

Book Reviews

Dutch Filipiniana: Annotated Bibliography of Dutch Publications on the Philippines. By Otto van den Muijzenberg. Leiden: KITLV Press, 1992. Pp. vii, 135.

Otto van den Muijzenberg's purpose is to present as complete a list as possible of titles by Dutch scholars who have researched the Philippines. The oldest title was published in 1732; the most recent titles appeared in 1991 when this volume went to press. In his eleven-page introduction, van den Muijzenberg surveys the history of the scholarship and takes some pride in the growing numbers of Philippine studies scholars within the last two decades. Nearly 65 per cent of the 349 titles annotated in the book were published between 1971 and 1991.

Van den Muijzenberg explains that Dutch scholars' interest in the Philippines has long been related to Dutch politics, economics, and scholarly interests in the Netherlands Indies, now Indonesia. Numerous scholars whose works are listed have also done research, in many cases a considerable amount, on the Netherlands Indies or Indonesia. In recent decades, several scholars have emerged who are interested in the Philippines for its own sake, unconnected to Dutch relations with Indonesia. But the infrastructure for Philippine studies in the Netherlands is still meagre, especially when compared with that for Indonesian studies. Indicatively, van den Muijzenberg notes there is only one course in Pilipino/Tagalog for the entire country, and that is offered only every other year (at Leiden University). Given this situation, the quantity and quality of work done on the Philippines by a handful of Dutch scholars is rather impressive.

While much of their publications are in Dutch, over 30 per cent of the titles here are in English. All have annotations, frequently lengthy and informative ones. Subject areas represented in this volume are wide-

ranging — from administration and agriculture, to war and women — for which the book's index is a guide. There is also a geographical index indicating that a large share of the Dutch scholarship on the archipelago has emphasized the islands of Mindanao and Luzon, though there has been considerable work on the Visayas.

To give a flavour of the scholarship represented by this bibliography, I might highlight ten scholars with the most titles. Hendrik Kern and Antoon Postma's research might be grouped under the broad heading of language and literature. Kern, whose Philippine work was published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, analysed several languages in the country, as well as doing translations and some study of Philippine independence movements. Postma has written from the early 1970s into the 1990s about the poetry and language of Mangyan people (Mindoro) as well as about their culture and folklore.

Ruurdje Laarhoven and Peter Schreurs have written a great deal in the 1980s about Mindanao history. Laarhoven has emphasized the Maguindanao area, especially during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Schreurs has concentrated on Augustan and Surigao from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries.

Five of these ten scholars have emphasized agrarian and rural studies. Otto van den Muijzenberg and Willem Wolters have been writing since the early 1970s about social, political, and economic conditions in Central Luzon, especially Nueva Ecija. Van den Muijzenberg has also been studying nationalism and church-state relations, while Wolters has been comparing various aspects of the Philippines (and Central Luzon) to Indonesia (and Java). Rosanne Rutten since the early 1980s has been doing research on social relations, women, and local economy in rural areas of Panay and Negros islands in the Visayas. Regional development and planning in rural areas have been themes in work by H.A. Luning and A.T.H. van Oosterhout, the former emphasizing western Visayas and the latter Mindanao. Luning has also researched rural employment and rice marketing; Oosterhout has also studied rural conflict.

Niels Mulder since the late 1980s has been investigating questions regarding possible relationships between culture and poverty while also studying ideology and élites.

This bibliography is a welcomed research tool for Philippine studies. Otto van den Muijzenberg and the several people he acknowledges who have helped in this project are to be congratulated on a job well done.

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