

The University of Santo Tomas — A Historical Outline

1. *The Founder's last will*

It is almost a byword that the Library of the University of Santo Tomas antedates the foundation of the University itself by a few years. For in 1605, the Dominican Archbishop of Manila, Miguel de Benavides (c. 1550-1605), feeling that his last days were few, made a testament of his modest possessions and bequeathed the sum of one thousand Pesos and *his personal library* for the foundation of a College. Actually the Colegio de Santo Tomas, one day to become University, was not founded until six years later, in 1611, when the Archbishop's will was implemented and the Foundation Act was drawn. Still it took eight years more to construct the building and to open the academic courses. This was in the year 1619.¹

By the time the first scholars were given their *becas* and enrolled in the school, another distinguished Dominican and Bishop of Nueva Segovia (Vigan), Diego de Soria (1558-1613), had contributed his share to the growth of the Library. In 1613 he made

¹ Fr. Diego Aduarte, the well known Dominican historian, contemporary of Benavides, wrote: "The death of the Archbishop happened soon after this... leaving for the said project i.e. the College *his library* and everything he possessed, all of which, coming from a poor man, amounted to little more than one thousand pesos" (*Historia de la Provincia del Santo Rosario de la Orden de Predicadores en Filipinas, Japón y China*, ed. Madrid 1963, II, p. 137).

testament of *his private library* in favour of the uprising Colegio de Santo Tomas.²

It is highly probable that some of the books kept today in the Library's Rare Books Section formed part of the original collection of Archbishop Benavides, perhaps of Soria too, as it will be explained later.

The infant Library was located in the building of the College, near the Convent of Santo Domingo, on the north side of Intramuros, by the wall that ran parallel to the Pasig River. It remained there for three centuries, until 1927 when most of the books were transferred to the modern building constructed in Sampaloc, our present Main Building. The rest were transferred in 1944 just on time to be saved from the destruction of the secular building during the liberation of Manila in 1945.

2. "*With the sails of the galleons*"

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the almost totality of the books received by the Library arrived from Europe and Mexico aboard the yearly Acapulco Galleon. Every *barcada* or missionary expedition coming regularly from Spain brought to the Philippines a corresponding shipment of books for convents, colleges and mission stations in the Islands. Contemporary narratives on the *barcadas* speak about the purchase of books, giving guidelines as to authors, titles, prices and places, observing that the best bookstores were those of Madrid where almost any book could be purchased at prices lower than elsewhere in Europe, even cheaper than in the places of their printing, whether in Flanders or in France.³

The Dominicans of the Philippines had a Procurator stationed in Madrid whose job was not only to recruit missionaries for the Far East and for the Colegio de Santo Tomas but also to provide for the regular flow of books for the College Library.

² "In his last illness he (Bishop Diego de Soria) donated to the Colegio de Santo Tomas of Manila, then under construction, *his library* and three thousand pesos, which were all the things he possessed" (ADUARTE, *op. cit.*, I, p. 623).

³ See MANUEL MERINO, OSA, "El alistamiento misionero en el siglo XVII o Avisos para Comisarios reclutadores", in *Missionalia Hispanica*, II, 5 (1945), pp. 338-339.

Undoubtedly another regular, though very limited, source of books for the Library were the personal collections of the University professors of the Dominican Order, whose books would normally pass to the Library after the death of the religious, since those books were owned by the Community. Some professors who became bishops would imitate the example of Benavides and Soria. Such was the case with Bishop Francisco Gainza in the 19th century whose manuscripts and printed collections enriched the Library very considerably.

It goes without saying that the majority of those books are written in Latin or in Spanish, the two languages used in the curricula during the whole Spanish period. And except for the last half of the nineteenth century, the general outlook of the library shelves was markedly ecclesiastical, most books dealing with biblical and patristic studies and with the various areas and fields of Theology, Canon Law, Philosophy, Jurisprudence, Humanities and other treatises on spiritual, religious and devotional life. Additional humanistic and scientific works arrived after the creation of the more modern faculties, namely Civil Law (1734), Medicine and Pharmacy (1871).

The less scholarly visitors of the Library may be informed that the particularly valuable Rare Books Section, which today only serves for purposes of research, for bibliographical interest and for display in special exhibits, had, in the past centuries, a genuine academic usefulness: they were the up-to-date tools handled by professors and students in their daily classes, either as textbooks or as reference works.

To the galleon shipments of books and to the private collections of the Dominican friars we may add, in this period, some other books locally printed, always less numerous and scientifically less pretentious, but very precious and extremely rare today. It is well known that the Dominicans had the initiative in the establishment of the first printing press of the Philippines (a happy event of immense value for the cause of evangelization and so local in fabrication that the great bibliographer W. Retana refers to it as a "semi-invention" of the press. Dominicans also were the authors of the first books printed here, namely, the twin *Doctrina Christiana* with the less known *Shi-lu* by the method of xylography in 1590, and the first ones printed by typography

since 1604. And it is of great historical importance to notice that the first typography designed by Fr. Francisco Blancas de San Jose with the printer Juan de Vera, after a period of wandering through various provinces of the Philippines, came to settle down and make its permanent abode in the Colegio de Santo Tomas in the year 1625. Since that date, the UST Press, later joined by a few other printing establishments, began to produce a relatively high number of publications, increasing in quality and quantity as the years and centuries went on.

The UST Library and the UST Archives have preserved many books of local printing which other libraries lack, books mainly of religious content and in a great variety of Philippine dialects.

3. *Surprise acquisition*

At the end of the 18th century the UST Library received a big boost from an unexpected source, the Society of Jesus. In an unfortunate decision of the Bourbon King Charles III, the Jesuits were declared expelled from all Spanish dominions and from the Philippines (1768), and all their properties were confiscated by the Spanish government. Except for the infirm and the aged no Jesuit remained in the Islands and they did not return, as a Corporation, until the year 1859.

The books of their different colleges and residences were assembled at the Colegio de San Ignacio in Manila to be disposed of in favour of several institutions. "In virtue of the provisions contained in the government orders, appropriate catalogues were made of all the books, separating from the rest those authors teaching laxist doctrines; and by a Royal Decree of January 31, 1783 the greatest part of the books were ordered to be destined, as actually they were destined and handed over, to the University of Santo Tomas of the Dominican Fathers. And those books which the University did not accept were sent to the Seminaries of this City (Manila) and of Cebu, as is shown in a detailed catalogue of the same and in a receipt issued by the Rector of the Colegio de Santo Tomas, the Very Reverend Father Nicolas Cora, dated April 31, 1789".⁴

4. *Memoria de los Colegios, Casas y Ministerios y de todas las temporalidades ocupadas en estas Islas a la Compañia de Jesús a su extrañamiento*, Ms. Archives of the University of Santo Tomas, *Folletos* 117, fols. 88v-89.

Although neither of the above-mentioned catalogue or receipt can be found today, the existence in the UST Library of several books formerly owned by the Jesuits can be attested by marks in their title-page referring to their original libraries.

4. *The century of Burgos and Rizal*

In the 19th century, the century of the most outstanding UST alumni — Fr. Jose Burgos, Jose Rizal and Manuel L. Quezon heading the list — the UST Library, feeling the impact of the Age of Enlightenment, had to expand its holding and facilities, and although it could never reach the level of its European counterparts, the Library certainly progressed in quality and numbers.

In the first place, the printing business had its blooming momentum in the Philippines, as many printing presses, equipped with more modern instruments, produced a growing quantity of books in the various fields of knowledge — ecclesiastical, political, scientific, literary, historical — contrasting with the more modest productions of the two previous centuries when the main bulk of books had been of catechetical, devotional or grammatical nature. The above-mentioned bibliographer W. Retana affirms that the “restoration of printing took place by the middle of the 19th century, and excellent works came out of the Santo Tomas Press; (its printer) Don Juan de Cortada placed that printing establishment at a level not inferior to those of the peninsular presses, due to the good imported material”.⁵ The UST Library was the first and main recipient of that printed output.

Besides, an easier, faster and safe means of maritime transportation after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 facilitated a voluminous inflow of books from Europe for the Library. New acquisitions were in order, especially for the newly established faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy (1871) as well as for the projected and finally created faculties of Science (1896) and of Philosophy and Letters (1896), plus the reading materials needed for the curricula of Secondary Education leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts established in 1865.

But in spite of its evident transformation and progress, the Library was far from fulfilling the desires and needs of the best

⁵ WENCESLAO RETANA, *Orígenes de la imprenta filipina*, Madrid 1911, p. 59.

scholars. In 1886 two outstanding Dominican professors, Fr. Norberto del Prado and Fr. Evaristo Fernandez Arias, in a confidential report to the Dominican Provincial Chapter held in Manila, drew a negative, and conveniently exaggerated, picture of the limitations of the University Library. In their view the Library was neglected and it was absolutely necessary to give it a special priority. "There are hardly any books on History, Literature, Philosophy, the exact and natural sciences, published in the present century, and we must have and know them so as not to speak from heart or from mere reference about matters of the greatest importance. We possess none of the famous authors of rationalist philosophy; we have only a few and rudimentary works on History, on Criteriology, on Literature; in the Faculty of Law we lack many works as we have heard from the lips of the professors themselves".

"If the annual amount of roughly one thousand Pesos allowed by our Constitutions were spent for this purpose, the Library could be provided with the necessary things, making use of good catalogues and requesting the professors to submit a list of the best works they know, etc., and caring to subscribe to scientific reviews of Europe and America, exchanging publications with other libraries and with library centers, a practice so common today and so advantageous".⁶

The stark confession of these two Dominicans may not be taken too literally; they were prodding their Superiors into action and they had to exaggerate a bit. Both were first class writers and theologians and their desire for a more complete and representative library is understandable. Some years earlier, another man, Fr. Zeferino Gonzalez, one of the greatest Spanish-speaking philosophers of the century and professor of Fr. Jose Burgos and his generation at UST made similar complaints about the scarcity of books in the library. But the fact remains that the works written by Zeferino, Del Prado and Arias show a deep knowledge of the most modern thinkers and philosophers of Europe, a sign that the Library was not entirely deficient as they had so much deplored.

⁶ Report of Frs. Norberto del Prado and Evaristo Fernández Arias, O.P., to the Definitorium of the Provincial Chapter of the Dominicans held in Manila in 1886, Ms. Archives of the Province of the Holy Rosary, Metro Manila, "Crónicas", 4, fols. 83v-84.

Still dealing with opinions and actions of professors, we cannot bypass another Dominican of the highest intellectual caliber, Fr. Francisco Gaínza, theologian, canonist, historian and well-rounded scholar, who enriched the library considerably with his personal books and manuscripts. When in 1862 he was nominated Bishop of Caceres (Naga), he was allowed to take his library with him on condition that the collection would be returned to the University after his death. It was returned when he died in 1879. Even more valuable than — his books are his own writings, the manuscripts of which fill twenty volumes of the UST Archives.⁷

The 19th century also witnessed the appearance of the first periodical publications of the Philippines, pioneered by the prince newspaper called *Del Superior Gobierno* in 1811. Some of the most widely circulated periodicals of that century are preserved, often incomplete, in the Filipiniana Section of the Library, such as *El Católico Filipino* (founded in 1861), *El Diario de Manila* (f. 1848), *Boletín Oficial de Filipinas* (f. 1852), *El Oriente* (f. 1875) and others.

The *Memoria* written by the Philippine Central Commission for the *Exposición General de las Islas Filipinas* held in Madrid in 1887 reported that the Library of the University of Santo Tomas had "about 12,000 books, both old and modern, especially about ecclesiastical sciences, social sciences, Law and Philosophy". The report added that the Libraries of the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy, created in 1871, rapidly acquired the most up-dated books published in Europe, some of which were very costly. Especially appreciated among the new acquisitions were the *Tratado completo de la anatomía del hombre* (8 vols.) by Drs. Bourgerie and C. Bernard, in luxurious binding; *Anatomía patológica del Cuerpo humano* (2 vols.) by J. Cruveilhier; and Fr. Blanco's *Flora de Filipinas* (4 vols.) magnificently illustrated.⁸

⁷ On October 4, 1862, Monsignor Gainza, Bishop-Elect of Caceres, wrote a respectful petition to Pope Pius IX asking to be dispensed from previous papal dispositions and allowing him to keep his books temporarily due to scarcity of libraries in the provinces. The draft of this petition is in the Archives of the University of Santo Tomas, *Atado* 14, and a copy in *Folleto* 108, fols. 586-587.

⁸ Cf. *Exposición General de las Islas Filipinas en Madrid, 1887*, Manila 1887, pp. 58-61.

5. *The 20th century*

At the turn of the century, the UST Library felt the impact and consequences of the general crisis brought about in the country by the political changes. Of particular importance for the Library were two factors, namely, the new educational system introduced by the Americans, and the adoption of English as a medium of instruction, which language, after more than two decades of continuous struggle for supremacy, displaced Spanish in the University of Santo Tomas in the year 1924. The change in language meant that a great number of the books of the Library, written in Spanish (or in Latin) had to be gradually but steadily relegated to special sections, such as the Ecclesiastical Faculties, the Rare Books or the Filipiniana, while the English bibliography began to fill the shelves for the daily demands of the academic community.

By the year 1908, when Spanish was still the only language of the classrooms, Fr. Juan Illa, O.P., University Librarian, reported that the General Library possessed "nearly 20,000 volumes of the most renowned books, old and new, in all branches of learning", "many and valuable versions and editions of the Bible", the most outstanding Greek and Latin commentators of the Bible, various collections of all the Church Fathers, both Greek and Latin, collections of general and local Councils of the Church, works of the most famous authors in Theology, Canon Law, Philosophy, Civil Law, Sociology, Literature, Mathematics, etc." There were also, added Illa, specialized library branches in the faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy and Engineering, plus the library of the Museum.⁹

In 1927 some sections of the Library had to be moved from Intramuros to the new Building inaugurated in Sampaloc, occupying there the northeast wing of the ground floor. Later the locale of the Library suffered noticeable transformations in the years 1955 and 1967. "In 1955, when the ground floor of the Main Building was remodelled, the Library was given new and larger quarters in the rear portion of the ground floor. This included about a third of the ground area, extending from one rear corner of the building to the other. It also included a mezzanine constructed over this area. Dividing the first floor of the Library

⁹ Report of Fr. Illa in the *General Bulletin of the Manila University of Santo Tomas, 1908-1909*, Manila 1908, pp. 228-229.

into two halves was a section occupied by the Prefect of Libraries, the Chief Librarian and the rest of the Library staff. One half was for male students, and the other half for female students. Aside from this, a small additional area for graduate school students adjoined the quarters for the Library staff on one side". In 1967 the specialized libraries were separated from the Main Library. The latter was remodelled and considerably enlarged to occupy 2/3 of the first floor of the Main Building, the space it has at present.¹⁰

In order to provide qualified personnel for the administration and service of its own library as well as of other libraries of the country, the University of Santo Tomas opened in 1932 a course in Library Science, which has been offered ever since and has graduated many professional librarians working today in many parts of the Philippines.

6. Classification

In the third decade of this century, with new quarters in the Main Building and with new demands, needs and trends arising from various modernizing circumstances (adoption of English, establishments of new faculties, admission of women, increase in enrolment, etc.), the Library had to adapt itself to the times by adopting new systems of classification of books.

"From the beginning of the UST Library to the year 1926 the books were classified by an antiquated scheme of classification known as the *Fixed System*. The call number of each book was identified by a letter and two numbers, the first number representing the bookshelf, the letter its compartment in which a particular book was to be located, and the second number corresponding to the position of the respective book in the compartment. This system necessitated the adoption of an index to expedite its use and to save time and effort on the part of the patient librarians to serve the students, professors and other laymen who spared no efforts to browse into the precious collections. Through the course of time, the Fixed System was replaced in 1927 by the *Dewey Decimal System*, one that divides the field of knowledge into ten general classes to pave the way for a streamlined classi-

¹⁰ JOSEFINA LIM PE, *The University of Santo Tomas in the twentieth century*, Manila 1973, p. 213.

fication of the books. The system of classification was further replaced in 1936 when the *Library of Congress* System was adopted through the sheer efforts of the then librarian Mr. Bonifacio Viray. This system which divides the field of knowledge into twenty one general classes has, up to the present, remained to be used in classifying the books of the Library".¹¹

The latest innovation introduced as we write this historical outline is the adoption of the most modern system of cataloguing, namely the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules II* (AACR-II), which is standard in all major libraries of the English-speaking world.

7. *The War Interlude*

During World War II, from 1942 to 1945, classes were suspended, and the University's campus was made by the Japanese an internment camp for American and allied civilian prisoners, whose total reached the figure of 3,789 before the end of the war. The internees organized themselves into a small city, establishing among other organisms of internal order an "Education Department" for the instruction of the children. The Library of the University was partially placed at their disposal, and a certain Mr. Earle Bedford was placed in charge of the central library.

As stated earlier, the remaining part of the Library left in the building of Intramuros in 1927 was transferred to the Sampaloc building during the Japanese occupation — except a part of the Law Library — just in time to be spared the total destruction of the old building during the battle for liberation. Thus it can be said that the continuity and integrity of the UST Library has never been lost in the course of 377 years since the death of Benavides.

Of some interest to bibliographers is the work done by two scholarly American internees, Leila Meynard and Robert Strong. They requested permission from the Dominican authorities to examine all the Library shelves and the holdings of the Archives in search for old and rare books. Fruit of their laborious and

¹¹ CANDIDA A. CABATU, "The oldest University Library in the Philippines", in *Philippine Library Journal*, 1, 2 (March 1952), p. 9.

intelligent research was a compilation, in two type-written volumes, of a catalogue of the oldest and most rare books preserved in the Library of the University. The two volumes cover books printed from 1492 to 1542 (Vol. I) and from 1543 to 1575 (Vol. II) respectively.¹² The work was dedicated and presented to the Very Rev. Tomás Tascón, Superior Provincial of the Dominicans, whose encouragement and understanding had made the work possible. The catalogue, now extant in the Filipiniana Section, is a masterful and classic work of bibliographical criticism and the best guide to evaluate the rare books of the University Library.

8. *Bibliographic growth*

The growth of the Library in terms of books, collections and teaching aids cannot be traced with accuracy because the old records do not contain library catalogues, and the people of earlier centuries were less statistic-conscious than those of today. From the last quarter of the 19th century we begin to have documentary evidence about the size of the Library, even though the figures are obviously very round.

The following statistics belonging to a few key-years may throw some light on the steady progress of the Library in a little less than a century:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Books</u>
1887	12,000
1908	20,000
1941	39,965
1953	99,206
1962	134,733
1974	257,833
1981	326,611

The bibliographic growth, considerably bigger as the decades passed, went parallel to the increase in student population, which rose from about 950 students in 1887 to about 5,000 just before the second World War and to the fantastic number of 42,000 at

¹² LEILA MEYNARD and ROBERT M. STRONG, *A Catalogue of Rare Books printed between the years 1492 and 1542 from the University of Santo Tomas* (pro manuscripto), University of Santo Tomas Internment Camp 1943, vol. I.; Vol. II, same place, covering books printed from 1543 1575.

present. The university faculties jumped from six in 1887 (Theology, Humanities, Canon Law, Civil Law, Medicine and Pharmacy) to the present fifteen with an enormous variety of ramifications in specialized careers, all demanding the service of specialized books. From the year 1924, as the medium of instruction changed from Spanish to English, the Library had to renovate itself rapidly with a deluge of books in English.

For the purchase of books and facilities, the Library has always depended mainly on its own financial resources, which are generated by the library fee or other general fees imposed on the students. But it has also received donations in recent times from a number of benefactors, among whom we should mention at least Don Santiago Artiaga, Dr. William Burke and Paz Latorena (1954). Occasional donations of the most modern and varied books have been received from various governments and countries. The Library acknowledges, in the last decades, the generosity of the governments of Israel, United Kingdom, United States of America (through the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center and the Clark Air Base), India, Spain, Australia, Mexico and the Asian Foundation Program. The latest donors in 1981 were the governments of Japan and the Netherlands, the former granting a very valuable collection for the Asian Section and the latter a considerable number of books mostly of scientific subjects.

The number of foreign and local periodical publications yearly received through subscription amounts to 590.

9. *Branches*

At present, the UST Library is divided into the Main Library and the Branch Libraries. The Main Library has eleven sections, which are the following: Filipiniana, Social Sciences, General Periodicals, General References, Science, Humanities, Religion, Audiovisual, Rare Books and Spanish Books.

The Branch Libraries are of three levels, namely, collegiate, secondary and elementary. The college branches, located in the premises of the respective faculties, are: Ecclesiastical Faculties Library, Commerce Library, Education Library, Engineering Library, Architecture and Fine Arts Library, Law Library, Medical Library and Conservatory of Music Library.

There are two secondary-level libraries, one for the UST High School and another for the UST Education High School. Students of both schools may use the collections and facilities of both libraries. The UST Elementary School is provided with a special library for the elementary school pupils.

Of all the branches and sections, only three will be described in particular considering their special attraction to scholars.

10. *The Archives*

Although they are an independent entity with separate administration, the Archives of the University are the complement of the Library. Housed in the Building of the Ecclesiastical Faculties, the Archives are the repository of all the documents related to the history of the institution. Specially precious are the Foundation Act, various Papal Bulls and Royal Decrees granting privileges to the University or regularizing its academic life. There are in the Archives many interesting documents regarding Philippine history in general and even the history of the Dominican missions in the Far East (China, Japan, Vietnam, Formosa), but the main body of the whole documentation deals with academic history.

Unique for the Philippines and for the knowledge of our national heroes are the papers containing the student records of the Spanish period, including the graduation proceedings and the class grades. These documents are found in the following archival sections: *Asientos de grados*, *Diligencias de grados*, *Registro de títulos*, *Notas académicas*, *Libros de matrículas*. The rest of the manuscripts are classified in three sections called by the odd names of *Becerro*s, *Libros* and *Folletos*.

But not all things kept in the Archives are manuscripts. From ancient times archivists have also accepted and kept there printed books and other materials, some of which are very valuable. Most of the periodical publications of the University are well represented, beginning with the *Discursos de Apertura* or regular series of inaugural addresses delivered by faculty members on the first day of the school-year, the first of which was that of 1866; also in the Archives is a copy (perhaps the only one known) of the *El Martes Escolar*, the first students magazine in the UST Campus, published way back in 1910.

The Archives have a rich collection of books and booklets printed in the Philippines in the different dialects and in Spanish, and some other very rare books like the *Biblia Regia* edited in Antwerp in 1569-1573, a polyglot Bible.¹³

II. *Rare Books Section*

The Rare Books Section, pride of the UST Library, is a veritable bibliographic treasure with a universal appeal. It may look very modest if compared with the historic libraries of Europe and America, but probably it contains more rare books of western culture than any other library in Asia, certainly more than any other in the Philippines.

It is not far-fetched to affirm that some of these rare books belonged to the founder of the University and of the Library, Fr. Miguel de Benavides. They are books dealing with biblical and theological themes, manuals for canonists and for confessors, etc. which were printed in the 16th century and are often quoted by Benavides in his writings. Only this fact, or even its possibility, gives us an idea of the antiquity and rarity of the holdings of this section.

Of course the majority of the volumes are posterior to Benavides, their number increasing progressively with the passing of each century. A listing of them was made in 1968 and was published in the *UST Library Bulletin*.¹⁴ Following that listing, which may not be complete, we see that 383 books or titles of this section were printed from 1492 to 1599; 975 from 1600 to 1699; and 1,574 printed from 1700 to 1799; making a total of 2,933 the books printed during the 16th to the 18th centuries (and one book of the 15th). If we add to them those found in the University Archives, the number of *volumes* of the rare books of the University approaches the 5,000 mark.

The quality of this section can be judged from the names of some authors or from the internal value of some books. Theology and Law may be the sciences best represented there, but certainly not the only ones. To mention only 16th century printings, there are in the Rare Books Section many works classical or humanistic

¹³ For further information see the brief article "The University Archives" in *The UST Library Bulletin*, I, 2 (April 1968), pp. 111-113.

¹⁴ *The UST Library Bulletin*, I, 2 (April 1968), pp. 30-109; I, 3 (September 1968), pp. 3-108; II, 1 (1969), pp. 3-93; II, 2 (1969), pp. 4-78.

authors, such as Lucanus, Sophocles, Ovid, Cicero, Horace, Juvenal, Lucretius, Erasmus, Arias Montano, Antonio de Nebrija, etc.

Curious historians may admire the presence of very old books on history, like St. Antoninus' *Historiarum Domini Antonini* (Lyons 1543), Titus Livius' *Decadas* (1548), Olaus Magnus' *Historia de Gentibus Septentrionalibus* (1555), Flavius Josephus' *Antiquitarum Judaicarum* (Paris 1535), Juan de la Cruz, O.P.'s *Historia de la Iglesia que llaman tripartita* (Coimbra 1554). Of encyclopaedic character are books like St. Albert the Great's *De animalibus libri viginti sex* (Venice 1519), Vincent the Beauvais, O.P.'s *Speculum Majus* (Venice 1591); and other outstanding works printed in that century about geography, astronomy, natural history and mathematics.

Topping them all, because of their bibliographic and scientific importance and their exceptional rarity are the following three: Copernicus's *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*, first edition of Nuremberg 1543; the already mentioned *Biblia Regia*, edited by Arias Montano at the expense of King Philip II and printed by Christopher Plantin at Antwerp in 1569-1573; and the prince of princes, Flavius Josephus' *La Guerra Judaica*, printed in Sevilla in 1492 (year of the discovery of America by Columbus), perhaps the only incunabulum known in the Philippines.¹⁵

12. *Filipiniana*

The Filipiniana collection of the Library is considered as one of the richest of its kind in the Philippines. Aside from a variety of holdings of cultural and educational value such as maps (yet to be properly classified), atlases, souvenir documents, etc., this section possesses a total of 21,000 volumes of books, plus 2,841 volumes of periodicals, of which the most unique belong to the Spanish period. Today, however, they are no longer the most numerous.

Only the section of the Archives keeps some Philippine printings of the seventeenth century. In the Filipiana proper, even those printed in the eighteenth century are few. On the other hand, the Filipiniana abounds in nineteenth century Philippine printings. The reason is simple. In the early centuries of the

¹⁵ Additional information on the rare books of the Library, in JESUS GAYO, O.P., "Rarezas bibliográficas en la Biblioteca de la Universidad de Santo Tomas", in *Unitas*, XVII, 1 (March 1955), pp. 184-192.

colony the majority of books printed here were meant for rapid and constant circulation: catechisms, prayerbooks, sermons, vocabularies, grammars, etc., not to be kept in libraries but to be continually used by the people. Add to this the poor quality of the paper used, the tropical humid climate, the destructive intrusion of book-worms and the carelessness of our ancestors in keeping collections, and we can understand why the early Philippine printings are so rare today.¹⁶

In fact, some books written by the early missionaries are represented in our *Filipiniana* by later editions or in facsimile reproductions, for instance, the masterpiece of Fr. Francisco Blancas de San José, *Arte y Reglas de la Lengua Tagala*, is not the original edition of 1610, but that of 1832; the *Doctrina Christiana* in Tagalog and Spanish is not the original of 1593 but the facsimile edition by Edwin Wolf 2nd. (Washington 1947), and the *Doctrina Christiana* in Chinese is not the original of 1593 but the facsimile edition by Fr. Jesus Gayo (Manila 1951).

An occasional visitor to the *Filipiniana* may be shown such books as Fr. Manuel Blanco, OSA's *Flora de Filipinas* (Manila 1877) in four beautifully illustrated volumes; the first editions of Jose Rizal's *Noli me tangere* (Berlin 1886), autographed by the hero, and *El Filibusterismo* (Gen 1891); Blair and Robertson's *The Philippine Islands* (set no. 144, 55 volumes); or Harper's *History of the War of the Philippines* (ed. by M. Wilcox, New York 1900); to mention just a few.

The old Spanish periodicals are fairly well represented, even though many of them are incomplete. Among them, mention may be made of *El Diario de Manila* (1849-1866); *Boletín Oficial de Filipinas* (1852-1860); *El Católico Filipino* (1861-1862); *Gaceta Manila* (1861-1898); *El Oriente* (1875-1877); *El Renacimiento* (1905-1909); and the daily, Catholic and brave newspaper *Liber-tas* (1899-1918), published by the University of Santo Tomas, one of the three complete series in existence.

The *Filipiniana* keeps abreast of the publications locally printed today, in spirit of continuity and of service to the students and researchers from within and without the campus. Perhaps there is no major book or periodical in this category that does not find a place in the *Filipiniana*. Among the modern additions that

¹⁶ GAYO, *op. cit.*, pp. 190-191.

the visitor can peruse are *The Philippines*, edited by the Tourist Research and Planning Ltd. (Manila 1981); *Philippines*, ed. by Richard Z. Chesnott (Harry N. Abrams, New York); *Philippine Ancestral Houses* (Manila 1980) by Fernando N. Zialcita and Martin I. Tinio; *Filipino Heritage* (Manila 1977-1978) in ten volumes; the modern Filipiniana serial publications by the Filipiniana Book Guild and by the Historical Conservation Society; etc.

13. *Audiovisual holdings*

No library is today worth its name without at least a modest equipment of audiovisual instruments. The UST Library is certainly not the most advanced nor the richest in this respect, and it does not possess the financial means to set up a modern audiovisual department. But it does have a good number of educational instruments for the benefit of the academic community and of researchers.

For one thing, it possesses the biggest microfilming camera in the country with a microfilm reader/printer, two microfiche readers, two projectors, offset machine, photocopying machine, tape recorder; among the collections, it has considerable supply of filmstrips, records, tapes, microfiches; 15 globes, 598 maps and charts, 1,548 microfilms and 8,275 slides.

The processing section is equipped with the usual processing tools. Among others, it has L.C. Classification schedules, L.C. subject headings the Library of Congress National Union Catalog. Since 1978, the Library has used the NUC on microfiche. This section is also provided with such modern equipment as the multi-lith machine for printing catalog cards, typewriters with special library and microfiche reader.

14. *Library staff*

Covering a total floor area of 4,717 sq.m., the UST Library has gone a long way in time, space and structure since the times of the humble legacy of the founder, Fr. Miguel de Benavides. For the necessary daily services in the seven buildings of the campus and for the running of eleven sections in the Main Library and eleven branch libraries, the University Administration employs a well trained team of professional librarians and students assistants.

The Library Staff is headed by a Prefect of Libraries, a post traditionally occupied by a Dominican priest, a Chief Librarian and an Assistant Chief Librarian, with other 22 professional librarians, holders of degrees in Education with major or minor in Library Science. They are all graduates of the University's own library science curriculum, now in its golden anniversary. Working under them are 97 student assistants who do their service or receive practical training in library science while pursuing their various careers.

All this personnel take care of the more than 300,000 volumes of books, daily serve to the needs of a population of 42,000 students and 1,500 professors and attend to the frequent researchers coming from outside.

In the post-war period the following Dominicans have been Prefects of Libraries: Fr. Evergisto Bazaco (appointed in 1946), Fr. Aniceto Castañón (1949), Fr. Antonio González (1950),¹⁷ Fr. Jesús Merino (1962),¹⁸ Fr. Ricardo Rojo (1965), Fr. Guillermo Tejón (1967), Fr. Francisco Mendoza (1969),¹⁹ Fr. Javier Arrázola (1972),²⁰ Fr. Fidel Villarroel (1978).²¹

In the same period, the Chief Librarians have been Mr. Nicolas Fernández (1947), Mrs. Candida Agcaoili (1950) and Miss Juana Abello (1967). Miss Abello is still at the helm, with Mrs. Erlinda Flores as Assistant Chief Librarian.

As we celebrate, in this year 1982, the Golden Jubilee of the inauguration of the Library Science Course in the University, the UST Library looks with pride and satisfaction to its 371 years of continued service and with confidence to the future in fulfillment of the same cultural mission for the coming generations.

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¹⁷ Acting Prefect (1953)

¹⁸ Acting Prefect (1955); Assistant Prefect (1959). — Fr. Manuel Piñon, Assistant Prefect, (1957).

¹⁹ Acting Prefect (1967)

²⁰ Reappointed in 1975.

²¹ Reappointed in 1981.