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Hispanofilipino Literature Exhibit

Charlotte Fater

Mentors: Fe Susan Go, Marlon Sales, and Barbara Alvarez





Project Overview

- Design an exhibit as part of the program Sites of Translation in the Multilingual Midwest
- Research the history of the Philippines and its literature
- Identify additional materials for use in exhibit
- Create wall panels and a layout for the display of physical materials



Exhibit Objectives and Personal Goals

- Educate visitors on history, literature, and translation in the Philippines
- Showcase the U-M library collections
- Expand my knowledge about the history and literature of the Philippines
- Learn practical skills related to exhibit design

The background features a light beige color with several concentric, thin-lined circles of varying radii, some solid and some dashed. At the bottom, there is a decorative horizontal border with a repeating floral and leaf pattern.

Challenges and Solutions



#1

CHALLENGE

- Lack of access to the physical materials

SOLUTION

- Digital scans, cardboard boxes, and index cards



#2

CHALLENGE

- Design accessibility and relative size

SOLUTION

- A contrast check and a reality check

Evolution of a Wall Panel

1

First Encounters

The first Spanish expedition reached the archipelago in 1521, but it was not until 1542 that the name *Philippines* (or *Felipinas* in its archaic Castilian spelling) was coined in honor of Philip II of Spain. It would take another two decades for Spain to establish its first settlements on the islands in 1565 upon the arrival of Miguel López de Legazpi.



Caption



Caption

QR code -
Bower
Codes at H
Library site

Caption



Although an economically profitless venture for the Spanish Crown, the Philippines remained a colony of Spain because it was regarded as a springboard for the Christianization of continental East Asia, particularly China.

2

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Translation figured prominently in the literary activities of this period. Although the official colonial policy was to teach the Spanish language, the Spanish priests who were directly in contact with Filipino peoples preferred learning and documenting native literacies in order to facilitate the process of conversion. It was for this reason that a number of grammars, dictionaries, and introductory religious texts published in Spanish and several local languages were produced throughout the colonial period. Many later editions of these texts have found their way to the University of Michigan and several other archives in the US Midwest.

3

First Encounters

Placeholder for digitized spreads of catechisms



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#3

CHALLENGE

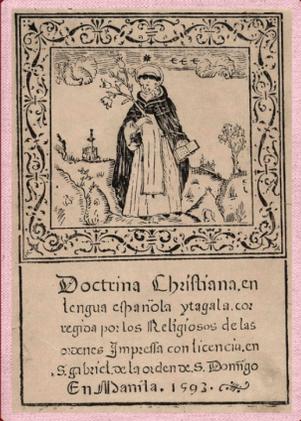
- Working from home - too few coworkers and too many distractions

SOLUTION

- Roommates and picnic tables



The Final Product(s)



Ba bebi bobu. Ca cecico eu.
 Daro di do du. Sa feti fo fu.
 Guan guen guin guon gun. Iha.
 he hi ho hu. Iaje ji jo ju. La le.
 li lo lu. Ma me mi mo mu. Na.
 ne ni no nu. Pa pe pi po pu. Qu a.
 que qui quo qu. Ra re ri ro ru. Sa.
 se si so su. Ta te ti to tu. Ua ve.
 vi vo vu. Xa xe xi xo xu. Ya ye.
 yi yo yu. Za ze zi zo zu.
 El abc. en lengua tagala.

los cielos. Sanctificad o sea el tu
 nombre. Tenga anos el tu Reyno.
 hegase tu voluntad, asi en la tier
 ra como en el cielo. El pan nuest
 ro de cada dia danoslo oy. Y per
 donanos nuestras deudas. asi co
 mo nosotros las perdonamos a
 nuestros deudores. Y no nos de
 ces caer en tentacion. *A*ndas
 Libanos de mal. Amen.
 Ang ama namimoo
 ma namin masa langitca
 ypatamba mo ang ngula
 mo, mautasamin ang pagcahan

mo. y pasoua mo ang loob mo.
 dito salupa para sa langit, bigya
 mo kami ngaion nang amin caca
 nin. para nang sa ano arao. atpa
 cavalin mo ang amin cañalanā.
 yañang uinavalan bahala nang
 sa loob ang cañalan nang
 nagesasala sa amin. *H*ouag
 mo caming cevan nang oi cam
 matalo nang toco. *D*atapo
 ua t yadia mo kami sa dilan ma
 sama. Amen. *J*esus.

Clave maria
 Hoste salve Maria. *H*o
 na de gracia. El seno es
 contigo. bendita tu. entre todas
 las mugeres. y bendito el fruto
 de tu vientre *J*esus. Santa *M*aria

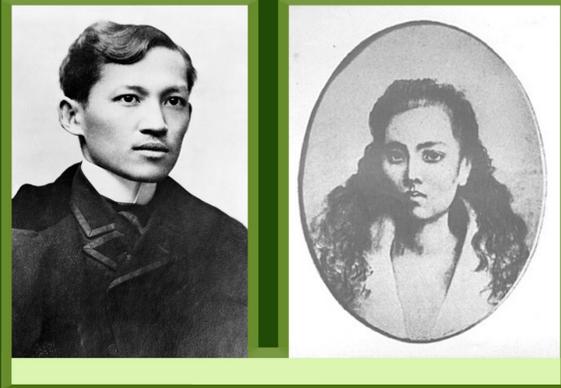
Many books and manuscripts produced during the early days of Spanish rule reflected this missionary role. One of the first two books ever printed in the Philippines in 1593 was the *Doctrina christiana*, a book of Catholic prayers in Spanish with an accompanying Tagalog translation written in both the Latin alphabet and the pre-Hispanic Filipino alphabet called baybayin.



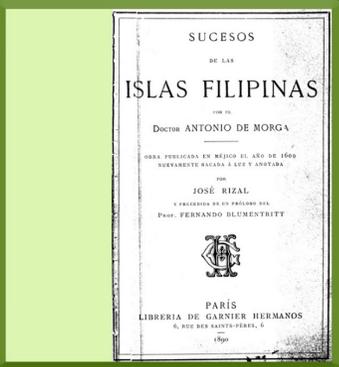
Also worth mentioning is the *Boxer Codex*, a manuscript produced in the capital city of Manila around 1590. In addition to very vivid narrative descriptions of Asian cultures, it also contains a series of drawings depicting the peoples of the Philippines and its neighboring countries.



The two foundational novels of the Filipino nation were written originally in Spanish by the most illustrious of the ilustrados. They were the *Noli me tângere* (or *Noli*) and *El filibusterismo* (or *Fili*) of the intellectual and martyr José Rizal. The *Noli* was first printed in Berlin, Germany in 1887, while the *Fili*, its sequel, came out in Ghent, Belgium in 1891.

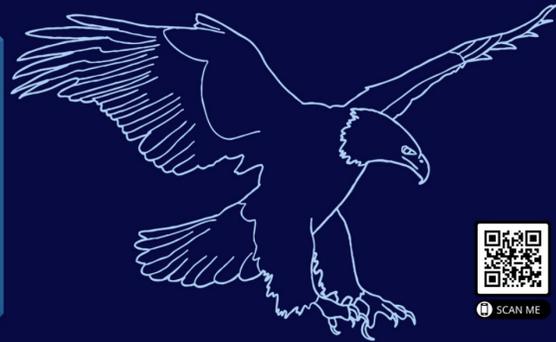
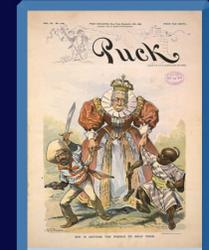
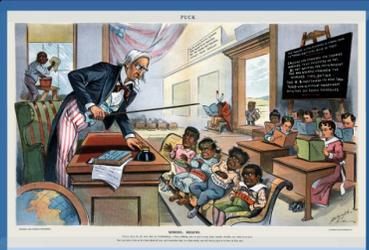


Since Spanish authorities banned the novels in the Philippines, the first Philippine edition got published only in 1899, a year after the fall of the Spanish Empire. It was around this time when the first translations of the novels were made. In addition to translation into various Philippine languages, a number of English-language translations of Rizal's novels have been produced over the years.



An Eagle Flight, an anonymous translation into English based loosely on the plot of the *Noli*, was published in New York in 1900. *The Social Cancer* and *The Reign of Greed*, Charles Dersbyshire's influential English-language translations, were printed in 1912.





SCAN ME



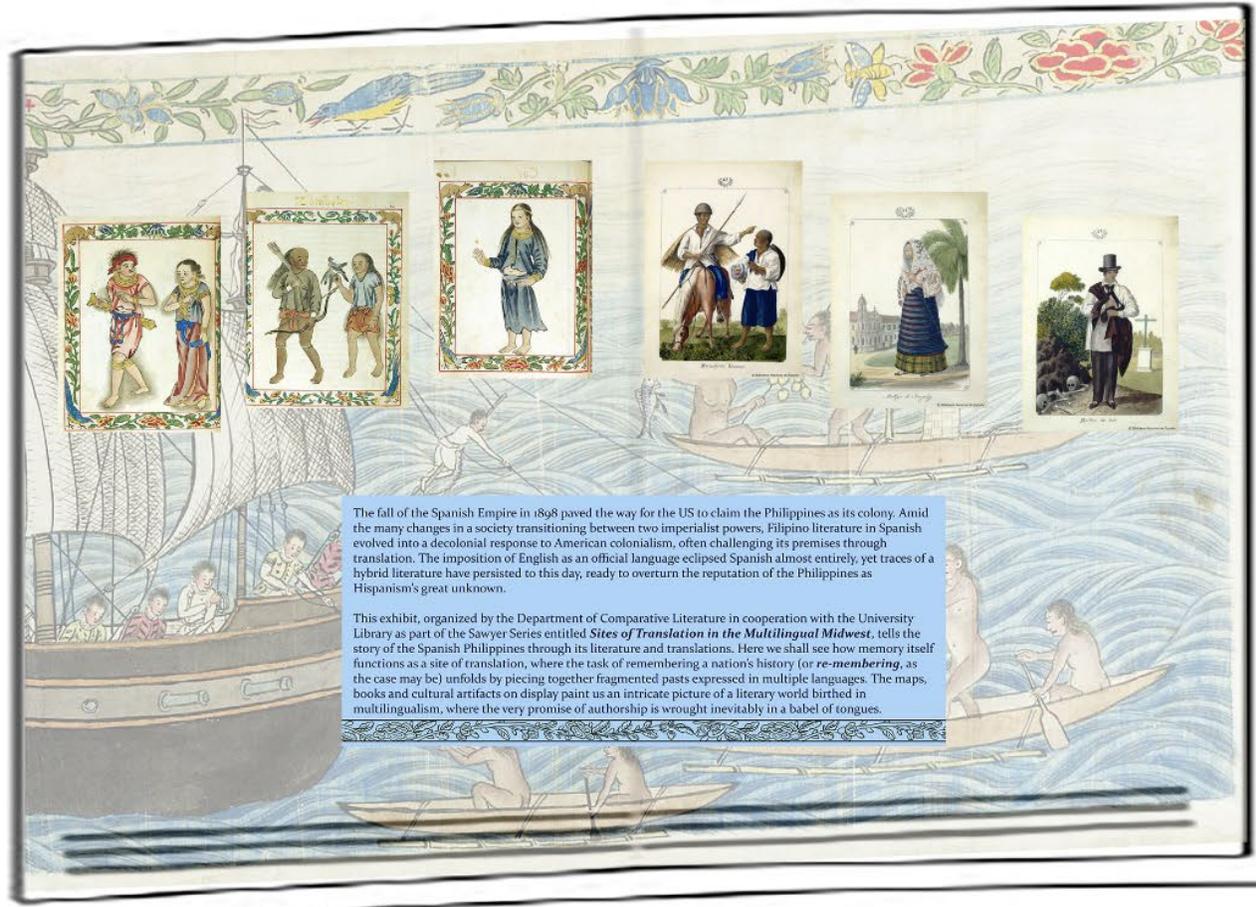
The Filipino newspaper *El Renacimiento* published its most famous editorial entitled “Aves de rapiña,” or Birds of Prey, in criticism of Worcester’s dubious fact-finding mission. It was Worcester who brought back to Michigan his collection of papers, photographs and other effects on the Philippines, which are now curated as the Worcester Philippine History Collection.

It is worth noting that the University of Michigan played a pivotal role in the American imperialist project in the Philippines. One of Michigan’s alumni, Dean C. Worcester, became the US Secretary of Interior of the Philippine Islands.

He also acted as the consultant of the University of Michigan Mission, whose objective was to gather archaeological and anthropological data on the Philippines. Worcester’s controversial research methods, which involved incursions into ancestral lands in search of precious metals, earned the ire of Filipino nationalists.



Many of the images displayed here are from the University of Michigan's Worcester Philippine History Collection, and from other Special Collections that are stored in the Hatcher Graciate Library. These archives are accessible to all students, and we encourage you to use them! Use the library website to look them up and request access.

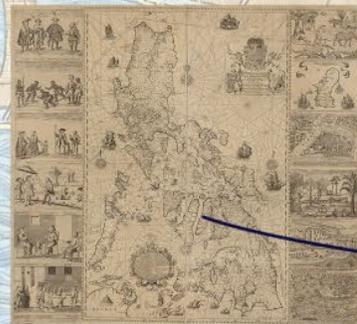


The fall of the Spanish Empire in 1898 paved the way for the US to claim the Philippines as its colony. Amid the many changes in a society transitioning between two imperialist powers, Filipino literature in Spanish evolved into a decolonial response to American colonialism, often challenging its premises through translation. The imposition of English as an official language eclipsed Spanish almost entirely, yet traces of a hybrid literature have persisted to this day, ready to overturn the reputation of the Philippines as Hispanism's great unknown.

This exhibit, organized by the Department of Comparative Literature in cooperation with the University Library as part of the Sawyer Series entitled *Sites of Translation in the Multilingual Midwest*, tells the story of the Spanish Philippines through its literature and translations. Here we shall see how memory itself functions as a site of translation, where the task of remembering a nation's history (or *re-membering*, as the case may be) unfolds by piecing together fragmented pasts expressed in multiple languages. The maps, books and cultural artifacts on display paint us an intricate picture of a literary world birthed in multilingualism, where the very promise of authorship is wrought inevitably in a babel of tongues.

Explanation of the map routes

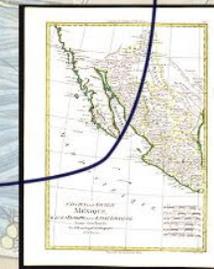
Map of Manila 1739



Translation, Memory, and the Archive: The Literary Worlds of the Spanish Philippines

Five hundred years ago, a fleet of around two hundred men aboard five Spanish galleons reached an unknown archipelago at the far ends of a vast ocean. Fueled by the desire to discover a trade route to the fabled Spice Islands, this expedition began its westward voyage from Europe two years earlier with an ambitious explorer who defected from Portugal at the helm. The explorer was Ferdinand Magellan. The ocean was the Pacific, which received its name from Magellan himself. And the archipelago would be known much later as the Philippines.

The year 1521 was pivotal in the history of the Philippines. But more than the romanticized (and rather problematic) idea that it was the year of its discovery, 1521 marks the first time this Southeast Asian archipelago came into contact with an emerging Spanish-speaking world centered around the Pacific. For centuries, the Philippines would serve as a point of exchange between East and West. It was a site where all manner of people met. It was where goods and ideas were trafficked along an international maritime pathway connecting Asia and the Americas. It was where different languages, cultures and literatures co-existed. At a time when many nation-states in Asia shunned the world, the Philippines was already a site of cultural and linguistic encounter. It was already a site of translation.





Lessons Learned

- The history of the Philippines
- Perfectionism: a double-edged sword
- What is history, who writes it, and why that matters

The Future of the Project

Hopefully, it will be possible to safely visit the exhibit in its final form in the Clark Library on the second floor of Hatcher Graduate starting in January, 2021.



Questions?