

## Recent Books from the Philippines – Sept 2023

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### *Biography/Memoirs*

Pagsibol: A Biography of Onofre R. Pagsanghan in Speeches, Songs, and Other Writings / Vernon R. Totanes (Edited By)

Manila, Philippines: Anteneo de Manila University Press, 2023  
xxviii, 413p.

9786214482740

1. Pagsanghan, Onofre R. – Biography.
2. High school teacher – Biography.
3. Screenwriters – Biography – Philippines.

\$ 40.00 / PB

640gm.

This biography attempts to tell the life story of Onofre R. Pagsanghan using his own words from the 1940s to the 2010s, and organizes them in a way that suggests what he would have written if he had ever tried to write an autobiography (which he did not). This book is borne out of a dream that many more will “hear” Mr. Pagsi as his students and countless others have heard him. It is hoped that like John the Baptist before him, his words will inspire others to follow, not him, but Jesus.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853249>

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### *Business*

Expanding Strategic Perspective: Revisiting Lessons from History and the Classics / Rene B. Azurin  
Quezon City, Philippines: The University of The Philippines Press, 2023

xiv, 259p. ; 23cm.

Include Bibliography

9786210900040

1. Strategic planning.
2. Business planning.
3. Organizational change.

\$ 35.00 / PB

410gm.

“In this thoroughly fascinating book, *Expanding Strategic Perspective: Revisiting Lessons from History and the Classics*, my good friend Dr. René Azurin draws from cross-disciplinary sources in order to help leaders in business, politics, and other areas to ‘expand one’s consciousness and broaden one’s viewpoint.’ René revisits ideas and concepts on strategic thinking from history, politics, economics, military strategy, psychology, and philosophy. From Hannibal’s brilliance at the Battle of Cannae to understanding group behavior in Desmond Morris’s popular book *The Naked Ape* to developing economic insights from Thorstein Veblen’s classic *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, René successfully demonstrates the importance of going beyond ‘the narrow confines of the firm to the economy at large, society in general, and time beyond the present.’ . . . René Azurin,

after all, is one of the few Filipino intellectuals who can provide an expansive overview of strategic thinking as applied to various aspects of life.”

— MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

Chairman, Vista Land Group of Companies, and former Senate President of the Philippines  
(From the Foreword)

Dr. René B. Azurin has been a top business executive, management professor, strategy and work systems consultant, policy adviser for several important government departments (including Energy, Environment, and Defense), and featured newspaper columnist. He is a passionate advocate for clean and transparent elections, effective administration of justice, honest and competent government, and dispersed power. His books include *Hacking Our Democracy: The Conspiracy to Electronically Control Philippine Elections*, *Power and Privilege: Essays on Politics, Economics, and Government*, *Power Without Virtue: A Critical Perspective on Philippine Governance*, *Stationary Bandits: Essays on Political Power*, *Marginal Notes—Lectures in Business Economics*, and *Random Walks and Other Essays: Ruminations of a So-so Manager*. He is a member of the Philippine Center of International PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists), the oldest literary and human rights organization in the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853250>

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### *Ecology/Environment*

A Visual Guide to Philippine Fauna / Jastine Isabelle C. Rosit  
Manila, Philippines: Vibal Group, Inc., 2022  
vi, 129p. ; 28cm.  
9789710756698

1. Animals – Philippines – Classification.
2. Animals – Philippines – Pictorial works.

\$ 25.00 / PB  
350gm.

Referencia Moderna: A Visual Guide to Philippine Fauna is an adventuresome field guide on the country’s animal life. It aims to give both the young and the young at heart a complete picture of the country’s endemic wildlife, their distribution, and their conservation status. The book is replete with vivid images of actual animals in the wild, and comes with basic information and interesting trivia about Philippine fauna, including the scientific and local name, habitat, diet, and way of life of each species.

The book is divided into the following chapters:

- The Beginning of Aguila’s Quest: Animalopedia
- The Journey to Mammal Land: Mammals in the Philippines
- In Search of a Bird Sanctuary: Birds in the Philippines
- Herpetofauna in Peril: Reptiles and Amphibians in the Philippines
- The Plight of Marine Life: Fish in the Philippines
- A Closer Look at the World of Butterflies: Butterflies in the Philippines
- The Breathtaking Stopover: Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines
- Facing the Dangers that Abound: Endangered Species in the Philippines
- Gearing up for the Real-life Quest: Wildlife Conservation and Protection

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853251>

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### *History*

Milaor: Crafting The Past of Mayland / Danilo Madrid Gerona

Philippines: Danilo M. Gerona & LGU Milaor, 2023  
180p.  
Include Postscripts, Bibliography, Appendix, Glossary.  
\$ 25.00/ PB  
215gm.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853252>

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Bacacay: 1776 – 1946 / Danilo Madrid Gerona  
(Second Edition)  
Camarines Sur, Philippines: Bikol Historical Research Centre, 2021  
xii, 120p.  
Include Postscripts, Bibliography, Appendix, Glossary.  
(Albay History Book Series)  
\$ 25.00/ PB  
135gm.

The first book ever written retracing the rise from a pre-Hispanic village to a bustling modern urban municipality in the post-war era, BACACAY 1776-1946, provides a comprehensive picture of the town's two centuries of colourful history. A solid corpus of reliable historical information drawn from the major archives in the Philippines and Spain, this book represents only a part of a series of publications on the history of various municipalities in the Province of Albay commissioned by Governor Joey Sarte Salceda. This history book project is part of his vision to fill up the lacunae in the historical consciousness of Albayanos.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775144>

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Calabanga: Retracing History Beyond the Mission Trail / Danilo Madrid Gerona  
Camarines Sur, Philippines: Danilo M. Gerona & the Local Government Unit of Calabanga, 2019  
(Reprinted 2022)  
179p.  
Include Postscripts, Bibliography, Appendices, Glossary of Terms.  
\$ 25.00 / PB  
215gm.

From a mere visita of Quipayo, one of the pioneering mission outposts established by the Franciscans in the Bicol region, Calabanga's rise as an independent town marked its dramatic journey in history. After almost two hundred seventy years, Calabanga looks back to its roots with gratitude through the publication of this book.

Drawn from the rare volumes of documents from the various archives of the Philippines and Spain, this book provides the first comprehensive historical narrative of the birth of this town.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853253>

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### *Law*

Words and Phrases: Dispatches to The Manila Times / Saul Hofilena JR.  
Philippines: Baybayin Publishing, 2023  
x, 310p.  
9786219640169  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
475gm.

An exceptionally energetic and expansive intellectual, Saul Hofilena Jr. ranges beyond his profession of law to explore subjects like history, Philosophy, the arts, and more. I marvel at his

avid appetite for learning, engaging in debate, and breaking fresh ground for inquiry. Unconfined by the conventions and habits of a specialization, a discipline, or, worse, membership in a party or group, he is a free intellectual, the kind needed in a time when facts and truth have been devalued.

-Resil B. Mojares

National Artist for Literature (2018)

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At long last, the much-awaited compendium of the informative columns of Saul Hofilena Jr. is here. His articles are distinctive as they differ from the stack of mundane opinions being churned out by other writers. Viewed from another perspective, his writings are remarkably interesting and stimulating. Undoubtedly, this compilation is a must-read for those who want to enrich their trove of knowledge.

-Justice Jose Catral Mendoza

Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines (Ret.) Regular Member, Judicial and Bar Council

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853254>

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### *Literature*

The Devil Spits Metaphors / Denn A. Meneses

Quezon City, Philippines: Central Book Supply, Inc., 2023

324p.

9786210220247

\$ 30.00 / PB

420gm.

The Devil Spits Metaphors is a collection of essays borne of a thought process accumulated from years of kibitzing, observing, people-watching, commentating, critiquing, editorializing, opinion-making, blogging, and just plain venting.

It delves on real persons and real issues, current at the time they were written. Mostly political thingamajigs, a few personality sketches, a dash of entertainment here and there, a little bit of heartache, a little bit of rock and roll – amassed from more than a decade of writing in an unknown blogsite called **The TARAY Chronicles**.

Do people still read books in this confusing age of social media? They do, for one reason or another, mainly for the fact that books are immortal.

They talk to you, and they reach out to you from the Ages, in manifold ways that are difficult to resist if you are to the manor born, so to speak. To paraphrase a French philosopher, reading a book is like having a conversation with the great minds of past centuries.

The Devil Spits Metaphors has no such illusion, delusion or presumptuousness. It is much like a memoir written by an obscure personality, or voice in the wilderness screaming like a banshee.

Perhaps, the latter is more appropriate. Banshees are powerful creatures, too, be they mythical.

Those who might have been bitten by the she-devil's fangs, not to worry 'cause nobody reads The TARAY Chronicles anyway.

Touchè.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853255>

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As well, in our estrangement / Raymond De Borja

Philippines: Aklat Ulagad, 2022

139p.

\$ 25.00 / PB

285gm.

Raymond de Borja's *As Well, In Our Estrangement* is a cosmopolitan book, unanxiously risking hermeticism in its juxtaposition of, among a host of disciplines, continental philosophy and music theory, poetics emerging from the Global North and translation studies, and in its engagement with local art and literature.

The exacting self-assuredness of the book is a corollary of the author's keenly exercised curiosities: It's thrilling, for instance, to encounter moments when de Borja resorts to close reading, the care and precision with which he unpacks the works of other creators revealing a generous affection for his artistic subjects and an undisguised delight in acknowledging, by dissecting, skill.

A whole lot of zippy, unexpected, and yet thoroughly unaccidental design informs the essays of de Borja, also a rhetorical openness, a tendency toward demonstration that doesn't lapse into the reductiveness of summation. In *As Well, In Our Estrangement*, inquisitiveness does what it would, and goes where it wants to. (Mark Anthony Cayanan)

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853256>

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Iriga Essays / H. Francisco Penones Jr.

Tinago, Naga City, Philippines: Savage Mind Publishing House, 2023

36p.

9786214720361

Pangalagkalag Series

\$ 10.00/ PB

15gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853257>

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The Uninvited Guests from Bikol: Gothic Tales / Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

Naga City, Philippines: Ateneo de Naga University Press, 2022

75p.

9786214720330

\$ 15.00/ PB

145gm.

It has been a year now since the cretaures have supposedly returned to Bicol and things have normalized in this household. Belen carries an "anting-anting" given her by Aling Rosario but she is not too happy now either. "How boring now that they're gone. Sometimes I'm actually sorry that they had to go."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853258>

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The Bikol Dramatic Tradition / Maria Lilia F. Realubit

Naga City, Philippines: Ateneo de Naga University Press, 2022

xx, 213p.

9786214720309

\$ 35.00/ PB

280gm.

Relatively unknown in cultural circles and the literati, a few of these, among the large mass of plays written over the years, are noteworthy for their ingenious rendering into dramatic composition the people's thoughts and insights into human nature and life. Here are visibly mirrored the Bikol way of life, the Bikol mind and temperament. Serving as outlets for nationalistic sentiments, these dramas confined radical ideas in configurations of action, role, and symbol and skillfully ensconced them in romantic episodes and comic situations. Given encouragement and a requisite environment, Bikol drama could have grown and developed into a high dramatic art, representative of the Bikols.

But the Bikol area has been most underdeveloped of the eight major regions in the country, and so its drama, the art of the people, is equally low in development. Worse, Bikol literary endeavors receive no boost or become relegated to substandard by a people unaware of their use and value.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853259>

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Saints Of Resistance: Devotions in the Philippines under Early Spanish Rule / Christina H. Lee  
Manila, Philippines: Anteneo de Manila University Press, 2023  
xxiv, 193p.  
Include Bibliography & Index.  
9786214482733

1. Saints – Philippines.
2. Catholic church – Philippines.

\$ 25.00 / PB  
300gm.

Eighty percent of Filipinos (about 80 million people) identify with the Catholic faith. Visitors to the Philippines might find it surprising that images of Catholic saints, the Child Christ, and the Virgin Mary can be seen in all kinds of public and private spaces throughout this Asian country, such as in restaurants, shopping malls, pasted to walls, painted on buses, and, of course, home altars. Many of these saints bear Spanish names and their legends almost always date to the period of Spanish colonialism.

Saints of Resistance: Devotions in the Philippines under Early Spanish Rule explores why, in spite of their fraught history with Spanish colonialism (which ended in 1898), Filipinos have staunchly held on to the faith in their saints. This is the first scholarly study to focus on the dynamic life of saints and their devotees in the Spanish Philippines, from the sixteenth through the early part of the eighteenth century. The book offers an in-depth analysis of the origins and development of the beliefs and rituals surrounding some of the most popular saints in the Philippines, namely, Santo Niño de Cebu, Our Lady of Caysasay, Our Lady of La Naval, and Our Lady of Antipolo. Christina H. Lee recovers the voices of colonized Philippine subjects as well as those of Spaniards who, through the veneration of miraculous saints, projected and relieved their grievances, anxieties, and histories of communal suffering. Based on critical readings of primary sources, the book traces how individuals and their communities often refashioned iconographic devotions to the Holy Child and to the Virgin Mary by introducing non-Catholic elements derived from pre-Hispanic, animistic, and Chinese traditions. Ultimately, the book reveals how Philippine natives, Chinese migrants, and Spaniards reshaped the imported devotions as expressions of dissidence, resistance, and survival.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853260>

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### *Politics*

On the Legal Democratic Mass Movement / Jose Maria Sison, (Ed) Julieta de Lima  
Philippines: International Network for Philippines Studies (INPS), 2023  
xii, 584p.  
Sison reader series 12  
\$ 60.00 / HB  
895gm.

The crisis of the world capitalist system and that of the Philippine ruling system have become worse than in any period after World War II. The US-instigated policies of neoliberal globalization, state terrorism, and aggressive war have wrought havoc on the lives of the people and continue to escalate oppression and exploitation. The Filipino people cannot tolerate their suffering, and they are fighting back against imperialism and all reaction.

The loss or erosion of livelihoods is the most concrete and widespread impact of the current crisis of the world capitalist system on people's lives, both in the advanced capitalist countries as well as in the underdeveloped countries. Despite recent pronouncements from state officials and the business press that economic recovery is in sight, the global economy continues to tumble with the gross domestic product of the leading capitalist countries still contracting, with consumer spending still in decline and unemployment still rising.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853261>

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On the Revolutionary Movement and Mass Work / Jose Maria Sison, (Ed) Julieta de Lima  
Philippines: International Network for Philippines Studies (INPS), 2023

viii, 492p.

Season reader series 13

\$ 60.00/ HB

775gm.

The crisis of the world capitalist system and that of the Philippine ruling system have become worse than in any period after World War II. The US-instigated policies of neoliberal globalization, state terrorism and aggressive war have wrought havoc on the lives of the people and continue to escalate oppression and exploitation. The Filipino people cannot tolerate their suffering and they are fighting back against imperialism and all reaction. The loss or erosion of livelihoods is the most concrete and widespread impact of the current crisis of the world capitalist system on people's lives, both in the advanced capitalist countries as well as in the underdeveloped countries.

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<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853262>

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