

HISTÒRIA DE LA PROVÍNCIA DE FILIPINES
DE LA COMPANYIA DE JESÚS, 1581-1606

By Pedro Chirino, S.J., Prologue by Miquel Batllori, S.J.,

Transcribed by Jaume Gòrriz

Barcelona: Pòrtic

2000, 413 pp., paper, ISBN 84-7306-615-4

Reviewed by John Schumacher

Prospective readers ought not to be deterred by the Catalan title given to this important source for the early history of the Philippines. The manuscript history transcribed here is entirely in Castilian Spanish (with the Latin text of some papal documents), and the Catalan preliminary matter is immediately translated into Castilian. It appears that these Catalan gestures are motivated by the fact that this manuscript is found in the Catalan Jesuit archives, and its publication was financed by the Catalan Generalitat, or regional government.

All historians of the Philippines are familiar with Chirino's *Relación de las Islas Filipinas* (Rome 1604), which has been repeatedly translated into English. Meant as a report to the Jesuit Father General in 1602, its scope is much wider than the history of the Society of Jesus. It is one of the earliest works to describe extensively Filipino customs and beliefs by one who had worked both in the Visayas and the Tagalog provinces since 1590. Most frequently cited is the passage on the almost universal literacy of Filipinos in their own syllabary. But there is a great deal more cultural information interspersed with Chirino's report on Jesuit missionary activities.

Chirino later developed that small book into the massive work of over 400 double-columned pages transcribed here, which he continued to expand until shortly before his death in Manila in 1635. For reasons unknown, it remained unpublished as such, but became the principal source of Francisco Colín's *Labor evangélica* (1663). Lost at the time of the Jesuit expulsion in 1768, it was discovered in the late nineteenth century by Dominican Bishop Ramón Martínez Vigil, who presented it to Father Pablo Pastells, S.J., in the hope the latter

would publish it. Though Pastells never did so directly, he included large sections of it in his three-volume edition of Colín's *Labor evangélica* (1900-1902).

In the present volume we have the entire work as written by Chirino, preceded by a helpful introduction. Since it is not a work most will read from cover to cover, but will use as a reference book, it is unfortunate that the index is inadequate, and there is no table of contents. Nonetheless, all historians, not only of the Jesuits or of the Church, will find a vast amount of information here on sixteenth-century Filipino life and culture, as well as on the early contacts of Spaniards and Filipinos. We must be grateful for the immense amount of work in transcribing that manuscript and making such a source readily available.

STORIES OF THE HEART, TREASURES OF THE SOUL:
25 JOURNEYS OF FILIPINO LAY MISSIONERS

Edited by Elnora F.A. Cueto and Dean P. Dicen

Manila: Philippine Catholic Lay Mission

2002, xii, 248 pp., paper, no ISBN

Reviewed by James H. Kroeger

The Philippine Catholic Lay Mission (PCLM) has reached its silver jubilee (1977-2002). An important dimension in the celebration of this milestone is the publication of the "missionary pilgrimages" of 25 PCLM members. The well-chosen title for this attractively presented volume reveals the main features of the book; here one encounters "stories of the heart" and "treasures of the soul" of 25 missionaries, selected from the 164 PCLM personnel that have joined this mission movement over the past quarter century.

Skillfully edited by E. Cueto and D. Dicen (the first PCLM lay director), this work captures "tales of blessing and gratitude, personal conversion, family solidarity, hope and love" that reveal "the secret of 25 years in the existence of the Philippine Catholic Lay Mission" (v). Individual life stories of mission are chosen because