

## Reviews & Notices

**Arcilla, José. ed. *Unknown Aspect of the Philippine Revolution*. Makati: St. Pauls Philippines. 2006. 296 pp. ISBN: 971-0390-05-8.**

The *Unknown Aspects of the Philippine Revolution*, edited by the eminent Jesuit historian Fr. José Arcilla, S.J., is a worthwhile addition to the historiography of the 1896 Philippine Revolution against Spain. The editor intended this publication to “help us form a valid judgment of how the Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines ended and how a new nation came into being.”

This volume is composed of nine chapters. The first entry is on “Spanish Masonry in the Philippines” written by Susana Cuartero Escobés who traces the origins of Spanish Masonry in the country and its relations with the Propaganda Movement and the Philippine Revolution. Fr. Isacio Rodriguez, O.S.A.’s article on “The Discovery of the Katipunan, the Augustinians, and the Philippine Revolution” clarifies the confusion on the discovery of the Katipunan, the person of Fr. Mariano Gil, O.S.A., and other initial reports of revolutionary and subversive activities made by the Augustinians as early as 1887. Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, S.J.’s “The Trial of Rizal: Three Characteristics” describes Rizal’s trial as hasty, which meticulously observed formalities only to give an impression of legality and justice but had disregarded the demands of real substantive justice. The article on Rizal is followed by “Friar Prisoners Under the Malolos Government” penned by Fr. William Abbott, S.J. In this article, Abbott argues that the profound esteem and respect for the friars persisted despite the propaganda and accusations hurled against them by the revolutionaries. Fr. Abbott also narrates how some of the friars avoided imprisonment, how the maltreatment of the friars made the revolutionaries unpopular in some provinces, the various responses of Filipinos on the concentration of the friars, and how the revolutionaries obtained funds for the newborn republic through parish funds. “The Franciscans and the Philippine Revolution,” written by Fr. Cayetano Sanchez Fuertes, O.F.M., focuses on the context of the Revolution, the Franciscans during those turbulent years, the Franciscans in central Luzon, and the relationship

between the Franciscans and some sectors in Philippine society. This volume also includes an adaptation of “Conversaciones Interesantes” from *Nuestra Prisión en Poder de los Revolucionarios Filipinos* by Fr. Ulpiano Herrero, O.P, which discusses the reasons for the end of Spanish colonial rule. Herrero, who wrote on behalf of his fellow friar-prisoners, posited that the primary cause of the end of the Spanish colonial rule in the country is the undermined moral force that preserved the colonial order. Other than these articles, the volume includes important documents like the unpublished reports to the Dominican provincial superior narrating the revolution in Bataan, the Jesuit reports recounting the abandonment of their Mindanao missions, and the various petitions to return the priests to their parishes.

This anthology makes available to the public the various scholarly articles and translates historical accounts written and submitted by the friars to their provincial superiors. Aside from these Spanish accounts, the voices of Filipinos were included through the translations of their petitions for the return of their priests in the parishes in Dumaguete (Negros Oriental), Romblon, Veruela (Agusan del Sur), Puerto Princesa, Taytay, and Bacuit (Palawan), and Lao-ang (Northern Samar). Hence, this anthology offers us a symphony of narratives from various perspectives traditionally excluded like the voices of friar-prisoners who were *incomunicado*, the Filipinos living in the barrios, revolutionaries belonging to the rank and file, and those who live far from the center of the Revolution.

The *Unknown Aspects of the Philippine Revolution* opened various topics that church historians interested in the Philippine Revolution may explore in the future. Some future topics that they may study are the plight of other religious orders during the years of the Revolution and the possible efforts made by the tertiaries to help their affected confreres in their respective religious orders. Historians may also consider how the Philippine Revolution affected the sacramental and devotional life of the Filipinos. These make the work significant because it paves the way to a more profound understanding and holistic narrative of the Philippine Revolution coming from various viewpoints.

Lastly, the analyses and narratives in this book counterbalance and demythologize the belief that the anti-friar sentiment was prevalent among Filipinos during those years. This idea is evident in the reaction of some Filipinos in the provinces on the abuses perpetrated against the friar-prisoners, together with their petitions to return the friar-missionaries in some parishes. The symphony of narratives are, nevertheless, the unknown aspects of the Philippine Revolution that the editor wanted to unravel for the reading public.

**Argene Á. Clasara**

**Gregory, Greg F. O.P. and Joselito B. Zulueta (eds.). *The Dominicans of Manaoag: Responding to Our Lady's Call to Praise, Bless, and Preach*. Manila: Minor Basilica and Priory of Our Lady of Manaoag and Dominican Province of the Philippines, 2016. 130 pp. ISBN: 978-971-93907-2-5.**

*The Dominicans of Manaoag: Responding to Our Lady's Call to Praise, Bless, and Preach* is published by the Minor Basilica and Priory of Our Lady of Manaoag and the Dominican Province of the Philippines as a contribution to the celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Order of Preachers. The book's *Preface* clarifies that it is a work neither on the history of the Dominican presence in Manaoag nor on the history of the devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag even if these themes were also briefly discussed in the book. It is rather best treated as a "devotional work" which highlights Our Lady's continuous intercession for the people. It consists of three chapters and is filled with photographs of Our Lady and of the devotional life in Manaoag, Pangasinan. It also provides a copy of the declaration by the National Museum of the Philippines of the Minor Basilica as a National Cultural Treasure.

The first chapter of the monograph, *Laudare: Town and Nation Built by Our Lady's Call*, written by Regalado Trota Jose and Joselito B. Zulueta, provides a brief introduction regarding the municipality of Manaoag, the iconography of Our Lady, and the growth of the devotion to her alongside the growth of the Dominican presence in the town and the development of the Minor Basilica. It is followed by a chapter on *Benedicere: Edifice of Blessing, Miracle, and Heritage*, written by Levin Andro H. Lao, that focuses on the spiritual and cultural significance of the Minor Basilica. It enumerates the different accounts of miracles attributed to Our Lady as recorded by Fr. Mariano Rodriguez, O.P. in his *Historia de la Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Manaoag* (1913). It also highlights the physical features and treasures of the Minor Basilica. These features are among the important considerations when the Basilica was declared a National Cultural Treasure in 2015. The third chapter, *Praedicare: Preaching Across the Seas, Across the Board*, is written by Joselito B. Zulueta and it highlights the contributions made by the devotion to Our Lady, the Minor Basilica, and the Dominican community in Manaoag in the preaching ministry of the Order.

The publication of the monograph is a welcome addition to Filipino *Dominicana* because of numerous reasons. It provides information regarding the iconography of Our Lady as well as the architectural features of the Minor Basilica. It also presents the centuries-long history of Our Lady's continued intercession in the life of the faithful as recorded by Fr. Rodriguez in his *Historia de la Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Manaoag*, which in turn introduces the aforementioned monograph to the wider public. Most importantly, it highlights the pivotal role of the Dominicans (both

Spaniards and Filipinos) in Manaoag in the continuation of the mission of the Order and the development of the town. In particular, it introduces the recent strides done by the friars of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, which include the establishment of the Dominican Novitiate of the Annunciation and the Manaoag Dominican Radio 102.7 FM, and the organization of social action projects for the people of Pangasinan. Although it can be noted that the monograph is not as extensive as compared to similar works such as *The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith* (2007), nonetheless it is a reliable backgrounder for readers and scholars alike regarding the historical development and the cultural relevance of Our Lady, the Minor Basilica, and the Dominican presence in Manaoag, Pangasinan.

**Dennis C. Amarante**

