

Editor's Notes

This issue of *The Archive Classics* features a bilingual edition of Otto Johns Scheerer's paper titled "Sagen der Atayalen auf Formosa" [Legends of the Atayal people on Formosa], originally published by Dietrich Reimer Hamburg Boysen in its 1932 issue of *Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen*.

This project was conceived way back in 2021 when Dr. Richard Scheerer, grandson of Otto Johns Scheerer and the Scheerer family historian, got in touch with the German Embassy in Manila. He informed them about the plan of the UP Department of Linguistics to name its library to Otto Scheerer, the first Professor Emeritus of Philippine Linguistics, as part of its centennial celebration. The Embassy graciously offered to fund the professional translation of O. Scheerer's seminal work upon the recommendation of Dr. R. Scheerer and members of the Department, for they consider the "Sagen der Atayalen auf Formosa" not only as a written record of Atayal folklore and language but also as an early research work that attempted to establish the genetic relationship between Formosan and Philippine languages. Publishing a bilingual edition—in the original German and in English—would enable us to disseminate this historical work to the wider public.

Dr. Markus Locker of the Loyola School of Theology at the Ateneo de Manila University provided the professional translation of the paper and wrote very evocative translator's notes in this issue of *The Archive Classics*. The translated output was run by Dr. Marlies Salazar, alumna of the PhD

Linguistics program of the Department, who graciously volunteered to give comments on the technical aspects and terminology in the original vis-à-vis the translated version of the manuscript. Finally, insightful annotations were written by Dr. Paul Li of the Academia Sinica and a leading expert on Formosan languages who has decades of training and research on the subject.

We take this opportunity to thank Dr. Richard Scheerer for envisioning this endeavor and making sure that it comes to fruition. We are also honored to have had the opportunity to work with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Manila, through Her Excellency Ambassador Anke Reiffenstuel and the First Secretary/Head of Cultural and Scientific Affairs, Mr. Kai Tomzig, for supporting the project and securing necessary permits to reprint Otto Scheerer's manuscript. Special thanks to the publishing house of Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen) Hamburg Boysen for allowing us to reprint and translate the 90-year-old paper, and to Instr. Vincent Christopher Santiago for copyreading the German and English versions of the paper.

The project team agreed to publish this special monograph with *The Archive* through *The Archive Classics*. We see this as a tribute to the life and works of Prof. Emeritus Scheerer, the Department's second chair (succeeding Dr. Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera). It was through Prof. Emeritus Scheerer that *The Archive* was established, first as a repository of linguistic research papers of his graduate students in the 1920s, then as a full-fledged peer-reviewed journal officially published by our Department.

Jem R. Javier
Editor-in-Chief