

**28TH GABRIEL A. BERNARDO MEMORIAL LECTURE
SERIES**

**LOOKING BACK WHILE TRAVELING TO THE FUTURE:
THE LEGACY OF GABRIEL A BERNARDO: A MAN FOR ALL
TIME¹**

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for coming to join us in remembering a man who had walked the earth but was called by his Maker in 1962 at the age of 71. From 1962 to 2007 is a long stretch of time, some 45 years and suddenly as if coming from a deep sleep we wake up to recall the life of one who traveled the pathways of librarianship and scholarship, touching many lives in his journey and made an impact on the state of his profession when he was just beginning to understand his mission in life. I am referring to Gabriel A. Bernardo, the Librarian, the Bibliographer, the Scholar, a great man and an intellectual giant among his peers and a visionary.

My reaction to the letter of invitation to deliver the lecture, is to ask why now? Why only now? Why not at the start of the lecture series in 1974 to introduce the person who we want to honor and memorialize. It seems that today our library science students and practicing librarians as well have forgotten about him and do not know who he was except by his name. After all, 45

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years is more than two generations and the landscape of librarianship has been drastically altered by the influx of new technologies that we became infected with what they call ‘technolust’ a fascination with anything delivered by computers and worshipping at the altar of cyberspace forgetting that the old system is still relevant. Crawford and Gorman calls them ‘technojunkies’ who see the new communication technologies to be much better than the old. In our excitement we forgot the wherefore and the why of our existence, and of our profession. That is why when I was told that nobody knows Bernardo anymore I found this quite incomprehensible. Because in the study of any discipline, we always pay tribute to those men and women who made the discipline a reality. For example, in history we think of Aristotle and Plato. In library science we know who Melville Dewey was and his Dewey Decimal Classification, Charles Amni Cutter, identified with cataloging and classification, William Frederick Poole who compiled the first periodical index, Samuel Green with reference work, Conrad Gesner with universal bibliography, to name a few. But why forget Bernardo when we are now enjoying the fruits of his labor – the University library building, the first library building in the Philippines named Gonzales Hall, the extensive Filipiniana collection, the national bibliographies he compiled to refute Retana’s derogatory comments about the Filipinos, the education and training of librarians, etc. These are some of the legacies of the man we called “Doyen of Philippine Librarianship”, “Dean of Filipino Librarians” or “Father of Philippine Librarianship”. These appellation are symbols of greatness. It is indeed about time that we resurrect Gabriel A. Bernardo.

I happily accepted the invitation to pay tribute to him who was my teacher, my mentor and later my colleague. My memory bank is full of happy times as a student in his class on library administration and history of books and libraries and later as a budding librarian and teacher. I have noted this stage of my professional life under My Personal Encounter with Professor Bernardo in this lecture.

You must be wondering why I chose the title of this lecture as “Looking Back While Traveling to the Future: The Legacy of

Gabriel A. Bernardo, A Man for All Time.” I feel that there is nothing more I could say about the man for his life and works are already extensively covered by the works of Rosario Angustia who wrote her thesis on “Professor Gabriel A. Bernardo: Librarian and Bibliographer” (UP MLS Thesis 1974), Natividad P. Verzosa’s “Gabriel A. Bernardo: A Memoir (*Philippine Studies* v. 11, October 1953); Gabriel A. Bernardo: Librarian, Bibliographer, Scholar, edited by Mauro Garcia for the Bibliographical Society of the Philippines (1974). There are also the tributes, testimonials, and accolades from some dozen friends, colleagues, and students delivered after his death in 1962. These tributes described him as a “man of culture with an unquenchable bibliographical thirst (Marina Dayrit),“ a burning passion for the ideals and accomplishments of scholarship, (Lee Ash)”, “ a nobleman with an innate modesty” (Carlos P. Romulo)”, “a highly principled man (Alfredo Rocas)”, “unassuming, quiet manner belied his erudition (Mauro Garcia)”, “with a scholarly vision (E. Arsenio Manuel)” “with unobtrusive solitude and quiet sincerity, tireless, unyielding, uncompromising in his idealism (Tomas Fonacier)” “A full life lived with high and noble purpose” (Solomon V. Arnaldo), “meticulous to the point of perfection” and many more. These served as guideposts in the accomplishment of his mission for the development and enhancement of librarianship and bibliography.

What more could I write about him that would be of interest to you, especially to those who do not know him as yet. It might be boring to repeat all the facets of his life, so I thought of making it more palatable by telling you of my experiences as a student of library science and as a budding librarian from 1949-1962. At the same time, to catalog his legacies, the shining ornaments of his life and to tie it up with what has been achieved from the time of his death to today and where are we headed for, if ever – “*quo vadis?*” Is there a space for us in the future at the rate our profession of librarianship is deteriorating to the extent that there is confusion and hostility among the members which Prof. Bernardo had disliked and abhorred?

We look back and note what has been planted, see if the seed grew up into a robust and healthy plant today, if what we have

accomplished will remain strong enough to push Philippine librarianship into a future still undetermined.

And then a peek into the mysterious future to see if our profession of librarianship that is now wilting and dying can be revived to make it vibrant and alive once more as a tribute to our pioneers. I wrote a biographical sketch about him published in the ALA Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services (1985 p. 110) that “Gabriel A. Bernardo, father of Philippine librarianship, was a bibliographer, scholar, librarian, writer, folklorist, and teacher and mentor of Filipino librarians for half a century. Bernardo was interested in everything Philippine: its language and literature, paleography, Tagalog literature, music and fine arts, numismatics, archives and history. His works show the wide spread of his interest.”

His collection, now deposited with the Ateneo de Manila University where he found a new life as Rizal Professor of History in 1957 after his retirement from UP. It consists of 88 items showing his major interests. Regrettably, he was not able to write a book. I believe that he was so engrossed in his plan of having a permanent library building in Padre Faura, Manila, the development of quality collection for the university library, the full blown program in the education of librarians and the compilation of the national bibliography of the Philippines that he had no time for the writing of a book. And this was aggravated by the destruction of everything he had built during the Battle of Manila in 1945., that he had “unbelievable personal suffering during the war and that he was devoted to library buildings and collections, according to Lee Ash, librarian of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and secretary of the Philippine Foundation of America. After the war, he had to concentrate on the rehabilitation of libraries destroyed during the war, going to the U.S. literally begging for books and funds that he shed many tears during his visits to libraries in the U.S. He had to build another library building in Diliman, when UP transferred from Manila to Diliman in 1949 and this entailed his whole attention, even working for 18 hours a day. It was his obsession to rebuild the UP Library building accomplished according to Solomon V. Arnaldo with “blood, sweat, and tears,

not only once but twice...” unequaled in the history of librarianship of the world.

PERSONAL DATA

The Beginning

Professor Gabriel A. Bernardo was born in Barasoain, Malolos, Bulacan on March 14, 1891 nearing the end of the Spanish regime, in an environment of a forthcoming revolution. His father was a carriage-maker and painter and his mother was a meat dealer in the Malolos market. He was second of six children. He studied at the Malolos Elementary School and at the Bulacan High School. His family was a religious family, poor but rich in love and kindness, a trait he carried into his adult life. He studied at the University of the Philippines, working his way through college. He was a typist in the Department of History, Economics and Sociology under Prof. Conrado Benitez. Before this he worked as a clerk in the Provincial Treasury of Bulacan, a junior corrector in the Exam Division, Bureau of Civil Service, all these from 1909-1916, inclusive. He was also a Second Grade (English) civil service eligible. He graduated in 1916 with a Bachelor of Arts (A.B) degree.

Library Career

His career in the library started one week after graduation when he was recommended for a clerical position in the Philippine Library headed by Director Teodoro M. Kalaw. How he got this position was a story in itself which showed the character of Prof. Bernardo. He was supposed to get an appointment with Director Kalaw, carrying with him a letter of recommendation from Prof. Benitez. But when he arrived at the office of Director Kalaw, the chief clerk told him that Director Kalaw was busy and could not see him and for him to leave the letter with the clerk who even opened and read the letter. He reported this to Prof. Benitez and Prof. Benitez told him to return to the Office of Director Kalaw and recover the letter and to deliver it personally to Director Kalaw

which he did. When the letter was returned to him, he asked the clerk if he could see Director Kalaw and because the clerk had violated the sanctity of private and personal communication, he could not refuse Bernardo. When Director Kalaw asked if he had any clerical experience he told Kalaw of his work at the Provincial Treasury of Bulacan. Director Kalaw called the clerk and asked him if there was a vacancy in the Philippine Library and he was told that there was one in the Catalog Division, but the position was technical and Bernardo's clerical experience does not qualify him. To accommodate Bernardo, Director Kalaw told him if he could work on probation basis for a month without pay. Bernardo said yes but told Director Kalaw that if the Head of the Catalog Division would report that he could do the work after one week, then he should be appointed and be paid from the time he started. Director Kalaw agreed. The rest is history. Ms. Syrena McKee the head catalog librarian asked Bernardo to provide slips for the books already cataloged teaching him to record the cataloging data found on the title page. He did the work well that the Chief Cataloger reported that he could get the job. When he got his first pay, he enrolled in the library science classes held after office hours. He completed the courses which qualified him for a scholarship at the University of Wisconsin in U.S. thus; the library journey began which consumed his entire lifetime.

Like me, Prof. Bernardo was a librarian by accident, for he started library work without knowing what it was. He took library science courses when he was already working in the library. Like me, he also started in the Catalog Division. I was an "accidental librarian" and started work in the Catalog Section. This is one of the parallelisms in our lives and there are many more which surprised me no end after doing this lecture.

Education and Training

From the University of Wisconsin in 1920, he was awarded the combined Certificate in General Library Service and in Legislative Reference and Municipal Reference Library Service. Returning to the Philippines in 1920, he finished the Bachelor of Science in Library Science (BSLS) in 1921 and the Master of Arts in

English and Bibliography in 1923 from the University of the Philippines.

At the University of Wisconsin (1918-1920), he took courses in Book Selection, Library Administration and Legislative Reference, in addition to courses in Sociology, Social Psychology, and Labor Problems. He said he began to “understand to prove to myself that librarianship was not only a profession for public service but also a mission where training in public ethics and desirable human relations was an essential requirement” (Bernardo Testimony and Official Declaration brochure, n.d.) This statement is significant for he practiced this throughout his professional life. As early as this date, ethics was important to him and I think should be to our librarians today who seem to disregard ethics in their behavior towards their staff and clientele. Information ethics should be included in the library science curriculum. I teach this course at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Prof. Bernardo’s education is a blending of Filipino, European (German) and American influences. He studied at the University of Berlin where he received a Certificate in Advanced Library Science in 1930; attended a 2-month in-service training course at the Leipzig University and an in-service training course in the Union Catalog and Information Bureau of German libraries and the Oriental and Music department of the Prussian State Library. His sojourn in Germany polished his German which he spoke fluently. He also toured the national, university, public, and special libraries, library schools, archives and museums in Genoa, Venice, Florence (Italy), Munich, Leipzig, Berlin (Germany), Stockholm, Uppsala (Sweden), Bibliotheque Nationale, Ecole des Langues Orientales Vivantes (Paris); British Museum, London Library School (London); Bodleian Library (Oxford), and in Spain he visited Madrid, Barcelona and Seville. He was also very proficient in Spanish. While in Germany, he attended the IFLA Conference as the lone Philippine delegate. It was here where he applied for PLA to be a member of IFLA. Some members of IFLA objected that a small country with no political status whatsoever should not be made a member, but Prof. Bernardo argued that in the “cultural field the political status of a country should not be a barrier to its

full representation in international conferences.” Thus, the Philippines gained admission into IFLA in 1930, the first Asian country, due to the efforts of Prof. Bernardo. Again, here is a second parallelism between Bernardo and myself with regards to IFLA. Bernardo gained the membership of PLA to IFLA in 1930, while I invited IFLA to hold its conference in Manila, without knowing the political undercurrents of IFLA. A first time in the history of IFLA it held its 46th General Council and Conference in Manila in 1980, thus putting the Philippines on the map of International Librarianship, and also opening the doors to small and developing countries. The story of my involvement with IFLA is best described in the article “Hosting the Manila IFLA General Conference; the Philippine Experience.” *Phil Lib Journal*, v.1, no. 4 (new series) January-March 1987, pp. 169-173).

The Legacy of Professor Bernardo

While “poor of purse but rich in honors” was the tribute of the Manila Times (December 7, 1962) at his death, he left us not money but all the trimmings of our profession, the shining ornaments that give it life, color, meaning, value, etc. Prof. Solomon V. Arnaldo called these the facets of his vision. Prof. Arnaldo was formerly with the U.P. Library until he went to the U.S. for graduate studies and caught by the war stayed on in Washington D.C. working for a newspaper, and later becoming a Unesco expert in education and was stationed in Jakarta before his demise. I call them the ornaments of our profession taking a cue from Sir Francis Bacon, Viscount of St. Albans, (1561-1626) who wrote that we should be ornaments to our profession and I just stretched it a bit to mean the ornaments of librarianship.

I found five legacies left to us by Prof. Bernardo. These are:

1. Library buildings which are important to library services. He built not only one library building for UP, but two, which is unequalled in the history of librarianship in the world.
2. Development of the library collection especially the Filipiniana materials

3. Education and training of librarians with the establishment of a library school and a fully developed library science curriculum
4. Professional library associations to strengthen the profession
5. A Philippine national bibliography to refute Wenceslao Retana's criticism about our country.

The Library Building

Prof. Bernardo started his library career in 1916 when he worked in the Catalog Division of the Philippine Library although he finished his B.S.L.S. only in 1921. Before this in 1920, he studied at the University of Wisconsin where he obtained a dual certificate in General Library Service and in Legislative Reference and Municipal Reference Library Service. All this formal training had prepared him for the gigantic task he was about to undertake. He had already started on planning a permanent library building for U.P. and had already gathered data to support his report of the need for a permanent library building in 1924 which he submitted to UP President Palma. This was further boosted by the arrival of the Monroe Survey Commission in 1925 and since UP was included in the survey, Prof. Bernardo had a chance to talk to Dr. Duggan who became sympathetic to the problem of the UP Library. The Monroe Survey Commission stressed the need for a quality library to support the objective of the university to "provide advanced instruction in literature, philosophy, the sciences and arts and to give professional training..." (Arnaldo) The Monroe Survey hastened the decision to construct the library building as the number one priority. By 1928, the construction of a \$500,000.00 library building was started, the façade of which was patterned after the library building of the Univ. of Minnesota. There is a dedication to the youth of the land inscribed on the facade of the library building but I don't remember the whole inscription and since I am pressed for time, I could not check what it was. The building was completed in December 1929, almost 10 years after Prof. Bernardo wrote his preliminary report. However, Prof.

Bernardo was in Germany during this time attending in-service training courses at the Leipzig University.

He arrived in Manila on the day the building was inaugurated on March 17, 1931. But sad to say that in 15 years time, this beautiful building the first building built exclusively for the use of a library with all the features for a library building and the pride of the university was destroyed during the liberation of Manila from the Japanese in 1945, together with the excellent library collection which Professor Bernardo painstakingly collected throughout his administration. I remember when I was already working in the library as a junior library assistant in 1951 and was working in the basement of Gonzalez Hall to clear files of government documents, we were told that around 112 books were salvaged during the liberation of Manila and those books were now in the basement and my workmates (my classmates before) saw them. My first question: Were these listed? Why were they not kept in a better place and preserved as a memento of the library since these books were actually saved because they were in the hands of borrowers who were not able to return them. Later, I found out that the books were no longer in the basement. If I had any idea that I would become a library educator and become a dean I would have kept those books for posterity. There is a discrepancy in numbers for I read somewhere that there were only 50 volumes saved. I would have to check this out and find out also if there was a record of the titles saved.

The library building is regarded as an important component in the delivery of an effective library service. There were only five library buildings in the Philippines from 1931-1961. Prof. Bernardo had spent a lifetime to realize his dream. He built the first library building in Manila in 1931 and named it Rizal Hall, the first library building in the Philippines. It was the pride of the University. But ten years after, the building was completely destroyed in the Battle of Manila in 1945. The second building was built in Diliman, Q.C. again by Prof. Bernardo. It was finished in 1951 but inaugurated only on April 4, 1963. It was named Gonzalez Hall, after President Bienvenido Gonzalez who initiated the transfer of UP to Diliman, Quezon City in 1949. This is a legacy no one can dispute. Without

a library building library services would be greatly affected. The other library buildings were built during the 1950s. These are the library building of the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga, in 1954; the Ebenezer Bible Institute in Zamboanga City in 1958. The last building is The National Library Building on T.M. Kalaw St. in Manila built in 1961. The building was dedicated to Dr. Jose Rizal and was inaugurated on June 19, 1961. Mr. Dante Perez in his thesis entitled “Philippine Libraries and Librarianship, 1900-2000: A Historical Perspective (UP MLIS thesis 2005) listed 83 library buildings from 1931-2000. Of the 83 buildings 41 are academic library buildings, 30 public library buildings, 8 are school library buildings, and 4 are special library buildings. Metro Manila has the highest number of 30, followed by 28 in other parts of Luzon, 11 are in the Visayas, and 14 are in Mindanao. Thus, the seed planted by Prof. Bernardo sprouted, grew and multiplied in 69 years. But this number is still small considering we have an estimated 5000 libraries.

Development of the Library Collection

We have learned as library science students that there are three major components of an effective library service – the collection, the user, and the librarian, without one of each there can be no library service. One may have an excellent collection but if there are no users or librarian to serve it will just be a sterile collection. Following Dr. Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science which he conceived some sixty years ago, books and user are intertwined. The first law states that “Books are for use”. Books represent collection and use connotes a user. We build and develop collections for the user. Crawford and Gorman (1995) had formulated what they call Five New Laws of Library Science taking off from Ranganathan’s laws but applicable for today’s needs. The first law in tandem with the first law of Ranganathan is “Libraries serve humanity.” Serving humanity is the ethic of librarianship. With service we always think of information and information denotes a collection of books which libraries should have. Thus, this second legacy of Prof. Bernardo challenges us to meet the function of selection and acquisition of library collections.

Following the old dictum enunciated by Drury, “the right book, for the right reader, at the right time,” we select books according to the needs of our respective clientele. It would be a passive acquisition if we just wait for requests for certain materials, but it could be a dynamic acquisition when we anticipate the need for a certain material. The dream of Prof. Bernardo was to develop the library of the University of the Philippines as the “intellectual center of the whole University” (Arnaldo). At that time, it was not easy to do it, it was an “uphill battle” all the time. When Prof. Bernardo became the University Librarian after the death of Mary Polk in 1924, the library had only 8,650 volumes and 5000 pamphlets. But today, the library collection of the UP Library has increased a thousand times, or maybe a hundred thousand times, in number and in a variety of forms, especially the inclusion of all types of electronic media. Again, knowing what we had in the past and what we have today in a period of 99 years, we have absolutely surpassed our expectations and be prepared for the demands of the information-based libraries of the future.

We don't have a list of library holdings to see which library has the biggest collection like what the American Library Association is doing, publishing the list of their nation's largest libraries. In my list though out of date (1996-1997) (<http://www.ala.org/library/fact22html>) the Library of Congress tops the list with 23,994,965 volumes, Harvard University has 13,617,133 volumes, and New York Public Library has 11,445,971, out of 100 different types of libraries listed. I believe the Philippine Library Association should compile a similar list for the Philippines. The devastation of libraries, archives and museums in the Philippines in 1945 was so great that it would take perhaps a hundred years to recover the losses. That is why we have to pay attention to the resources of our libraries because they form the backbone of our library services. We must also have a listing of the Filipiniana in all types of libraries, because Filipiniana collections are an indication of the intellectual level of the country. Our library associations should attend to this instead of concentrating on seminars, conferences, workshops which do not measure the intellectual maturity of our country. Every library association

conducts at least one seminar or conference a year and they tend to copy from one another. They try to outdo each other instead of coordinating their activities to prevent overlapping. The Philippine Library Association could produce a union catalog of Filipiniana materials in academic and research libraries which will be a useful aid or tool in accessing Filipiniana collections. This is wishful thinking on my part.

Education and Training of Librarians

The third shining ornament and facet in the legacy of Prof. Bernardo and for which he worked very hard to upgrade and advance it is the education and training of librarians. Dr. James Alexander Robertson, director of the Philippine Library called for a round table discussion in 1910 on the “consolidation of the various collection of the government agencies, the making of a union catalog, unifying library work and methods, binding and preservation of books and the advisability of establishing a library school” (Perez, p. 24). It was Dr. Robertson who recommended to the Board of Regents of the U.P. “to establish a special course of study for library training at the University of the Philippines which the board approved”. Thus began the formal training of librarians in the Philippines. Dr. Robertson was likewise appointed as lecturer in library science without compensation. He taught the first three courses on library economy. These are Lib Sc. 1 - The physical book, reference work, etc. Lib Sc. 2 – Advanced classification, cataloging and subject heading.. and Lib Sc. 3 – Library administration... (Perez, pp 51-52) Miss Mary Polk, then librarian of the Bureau of Science also taught an elementary course on library usage and on the use of reference books. She later on became the University Librarian and head of the Dept. of Library Science which later on was passed on to Prof. Bernardo when Miss Polk died on April 12, 1924. In fact, these teachers, Blanch B. Shelf, Mary Folk, James Alexander Robertson, Syrena McKee, Emma O. Blair, were all Americans and were on part-time basis.

The University of the Philippines is the pioneer in library education having started offering courses in library economy in 1914 until 1916 when the Bachelor of Science in Library Science

was instituted. The first class of 1917 had ten students and Prof. Bernardo was one of them. The first graduates were Isidoro Saniel and a Chinese national from Shanghai, Ding U Doo who finished the course in 1920. Prof. Bernardo graduated in 1921 with the BSLS degree.

I have to give this short background on how library training started in UP with the help of the American pioneer librarians and how important to have trained people to manage the library. Quality libraries need quality librarians. Only the library school can guarantee that you will have quality librarians. Verzosa wrote that “there can be no, satisfactory libraries, school or branch, until we have trained librarians”...

The training and education of librarians from 1916 to 1960 was under the College of Liberal Arts, Department of Library Science headed by the University Librarian. Most of the faculty were from the Main Library who had dual appointments teaching library science courses without additional compensation. The degrees offered were Bachelor of Science in Library science (BSLS), Bachelor of Arts major in Library Science (AB-LS), Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE, major in Library Science) and at one time there was the Bachelor of Philosophy major in Library Science (Ph B-LS). All these programs were phased out when the Institute of Library Science was created in 1961. Prof. Bernardo developed the graduate program, under the Graduate School of the University. Seven graduate courses were offered in 1951 and by 1958 there were already 15 graduate courses in library science. The degrees offered were Master of Arts in Library Science, Master of Arts major in library science, Master of Education, major in Library Science. These were replaced by the Master of Library Science degree. The U.P. is the first to offer graduate education in library science.

While it was not Prof. Bernardo that spearheaded the creation and formation of the Institute of Library Science, he had however laid the groundwork for it when he was head of the Department of Library Science. He even sent many of the librarians to take up advanced studies in library science who will be teaching later on as they had done during the time of James

Alexander Robertson and Mary Polk, when they worked for the passage of a law (Alonzo law) authorizing government scholarships to support a 2-year study in the United States. Seven Filipino government scholars who had finished their studies in UP were sent to several library schools in the U.S. and one of them was Prof. Bernardo who went to the University of Wisconsin and received a Certificate of General Library Service and in Legislative Reference and Municipal Reference Service. It was also Prof. Bernardo's study of the rehabilitation of Philippine libraries under a Rockefeller grant which directed attention to the urgent need of assistance for further training and education of librarians. It was this laborious study which led to the 4-year Rockefeller Foundation grant in 1961 "in support of a graduate program of library education in the University of the Philippines through the American Library Association (Vallejo). Thus the Institute of Library Science (*now Institute of Library and Information Science*) was born which offered two programs at the beginning, the Bachelor of Library Science (BLS) and the Master of Library Science (MLS). It is the first library school in the Philippines, offering a full professional program, a degree granting unit within the University with a full-time faculty and a separate library with an excellent library collection. The Institute is still in the throes of looking for a permanent home and I think Prof. Bernardo if he were alive today would not allow this to happen, because he was one who believed in the importance of housing not only the library which he did but also a library school worthy of its name. I say this because there is a plan that the Institute will be transferred from the Gonzales Hall to the building formerly occupied by the National Book Development Board of the Philippines so far away from the center of the University where the action is. It is also a pity that the Institute has not offered a doctoral program in library science because it does not have the complementary faculty to start a program. The UP requirement is for the college to have at least three full-time faculty members with a Ph.D. (LIS) degree which is a research degree unlike the discipline or professional degree such as Doctor of Education, Doctor of Public Administration, etc. We had planned for this doctoral program as early as 1990, but the problem was the lack of faculty

members with the Ph.D. degree. When I was dean, we prepared a faculty development program where we indicated the plans for a doctoral program. In the plan we projected sending faculty members abroad to take up doctoral studies. This plan was submitted to the University as part of the college annual planning activity, but this never got off the ground. Of course we had faculty with Ph.D. degrees at one time or another, but they were never together all at one time. We had Dr. Ursula G. Picache (Ph.D. 1969) but she retired in 1995; Dr. Josephine Sison, became dean but unfortunately died of a heart attack in 2004; Dr. Leticia Dizon, stayed only a year and retired, Dr. Juan C. Buenrostro, Jr. with a Doctor of Education degree also resigned in 1997, one faculty member Prof. Mae Furbeyre was sent to the United States and got her master's degree in 1963 and Ph.D. degree in 1974 at the University of Southern California but she did not return to U.P. but stayed on as librarian at the University of Southern California. Today, the full-time *faculty of the Institute are* relatively young and have only the master's degree all obtained locally and from the UP which is not a good sign because it perpetuates in-breeding. I have nothing against the local degrees, but at least the faculty should be sent abroad for enhancement courses, if not outright doctoral studies, or attend short-term training courses abroad. Because no matter what, there are many things one can learn from the foreign environment that will sharpen one's mind or broaden one's perspectives. I understand that the University of the East in Manila is going to start a doctoral program in library science. I have some apprehension about this, but then aren't we losing the leadership in the education and training of librarians which Prof. Bernardo and those who came after him had so faithfully and patiently developed? There was a time when the UPILIS was in the vanguard of many activities in the profession. I am sorry to say that we may lose the leadership in library education in the next decade if we don't put our acts together.

The Institute has pioneered in the introduction of Information Technology courses in the curriculum and the use of computers in library education as early as 1978 through the Postgraduate Training Course in Science Information in Southeast

Asia (PGTCSI/SEA) which produced around 147 information specialists from 14 countries. The UP has developed a curriculum in information technology. It also instituted the first Diploma Courses in Law Librarianship and in Health Sciences Librarianship, the first in the country and in the region as well. There are many “first” the Institute has done for the enhancement of the education and training of librarians.

The plant – education and training of librarians – grew vigorously because from one library school, in 1916, the U.P. in Padre Faura, we now have some 99 schools offering undergraduate library science courses and of these 25 schools are offering graduate courses. That is a big return on investment. But the ugly spectre of destruction is around the corner. It took us over 20 years to attain state recognition with the passage of RA6966 in 1992 starting from 1968 with three major political events that almost killed the efforts and now here is a group trying to remove the dignity of being called a profession by watering down the training to a crash program? *Quo Vadis* – where do we go from here?

The late Dean Josephine C. Sison talked about a redefinition of the vision of the U.P. Institute of Library Science as the “center of excellence in providing high quality education to librarians and related information professionals”. After analyzing the environment, the trends in the profession in the world of librarianship, she concluded that the vision of UPILS is still relevant, that it should continue changing in response to the environment (JPL v. 17, 1994).

I don't have any statistics on hand on the number of graduates the UPILS has produced since the introduction of the program in 1916 up to 1960 when it became an Institute and statistics of how many the Institute has produced from 1961-2006. For that matter this is a big problem in the library profession, because we do not have any current or accurate statistics on the number of libraries in the Philippines, the number of graduates we have, the number of librarians in the workforce, the number of so many things that would give us an idea of how strong or weak we are. How can we develop the profession, the libraries, or help in the formulation of an information policy, etc, etc. when we do not

have solid data? This is totally nerve wracking, to be uncertain of what we are. That is why my question to some of my colleagues when I was preparing for this lecture – was – “What do you think will happen to our profession in the future?”

I am sorry if I sound too pessimistic, but if you were in my shoes having spent the best 44 years of my professional life in UP, and after 1994, I still went on serving and fighting for the profession, wouldn't you feel the same way?

Professor Bernardo and those before him – James Alexander Robertson, Mary Polk, Syrene McKee, Emma O. Blair, Blanche B. Shelf – the American teachers who taught library science courses at UP from 1914-1924, and those who came after them – Natividad P. Verzosa, Marina G. Dayrit, Isidoro Saniel, Cirilo B. Perez, Clarissa Dimalanta, Concordia Sanchez, Mae Lachica Furbeyre, Ruby Kelly Mangahas, Consuelo Damaso, Grace Fabella Bulaong, Patricia B. Cariño, Angelina R. Tamesis, Herminia H. Santos, Rosalie B. Faderon, Juan C. Buenrostro and myself and many others who had brief stint at the Institute who gave their precious time and expertise and invested in the future of the profession to hone and mold the young librarians who will take their respective places in the arena of librarianship will be most disappointed because they had helped in establishing a library school that is charged with the professional training of librarians in the Philippines. They will be greatly disappointed if they know that right now there are some people in the profession that would like to bring down the profession to the time of the dinosaurs, by approving a resolution that would train supposed librarians with only 18 units of library science courses in what they call a “crash program” and after the training they would be given licenses to practice without taking the licensure examination of the Professional Regulation Commission, Board for Librarians. This is contained in PRC/BFL Resolution no. 12 with a date of effectivity of February 2, 2007. This was published in the *Manila Standard* on January 17, 2007 and duly registered with the College of Law Registry, whatever you call it. We only learned about this in mid February by accident and when I did, I immediately sent copies to PATLS, UPILIS, PUP to discuss this with their faculty, etc. It is a

good thing we discovered it because this was not discussed openly. There was no public discussion and just think of the repercussion this would have on the training and education of librarians in some 70 schools offering library science courses. I was going to ask the Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science and the Philippine Foundation for Library Scholarship, Inc. to hold a symposium on this matter. Fortunately, I was told that the Philippine Group of Law Librarians discussed this during their meeting last week and that they are having this resolution withdrawn from the registry of laws passed because according to a lawyer, the resolution is illegal.

But even if this resolution is declared null and void, the attempt to pull down the profession for the sake of a few school and public librarians (around 150) will bring to naught the efforts of Prof. Bernardo and all those teachers who at one time or another have trained the librarians of today. I am sure Prof. Bernardo would be turning in his grave and those other teachers of library science who have gone with him to heaven.

The 3H's

Prof. Bernardo had passionately believed that an excellent program in the education and training of librarians will produce a professional who practices the three H's he had coined which are the Hand, the Head, and the Heart. He believed that the "true professional librarian must have all his being properly disciplined" (Versoza p.4). Bernardo wrote in 1918 (*The Citizen*, v.1#4) "the hand representing technical skill; the head representing the "well ordered mind, the thinker who plans, organizes and administers the proper utilization of materials and human resources of his library, and the heart which is his humaneness, his ethical relations not only with his public but with his superiors, equals and subordinates" (Versoza, p.4). Have you practiced the three H's in your daily professional existence?

Now back to my question which you alone can answer – Is there a future for our profession the way things are?

Dante Perez devoted a whole chapter on the education of librarians (I call him Junior Isagani R. Medina and maybe junior

Bernardo in the making) in his thesis of 565p, on the history of Philippine libraries and librarianship, 1900-2000 (2005).

He listed 99 schools from 1946-2000 that offered undergraduate programs, while 25 schools offered graduate programs from 1952 (when the first graduate courses started to 2000). All regions, have at least one school offering undergraduate library science courses.

Library Associations

Education and training of librarians is closely entwined with library associations because what the library schools produce, the library association takes over in their membership. Prof. Bernardo believed in the strengthening of the library profession through an active, vibrant and strong library association. He took active part in the affairs of the association. He co-founded the Philippine Library Association in 1923 and served as its president for 4 terms: in 1927-31, 1933-34, 1949-53, and in 1957 up to the time of his death in 1962. The PLA is older than IFLA by 5 years. Prof. Bernardo fought for membership of PLA in IFLA in 1930. IFLA was established in 1927. He was very active in the PLA, and one of his last acts was the abolition of voting by proxy. During that time all who were employed in the library became members in PLA, be they librarians, typists, clerks, etc. to the extent that even janitors became members. This was so, because those who wanted to run as an officer of the association would have a broad base, thus controlling a majority of the votes, which also grew into an anomalous situation with proxy votes being used by interested parties. This reached a point when there was power play in the association, that in the 1957 annual conference, there was even a fisticuff fight between two clerks right on the stage. I remember this vividly because this was my debut as a speaker in the association. Professor Bernardo had asked me to speak on the deterrent factors in librarianship. Later on, without proxy voting and with a desire to have only librarians comprise the membership in the association, bickering and pettiness ceased for awhile.

Library associations are closely related to the education and training of librarians, for the products of library schools are the

main ingredients in the formation of a professional association. The library association was very close to Prof. Bernardo's heart. Even up to his last day on earth he was always thinking of how he could make the Philippine Library Association grow. He was a firm believer of the value of a library association. He believed in strengthening the association through an active, vibrant, dynamic and strong membership. He had this all consuming desire to have a truly professional association.

He co-founded the Philippine Library Association which was organized on October 29, 1923 by 33 visionary men and women who banded together to "promote library services and librarianship" which became its initial objective. Some of these charter members were educated in the United States as they were the library pensionados who were granted scholarships to study library science under the Alonzo law. The first president was Dr. Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera, then director of the National Library who initiated the founding of the association by calling a conference of librarians who later formed the association. The constitution and by-laws were ratified on October 29, 1923, and an election of officers followed immediately thereafter.

Prof. Bernardo served for four terms, as Vice-president and acting president from 1927-1931, then as president from 1933-1934, 1949-1953, 1957 up to the time of his death in 1962. Even when he was in the hospital he defended the PLA from its critics. Under his leadership, the PLA accomplished some important matters such as the nationalization of the book week in 1934, initiated the membership of PLA as a charter member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), thus bringing the relatively young association at the door of international librarianship. He likewise represented PLA in international conferences and meetings such as the World Library and Bibliography Congress in Rome and Venice in 1929, at the International Library Committee meeting in Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden, annual conferences of the American Library Association in West Baden, Indiana and at Buffalo, New York and San Francisco, Calif. later on. He was a corresponding member of the International Committee for the Scientific and Cultural Study of

Mankind. He continued to represent the PLA in many international library activities, thus bringing prestige to the Philippines. He attended the Assembly of Librarians of the Americas in Washington, D.C. in 1947.

He was also instrumental in abolishing the practice of voting by proxy, as this had created a lot of intrigues among the members especially those who wanted to be officers. He planned for the holding of conventions where vital issues about the profession were presented and discussed. He started the publication program of the association, the drafting and sponsorship of the copyright law which we still enjoy today. In many social activities of the association, luminaries in public office were in attendance such as President Manuel L. Quezon, Vice-President Sergio Osmeña, Honorable Claro M. Recto, Dr. Camilo Osias, Vice-Governor Joseph Ralston Hayden and Senator Geronima T. Pecson to name a few.

For more information about the early years of the Philippine Library Association the articles of Isidoro Saniel, Severino I. Velasco, Juvenal Y. Catajoy published in the Bulletin of the Philippine Library Association are of great help. A more comprehensive account of the PLAI up to the year 2000 is discussed in the master's thesis of R. Dante O. Perez chapter 5 on pp. 202-266 is about Organizations of Librarians. Each library association, current and non-current is discussed fully, together with appendices listing all their activities from date of foundation to the year 2000.

From one library association in 1923, the Philippine Library Association has become a family of 61 library associations of different orientations. The plant sprouted new plants and today there are the following library associations, 9, national, 10, regional, 17, provincial, 9, local, 5, library science alumni, 5, students of library science, and 6 library-related associations.

The national library associations are devoted to specific subjects or type of libraries, i.e., special libraries (ASLP), public libraries (PLAP), agricultural libraries (ALAP), school libraries (PASL), academic and research libraries (PAARL), law libraries (PGLL), medical and health libraries (MAHLAP), and teachers of

library science (PATLS). The mother library association is PLAI. The regional library association refers to a group of libraries within a region such as Calabarzona Library Association for the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon Library Association in Southern Luzon; of the Davao Region Librarians' Association for Davao City, Compostela Valley, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, and Davao Oriental or the Socskargen Librarians Association for the provinces of South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, General Santos City. Many provinces have library associations and there are 17 recorded by Perez such as Cebu Librarians Associations, the oldest among them founded in 1952, Davao Library Association, Iloilo Library Association, Bohol Library Association, Pampanga Library Society, to name a few. Local library associations are formed according to geographical interests of a particular locality, such as Quezon City Library Association, Academic Library Information Network in Mindanao, or the Philippine Society of Library and Information Specialists. Perez listed nine local library association located in Manila, Quezon City, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, etc.

With the proliferation of schools offering library science programs there would be graduates of these schools who have formed associations of their alumni. To date there are five known to be active: the UP Library Science Alumni Association, is the oldest organized in 1950 and the library alumni associations of the University of Santo Tomas, University of the East, Philippine Normal University all in Metro Manila and the University of San Jose Recoletos in Cebu City being the youngest organized in 2000. Like the alumni, students of library science also formed their own associations and there are five of these listed by Perez. These are the UP Library Science Club which is the oldest and is now defunct, organized on November 20, 1926. It published *The Library Mirror* which had some very good articles on library studies. The second oldest is the UST Library Science Student Association formed in 1934. There is also the LISSAP or the Library Science Students' Association of the Philippines (1953). Its members come from the University of the Philippines, University of the East, University of Santo Tomas, Arellano University, Philippine Normal College (now

University), and the National Teachers College. There is also the University of the Philippines Library and Information science Students Association.

The library-related groups or associations consists of the Bibliographical Society of the Philippines (1952), Philippine Booklovers Society (1954), Children's Library and Museum, Inc. (1957), Children's Literature Association of the Philippines, Inc. (1965), Philippine Board on Books for Young People (1983) and the Society of Filipino Archivists (1990).

Of the 61 library associations, 19 have ceased to function. Only 23 associations listed a total of 795 activities, There are also eight institutions that have undertaken or conducted activities relating to the profession. These are the former Bureau of Public Libraries, The National Library, University of San Carlos Library, Xavier University Library, Central Philippine University Library, Gabriel A. Bernardo Memorial Lecture Series of the UP Institute of Library and Information Science (now School of Library and Information Studies). These organizations listed some 213 library activities. Perez also listed 45 book week celebrations from 1934-2000 inclusive.

The library activities conducted by the different library associations and library-related library organizations refer to conventions, conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops, training courses, exhibits, anniversaries, homecomings and reunions, book week celebrations, fellowships, etc. pertaining to library matters.

Besides the Philippine Library Association there were two library associations organized by James Alexander Robertson in 1900 and 1909. These are the American Circulating Library of Manila Association which was formed by a group of American ladies in Manila to provide reading materials to the American soldiers stationed in Manila and to the residents of Manila, while the Round Table Association was organized to discuss library matters pertaining to library methods, compilation of a union catalog to facilitate access to materials for use of government offices, and the creation of a library school.

In 1930, Prof. Bernardo worked hard for he PLA to become a charter member of IFLA and when PLA was not able to

pay its dues in later years, Prof. Bernardo made it a point for PLA to pay its fees regularly as this will affect PLA's status in IFLA. Now, after 50 years IFLA came to Manila in 1980 when it held its 46th General Council and Conference. This is a signal accomplishment of the PLAI for we are no longer standing at the door of international librarianship in 1930, but we have opened the door of international librarianship so that small developing countries can host its general council and conferences. The PLAI is also active in CONSAL, the Conference of Southeast Asian Librarians which held its conferences in 1987 and 2007 here in Manila.

Looking back, from only one library association in 1923 there are now 61 library associations and eight other institutions and organizations which collectively produced a total of around 1023 library activities from the beginning of their existence to the year 2000. At one time, Prof. Bernardo made a plea for a reappraisal of PLA and for the members to “band themselves into a closely-knit organization truly responsible to the noble aims for which the association was founded.” (Figueroa 1969). He had asked “would there ever be realization of this dream?” Indeed, the dream of Professor Bernardo has become a reality.

National Bibliography

Last but not the least of the legacies bequeathed to us by Professor Bernardo is the compilation of a national bibliography for the Philippines. This I would say is the most brilliant of the ornaments or the facet of his vision that gave his life a *raison d'etre*, a reason for living. For compiling this bibliography was his life's dream, his obsession according to Mauro Garcia (1974: p. 156). He started working on the bibliography in 1929 and because of his meticulous habit, his addiction to perfection and his adherence to the motto *Festina Lente*, “make haste slowly”, it really took a lifetime, in fact death overtook him before he could finish the two bibliographies he compiled. He worked on the bibliographies consistently and persistently because of what Wenceslao Emilio Retana y Gamboa, foremost foreign Filipinologist, who said “*Where are the people aspiring to be free but need a foreigner to make its national*

bibliography?” quoted by Mauro Garcia, p. 156). To Professor Bernardo, this was a slap in the face. Forthwith, to refute this claim of Retana, Professor Bernardo started to work on a national bibliography. Retana knew what he was talking about, for he had compiled three monumental bibliographical works on the Philippines – the *Aparato bibliografico de la historia de Filipinas* (3 vols. 1906). It contains 2623 entries on books about the Philippines for the period 1524 to 1905. There was also a listing of Philippine periodicals published from 1811-1905. The second work was the *Origenes de la imprenta filipina; investigaciones historicas, bibliograficas y tipograficas* (1911) covering the period 1593-1640. It contained facsimiles of title pages of Philippine incunabula. He also published *La imprenta en Filipinas adiciones y observaciones a la Imprenta en Manila de J. T. Medina* (1897). In addition to this, he also published *Tablas cronologica y alfabetica de imprenta e impresores de Filipinas 1593-1898* (1908).

Professor Bernardo started to compile the *Bibliography of Philippine Bibliographies, 1593-1961* in 1950. This was published by the Ateneo University Press in 1968. Published after his death in 1962, it was edited by Professor Natividad P. Verzosa who was privy to this work when it was being compiled. The bibliography lists 1,160 titles of Philippine and foreign imprints of Philippine bibliographies, bibliographical lists, catalog of private and public libraries, sales catalogs and books and pamphlets containing bibliographical information about the Philippines. According to Prof. Verzosa, Professor Bernardo compiled this bibliography as a companion volume to his *Philippine Retrospective National Bibliography*. The introduction to this volume is dated 1960 which means that he had been working on this bibliography even when he was sick.

The second major bibliographic work of Professor Bernardo is the *Philippine Retrospective National Bibliography: 1523-1699*. Since this was left unfinished due to Professor Bernardo's death, Prof. Natividad P. Verzosa helped in the compilation in order to “prevent a further widening of the gaps in national bibliography because it has been noted that “Philippine national bibliography has been sadly neglected”. (Verzosa, Introduction 1973). The works of notable bibliographers of Philippine

bibliographies like Retana, Medina, Pardo de Tavera, Perez and Guemes, Robertson and Griffin had not been updated. The bibliography which Professor Bernardo started to compile in 1929, was meant to be in several volumes divided into periods, but only the first volume was more or less complete. Fr. John N. Schumacher, S.J. of Ateneo de Manila edited the bibliography.

It is not easy to produce a bibliography in any subject, more so a national bibliography, because one has to check the entries meticulously, lest one makes an error that would misdirect the user of that bibliography. A bibliography is like a ship's rudder that guides the sailor to where one is going but if the entries are not accurately prepared, then the user will be navigating the bibliographical sea aimlessly which will eventually affect one's research or study. Professor Bernardo was a perfectionist par excellence and he had to keep revising the entries whenever he found these inaccurate and he would even reflect on them before he puts his name to them.

Besides these two monumental testimonials which vividly shows the passion of Professor Bernardo with bibliography, he also compiled other bibliographies on subjects of interest to him – anything Philippine on folklore, paleography, syllabaries, history, anthropology, Tagalog metrical romances, urbanization, *sungka*, a native game, etc. His master's thesis was *Critical and An Annotated Bibliography of Indonesia and Other Malayan Folklore* (Master's Thesis, U.P. 1923).

The foregoing is the past in Professor Bernardo's legacy. But what is the scenario now that would propel us into the mysterious future?

The number of Philippine bibliographies has increased from the time of J.T. Medina (1896) and Retana (1906) and Pardo de Tavera (1903), yet these bibliographies have not been updated, nor the gaps in the bibliographies filled up. There are no current national bibliographies that are much needed in collection development and research. Professor Bernardo had wanted to fill in the gaps by compiling the two bibliographies, but he was overtaken by death. Compiling a national bibliography cannot be done by one person, no matter how that person were consumed by

his passion or compelled by his commitment to do the job. Bibliography making is a very tedious and demanding work.

My interest in bibliography and the history of books and printing was the product of Professor Bernardo's mentoring. I had two projects which I asked one of my graduate students to continue because I could not find the time to finish them. These are the checklist of government documents that would fill the gap in our bibliography of government documents and the other is the history of books and printing which I gave to another student who finished it as a thesis and later on published it as a book - Vicente S. Hernandez' *History of Books and Libraries in the Philippines: 1521-1900* published by NCCA in 1996. My other unfinished bibliography is *The Philippines in Foreign Periodical Literature*. I have already covered from 1900-1990, but I was overtaken by my retirement. I have compiled a commissioned bibliography of President Ferdinand E. Marcos life and works which I did with Dr. Serafin D. Quiason. The two-volume work of over 4000 entries took 3 years to finish and only after I recovered from a mild stroke in 2003.

Librarians working with research collections, particularly Filipiniana collections should read these two bibliographies to get acquainted with the titles of books published sometime ago and know that we have the materials of knowledge to use when in need of Filipiniana resources. For that matter, Filipiniana librarians should be acquainted with the other Philippine bibliographies too. I wrote a paper on Philippine bibliographies for the NCCA cyberspace project in 1999. I discussed 28 bibliographies on the Philippines that are retrospective and non-current. I am adding here an important bibliography which I have missed when I was writing the paper. It was brought by one of my students to my class in Seminar on Philippine Librarianship at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in December 2006. Professor Regalado Trota Jose, a professor of Art History in UP compiled the bibliography to meet the needs of art scholars who are "constantly compounded by the lack of dated pieces of printed ornaments, including fonts, *vinetas* (engraved designs usually found at one end of the page at the conclusion of a chapter), *estampas* or illustrations" (Introduction, p.

7). He spent three months in Spain in 1992 researching on the bibliography. The bibliography is *Impresso: Philippine Imprints, 1593-1811*), published by the Fundacion Santiago Ayala Foundation, c1993. There are a total of 1088 entries, chronologically arranged. I had a student (Analyn Mendez) who compiled the *Five-Year Bibliography of Philippine Imprints, 2001-2005*. There are 6955 entries based on the imprints received at the National Library. The compilation is an attempt to lessen the gaps in the current national bibliography.

My Personal Encounter with Professor Bernardo

I wish I had been born earlier or that Professor Bernardo had lived much longer, so that I could have had more encounters with such a formidable figure, to have imbibed his wisdom and erudition, guidance and mentoring. My experience was so short that it may not be much, but I was very fortunate to have had the experience of walking the pathways of librarianship with Professor Bernardo. My personal contacts with Professor Bernardo started in 1949 when as a junior student in library science I was in his class in Library Administration. During this period major subjects were usually taken during the junior years. I graduated in 1951 and therefore I had only two years as a student. Immediately after graduation, I was appointed library assistant in 1951 and worked in the U.P. Main Library for six years up to the time of Professor Bernardo's retirement in 1957. He was the University Librarian and concurrent head of the Department of Library Science of the College of Liberal Arts in U.P. I was then working as a Junior Library Assistant with the rank of Asst. Instructor as we had dual appointments at that time. I was then working in the Cataloging Section and later at the Reference Section. I was not directly under Professor Bernardo but I was at his beck and call for library tasks to be done. I went up the professional ladder and became Assistant Librarian with the rank of Instructor. I started my teaching career in 1952 and after I had returned from Australia after four months of training and observation of libraries as a fellow under the Colombo Plan Scholarship program, he called me to teach a course. I kept in touch after his retirement in 1957 and worked with Professor

Bernardo as secretary of the Bibliographical Society of the Philippines when he was its president and before I went to the United States for graduate studies. We also met at library functions and socials of the Philippine Library Association until his death in December 1962.

Though my personal encounter with Professor Bernardo was very short, yet it was full of lessons, advices, of learning new ideas, of being a librarian.

As a Student

I have only a fleeting memory of what it was to be a student in the class of Professor Bernardo. After all, it is almost 60 years ago when I was taking Library Administration under Professor Bernardo, and memory is quite dim now but still capable of retrieving events and happenings. My other courses were Cataloging and Classification under Prof. Natividad P. Verzosa; Reference Work under Miss Marina G. Dayrit; Library Administration, first under Miss Concordia Sanchez but she left for the United States for further studies and Professor Bernardo took over. Our classes were held in a small classroom in the west wing of the College of Law building (now Malcolm Hall). That small room on the first floor was our "*tambayan*" during our breaks from class, coffee breaks, mealtimes or rest period. At that time UP seemed to be in one building only. The library was on the first floor of the College of Law building, classrooms on the second floor and the offices of Pres. Gonzalez and other university officials on the third floor.

We were only eight students, the biggest class in library science because in previous years there were only two or three students enrolled. We were a happy group, full of life and laughter. When we first entered the classroom when Professor Bernardo took over the class, we were all quiet – we left the teenage laughter and giggles at the door of the classroom because we did not know Professor Bernardo. We were awed by his presence which exuded an aura of knowledge, intelligence and authority and of course maturity because he was much older than us teenagers. We sat quietly, trying hard to listen to the teacher. First times are always

hard times of getting to know each other. Professor Bernardo had a pleasant face, with bushy eyebrows, that would go up and down when he was happy or mad or irritated; a disarming smile and when he smiled, his eyes twinkled, sort of laughing eyes, or a Mona Lisa smile, restrained but at times mischievous. He had cupid's lips, too, then as the days rolled on, we found out he was warm, jovial and full of humor at times. He told us to be alert for his "bulls" which were incorrect or wrong statements or ideas and that we will be penalized if we swallowed the "bulls" he would throw around.

I don't remember getting any "bulls". I think it was his way of training us to be alert and to understand what the lecture was all about. We never had a sleepy session with him, his lecture was always interesting, lucid and meaningful. He would also tell us situations he experienced with book suppliers, book agents, etc. He was a highly principled man and he would always admonish us to follow the ethics of the profession especially in the acquisition of books where temptations to receive money often occurs.

Library Administration was a 2-semester course, the first semester was about the history of books and printing and libraries and the second semester was about library management. My love for the history of books, libraries and printing must have been influenced by his lectures. When I was already teaching at the Institute of Library Science I handled LS 103, a course on history of the book and when I traveled abroad I would always invariably visit the rare book collection of libraries visited. I saw the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum in London.

The lectures of Professor Bernardo were replete with maxim or motto which guided him in his work. We learned about "*festina lente*", Latin phrase for "make haste slowly". It became a buzz word to us. My good friend, Prof. Isagani R. Medina, who was my assistant at the UP Filipiniana Section when he was still a practicing librarian, was a rabid punster. He made puns on almost any subject. He made pun of the phrase. He would say – *Ay naku – napeste na, nalintikan pa*. This would always bring laughter to our group. But do you know that this trait of doing things slowly and with patience is useful in our work as librarians? It is useful in compiling bibliographies, in doing research, in tracking down

information, in cataloging, in finding the right entry or the right subject heading and many more library tasks that needed patience.

I do not remember the tests we took, the reports we made, the grades we received. I guess I did well because I never failed a course nor got an incomplete grade and of course I graduated but with *sin laude* our joke among us students. If I had known I would be standing before you today and also that I would end up an academician, I would have kept all the memorabilia of my college days like the 3 x 5 box we used to carry with our cataloging p-slips, the test papers and reports returned.

As a Librarian and Teacher

After graduation, the three of us – Angelina Raval (now Tamesis), Gloria S. Quiros (still single and in the U.S.), and myself were appointed junior library assistant with a salary of One Hundred Pesos (P100) a month, a princely sum at that time. Our work was to shelve the books that had been transferred from the College of Law building to the new library building (now Gonzalez Hall) which was completed in 1951. We shelved books the whole day, from 8:00-12:00 a.m.; 1:00-4:00 p.m. We enjoyed the work as if we were playing games. We had bandannas on our heads to shield us from the dust. The other workers were the janitors of the library. We did not feel that our work was menial. We just did our job as was expected of us. The work gave us an insight of what library work could be. We also got acquainted with the call numbers of books that we could recite the class numbers easily. Library work was not just cataloging or circulation and reference work, but at times it was physical work to put the library in order. This job lasted only in the months of April and May because by June we were given appointments as Junior Library Assistant with the rank of Assistant Instructor. We were assigned to the different sections. I was assigned to the Catalog Section under Prof. Verzosa and we were only two in that section, the chief cataloger and myself.

During our stint in the stack room of the library. Professor Bernardo would visit us to find out how we were doing. He would just appear before us because we did not hear his footsteps. He was like a cat that walks noiselessly. We only knew he was around

when we smell the cigar smoke, although he never smoked in the library. He wore only one brand of shoes, the U.S. made Jarman, that is why he could walk silently.

His mentoring was very subtle. He did it not by lecturing but by action, sort of hands-on experience. I guess my love for bibliography was influenced by his giving me assignments to track down materials for something he was working on. At that time, the UP was looking for a president to succeed President Tan. Professor Bernardo asked me to gather the references as to how presidents in American universities were selected. I found some few titles, but he told me to get some more and that were relevant to the subject. In this way, he developed my critical and analytical faculties. I was always on my toes. Although I was not afraid, I felt inadequate so that I had to do the work in the best I could because Professor Bernardo had that intellectual bearing that was like an aura surrounding his body. This was very intimidating that I really had to use all my faculties to meet the demands of a teacher whose whole life seemed to be focused on what he could do for the profession. Later on, I slowly shed off my feeling of inadequacy and always looked forward to what tasks Professor Bernardo would have for me.

My experience in journal editing was again part of the mentoring of Professor Bernardo. Somehow, we learned that Professor Bernardo was partial to those who could write well, had talents for music (he played the violin and the cello), and drama, and the arts such as painting, etc. I did not have any of those talents, except perhaps that I liked to read and I read a lot especially mystery and detective stories and later books about psychic powers and the supernatural. I could also write a little, in fact I had wanted to be a journalist but when I enrolled in 1947 U.P. did not have a course in journalism. So, Professor Bernardo would give us some articles to edit for publication. We would read the articles and the three of us would go over them one by one, over and over and then submit them to Professor Bernardo. So we thought there would be no more errors, but lo and behold, Professor Bernardo could still find errors that we had missed and when we acted surprised he would just smile and tell us that editing is a tedious job and that the

eyes could sometimes work against us, so we should check and double check. I guess this was the *festina lente* syndrome at work, but sometimes it was a disadvantage because he was such a perfectionist freak, that death overtook him and his two bibliographies were published without him around. He could have produced more but then time was running short.

What more did he teach me and in doing so, he showed his humanity and passion as a teacher. I did not know anything about how to take down notes and record the proceedings of a meeting, conference, or symposium. But Professor Bernardo appointed me secretary of the Bibliographical Society of the Philippines when he was president and my mentoring continued. I was appointed in May 1953 and continued to record and produce the minutes until July 24, 1954 when I left for the United States for graduate studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

I would take down copious notes because there was always extensive discussion on bibliographical issues and with so many learned members which read like a Who's Who in government, education, history, librarianship, literature and the arts, while there were around 50 members, the monthly meeting was attended by only around 15 members regularly. I would prepare the draft of the minutes and then Professor Bernardo would edit it. The finished minutes sometimes ran from 6-8 pages. When Dr. Charles O. Houston of the University of Manila became president, I did not have to submit the draft of the minutes. I just had it reproduced for the meeting. This training helped me a lot when I served as rapporteur in many conferences, seminars, etc. particularly at the UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Development of National Libraries held in Manila on February 3-14, 1954 and at the UNESCO Evaluation Meeting of the Post-Graduate Course in Information Studies at ISTIC in Beijing, China. It has helped me also in the preparation of many speeches and papers I delivered in many conferences, conventions, training courses, seminar workshops, etc.

Professor Bernardo' was a quiet man, not prone to idle talks, etc. but almost always was in a reflective mood. I never heard him raise his voice even when he was angry. He never castigated

his staff in public and elsewhere His daughter Sister Angelina, whom I visited yesterday, said the same about her *Tatay* that, he was a quiet man, never boisterous, he never shouted at people. He treated his staff equally. He was humble not prone to boasting according to her daughter. Personally, while he was still the University Librarian, I never heard him castigate his staff nor speak ill of any of his colleagues. One time, I asked him about why some of the people around him seemed not to like him and his answer was, and I remember this very well - “because they know that I know that they do not know anything” end of dialogue, because I also did not want to go into the whys of things. It was enough that he answered me and I understood him quite well.

At another time, there was a columnist of the *Manila Chronicle* who wrote a very nasty criticism about him. The columnist was a friend of one of our library staff. When I asked him if he would reply to the criticism, he had a firm answer – NO. He said this – *basta pitikin mo lang*. He demonstrated on his arm how he would flick the supposed dirt off his arm. *Pitikin* is the tagalog word to denote to flick it and be done with it. Don't let it bother you, he said. That was the kind of person Professor Bernardo' was. He was not a combative man. This trait prevented hostility and confusion in relationship, most especially when you are the head of the institution. I learned from him to be a cool-headed person and it was effective when dealing with people when I was already head of the Institute of Library Science. His advice was not to let gossips and criticisms affect you. In the long run they will get tired of it. If people talk about you that means you are important, but if they ignore you it means you are a nobody.

My teaching career started in 1952 after I returned from a 4-month training and observation trip to five cities in Australia. Professor Bernardo called me and told me to teach a course. While I was delighted that he had trust in me I did not want to accept it and I told him so. I told him, I was not prepared and that I was afraid and would be nervous before the class. And his repartee was – Of course you would feel nervous, but when are you going to start? He told me not to worry. I guess he knew that I was ready for the job. I accepted the challenge with great diffidence. This

started my teaching career and I stayed on for I loved teaching and to have a role in *moulding* the mind and making a difference. I started with *Lib. Sci. 155* – Library Practice with nine students during the 1st semester, 1953-1954. Library Practice involved lecturing and assigning students to work in various libraries. Later on, I handled Lib Sc 145 which was History of Books and Libraries, then Lib Sc 173 Library Services for Children and Young People and a graduate course, *Lib Sc 202* Bibliographical Services and many more.

My debut as a speaker in a PLA conference was again at the instance of Professor Bernardo. In 1957, he asked me to speak on Deterrent Factors in Library Services at the PLA Conference on April 11, 1957. I told Professor Bernardo I was not qualified to do that even if I had already a Master's degree in library science because I was still growing up in the profession. I told him I felt inadequate to do the job and again he said – when will you start? He would not take “NO” for an answer. At that time I really did not understand why he would give me all the chances to prove to myself what I could do. He knew my potentials and he tried to bring them out. This was followed by my participation and reading of a paper on the Technical Content of Librarianship at the U.P. President's Conference on the Education for Librarianship, May 26-27, 1961. This started my attendance and reading of papers or delivering speeches in many local and international conferences I have been asking myself why I was blessed that a great man had confidence and trust in what I could do and had mentored me and tutored me in all aspects of librarianship. If it were not for him, I would perhaps be an ordinary librarian, with talents unexplored. In fact Professor Bernardo gifted me with a book – Rafael Palma's *The Pride of the Malay Race* which I treasure very much for it was the first gift I received from anybody especially my teacher. His dedication was *To Miss Rose Menguito with best wishes, Gabriel A. Bernardo, 1953-1954* written in his beautiful handwriting. I never found out why he gave me that book because I never asked him. I was still the shy girl who enrolled in library science in 1949 and never got out of it.

Maybe in another life, he was my father and I was his daughter because he was very kind to me. I was not a scholar,

neither was I pretty nor had a talent for music and the arts. I just thank God that there was a man who believed in me and saw the potential that he tried to develop and enhance. Whenever I receive an award (and I have received around 40 civic and professional awards). I have always paid tribute to Professor Bernardo telling the audience that whatever I have accomplished in my profession I owe it to Professor Bernardo. I shall never forget the times when he would bring us students to library affairs and introducing us to the library bigwigs, including foreign librarians the likes of Dr. Luther Evans of the US Library of Congress, of Miss Margaret Allman of the USIS and many more.

Parallelisms in Our Lives

While reading all the available materials about Professor Bernardo, I could not help noticing that there were many parallelisms and similarities in our lives as librarian that this gave me the creeps. I hope you do not find me presumptuous but I found the parallelisms in our lives quite interesting.

We were both “accidental librarians” I enrolled in library science without knowing what it was all about. Professor Bernardo worked in the library by chance when he was appointed library assistant without having trained as a librarian.

We both started our library career in the catalog section. I was first assigned in the catalog section of the UPML under Professor Verzosa, the chief cataloger. We were only two then, the chief and myself. Professor Bernardo started work in the catalog section of the Philippine Library where Ms. Syrena McKee taught him how to list the books already cataloged.

We were both connected with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). In 1930, Professor Bernardo fought hard to have PLA be admitted as member in IFLA which gave PLA prestige in the international library field. I invited IFLA to hold its 46th General Council and Conference in Manila in 1980 and this opened the door of international librarianship to small and developing countries. There was opposition to our invitation but we won and PLAI and the Philippines became known in the world of international librarianship.

We both made extensive travels to other parts of the world in representation of our profession and the country. Professor Bernardo traveled to 13 cities in 6 countries. I traveled to 58 cities in 27 countries from 1952-2001.

We both found refuge and a new life outside of the U.P. after retirement. Professor Bernardo was appointed Rizal Professor of History at the Ateneo de Manila University, while I was appointed Special Lecturer at the Graduate School of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines because I could not teach in UP as I was already beyond 70 years old.

Professor Bernardo was president of PLA for four terms, from 1927-1962, inclusive. I was president of PLAI for one term, from 1977-1978.

I think the parallelisms or similarities are eerie and uncanny. Perhaps I really knew him in another life.

What of the Future?

I have presented a picture of Professor Bernardo's life and mission. He was born during a historic moment of our country's life at a time when there was a change in the political structure of the country. From the Spanish colonial power to another power – the American hand taking over. But this hand had something to offer which somehow started the dream of Professor Bernardo. The Americans brought with them the idea of public library service and implanted on us the American Circulating Library in 1900 and through a series of legislative acts it became the National Library of the country. Dr. James Alexander Robertson was a director of The Philippine Library and introduced the idea of training library workers, improving library methods, compiling a union catalog, consolidation of the governments collection, etc.

Professor Bernardo's legacies are all blooming now into a very robust plant, beyond our expectations. These are the U.P. library building, the library collection, the education and training of librarians, the library associations and the national bibliography.

Library Building – from the first U.P. Library building named Rizal Hall, completed in 1929 and inaugurated in 1931, up to 1961, there was a total of five library buildings. The other four are:

University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City (1954), the Ebenezer Biblio Institute in Zamboanga City (1958), The National Library Building in Manila (1961). The UP Library is counted twice. It was rebuilt in 1951 at Diliman, Quezon City and named Gonzales Hall. As of last count, there are now 83 library buildings all over the country and still counting (Perez).

Library Collection – in 1924, U.P. Library had 8,650 volumes and 5000 pamphlets. Today UP Library has 1,069,296. This does not include the holdings of the libraries of the constituent universities.

Library Education – library schools increased from two in 1914-1919 to 97 as of 2000 (Perez, Appendix 3), but 32 of these have ceased operations.

Library Associations – from one library association in 1923 there are now 61 library associations of different types – national, regional, provincial, local, library science alumni, student library associations and library-related associations. But 19 are now defunct.

National Bibliography – from the time when the bibliographies of Jose Toribio Medina (1896) and Wenceslao Emilio Retana y Gamboa (1906) were published there are now 26 general bibliographies, 2 special bibliographies (Vallejo, 1999) and the bibliography compiled by Regalado Trota Jose (1993) and the Mendez bibliography (2007).

The increases noted in the five legacies of Professor Bernardo from 1900 to 2007, a little over a century, are indeed tremendous, overwhelming and awesome, considering that they were only the vision and mission of one man. I believe that the future is bright and there is still a space for us librarians in that undetermined future if only we will continue to realize the dreams of Professor Bernardo. With the influx of new technologies, we can fast track the construction of more library buildings, develop outstanding library collections, support quality education and training of librarians by upgrading library science programs, trimming the many library associations to only a few and undertaking more library activities for professional growth and development, improving the ethical behavior of librarians,

producing current national bibliographies to fill in the gaps and to produce a union catalog of national bibliographical works and more. Let us have unity in diversity.- a unity in purpose among a diverse group of professional librarians.

EPILOGUE

Professor Bernardo departed from this world leaving behind a lifetime of dreams that became his legacy to us that will serve for another lifetime, perhaps up to the future we look forward to.

I am reminded by a poem I learned in school that had something to do with what we leave behind. I knew only the first and the last lines and I want to quote it for it is very fitting for this occasion.

Instead of my looking for a book of quotations or poems in the Reference Section, I decided to ask the help of Mrs. Florenda D. Mallari, the reference librarian. She surfed the Internet and presto, she got the poem I needed. That is the beauty of these new technologies. I am quoting herewith the poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, called *Psalm of Life*.

*Lives of great men all remind us
That we can make our lives sublime,
And, departing leave behind us,
Footprints in the sand of time -*

(<http://www.kam akoti.org/newlayout/print>)

The footprints that Professor Bernardo left are much bigger than the footprints of the polar bear or of the mighty King Kong of the jungle because of the magnitude of the legacies he had bequeathed to us that have multiplied a thousand times. As long as books and libraries will flourish in our country and as long as our librarians will be true to the profession of librarianship the name of GABRIEL A. BERNARDO a man for all time, will be emblazoned in the firmament of Time.

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