

Hernando's "Ishmael Bernal: Merging Art and Commercialism," and Lino Brocka's "Philippine Movies: Some Problems and Prospects."

As manifested in the scope of its concerns, the book aims to encourage an appreciation of its subject matter in both beginner and observer, native or foreign. Guerrero's introduction, cognizant of the then sincere aspirations of his publisher, the Marcos-era ECP, announces: "Signs abound towards that unravelling progress of the Philippine cinema. For the first time it has become possible to believe that Tagalog movies cannot but become better. . . ." Thus, one can detect the wide-ranging optimism manifested in the arrangement of articles, with the observation of various problematics limited to the first carefully historicized half and the unquestioningly favorable assessments of authentic achievements in the second half. • J. David

THE RECTO VALEDICTORY

Published 1985. Author, Claro M Recto. Essays originally published in *Manila Sunday Chronicle*, 1960. English translation by Nick Joaquin. With an Introduction by Nick Joaquin and a Foreword by Lorenzo M. Tañada. Manila: Claro M. Recto Foundation.

This is a compilation of speeches originally written in Spanish by Claro M Recto, intended to be delivered in Spain in 1960. However, Recto died before he could deliver them. As a tribute, the *Manila Sunday Chronicle* published his undelivered speeches. Five of them are about notable Filipinos. "Manuel Luis Quezon" praises the patriotism of Quezon and his efforts at attaining national independence. "Cayetano S. Arellano" eulogizes Arellano's less fiery, more quiet, but equally genuine patriotism. "Cecilio Apostol" and "Manuel Bernabe" are tributes to the artistry of the two writers in Spanish. Recto notes Apostol's profundity and patriotism, and the precision of his language; he calls Bernabe the heir of the great writers in Spanish. "Rizal y sus 'Memorias de Estudiante'" (Rizal and His Student Memories) presents excerpts from Rizal's memoirs. Two speeches are about the Spanish language. In both, Recto contends that Spanish is so much a part of Philippine culture that to neglect it is to reduce Philippine culture. In "Por los fueros de una herencia" (For the Rights of a Heritage), Recto enumerates the legacies of the Spanish language and includes a poem in praise of the language. "La cruzada por el español en Filipinas" (The Crusade for Spanish in the Philippines) describes how Rizal used Spanish to spread his ideals and notes why Spanish failed to

take root in the Philippines. The other speeches are on international politics and on the Spanish woman. "Los convenios sobre bases militares entre España y los Estados Unidos y entre Filipinas y los Estados Unidos" (The Military Treaties on Bases Between Spain and the United States and Between the Philippines and the United States) exposes the imbalance, favoring the United States, in the terms of the military treatise. "El Pacto del Atlantico y el Pacto del Pacifico" (The Atlantic Pact and the Pacific Pact) shows the contradictions in both pacts. "La mujer Española" (The Spanish Woman) contains a poem by Jesus Balmori in praise of Spain. One speech not included in the book form is "La monarquía norteamericana" (The North American Monarchy), a political satire.

These speeches demonstrate Recto's mastery of the Spanish language and his fervid nationalism. His rhetoric is vigorous and poetic, elaborately Castilian but clear. • J. Chua

REVALUATION: ESSAYS ON PHILIPPINE LITERATURE, CINEMA AND POPULAR CULTURE

Published 1984. Author, Bienvenido Lumbera. Index Press.

This book is a collection of essays that Lumbera wrote between 1965 and 1981. The objective of the collection, according to the preface, is "to arrive at a new estimation of the value of some important components of Philippine culture; literature, theater, cinema, popular culture . . . [and] to revalidate the position of the arts in the rapidly changing circumstances of our national life." Most of the essays have originally appeared elsewhere, as in the books *Third World Readings* and *Book of the Philippines 1976*, and the periodicals *The Review*, *The Diliman Review*, *International Pop Culture*, *Philippine Studies*, and *Cultural Research Bulletin*. One essay, "The Nationalist Literary Tradition," is a paper that Lumbera presented at a 1980 conference in the United States on Philippine studies.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part contains essays on Philippine literature and theater; the second deals with the cinema and popular culture; and the third contains reviews of particular works. The first essay, "Towards a Revised History of Philippine Literature," presents the historical background and sets the theoretical framework for the study of Philip-

pine literature. The method is dialectical, exploring the development of Philippine literature within the context of the country's experience of colonialism, war, revolution, and class relationships. Lumbera's framework is further elucidated in the other essays in Parts One and Two, where he discusses and demonstrates its application to more specific areas of Philippine literature and culture, such as literary criticism, vernacular literature, drama, and film. Lumbera also discusses the political nature of popular culture and the dilemmas of the Filipino writer. In Part Three, the essays comment on Linda Ty-Casper's *The Peninsulars*, Alejandro G. Abadilla's *Piniling Akda ni AGA*, Ninotchka Rosca's *Bitter Country and Other Stories*, and Rony V. Diaz's *Death on a Sawmill and Other Stories*. These essays effectively demonstrate how Lumbera's basic historical framework can be combined with an analysis of aesthetic forms to arrive at a deeper understanding of a literary work and its place in the country's literary history.

Revaluation is particularly useful as a guide to more extensive and intensive studies on Philippine literature and culture and as a supplement to readings on Philippine history. • M.T. Wright

THE ROMANCE MODE IN PHILIPPINE LITERATURE AND OTHER ESSAYS

Published 1988. Author, Soledad S. Reyes. With an Introduction by Isagani R. Cruz. Manila: De La Salle University Press.

A collection of essays previously published in journals and books, it surveys Philippine literary history and Philippine literary criticism. The book is divided into four sections: "Theory and Criticism," "On Individual Writers," "On Movements/Trends," and "On Popular Culture."

"Recent Trends in Literary History and the Study of Philippine Literature" briefly summarizes Western literary theories and criticism that have challenged formalism. "The Romance Mode in Philippine Popular Literature" observes how a large number of Filipino works have been undervalued as a result of the institutionalization of realist criticism. In "Philippine Literary Studies, 1970-1985: Some Preliminary Notes," Reyes describes some features of literary studies prior to the 1970s, which included the marginalization of regional literatures and, conversely, the valorization of Tagalog or English texts. Reyes cites such critics as Isagani Cruz, Resil B. Mojares, and Epifanio San Juan Jr as

among those who have started to employ alternative critical approaches.

Many of the essays deal with literary and cultural forms that are explicitly subversive: "The Literature of the Propaganda Movement (1880-1896)"; "Reforms and Revolution"; "The Impact of Rizal's *Noli* and *Fili* on the Tagalog Novel"; "Philippine Literature Since 1972: A Discourse on Disorder"; "Language as Power in a World Turned Upside Down." But Reyes also notes implicit subversions operating within literary and cultural texts which, in general, support a predominantly conservative ideology. In "The Subversive Role of Female Characters," for example, she finds in some Tagalog novels a subversive woman's voice which questions the traditional image of the ideal woman. "The Outlaw and the Prostitute," and "Love and Marriage in the Tagalog Novel" are similar essays.

Reyes also deals with individual writers like Macario Pineda and Idefonso Santos; and on popular cultural forms, like the *komiks*, local women's magazines, and popular slogans emerging from the 1986 EDSA "revolution." On academic curricular programs, Reyes offers "The Interdisciplinary Studies Program" against the development toward more rigid specialization in academic institutions. She cites the use of the interdisciplinary approach in Philippine studies in the work of Reynaldo C. Ileto, Vicente Marasigan, Isagani R. Cruz, Resil B. Mojares, and Epifanio San Juan Jr. • T.E. Arambulo

SA MGA KABABAYANG DALAGA NG MALOLOS

(To My Young Countrywomen of Malolos). Written 1889. Published 1955. Author, Jose Rizal. Quezon City: R. Martinez and Sons. Included in *Ang Liham ni Dr Jose Rizal sa mga Dalagang Taga-Malolos at ang Kasaysayan sa Likod Nito* (Dr Jose Rizal's Letter to the Maidens Of Malolos and the History Behind It) by Antonio B. Valeriano and Jose P.W. Tantoco, Malolos, Bulacan: Del Pilar Foundation Inc, 1982. English translation, "Rizal's Message to the Young Women of Malolos" by Encarnacion Alzona in *Rizal's Correspondence With Fellow Reformists*, Manila: National Historical Commission, 1963.

This letter was written in London on 22 Feb 1889 upon a request by Marcelo H. del Pilar for Rizal to congratulate del Pilar's female provincemates, who had succeeded in establishing a Spanish-language night school in Malolos despite the vehement objections of the friars. Barred by the friars from seeing Gov