

## **2006 UCLA Campbell Student Book Collection – Special Award Winner**

### **The Filipino American Experience: A Student Collection Encompassing Homeland, Migration, Activism and Identity**

by Florante Peter Ibanez

Joint MLIS / MA Information Studies and Asian American Studies Programs - UCLA

As a young freshman at Cal State Dominguez Hills in the early 1970's, I quickly grew up in the mist of the anti-Vietnam War activities on campus. From getting involved as a draft counselor on campus and later in my own Asian/Pacific American and Filipino American communities, I became exposed to the relatively unknown labor migrations and history of Filipinos to America which is now widely noted as having started in earnest, with importation of sugar cane plantation workers going to Hawaii in 1906. This year 2006, several Centennial Celebrations will occur, with perhaps the most significant being celebrated by the Smithsonian Institute – “A Century of Challenge and Change: The Filipino American Story”.

During the Labor Day weekend of 1971, I attended my first Filipino People's Far West Convention in Seattle, WA and this began my journey to understand my own culture and history. I quit school and got a job at the newly created UCLA Asian American Studies Center in Campbell Hall that fall began working with their early publications and film collection and I started to collect my own pamphlets, books, anything having to do with the Filipino American Experience. I was in search of my own roots and identity as a Filipino born in Los Angeles with immigrant parents in the 1950's. While working at UCLA, I was a co-founder of the UCLA Samahang Pilipino student group and when I decided to finish my undergraduate studies in Comparative Cultures at UC Irvine, I helped form their Filipino student group, Kababayan. Today, I am the founding President of the UC Irvine Kababayan Alumni Chapter.

To understand the Filipino American Experience, one must understand the fifty years that the Philippines was a colony/territory of the U.S. following the Spanish American War and imperialist motivations for the U.S. wanting a base of operations both politically and militarily in Asia in the era of Manifest Destiny. Filipinos have come to America as students, contract laborers, as Navy sailors, war brides and following the relaxing of immigration in 1965 many as skilled workers and professionals searching for the “American Dream”. Today Filipinos comprise the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Asian group in the U.S. population. Generations can even be traced back to “indios” (as they were called by the Spanish) who sailed in the Galleon Trade and jumped ship to build a Manila Village in the Bayous of New Orleans. There is a rich history of contributions and culture being created in American society today by Filipino Americans. This is what I have tried to reflect in my collecting of not only books but artifacts as well. It is my dream to help in the establishment of a Filipino American Museum and Research Library.

My Filipino American collection has been growing with my eventual goal to use the materials to teach a Filipino American college level class after graduation. I have limited this presentation collection to my most cherished and inspiring portion of materials. Some are old and rare, some are signed by authors who have passed, and some are contemporary works, textbooks and literary collections, but all are what I would

consider suitable to use for teaching and learning about the Filipino American Experience.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Quinsaat, Jesse. ed. *Letters in Exile: an Introductory Reader on the History of Pilipinos in America*. Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1976. A rare anthology book project, researched and written by UCLA students to fill the void of the very few text books suitable for teaching early Filipino American history classes. This book only had one printing because the printer claimed they had lost the plates. I had the opportunity to review a few of the articles prior to printing. There are B&W photos that were donated by student families and original research and interviews. I'm in one of the photos on page 140. Paperback with wear on the cover. I bought a copy when it first came out at UCLA and recently WON a copy from the UCLA Asian American Studies Reading Room in a contest. Since this is a rare find, I'll keep both.
2. Bulosan, Carlos. *America is in the Heart: A Personal History*. New York: Harcourt, 1946 (first edition). Perhaps the most read and referenced book that speaks to the early Filipino American experience. It follows the lives of three teenaged brothers who journey separately across the Pacific to Hawaii, California, and Washington, after being taught American ideals by their American colonial teachers. Instead they encounter racism, beatings and the Depression, and become labor organizers and for Carlos, a writer. Hardback with some water damage and faded titles on outer binding. I was so happy to win this in an ebay auction. My prize of my collection, a first edition.
3. Bulosan, Carlos. *America is in the Heart: A Personal History*. Sonic Books, Inc., 2004. Unabridged on 10 compact Discs. Narrated by Jose Horstman Omila. The description is as above but this is the audio book version. Bought new on-line.
4. Bulosan, Carlos. *The Laughter of My Father*. New York: Bantam Books, 1946. This collection of short funny stories became so popular that it was reprinted in paperback by Bantam Books. The stories are very short and amusing. You do not have to be Filipino to enjoy these. Small paperback with yellowing pages and some water damage. Nice inner and outer cover graphics. I acquired this using ebay.
5. Santos, Bienvenido N. *Scent of Apples: A Collection of Stories*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979. This collection of short stories was written by a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, born in the Philippines but became a U.S. citizen in 1976. I found all his stories here touch the heart and in particular "The Day the Dancers Came" is often required for Asian American Literature classes. His stories have a theme of exile and during the Marcos Martial Law Dictatorship in the Philippines Santos's stories were banned because they were critical of governments.

Hardback with Dust jacket – stamped withdrawn from public library. Acquired using Amazon.com.

6. Bacho, Peter. *Dark Blue Suit*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997. A short story collection that goes beyond the stories of the first generation of immigrant Filipino laborers called “Manongs” (a term of endearment for elders or an older relative). They are still included but characters expand to families and children of mixed marriages. This book is also used as a more contemporary read for Asian American Literature classes. Hardback with clean dust cover – almost new. Bought during a bookstore sale.

7. Pulido, Rod. *The Flip Side: A Filipino American Comedy*. Chicago: Tulitos Press, 2002. “...a raw but stimulating comic look at the effects of assimilation on a Filipino home.” – Elvis Mitchell, The New York Times. That quote is really about the movie, The Flip Side. This book contains the screen play of the film and the journal of the daily events at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival where Flip Side premiered as the first feature length film by a Filipino American. The film is in B&W and so are the numerous still photos in the book that capture scenes from the movie. You might have to be Filipino to get all the jokes but there are many other situations that others can relate to and laugh. Paperback and signed by Rod Pulido the film maker and bought during a local screening for the movie in Hollywood.

8. Villanueva, Marianne and Virginia Cerenio, ed. *Going Home to a Landscape: Writings by Filipinas*. Corvallis, OR: CALYX Books, 2003. An anthology of poetry, slams, and stories by 52 Filipina contemporary women. This book goes beyond the Philippines and America to cover the current diaspora (journey) of overseas Filipinas. Some of my friends are contributors in this work so I had to buy the book but I really like it. It combines memories and their contemporary experiences. Bought new from a bookstore going out of business sale.

9. Churchill, Thomas. *Triumph Over Marcos: A story based on the lives of Gene Viernes & Silme Domingo, Filipino American Cannery Union organizers, their assassination, and the trial that followed*. Greensboro, NC: Open Hand Publishing, LLC, 1995. The murdered activists in this novel were my friends and the story speaks to their passion for social justice and family growing up in Washington state. It was written from the perspective of exposing a politically motivated “hit” that was traced back to the Philippines during the Marcos Dictatorship. A new signed copy bought during a recent author’s speaking tour in Los Angeles, March 2006. My older copy will be donated to the local Filipino American Library in Historic Filipino Town.

10. Toribio, Helen C., ed. *Seven Card Stud with Seven Manangs Wild*. San Francisco: T’Boli Publishing, 2002 (first edition). A collection of personal sort story recollections, poems and history pieces by twenty three members of the Filipino American Historical Society (FANHS) East Bay Chapter. The pieces span memories of the Philippines, immigration to America and community activism for social justice here in the U.S. and against the 1970’-80’s Marcos Dictatorship in the Philippines.

Paperback and signed by some of the contributors who are still activists today. I bought this at an authors reception during the FANHS conference in 2002 at Loyola Marymount University.

11. Root, Maria P.P. ed., *Filipino Americans: Transformation and Identity*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 1997. A text book anthology of research articles, many of which were previously published individually and now collected for teaching Filipino American classes. A great compilation of more contemporary community issues such as gender, recent immigration and shifting demographics. I like the short biographies and head shots of the contributing authors the end of the index. Useful in case I run into them at conferences. Paperback (used) with some previous highlighting from my daughter's use in class. I collected this from my eldest daughter after she relegated it to a pile of old textbooks in our garage.

12. Scharlin, Craig and Lilia V. Villanueva. *Philip Vera Cruz: A Personal History of Filipino Immigrants and the Farmworkers Movement*. Los Angeles: UCLA Labor Center & UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1992. I had the great honor to know Philip personally before he passed. This book brings to light the unknown internal conflicts he had as a Vice President of the UFW with Cesar Chavez, mostly having to do with Cesar's traveling to the Philippines to accept an award from the Marcos Dictatorship. It also covers Philip's life story which is so familiar from our manongs, of coming to America filled with hope to work and attend American schools and return as heroes to their villages only to face their disappointment in finding racism and sending what little they could spare back to support their families. Some cover wear. Signed during the book launching by Philip and the authors in Gardena, CA.

13. Howser, Huell. *California's Gold #5008: Little Manila*. Huell Howser Productions, 2003. A VHS Video documenting the struggle to preserve the "Little Manila" designated area of Stockton CA. Interviewing local residents and guided by Dawn Mabalon, UCLA alumni. Excellent example of current community issues of urban redevelopment vs. historical preservation. New Video Tape with seal broken only to record label information. After viewing this segment on TV I decided to buy it on-line from PBS.

14. Morales, Royal F., *Makibaka: Pilipino American Struggle*. Los Angeles: Mountainview Publishers, 1974. Royal or "Uncle Roy" as he was know from his community work was also a part-time lecturer for the Pilipino American Experience classes at UCLA, Cerritos Community College and Glendale City College for over two decades before retiring and passing away. His book was another attempt to fill the void of textbooks for these classes. It is a good historical read mostly based on his own personal experience rather than academic research. He mentions my name in the section of contemporary community activists. I lost my original signed copy of this somewhere along the way and don't remember how I bought this one.

15. Morales, Royal F., *Makibaka 2: the Pilipino American Struggle*. Laoag City, Philippines: Crown Printers, 1998 (2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition). This includes and expands the

author's "Makibaka" of 1974 including a new a chapter entitled "The Military Brawn Power" and more articles in the Contemporary Issues chapter. I think this revised version is better written, but had some printing problems (perhaps because it was done overseas). Paperback with some cover wear, it was signed by the author during a book launching event.

16. Choy, Catherine Ceniza. *Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003. A well researched excellent book that analyses the various "Push-pull" factors that have resulted in the large Filipino nursing workforce in America and overseas, while there remains a shortage of good health care in the Philippines. It ties in the special relationship of U.S. hospitals and nursing teaching programs in the Philippines that began in the colonial period and continues today. Bought for one of my graduate classes at UCLA.

17. Hagedorn, Jessica. *Dream Jungle*. New York: Viking, 2003. A novel that combines the fictionalized (paralleling real events) discovery of a "primitive lost tribe" and the filming of an epic Vietnam war movie in the Philippines. Well written with character development that "real life" counterparts could have sued for if their names had been used. Another example of literature reflecting life. This book has been used in Asian American Literature classes. Hardback signed by the author during a reading at UCLA.

18. Hagedorn, Jessica. *Dogeaters*. New York: Pantheon, 1990. For this Hagedorn received the 1990 National Book Award nomination and an American Book Award. In 1998, La Jolla Playhouse produced a stage adaptation of Dogeaters and in Los Angeles a community theater group staged it in Historic Filipino Town. The story is set during the Marcos Dictatorship era and exposes the brutality and the division of characters into their respective classes and roles in life. Hardback with jacket. Received as a gift and signed by the author.

19. Badajos, Ed. *Filipino Food*. New York: Olympia Press, 1972. A rare book of graphic art (no text) by a Filipino American artist who was known primarily for his political cartoons, visual commentaries, and covers. He was the editorial cartoonist for the L.A. Free Press and his work appeared in *The Staff* and *The Berkeley Barb*. Badajos gained further exposure through syndication in the underground press of the '60s and '70s. Paperback with faded color outer covers and B&W artwork fill the pages. I goggled for "Filipino Food" looking for a restaurant and found out about this artist and got a good deal on ebay for it.

20. Bulosan, Carlos. *The Power of the People*. Ontario, Canada: Tabloid Books, 1977. An early work of Bulosan tells and connects the story of Philippine rebels and experience of Filipino Immigrant workers in the U.S. West Coast. And according to scholar, E. San Juan, Jr. "It develops ... the theme of class struggle and self-criticism... by transposing it into the turbulent lives of distinct individuals representing the conjuncture of various social forces in the Philippines after World War II." I thought it was just a great read. I don't remember where I bought this but I

see it was only a \$1 at the time and it is printed on newspaper stock that is yellowing and came in an oversize envelope which is also yellowing.

21. Cajayon, Gene and John Manal Castro. *The Debut: The Making of a Filipino American Film*. Chicago & Santa Cruz: Tulitos Press, 2001. This is the companion book for the film "The Debut", the first feature length Filipino American movie done by Filipino Americans set to a contemporary time and situations. You don't have to be Filipino to enjoy and understand the universal themes of family conflict, loyalty, youth rebellion and young love. It contains the making of the film as well as their timetable, frustrations and screen play. As an independent venture they no "Studio" backing in production nor distribution. A great story of determination outside of Hollywood rules. I think I bought this during the premiere screen of the film in Hollywood at the Visual Communications Asian American Film Fest.

22. Cajayon, Gene and John Manal Castro. *The Debut*. DVD released by Sony Pictures, 2003. See above.

23. Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) Los Angeles Chapter. *Anak Pawis Cookbook*. Self produced on mimeograph machine and self bound. Produced in the late 1970's as a local organizational fundraiser it contains receipts by activists of the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP). It attempted to bring left political text and graphics about different third world struggles into a popular cookbook format. It was later pulled from sales due to certain "politically incorrect" paring of graphics and text for different sections. My "Florante's Fried Rice" receipt is on page 41.

24. Bonus, Rick. *Locating Filipino Americans: Ethnicity and the Cultural Politics of Space*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2000. A text book using contemporary cultural studies to study the Filipino American community as it defines and claims its own ethnic identity and social space. A very articulate argument on a different way to look at identity. I got this for a graduate class at UCLA. Paperback with my own highlighting.

25. Ebio, Raul and Edgar Dormitorio, Teresa Ejanda, Kay Dumlao, R. Bong Vegara. *Pilipino America at the Crossroads – 100 Years of United States-Philippines Relations: a selected, partially annotated bibliography of materials at UCLA*. Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Center/Library, 1998. This was much needed bibliographic project done by students in the Asian American Studies Masters Program. It is still very useful for UCLA research and at some point will need to be updated and expanded. It is divided into topic areas with the emphasis on U.S. Philippine relations as well as section on Immigration. I bought this from the UCLA Bookstore while perusing the stacks, I didn't know that anybody had done this although I know some of the compilers. Bound as a report with a clear outer cover and nice graphics on the front page.

26. 2000 Filipino Oral History Project. *Voices: A Filipino American Oral History*. Stockton, CA: Filipino Oral History Project, 1984. Transcribed interviews and excellent historical photos in a soft cover booklet format with nice paper and graphics used. This is primary source material that verifies what newer history Filipino American textbooks promote. Bought from a Filipino Book vendor at the Festival of Philippines Arts and Culture in San Pedro, 2004.

27. Cordova, Fred. *Filipinos: Forgotten Asian Americans – A Pictorial Essay/1763-Circa-1963*. Seattle: Demonstration Project for Asian Americans, 1983. An excellent larger format picture and historical textbook well written by the founder of FANHS, Fred Cordova. Paperback in excellent shape. I think this is my third copy I've bought, having lost (or lent out) others previously signed copies. This one is not signed.

28. Strobel, Leny Mendoza. *Coming Full Circle: the Process of Decolonization Among Post-1965 Filipino Americans*. Quezon City, Philippines: Giraffe Books, 2000. An interesting sociological/ psychology text / research book that takes a group of young Filipino Americans and attempts to understand and eliminate a sort of low self esteem derived from a collective consciousness as a colonized people under Spain and later the United States in the Philippines. Strobel and others have called it "Colonial Mentality". A feeling that Filipinos will always be second class people or feel subservient to White Americans. That this is in our blood. I can't say I agree with all that is said here but at least someone is trying to study this issue and this book sets the platform for further discussion and debate. Paperback signed by author, bought at an Association of Asian American Studies Conference in San Francisco, 2003.

29. Bulosan, Carlos. *All the Conspirators*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998. A short mystery novel set at the end of WWII involving an American who returns to his native Philippines to help his former childhood sweetheart find her husband who was thought killed in a Japanese ambush. It goes on with a good pace and kept me wanting to keep on going. There is also a short story included "The Filipino Houseboy" and interesting Appendixes of sample copies of Bulosan's actual writing and drafts. While in Seattle last Xmas 2005, I had the opportunity to visit his grave site.

For enlarging my collection I am always on the lookout at conferences, especially the upcoming Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference to be held this June in Hawaii. I'm especially interested in collecting first editions of Carlos Bulosan works.

In particular I am looking for the following to add to my collection:

Espiritu, Augusto. *Five Faces of Exile: The Nation and the Filipino American Intellectuals*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005 (research textbook?)

Robles, Al. *rappin' with ten thousand carabaos in the dark*. Los Angeles, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1996. Book of Poetry from the 1970's Identity Movement. I

lost my original copy somewhere along the way and I need a new one. Al is my contemporary (he's really a few years older) but we really never met formally since he is from the San Francisco Bay Area but we have heard of each other. I hope to see him at the FANHS conference and have him sign a copy for me. Selections from this collection have also been used in UCLA Asian American Studies classes.

Bacho, Peter. Cebu. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991. This was written before his "Dark Blue Suit" already in my collection and so since I like that I figure that I should like "Cebu". I understand that this book brings out the generational and cultural conflicts between parent from the Philippines and their children born in America.

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Espiritu, Augusto. *Five Faces of Exile: The Nation and the Filipino American Intellectuals*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005 (research textbook) I haven't read the whole book yet but so far have gotten a better sense of why August selected these men to research and write about. They are exciting individuals with their own strengths and weaknesses just like any other men. Usually they are referred to with reverence as heroes without fault. It is interesting to note that of the over 300 pages, about 100 are references. I acquired it during the author's family party/book signing party. August is a close family friend and we have been waiting for his 1st book to get published for quite a while. It's quite an accomplishment.

Robles, Al. *rappin' with ten thousand carabaos in the dark*. Los Angeles, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 1996. Book of Poetry from the 1970's Identity Movement. I lost my original copy somewhere along the way and I need a new one. Al is my contemporary (he's really a few years older) but we really never met formally since he is from the San Francisco Bay Area but we have heard of each other. I hope to see him at the FANHS conference and have him sign a copy for me. Selections from this collection have also been used in UCLA Asian American Studies classes.

\*(I had this book but forgot to include this because it was on loan to my daughter at the time of the UCLA Campbell Competition)

Ignacio, Abe and Enrique de la Cruz, Jorge Emmanuel, Helen Toribio. *The Forbidden Book*. San Francisco: T'Boli Publishing and Distribution, 2004. I had the privilege of knowing Helen Toribio before she passed away just after the 1<sup>st</sup> printing of this book and was fortunate to be present to overheard some of the discussion during the planning of this book. It is drawn from the graphics collection of Helen and Abe Ignacio's collection of political cartoons from the turn of the century around the Philippine – American War. Great graphics and eye opener for those unfamiliar with the period and overt racism



directed towards Filipinos and other races and nationalities. This was acquired during one of the many book signings I attended to support our good friends who jointly authored the book.