

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER
Presidential Papers of Manuel L. Quezon
(Philippines)

Ref N° 2010-05

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

THE PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS OF MANUEL L. QUEZON

1. Summary

Manuel Luis Quezon (19 August 1878-1 August 1944) was probably the most pre-eminent and prominent pre-war Filipino leader, unequaled in his involvement in Philippine affairs for the period from 1907 to his death in 1944, the period covered by the American colonial period and the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines in World War II. Quezon served as an anti-American guerrilla officer (1899-1901) during the Philippine-American War. He started his political career as Fiscal of the Province of Mindoro (1903-1906), subsequently serving as Municipal Councilor of Tayabas Town in Tayabas, his home province (1906); Governor of Tayabas Province (1906); and First Assemblyman from Tayabas Province to the First Philippine Assembly (1907). He was also co-founder of the *Partido Independista Inmediatista* (1906), which became the *Partido Nacionalista* (1907), the dominant political party in the Philippines until 1935, with a platform of immediate, absolute, and complete independence from the United States. The Nacionalista Party still exists in the Philippines today.

Manuel L. Quezon also served as Resident Commissioner of the Philippines, representing the Philippines in the U.S. Congress from 1909-1916. Returning to the Philippines, he became the First President of the Senate of the Philippine Legislature in 1916 and served in that position until 1935, when he was elected First President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, the 10-year transition period prior to the recognition and restoration of Philippine independence in 1946. During World War II, after the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor and the surrender of the USAFFE (United States Armed Forces in the Far East, consisting of American and Filipino military) to the Japanese military forces, Quezon continued as President of the Commonwealth Government-in-exile in Washington, D.C., (1942) and remained in that position until his death in 1944.

The Presidential Papers of Manuel L. Quezon (hereafter to be referred to as Quezon Papers), herein submitted for nomination to the Memory of the World International Register, is probably the richest source in the Philippines for the American period (1898-1946). The collection was willed to the public early in 1942 when the Commonwealth President was evacuated from Corregidor to the United States, via Mindanao, after the Japanese bombed the Philippines (in December 1941) and occupied the country (until 1945). After the war the documents of the Philippine Commonwealth in-exile (in Washington, D.C.), which Vice-President, and later President Sergio Osmeña had apparently screened following Quezon's death (at Saranac Lake, New York, on August 1, 1944), were added to the main collection, making it a full record of Philippine public affairs from 1907-1944.

In view of the terrible destruction which accompanied the liberation of Manila from Japanese rule in 1944-1945, many papers were destroyed, with more losses incurred during the initial post-war period when the collection was repeatedly transferred while a permanent home was located. High humidity and inadequate storage facilities in the various temporary locations, as well as poor paper in tropical conditions had resulted in documents being blackened, compressed in lumps, and partially eaten by white ants and termites. Fortunately, enough remains intact and the collection remains a valuable resource for research on the history of the Philippines during the first half of the 20th century. The Quezon Papers are now permanently stored in The National Library in Manila.

It is important to emphasize here that the Quezon Papers constitute a major source of information not only for the history of the Philippines, but also for the history of the Philippines in the context of the history of region (Southeast East Asia/East Asia), the history of the United States, and the history of European countries (Britain, France, the Netherlands) during the period of colonial rule in the region. Colonialism and imperialism were the common experience of many Asian countries in similar situations as the Philippines. There was also the common experience of World War II and the Japanese Occupation of several countries in the region.

2. Details of the Nominator

2.1 Name (*person or organization*) Bernardita R. Churchill, Ph.D.

Professor of History (University of the Philippines, Retired)

President, Philippine National Historical Society, Inc.

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

None

2.3 Contact person(s)

Bernardita R. Churchill

2.4 Contact details (*include address, phone, fax, email*)

*40 Matiwasa Street, UP Village
Diliman, Quezon City 1101
Tel: (63-2) 921-4575
Fax: (63-2) 926-1347
E-mail: nitachurchill@hotmail.com*

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

3.2 Description

The collection is of greatest importance for the wide range of Quezon's correspondence and for the documentation of the events and politics involved in the long history of the Philippine independence movement conducted both in the Philippines and in the United States. Quezon corresponded widely, both with political figures in the United States as well as with many prominent leaders within the Philippines.

There are two major depositories of the Quezon Papers – the original manuscript collection is in The National Library in Manila; a microfilm copy consisting of 54 reels represent the most important, but not all, of the Quezon Papers in the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

The collection contains cables, memos, transcripts of press conferences, press clippings, public documents, and letters and speeches, in various stages of draft. About 40 per cent of the material is in Spanish, a small number in Tagalog and other Philippine languages, and the rest in English.

The National Library has the following register/guides to the Quezon Papers:

- (1) A Register of His Papers in the National Library (n.d.), Rarebooks and Manuscripts Section, Filipiniana Division;
- (2) Guide to the Manuel L. Quezon Papers (n.d.), Series VII, Subject File, Filipiniana Division; and
- (3) Guide to the Manuel L. Quezon Papers (n.d.), Series VII, Provincial and Municipal

Governments, Filipiniana and Asia Division, Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

The Bentley Historical Library (University of Michigan) microfilm collection is arranged into three series:

(1) General Correspondence

(a) as Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States (1909-1916);

(b) as President of the Senate (1916-1935); and

(c) as President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines (1935-1944);

(2) Speech, Article, Statement, Report, Interview, and Book File (1907-1944).

This series includes handwritten, typewritten, near-print and printed copies of drafts of speeches (some in various stages), articles, remarks, press releases, and press conferences; also manuscript and background materials assembled by Quezon in the writing of his autobiography *The Good Fight*.

(4) Correspondents File (1910-1944).

This series consists of letters, telegrams, cablegrams, radiograms and memoranda sent and received. It is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and then chronologically. (Source: *Balita mula Maynila* (Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Historical Collections, Bulletin No. 19, February 1971), p. 29; also *American-Philippine Relations, A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan Historical Collections*, compiled by Marjorie Barritt (Ann Arbor, MI: Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, July 1982), p. 18; Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Manuel Luis Quezon, 1898-1944, Microfilm Call Number 852085 Aa 2, 34 pages. See attached Inventory of UM Microfilm).

The University of Michigan has also acquired additional microfilm copies of selected documents of the Quezon Papers from two American historians who had used the collection in Manila for their respective works. These papers are in three microfilm reels from the Michael Onorato and John A. Larkin Papers, consisting mainly of correspondence between Quezon and American and Filipino officials and colleagues. These documents may, in some instances, duplicate the collections already in the Bentley Historical Library but, considering the loss of many of the manuscripts in the Quezon Papers in Manila, they would be very useful in completing missing files. (See Section 4.5 below).

There are other collections that are also rich in Quezon documentary and printed sources. Among them are the following:

The Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, also houses extensive Quezon Papers, consisting of books and serials, papers and manuscripts written about/by Manuel Luis Quezon. The collection comprises Quezon's biographies, compilation of his speeches, addresses, messages, proclamations, executive orders, photographs, etc. Jorge B. Vargas served as the Executive Secretary of President Quezon from 1935-1942, and served in the Government of the Philippines established by the Japanese during their occupation of the Philippines (1942-1945). The Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center is very rich in documentary sources for the Japanese Occupation period.

The Library of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines (Batasan Hills, Quezon City) also has Quezon papers found in the records of the *Diario de Sesiones del Senado de Filipinas*, containing proceedings of congressional sessions. Quezon was President of the Senate of the Philippines, the upper body of the Philippine Legislature, from 1916-1935.

The undersigned nominator also has a microfilm reel of the Quezon Papers from the National Library (Philippines), which were used for her doctoral dissertation research on the Philippine campaign for independence from the United States. There are 1,983 pages in this microfilm reel.

The doctoral dissertation, submitted to The Australian National University, was published by the National Historical Institute in 1983 as *The Philippine Independence Missions to the United States, 1919-1934*. The original microfilm and digital copy are at the Ateneo de Manila Rizal Library, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. A digital copy is also in the collection of the nominator.

Other collections may be found in due time, which can be added to this listing, probably mainly in private collections and other official depositories.

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Is authenticity established?

The documents in the Quezon Papers, with the exception of those that have been transcribed in recent times (owing to the fragile condition of the paper), are all original copies, written personally and collected by the late President Quezon, including personal as well as official documents, press clippings, drafts of speeches, receipts of expenditures – practically every bit of paper that passed through his hands.

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established

The Philippines was a colony of the United States from 1898-1946, and much information is contained in the Quezon Papers on the relations between the two countries. Manuel Quezon was a forceful personality who dominated the political scene and towered over his contemporaries and colleagues. His active involvement in the destiny of his country was felt both in the Philippines and the United States. Much of the current relations between the Philippines and the United States can best be understood by studying how the United States pursued policy for the Philippines, especially in the matter of political independence and economic development. On the part of the Philippines, the colonial experience under the United States has also colored much of the character of the Philippine policy and practice as it establishes and asserts its own identity in the world today.

Beyond the Philippines and the relations with the United States, this independence movement found resonance in some of the countries in Asia, which had also come under colonial rule. The example of the peaceful nationalist movement, through evolutionary constitutional processes, became a model for neighboring countries working towards ending colonial rule and achieving independence. Quezon traveled to many foreign countries and met many of these nationalist leaders who found the Philippine example worthy of emulation. Foreign scholars have written on the independence movements of other Asian countries and have situated these movements in the context of what was going on in the Philippines, the Philippine being the first country in Asia to launch a nationalist revolution against a colonial power with the Revolution against Spain (1896-1898) and the Philippine-American War (1899-1902).

4.3 Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style (f) social, spiritual and community significance satisfied?

Time, Place, People, Subject and Theme, Form and Style

Time - The Quezon Papers contain valuable documents on the period of the political career of Manuel L. Quezon, more specifically when he served in public office on the national level – from 1907-1944. These years covered practically the whole period of American colonial rule and the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines (1898-1946).

Place – The Quezon Papers contain documents describing history as it was taking place both in the Philippines and the United States, specifically the nature of the colonial relationship of the two peoples and the cultural, social, aesthetic influences which both peoples brought to bear on each other in the course of a long period of relationship.

People – The Quezon Papers provide information on the relations between Filipinos and Americans during the period of colonial relations.

Subject and Theme – The Quezon Papers cover a broad range of subjects and theme, as it relates to the relations between two countries and peoples.

Form and Style – For historical purposes, documentation is very important, and the Quezon Papers provide a broad range of materials, both official and personal, that are useful for the reconstruction of events in the history of the relation between countries, as it also provides information on the relations of the Philippines with other countries.

Social, Spiritual and Community Significance – The Quezon Papers provide documentation informing society in the Philippines during practically the first half of the 20th century, giving information and insights into the life practices and situations of the Filipinos, a largely Catholic country, in the face of the political and economic developments as the country moved towards independent sovereignty in 1946. The Quezon Papers contain documentary materials that go beyond official colonial relations between the American and Philippine governments that are also reflective of the social conditions in the various communities that comprise the Filipino nationality.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

The Quezon Papers, as they are presently found in the National Library, is in a serious state of deterioration. There are documents that have probably been irretrievably lost due to deterioration in a tropical climate and storage in facilities that are not properly maintained as to temperature and humidity control. Being an important resource for research on the period covered by the collection, it is important that all available copies of the Quezon Papers found in collections abroad (at the University of Michigan, the US National Archives and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., The New York Public Library, and other depositories) and in private collections (of historians who have used the collection) be retrieved to complete the collection (and replace what has been lost) and augment the collection with materials found in other depositories that are not available in the Quezon Papers in The Philippine National Library.

5 Legal Information

5.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (*name and contact details*)

The National Library (Manila, Philippines)
Filipiniana Division, Quezoniana Section
T.M. Kalaw Avenue, Manila, Philippines

Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
1150 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113

Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Senate of the Philippines, Congress of the Republic of the Philippines
Batasan Hills, Quezon City, Philippines

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (*name and contact details, if different to owner*)

Same as above.

5.3 Legal Status:

- (a) Category of ownership
Philippine Official Agency – The National Library (Philippines)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Senate of the Philippines, Congress of the Republic of the Philippines
- (b) Accessibility
Upon Request
- (c) Copyright status
The National Library (Philippines)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Senate of the Philippines, Congress of the Republic of the Philippines,
- (d) Responsible administration
The National Library (Philippines)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Senate of the Philippines, Congress of the Republic of the Philippines
- (e) Other factors

6 *Management Plan*

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES/NO

The recommendation is hereby made for the assistance, especially in the case of The National Library in the Philippines, to provide the institution facilities for conservation and preservation of existing collection. The best strategy at this point is probably digitization of all the documents so the original copies can be preserved. Once digitized, the original documents should no longer be made available to researchers.

The same recommendation applies to the collection found at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center and the Senate of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

The University of Michigan is comparatively in a better position to manage the collection and to preserve and conserve it in digital form. The collection there, however, does not constitute the entire collection as found in The National Library in the Philippines.

7 *Consultation*

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional Memory of the World Committee.

Communications should be directed to the Librarians of the various institutions with holdings of the Quezon Papers.

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8 *Assessment of Risk*

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (*see 5.5*)

There has been expressed elsewhere in this nomination some of the risks of loss or damage of the present collection in view of inadequate storage facilities (with controlled temperature and humidity) and the possibility of digitization of the collection.

9 *Assessment of Preservation*

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (*see 3.3*)

See 6.1. Management Plan