

Editor's Note (Volume III, Number 2)

Enthusiasts of history, on behalf of the editorial board, we are pleased to present to you TALA's second issue for the year 2020. This issue's theme, as reflected in the articles, revolves around the richness and significance of cultural relations. Specifically, the articles in this issue deal with our cultural ties with the West and Asia. The same can be said for the book reviews, as the reviewers assess works that tackle the Philippines' ties with the United States, a country that once colonized the Philippines, and Australia, a nearby country whose cultural ties with us are often unspoken of.

The issue cover is symbolic of the Philippines' colorful history, a representation of our country's struggle against colonialism and towards the realization of independence. It represents the response of the Filipinos to the imposition of colonial rule, which, undoubtedly, is a past remembered for blood, revolution, and patriotism.

For this issue, we present two articles that tackle two different historical topics. On one hand, Mark Joseph Santos provides investigative insight into the regionalist basis of Zeus Salazar's nationalist historiography, arguing that his contextualization of Filipino identity to Pan-Malayan and Austronesia world was the cure to the problems brought about by the bondage of the Philippines to the West. On another hand, Axle Christien Tugano probes into the origins of the Nagcarlan Underground Cemetery, wherein he extensively looks into the symbols found in the cemetery—examining the possible influence of other cultures and the effects of two differing cultures on its construction.

For the book reviews, readers who are unfamiliar with the cultural relations between the Philippines and Australia will find an insightful analysis written by Axle Christien Tugano of Renato Perdon's book chapter (First Filipino Settlement) in *Connecting Two Cultures: Australia and the Philippines*. John Jethro Manangan's "Three Centuries in a Catholic Convent and Fifty Years in Hollywood": A Journalist's History of the American Colonial Period in the Philippines is an assessment of Stanley Karnow's *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines*.

We thank you, our readers, for your continued support to TALA and our goal of arousing the interest of the public in history by publishing credible historical research on the internet. We fervently hope that these articles and book reviews, though few, would satiate your desire for credible historical knowledge.

Para sa kasaysayan,

Adrian Kyle A. Vergara
The Managing Editor