

HISTORICAL NOTE

By the second half of the nineteenth century, a national awakening was taking place across the Philippines and the intellectual elite were agitating for reforms in both the civil and ecclesiastical establishments. In 1896, a warehouse worker, Andres Bonifacio, led a secret revolutionary movement called Katipunan. The Katipunan met on the outskirts of Manila and began to raise the cry of revolt against their colonial oppressor, Spain. Despite its grand aspirations of revolution and Philippine independence, the movement developed serious problems. There was a tremendous struggle for internal leadership within the Katipunan. After much infighting, Emilio Aguinaldo, a former school teacher and young mayor of Cavite, seized leadership. Aguinaldo was then elected president of the joint factions at the Tejeros Convention in March of 1897. In reaction, Bonifacio established his own government. This action was considered treasonous by Aguinaldo's government and Bonifacio and his brother executed.

Fighting between the Filipino and Spanish troops was well under way by the time Aguinaldo ascended to power. The first year of fighting was indecisive and came to a brief halt with the signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato in late 1897. As part of the provision of this pact, Aguinaldo voluntarily went into exile in Hong Kong.

The following year war broke out between the United States and Spain over possession of Cuba. The U.S. sent General Dewey to Manila Bay to destroy the Spanish fleet stationed there. The U.S. and Dewey called on the exiled Aguinaldo to help resurrect the revolutionary fervor against the Spaniards and trap them in Manila. Aguinaldo mistakenly assumed the U. S. was interested in helping the Philippines gain their freedom from Spain.

Aguinaldo declared the Philippines independent as of June 12, 1898. Despite this, neither the U.S. nor Spain recognized Philippine independence while they negotiated peace settlements. In fact, the U.S. offered to purchase the Philippines from Spain for twenty million dollars. The Filipinos refused to acknowledge any transfer of sovereignty. Inevitably, an armed conflict took place between the U.S. and the Philippines on February 4, 1899. The Philippine Insurrection persisted from 1899-1901 and eventually became known as the Philippine American War.

Filipinos were unable to unify and fight against their foreign aggressor. Revolutionaries and other groups never reconciled their earlier differences. Therefore, the resistance movement against the U.S. was splintered and ultimately unsuccessful. In the brief years of the Philippine Insurrections, over 200,000 civilian Filipinos were killed. The U.S. maintained control over the Philippines Islands until 1946 when the country gained its long-sought independence.

SCOPE AND CONTENT/PROVENANCE

The Philippine American War Collection was once part of the Kirby Museum and is mainly comprised of photographs taken by U.S. soldiers who were stationed in the Philippines at the time of the uprising. A series of seventy-three smaller photographs was donated by George Runyon to Kirby Museum. A Kirby Museum note card dates them ca. 1899. Almost all of these photographs have a brief handwritten note on the reverse side. The photographs depict Runyon's fellow soldiers as well as various places of interest. Several of the photographs depict locals whom the soldiers encountered. Many of the photographs are brutal portrayals of the life of a soldier in combat and depict images of dead Filipinos. The two larger photographs of the collection were donated by the father of the museum's curator, Miller D. Steever, and depict the surrender of General Manuel Tinio's forces to the Americans in 1901.

The most significant piece of the collection is a document signed by Emilio Aguinaldo, a leader of the Philippine national resistance movement. The document, dated August 3, 1900, attempts to unify the guerilla and national armies of the Philippines in 1899. It is countersigned by General Manuel Tinio of the Philippine Army.

One final item of note is a U.S. war medal of the Philippine Insurrection dated 1899.

INVENTORY

Box 1

- 1:1 Photographs of George Runyon
-scenes of battle, American with Filipino bodies (4 photos)
- 1:2 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous shots of American soldiers (7 photos)
- 1:3 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous shots of individual Americans (4 photos)
- 1:4 Photographs of George Runyon
-shots of American troops (3 photos)
- 1:5 Photographs of George Runyon
-shots of American ships, officers on board (3 photos)
- 1:6 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous shots of Filipinos (3 photos)
- 1:7 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous shots of Filipino sites (4 photos)

**THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN WAR
COLLECTION, ca. 1899-1901**

**SKILLMAN LIBRARY
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

- 1:8 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous undersize (17 photos)
- 1:9 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous extra undersize (14 photos)
- 1:10 Photographs of George Runyon
-miscellaneous extra undersize (14 photos)
- 1:11 Photograph of Miller D. Steever
-General Tinio and his officers, surrendered to the Americans, May 1901
- 1:12 Photograph of Miller D. Steever
-General Tinio and his forces, surrendered to the American forces, May 1901
- 1:13 Proclamation signed by Emilio Aguinaldo and countersigned by General Tinio,
August 3, 1900
- 1:14 U.S. war medal of the Philippine Insurrection, 1899