

spread out before them, while in the realm of spirit they have the *Bushido*, that Code of Honour still glowing with the embers of chivalry.

This duality was possessed by only one other people in the past, a model that still evokes our enthusiasm—ancient Greece. Rodó once described Greece with remarkable eloquence in these words: "Thus, on the two poles of Athens and Lacedaemon rests the axis on which revolves the character

of the greatest of all races, for genius and civilization." Athens—symbol of grace, serenity, youth, love of all that is beautiful, the Athens of Plato's Dialogues, the Athens that built the Parthenon. And Lacedaemon, seat and symbol of all the manly Spartan virtues.

What finer element to remould a culture than the inspiration of this unique duality, the balance of this two-fold soul?

It Was Not Always "Philippines"

By ADEUDATO J. AGBAYANI

DURING this 400th year of the name *Filipinas* or *Philippines* as applied to this archipelago of 7,890 islands, the findings of historical researchers and suggestions of the public regarding the nomenclature of the same country are recalled. It was in 1543 when Ruy Lopez de Villalobos bestowed the name upon this land to glorify a Spanish prince, who later became King Philip II of Spain.

On March 16, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan, (Hernando Magallanes), intrepid Portuguese-born navigator in the service of the Spanish Crown, designated these islands as *Archipelago de San Lazaro*, upon catching his first glimpse of a Visayan island, to honor Saint Lazarus whose Sabbath was being observed by Christendom on that memorable day. Unfortunately, he apparently had not seen the map which Claudius Ptolemy, Greco-Egyptian astronomer and geographer of Alexandria, had prepared prior to the second century of the Christian Era. According to Dr. Jose Rizal, the name *Tawalisi* was used on that map to designate the Philippine group. Besides *Tawalisi*, some of the other names claimed invariably as having been given to the Philippines (first, to only a portion and la-

ter, to the entire group of islands of this country) were:

Ma-i (or *Mai*, *May-i*, *Mayi*, *Mayit*, *May-it*, *May-yi*); *Puloan* (apparently Palawan), by extension of an island near Luzon; *San-su* or *Sen-tao*, meaning "The Three Islands"; *Chin-san*, signifying "The Mountain of Gold"; *Barussas* (or *Barosas*, *Baroussai*, *Barousi*), which appeared in the revised editions of Ptolemy's "Geographical Tables"; *Maniolas* (*Manilas*, *Manila Islands*, *Manillas*, *Manille*, *Manilhe*, *Menile*, *Islas de Manila*), by extension of the principal city of the country; *Luzon* (*Liu-zung*, *Lucon*, *Luzones*, *Luconia*, *Lusones Islands*, *Lozon*, *Lu-sung*, *Luzung*, *Islas de Luzon*, *Liu-sin*, *Luzong*, *Lucones*, *Luson*), by extension of the largest island of the archipelago; *Ylaya* (*Ilaya*, *Ylvia*, *Ilay-i*), according to Fr. Jose A. Burgos; *Ophir* (a Biblical name of the place, which supplied King Solomon's court with gold), according to Paterno; *Liu-K'iu*, said Dr. Austin Craig; and *Bashaya* (*Visaya*, *Visayas*, *Bisaya*), the name used by many a Hindu in referring to the ancient Philippines. As early as 982 A.D. the name *Ma-i* was used by Chinese traders in referring to the Philippines. Many Nipponese must have referred to the same "Treasure Islands of the Orient"

as *Ru-zun* or *Ruson* (Luzon) long before Magellan's father was born. Not all writers, however, agree on the use of the aforementioned names.

It is of general knowledge that the first Spanish name of this land was *Archipiélago de San Lazaro* (St. Lazarus Islands or *St. Lazarus Archipelago*).

The other names given during the Spanish Imperial Days to this "bold little archipelago which juts out at the south-east corner of Asia" were *Archipiélago de Magallanes*, in honor of Magellan, who "discovered" this country; *Archipiélago de Legaspi*, to perpetuate the name of the first *Adelantado* and Spanish Governor of this land; *Islas de Indias*, used incorrectly and contemptuously; *Islas de Celebes* or *Islas de Liquios de Celebes*, probably because the waters of the Celebes Sea wash the southern shores of Mindanao; and *Nueva Castilla* (*Nuevo Reyno de Castilla*, *New Castile*, *New Kingdom of Castile*), a name sanctioned by King Philip II himself.

It seems that the Portuguese have a weakness of using beautiful expressions in describing Oriental islands. Students of Far Eastern history will remember that when Portuguese sailors saw Taiwan for the first time in the sixteenth century they exclaimed, "*Ilha Formosa*" which means "Beautiful Islands." The descriptive name "*Valle Sem Perigo*" (Valley Without Danger) was given to the Philippines by a Portuguese upon observing the hospitality and kindness of the Filipinos.

Americans and French immigrants in the United States a century ago knew the Philippines as *Manilla* and the Filipinos as *Manillamen*. To the commercial world today, *Manila* is really better known than *Philippines*.

Once upon a time these "*Isles of Faith*" were either called *Islas de Poniente* ("Western Islands") or *Islas del Oriente* ("Oriental Islands" or

"Western Islands"), depending upon the direction taken by the navigator in reaching this country from the Old Continent. The Portuguese used the former while the Spaniards insisted on the latter. Following is a pertinent quotation from Dr. Antonio de Morga's much quoted *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas* as translated from a Harvard copy by Alfonso de Salvia, Norman F. Hall, and James Alexander Robertson in Blair and Robertson's *The Philippine Islands*:

The Islands of the eastern Ocean Sea, adjacent to farther Asia, belonging to the crown of Espania, are generally called, by those who navigate thither by way of the demarcation of Castilla and Castilla's seas and lands of America, "the Western Islands"; for from the time that one leaves Espania, he sails in the course of the Sun from east to west until he reaches them. For the same reason; they are called "*Eastern Islands*" by those who sail from west to east by way of Portuguese India, each of them circumscribing the world by voyaging in opposite directions, until they meet at these islands, which are properly called Filipinas, and are subject to the crown of Castilla. (*Italics supplied*)

To be called either "Eastern Islands" or "Western Islands" during the same epoch is indeed an unusual experience of the Philippines, which now belongs to the "Southern Regions," vis-a-vis, Nippon Proper. As far as Java and Borneo were concerned in yesteryears, this country was referred to commonly as *Ylala* (pronounced as *Ylaia* by Nipponese and *Ilai-é* by Chinese), according to Fr. Jose A. Burgos in his writings which P. D. Delfin enterprisingly published in pamphlet form in Cebu in 1941 under the subtitle *Obras Escogidas*. To Fr. Burgos, *Ylala* means "*mas allá, mas sea como fuera*." He also claimed that the early natives of Borneo and Java (now denominated by Nipponese as Brunei and Djawa, respectively), called the Filipinos *Ylayanjen* while the early Hindus used the term *taga Ilaya*.

If there is such a thing as geographical romance, the Philippines has a full share of it. In the whirl-

gig of time, the polysyllabic name *Philippine Islands* or *Islas Filipinas* has been simplified to mere *Philippines* or *Filipinas*. In the past, the name was variably spelled as *Felipinas*, *Felipina*, *Philipina*, *Philippina*, and *Philipinas* as shown in documents, letters, and historical "relaciones" during the Spanish regime here. And it was only in 1561 when Fr. Andres de Urdaneta used "*Las Islas Filipinas* in the ordinary manner.

Yslas Philippas was the designation used by Diego de Artieda before 1573. In the same vein, the late Percy A. Hill, American rice grower of Nueva Ecija, referred to the same archipelago in his *Philippine Short Stories* as *Islas of Felipe* or *Isles of Philip*.

The present name is usually written *Pilipinas* in Tagalog, *Hiripin* in Romanzi Nippongo, *Iles Philippines* in French, *Philippinen* in German, *Filipiny* or *Filipinski* in Czech, *Filipinas* in Spanish, *Philippines* in English, *Philippynen* in Dutch, *Filipinit* in Finnish, and *Isele Filippine* in Italian. It seems that *Philippinas* is the latinized form as shown in the English translation by Dr. Camilo Osias of Feliciano Basa's "The Commerce of Agapulco" in the *Encyclopedia of the Philippines*.

Long before this land of sampaguitas and matchless orchids was generally known under its present designation, the name *Philipina* was already coined for geographical purposes. The historical writer, Dr. Pedro de Santander, noted that Guido de las Bazaes, otherwise known in Philippine history as Governor Lazares, was a member of one of the unsuccessful Spanish expeditions to explore what is known today as the state of Florida, U. S. A. for a possible site of a proposed *Ciudad de Philipina* or *Philippine City*. This revelation had been made in Manila long before Filipinos working in the salmon fishing industry on the Pacific

Coast of the United States christened (unofficially, of course) an isle off Alaska as *Little Philippines*.

The present name of this country was first applied during the third quarter of the year 1543 to the small Visayan island of *Tendaya* (as spelled by Morga, Rizal, Gaetan) or *Tandaya* (as spelled by Colin, Retana, de Tavera and others). It is so difficult to state definitely which island was called *Tandaya*. Rizal himself admitted in his annotation of Morga's much quoted *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas* that it "is very difficult to determine which was the island of *Tandaya*, called by some the Philippine Island".

Colin, Retana, and others affirmed in their writings that the said small Visayan island was what is now known as Leyte while Visscher and Mortier, on their respective maps published in 1810, applied *Philippine* to what is now designated as Samar. Dr. T. H. Pardo de Tavera believed that *Tandaya* is Samar. Mercator held that the said island was in Panay while others claimed that the same *Tandaya* or *Tendaya* was in Ibabao or south of Samar.

Ex-Assemblyman Gregorio Perfecto proposes to rename this country after Rizal to complete the rebirth of the New Philippines, arguing in the "Public Pulse" column of *The Tribune* on February 8, 1943 that it is "unreasonable for our people to continue honoring the memory of Philip II, a monarch of an Occidental Kingdom, the first to deprive us of our independence; a monarch whose name is linked with the 'debacle' of the 'Armada Invencible' and with the most sanguinary pages of the 'Inquisition' in Spain." Mr. Perfecto is the Visayan-born Bicolano delegate of Manila who in 1934 signed the former Constitution of the Philippines with his own blood. On February 10, 1943, *The Tribune* editorially said that before the Filipinos "talk further about independence, let's get rid of our Spanish label."

Besides *Rizal*, the other names suggested in *The Tribune* are *Mailog* (many rivers), in the daily column, "Our Tomorrow"; *Lapu-Lapu Islands*, in memory of the Filipino conqueror of a world navigator (Magellan), by D. C. Ticala of Malate, Manila; *Mutya ng Silangan* (Pearl of the Orient), by the writer of the cryptic lines under the "Splashes" column of the same daily paper; and *Mai*, an ancient Chinese name for this country, by Eliseo E. Solano of 712 Asuncion St., Manila who explained that "*Mai* would rhyme with *Thai*, *Malai*, *Bornei*, (Borneo) and *Hawaii*", besides claiming that the word *Mai* in Tagalog language embraces all that is plenty and complete and nothing amiss because pre-Occidental *Mai* was perfectly a have-country."

The readers of *The Tribune* who do not see any need of re-naming the country include Pedro Padilla of Navotas, Rizal; Armando Soliman of 18 Mangahan St., Parañaque; Margarito Pañganiban of 11 Soliman St., Manila; and Ramon E. Corpuz of Tayuman St., Manila. Among other things, Mr. Padilla stated:

The name *Pilipinas* (the usual spelling in the vernacular) does not necessarily carry the stigma of serfdom. If there is that stigma, then it is present in the minds of people suffering from inferiority complex, and nowhere else.

The same writer further argued that "when you say *Pilipinas* and *dalagang Pilipina*, you have the mental pictures of sun-caressed fields and modest woman" and it would mean a great loss in the literary heritage of the Filipinos to discard such beautiful words if the words *Pilipinas* and *Pilipina* are to be replaced altogether.

General Artemio Ricarte would like the word *LUVIMINDA* as a new designation for these "Isles of Hope" whose three main island groups are Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The same Filipino nationalist has likewise proposed *MILUSVI* for *Filipinos*.

The late Dr. Benito T. Soliven of Ilocos Sur wanted to change *Filipinas*

with either *Mayon* or *Maynila*. In fact, in 1938 he prepared a bill for presentation in the National Assembly that would authorize the Commonwealth Chief Executive to appoint a Special Commission of Scholars to recommend an "adequate" native name of the Philippines. Many years ago, Leon C. Pichay, Ilocano poet, suggested the word *Dalumpinas* (selected stone) for a new name for these 7,890 emerald islands, while the late James "Mabuhay" King Steele advocated the colorful Tagalog word *Mabuhay* as a tourist "trade mark" of this country. All of these are mentioned here to show that the movement for a native name for the *Philippines* is not new at all.

Prof. Guillermo Tolentino, Tagalog philologist and the islands' foremost sculptor, is in favor of a "pure" Tagalog word for the name of this land, saying that the name *Philippines* carries the taint of dependence on the Occident, reminding also the reading public that the "Spirit of Dai Nippon is to banish all Occidentalism from the Islands".

"M. E.", who is really responsible for focusing anew the attention of the Filipino public to the need of changing the Spanish name of this Asian Archipelago, explained in his "Our Tomorrow" column in *The Tribune* on February 7, 1943, that it "is obvious that any attempt to change the name of our islands after using it for four centuries will prove difficult." He holds that the "main task, of course, lies in finding a name appropriate enough to justify the dropping of the old one which has become a part of Philippine history." His opinion was afterwards followed by this editorial note in the same newspaper: "A country without a native name should feel awkward in looking for its proper place."

It seems that it is up to the Filipino people to decide whether the present 400-year-old name of their country should be discarded.