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Updated Checklist of Filipiniana at Valladolid

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the very rich literature of Indonesia will be translated soon — but they are valuable for different reasons.

Susan Evangelista

UPDATED CHECKLIST OF FILIPINIANA AT VALLADOLID. Compiled by Isacio R. Rodríguez, O.S.A., 2 vols. Manila: National Historical Institute, 1976. xiv, 836 pages.

The term “updated” in the title of this welcome two-volume checklist of one of the most extensive existing collections of Filipiniana, particularly of rare books, is in reference to the earlier *A Catalog of Filipiniana at Valladolid* edited in 1973 by Helen R. Tubangi, and published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press. As Professor Tubangi noted in her preface to that volume, it was based on a listing obtained by the late Dr. Domingo Abella (in 1956). After some years (and numerous vicissitudes referred to by Fr. Isacio Rodríguez both in the prologue to these two volumes and in his foreword to the Ateneo Press volume), a copy of the initial listing was given by Dr. Abella through the late Fr. Horacio de la Costa to the Ateneo History Department to be prepared for publication. It was realized at the time that the listing was not complete, but in view of the fact that further verification and completion was impossible at the time, due to reconstruction of the Valladolid Library, it was decided to go ahead with the long-delayed publication, “and perhaps later put out a supplementary volume if necessary.” For reasons too complicated to be detailed here, Fr. Rodríguez’s much more complete compilation appears here under the auspices of the NHI, recasting and integrating the Ateneo Press volume entries with a very substantial number of additions.

The complex history of the publication of both the Ateneo volume and the NHI volumes has led to an unfortunate misunderstanding, expressed in Fr. Rodríguez’s prologue, where he states that “I believe it was a breach of professionalism on [Professor Tubangi’s] part to omit in the publication the name of the compiler of the catalogue.” (p. xiii), i.e., Fr. Rodríguez himself, who was responsible not only for the listing on which the two volumes under review are based, but also for the original listing for the Ateneo catalog. In view of the facts of the transmission of that listing, as appear from the correspondence of the late Fr. de la Costa, and from my own conversations with the late Dr. Abella and Professor Tubangi, as I recently communicated them to Fr. Rodríguez, he authorized me personally to make the proper rectification in this review. The omission of Fr. Rodríguez’s name as compiler of the Ateneo edition was due to the fact that Professor Tubangi, as well as others of us in the Ateneo History Department, were not aware that it had been the work of Fr. Rodríguez.

Having been given to the Philippine Embassy in Madrid in 1956 for government publication, the listing was unaccountably lost. It was only many years later that Dr. Abella donated his own copy to the Ateneo history department through Fr. de la Costa, who was no longer a member of the department at that time. In a letter of 1970, Fr. de la Costa informed the Director of the Ateneo Press that Dr. Abella had assured him verbally that the publication "has the full permission both of himself and of the Augustinian authorities in Valladolid." Though this was correct, it led Professor Tubangui to believe that Dr. Abella, with merely the permission of Fr. Rodríguez as librarian of the Augustinian College in Valladolid, had been responsible for having the listing made which she edited. Hence, being unaware of the actual role of Fr. Rodríguez himself, she gave credit in the preface of her volume to Dr. Abella, and made no mention of Fr. Rodríguez. The misunderstanding on both sides was an honest one, part of the difficulties of undertaking a work involving people on both sides of the world, and complicated by the deaths of the two intermediaries.

Coming to the volumes themselves (which though dated 1976, seem to have appeared only in 1977), the NHI catalog is considerably more extensive, containing 7146 entries, as against 2834 entries of the Ateneo book. The difference is partly explained by continued acquisitions to the library — there are only 13 entries after 1925 in the Ateneo catalog; there are hundreds, going all the way up to 1974 in the NHI volumes. Very many of these additions are not books but articles, including even brief articles on Philippine affairs from such publications as *Newsweek*. Nonetheless spot checks showed that there are also a number of older works, even from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which did not appear in the first catalog. Hence even allowing for the inclusion of a number of ephemeral articles of minimal scholarly value and of more recently published works which are easily available in other libraries, the *Updated Checklist* contains a substantial number of hitherto unlisted, rare, and imported works.

Nonetheless, the Ateneo catalog will still remain necessary for scholars wishing to make ready use of the *Updated Checklist*. Whereas the first work was arranged historically by date of publication, the new volumes have rather been arranged by topic, library fashion. Unfortunately the number of subject categories used is quite small and hence some of them are very broad. Since not all books lend themselves so easily to subject categorization, and different persons will have different perceptions of where a book might more properly be cataloged, it is not always easy to search for a particular book. Moreover, Fr. Rodríguez has been poorly served by his editors. In integrating the entries from the Ateneo compilation under the subject headings according to which the new edition is organized, the chronological order within a subject heading is often interrupted and a new chronological series is begun. Presumably this is done because there is a change of subject, but

without any new subject heading intervening, it results in incorrect cataloging. Other odd items are simply added under subject headings which are certainly incorrect, e.g., a single item from the religious orders as a whole, and another single item from the Brothers of San Juan de Dios (nos. 6611 and 6612) being included under the category "Vi(n)centians."

These problems would not be so serious, however, if there were adequate indexes. Unfortunately, inasmuch as the work was arranged by subjects, there is no detailed subject index as in the Ateneo compilation; only an author-title index. Several spot checks, however, show that this is quite incomplete, and whole sections have been missed either in the indexing itself or in the printing of the index. For example, almost nine columns of author-title entries from the Ateneo volume index under the letter C are missing from the NHI index (cf. pp. 307-311 with p. 771). There are likewise a very large number of misprints, omission of dates, or incorrect transcription of them, especially where the entry had the date in Roman numerals (e.g., nos. 766, 767, 6529, etc.). In the case of items which appeared in the Ateneo catalog, one can trace such missing entries in the index or other errors through the use of the earlier compilation. But when it is a case of the large number of new entries, no such recourse is possible.

This is especially unfortunate because this *Updated Checklist* is undoubtedly one of the most extensive historical bibliographies of Filipiniana in existence, apart from the *Lopez Memorial Museum Catalogue* and the *Union Catalogue* of Maxima Ferrer. These however, are confined to Philippine libraries, and therefore lack many rare works which do not exist in our country. Moreover, nowhere else can be found listed numerous periodical articles of such publications as *Anacleto Augustiniana*, *Archivo Histórico Hispano-Agustiniano*, where there are published numerous biographical sketches of missionaries who worked in the Philippines, rare manuscripts, and other materials not easy for the historian to come by. These periodicals and a number of others are cataloged article by article for Philippine material, and such bibliographical aid is nowhere else available for the period prior to the last copies of decades.

Fr. Rodríguez deserves to be thanked by all who are concerned with any period or branch of Philippine history for making this checklist public. Though it is lamentable that his contribution has been prevented from being even more fruitful by the inadequate editorial work and indexing, still, if used properly and in conjunction with the earlier catalog, it will be of great service not only to those who are fortunate enough to be able to go and work in the Valladolid library, but, as a bibliographical aid, to other scholars as well. Its limitations only call attention to the often-expressed need for more coordinated work in Philippine historical bibliography.

John N. Schumacher, S.J.