician and naturalist of the Philippine Islands” was discovered by Father Cullum during a visit to Rome and that we ourselves first heard of the book when we saw it reviewed in a London journal!

This surely is a curious thing: the historian of the Philippines must go outside the Philippines to find his material. Nevertheless, although curious, the situation is not entirely regrettable. There are millions of documents in Philippine libraries and archives (some of them of immense value) but we fear that many of them are hard of access or incompletely catalogued or even insufficiently protected from weather or insects or fire. Perhaps it is just as well that many valuable documents pertaining to our history are abroad where they are carefully preserved and carefully catalogued.

The Philippine documents in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago are an outstanding case in point. The Library has just published a handsomely printed, handsomely bound 273-page catalogue of its Philippine documents edited by Paul S. Lietz of Loyola University. These documents are under the care of a friend of scholars, particularly Philippine scholars, Ruth Lapham Butler.

We note among these documents many items of interest. There are for instance 16 letters from Rizal to Dr. A. B. Meyer on subjects of historical or biological or philological interest. There is a manuscript volume entitled *Clinica médica*: a flyleaf note by

Retana certifies that all but one page is in Rizal's handwriting. The title is misleading because besides the clinical notes the volume includes letters, lists of book titles, drawings of fortifications and notes on their construction, and comments on books including his own *Noli me tangere*. There is a letter by Emilio Aguinaldo to Fr. Tomás Espejo, parish priest of Pateros, dated 8 January 1897 in which Aguinaldo complains of the "hypocrisies and injustices" of the Spaniards and denies the accusations against his own men by the Spaniards of Manila but adds that if all Spaniards were like Father Tomás there would have been no revolution. There is a large collection of documents pertaining to the Jesuits (over 40 titles) surpassed however by a much longer list of documents pertaining to Simón de Anda. A glance at the index is like a review of Philippine history. We find such names as Fray Martín de Rada, Diego Silang, Blumentritt, General Otis, Taal, Padre Burgos, Misamis, Cagayán, Moros, Tamontaca, Zamboanga, tobacco, opium, sugar, Tayabas, Cebú, Cavite, etc.

We are not in a position to pass judgment on the historical value of each of the documents in the Ayer Collection. We wish merely to call the attention of scholars to the existence of these documents in Chicago. Nevertheless we think we have noted one definite mistake. No. 24 is a copy of a document in which Governor Alonzo Fajardo de Tenza "approves the petition for the foundation of the Colegio de Santo Tomás" 11 November 1619. A note in another hand states that the document is "the copy of an *auto* of the governor in favor of the Fathers of the Company [of Jesus]." Either the copyist or the writer of the gloss must be mistaken here. The Company of Jesus did not found the Colegio de Santo Tomás. It is a Dominican institution. The Jesuits had two colleges founded earlier than 1619: one called simply the College of Manila and the other the Colegio de San José (PHILIPPINE STUDIES IV: 127-155).

There are 370 titles of Philippine documents in the Ayer Collection. Many of these are originals. Some are copies, some of them certified. The nature of the documents is plainly indicated in every case. There are also references to Blair and Robertson wherever these documents are reproduced in that work. In addition there are in this book 50 pages of short titles of transcripts of Philippine documents in the Spanish archives.

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