

on his work entitled *A Guide for the Perplexed*. From here, prophecies which included creation, the nature of angels and the destruction of the universe were also explained.

One of the strongest features of this book by Elders is his efforts in presenting with utmost accuracy the ideas of the predecessors of Aquinas. He uses the strongest arguments that Aquinas examined either to agree or disagree with. Laudable in this work are the categorized references that scholars can make use of as a map in tracing the thoughts of the philosophers and theologians. Truly, Aquinas is presented here as an exemplar of what a Catholic intellectual must be. That, in uniting the knowledge from various sources, every grain of truth must shed light and nothing must be hidden in order to gain wisdom, thus making it more possible to dialogue with our contemporaries. Thus, Elders also adopts the true manner of being a Thomist, wherein he acknowledges the works of other academicians who are experts in their respective fields. This is proof that Aquinas is relevant up to this day. Overall, this book is unique in such a way that no other books about Thomism had been presented in a systematic yet engaging manner, involving almost the whole library of Aquinas's thoughts. The work seems painstaking, and it was no joke for Elders to say that it took years for him to accomplish. From here, we see the importance of studying Thomism. Voluminous as it is, it is but a piece of straw among the bunches of straws that Aquinas considered during his mystical experience. In pursuit of truth, readers of this book might also want to exclaim, "*non nisi te, Domine.*"

Vince Stanley B. Iñigo, O.P.

**Lomague, Mervin. *Pasĕn ěd Agĕw: The Formative Years of Sison, Pangasinan*. Quezon City: Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies, 2021. pp. 242. ISBN: 9789719309963.**

Br. Mervin Lomague is a Dominican Student Brother currently studying Master of Arts in Cultural Heritage Studies at the University of Santo Tomas. Br. Lomague is known to publish posts on his social media accounts regarding Church history and local cultural heritage. His line of studies include the Dominican Mission in Pangasinan and the history and heritage of Santo Domingo Convent in Intramuros and Quezon City.

*Pasĕn ěd Agĕw: The Formative Years of Sison, Pangasinan* is the first published book of Lomague, but it shows how to write a good book on history and heritage. The well-researched book comprises eleven chapters. Furthermore, it covers the history of the town of Sison, Pangasinan, from its beginning as a barrio called Bolaoen of their mother town San Fabian de Angiuo, to its development during the Spanish colonial times and its independence as a pueblo called Álava up to the present history of the town renamed as Sison. The chapters were arranged in such a way that the reader is as if journeying in time. The chapters lead us to different challenges and struggles in the development of this rural town.

In each chapter, the author creatively narrates the events that can be likened to a novel where some challenges and conflicts are resolved by research data. The author reconstructs the town's history by bringing up the misconceptions and discrepancies he found in his research. The author presented to us the town's history in a language that excites readers. The language used is easy to read, prompting the reader to discover the next story with a thrill - with stories such as the process of the independence of the new pueblo; the evangelization of the natives; the search for the first Gobernadorcillo of Álava, the suppression of Álava back to its mother town of San Fabian and its process of reborn; and the town's struggle in its unstable boundaries that resulted to contentions from neighboring towns. These are just a few of the many topics the author creatively narrated in a suspenseful and inquisitive way. The author, a Dominican friar, did not forget to include in his narrative the contribution of the Catholic Church and, specifically, of the Dominican Order in the development of his town. The author is commendable for including the contribution of the Adventist mission, although not extensively, in the development of the town's education.

The book is an excellent addition to the written local histories in the Philippines, especially when there is a need for local histories in the Philippines. Local histories are slowly being appreciated and acknowledged in the academe. It is not just an ordinary history book for a rural town in Pangasinan – it is a history book written by a local himself. The book presents us with stories gathered not only from history books or sources but from the local people. This is one of the advantages of the author as a local of Sison. However, in writing this book, the author humbly admits that the coverage of this book “should not be looked upon as definitive” history of Sison. Nevertheless, this book certainly helped in the preservation and appreciation of the local history of Sison.

The book's short length, two hundred and forty-two (242) pages, should not deceive its readers because each chapter is not just facts being presented to the reader, but the author extensively supports each chapter with well-researched sources. The most notable and commendable effort of Lomague in writing the history of Sison is that he presented it in a language that is easily understood, and yet he did not tone down the necessary elements and important historical data regarding each topic.

This book is recommended for all states of life but especially for young students and historians since it helps them see the importance of writing local histories. It is also helpful for those researching the history of evangelization efforts during the last stages of the Spanish colonial period, especially to the Igorots. It is also recommended to those studying the Dominican missionary efforts in Pangasinan. The book also serves as a good model for writing histories in a tone that is not too technical and yet does not forget necessary materials and sources. The simplicity of the narrative reminds writers and authors of history books of the need for them to present the local histories in a simple yet exciting way. The author has also included a rich list of sources that historians and researchers of the town of Sison and the province of Pangasinan can extensively use and revisit. Indeed, this book of Lomague about a simple town in Pangasinan is worth reading, whether for intellectual pursuit or leisure.

**Wilhelm B. Boñon, O.P.**