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Seas | Filipinos

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Edited by

Aileen S.P. Baviera

Teresita Ang See

PUBLISHED BY

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION  
FOR CHINESE STUDIES

1992

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ISBN 971-91333-0-9

ISSN 0117-1933

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Cover design by M. G. Cadiz Jr.

Printed by MicroPublish® Inc., Quezon City, Philippines

## Introduction

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This two-volume issue of *Chinese Studies* covers two distinct themes. The first volume, on Philippine-China relations, is entitled "China, Across the Seas". It consists of two articles and a brief reaction paper, all written for a symposium in 1989.

The first chapter discusses at the theoretical plane the Chinese view of the world and its implications for China's foreign policy, especially vis-a-vis the Third World and by extension, the Philippines. It focuses on Chinese tradition, history, culture, and philosophy as the foundations of such a world view, but alludes to how considerations of pragmatism and politics have exercised a moderating influence, if not primacy altogether, over past international policy frameworks. The next two chapters focus on practical issues in Philippine-China relations from the Philippine point of view. They give a general overview of the main problems in Philippine-China bilateral ties: the trade imbalance, the effects of the Philippine's growing ties with Taiwan, the overseas Chinese issue, and the question of conflicting claims to the Spratly islands.

In the three eventful years that have passed since the initial presentation of these papers, many changes, new trends and tendencies in the national, regional and international environment have come to our attention as important, if not decisive, factors in our relations with China. To name a few: the collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the expulsion of American military forces from their Philippine bases, China's recognition by Indonesia and Singapore, Taiwan's growing economic and political clout. Moreover, the stupendous results and bold directions of China's reform and open-door policies have in the last few years made their impact felt on the region's upbeat economy. These raise new implications that clearly merit the attention of observers of Philippine-China relations.

The second part of this book focuses on the Chinese Filipinos. It consists of five papers presented in 1990, discussing various experiences of the Chinese in the Philippine setting, at different points in time and in different parts of the country. The contributors, most of them historians, document both the evolution of relations within Chinese society in the Philippines as well as of Chinese relations with main-

stream Filipino society. Aspects of their identity, integration, changing images, and roles are touched upon.

Many rare-known facts are revealed in this rather unique collection, which we hope will be a major contribution to contemporary scholarship on the Chinese in the Philippines—who they are, where they are and why.

The editors wish to thank all the contributors, the Chinben See Memorial Trust Fund, the Philippine-China Development Resource Center and the China Studies Program of De La Salle University, for their support for this project. Our gratitude also goes to Ms. Lilibeth Gramor for typing all the manuscripts. Finally, we wish to apologize for the delay in making available to the public the papers of these two conferences.

*Teresita Ang See  
Aileen San Pablo-Baviera*

*Editors*

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**Edgar B. Wickberg, Ph.D.** has been teaching at the University of British Columbia since 1969 and holds a doctorate in East Asian History from the University of California in Berkeley. He published "The Chinese in Philippine Life, 1850-1898" (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965) and "From China to Canada. A History of Chinese Communities in Canada" (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1982). Apart from these, his principal research interests include Chinese social and economic history since the 16th century, organizations and ethnicity in Chinese society, and land tenure and rural society in South China.

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