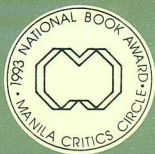


# A CALENDAR OF RIZALIANA



IN THE VAULT  
OF THE PHILIPPINE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY



# AMBETH R. OCAMPO

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A CALENDAR OF RIZALIANA

IN THE VAULT OF THE  
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL LIBRARY

AMBETH R. OCAMPO

*This is a book with which one doesn't curl up in bed, but which owners and researchers will return to again and again, and which will give birth to many other books on history, on Rizal, on literature, on research.*

*And yet all it is, is a list —but one done at the right moment by someone with the right interest and qualifications. In the two vaults of the Rare Books Section of the Philippine National Library lie — and lay for many years — letters, notes, manuscripts, and other oddments of Rizaliana.*

*When Ambeth Ocampo was given access to these, he carefully listed the majority of them, measured them, described them as a bibliographer should, and annotated — commented upon — them, bringing to bear all he had learned from research on Rizal and Rizaliana. This service makes available to other researchers this treasure house that had been unknown to many, and had never received this kind of scholarly scrutiny.*

*For this work of dedicated scholarship, the National Book Award for the best work in Bibliography in 1993 is given to Ambeth R. Ocampo.*

*Rizal*



**A Calendar of Rizaliana  
in the Vault of the  
Philippine National Library**



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**A Calendar of Rizaliana  
in the Vault of the  
Philippine National Library**

**Ambeth R. Ocampo**

**ANVIL PUBLISHING, INC.**

**PUSTAKA PERDANA**



1004286



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KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA

Published and exclusively distributed by  
 ANVIL PUBLISHING, INC.  
 3rd Floor Rudgen II Building,  
 17 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig  
 1600 Metro Manila  
 Tels. 633-6121; 633-6136; 631-7048

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1st printing, 1993  
 2nd printing, 1995

Edited by  
 Tina Cuyugan

Cover design by  
 Albert Gamos

National Library of the Philippines CIP Data

Recommended entry:

Ocampo, Ambeth R.

A Calendar of Rizaliana in the  
 vault of the Philippine National  
 Library / Ambeth R. Ocampo. -  
 Pasig, Metro Manila : Anvil Pub.,  
 c1993. - 236 p. ; 22 cm

1. Rizal y Alonzo, Jose. -  
 Manuscripts - Collections. I. Title.

Z6621.X2 016.920 1995 P944000005  
 ISBN 971-27-0294-4

Printed by  
 MG REPROGRAPHICS  
 7-1 Villamor Street, San Juan, Metro Manila

016.92  
 OCA

## Preface

DURING the summer of 1994 my peaceful separation from the world through my canonical novitiate was disturbed by a subpoena from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) asking me to explain why some items listed in this Calendar were missing from The National Library (TNL). The TNL's Acting Director, in an NBI affidavit, in a Senate hearing on the thefts of historical documents from TNL, and in numerous press interviews, repeatedly stated that I was allegedly the last person to handle the missing Rizal manuscripts, thus implying that I was a suspect in the thefts. What was conveniently and maliciously left out, however, was the reason for my use of Rizaliana. No mention nor acknowledgement was made of this Calendar, without which TNL would not know what pieces of Rizaliana were missing.

Fortunately, the thorough investigation conducted by the NBI and the Senate Committee on Education and Culture cleared the confusion purposely created to obscure the glaring incompetence of TNL staff. This was ironic because in late August 1993, a few weeks after the launching of this Calendar, the staff of TNL Filipiniana and Asia Division (FAD) sent me a long signed letter, through my abbot, objecting to the sharp observations I had made regarding library service in the preface of this Calendar. They demanded an apology and a retraction. Nevertheless, what could and should have remained an internal TNL matter became public when the Acting TNL Director wrote the press, prompting me to reply.

NBI investigation revealed that an inventory report on the Rizal material in the TNL vault was submitted to the Acting Director in June 1993. Nothing was declared missing, until this Calendar saw print and was launched in August 1993. Curiously, while the FAD staff was reacting publicly to the preliminaries of the Calendar, privately the FAD Chief, in a memo to the Acting Director, admitted:

"That comparing the [TNL] inventory list with that of Ambeth Ocampo's 'Calendar of Rizaliana in the vault of the Philippine National Library', we noticed many items found in his bibliography not listed in the inventory list. This prompted us to go over each item to confirm the