

thought and Sanskrit literature, its date and the cultural and social context from which it stems. A glossary explains Sanskrit terms and Indian names, and an appendix lists and discusses other translations as well as studies on Indian erotics. The task of this translation was rightly seen as deciphering the meaning of the sūtra-text itself, and while the famous commentary Jayamaṅgalā of Yaśodhara was of course utilized, it was not, as had been the case with most earlier translations, used for padding Vātsyāyana's text. Thus, this German version, apart from being precise and trustworthy, also manages to give a good impression of the style of the original, of its conciseness.

For the hardcover edition, which is destined for the non-specialist, the translation was smoothed out, there is no indication of the translator's additions, and some of the information which, in the paperback, is relegated to the notes, has been included in the text itself. The result is obviously easier to read and should thus be more accessible to the general reader. A postscript provides general information on the Kāmāsutra and its wider context, and as in the paperback, an annotated bibliography of other translations and studies is added. Lothar Reher has designed a series of marbled paper patterns which form the background of all the pages of text; this theme is also taken up in the design of the binding. As printing and binding are of the highest standard, the hardback proves a most attractive object for booklovers and thus does justice to a text concerned with the pleasures of life.

We must hope with the translator that this new version – 'a critique both of philistinism and eurocentricity' – will finally allow an unprejudiced reception of a classic and thus contribute to a 'humanist view of love and sex'.

Hartmut-Ortwin Feistel

Dirk Bronger: Die Philippinen. Raumstrukturen – Entwicklungsprobleme – Regionale Entwicklungsplanung. (Mitteilungen des Instituts für Asienkunde, 159). Hamburg: Institut für Asienkunde, 1987. 559 pp., DM 46.–

If you have any questions about the Philippines, consult this book! And this is by no means an ironic statement. Packed with tables (108 in all), graphs, maps, 20 pages of detailed bibliography, a statistical appendix and a pleasantly long English summary, the reader is introduced to the spatial aspects, development problems, and regional development planning of the Philippines. The subtitle of the book aptly places it in the realm of political geography. The desire to grasp the reality of the Philippines as comprehensively as possible is felt throughout the book.

Explicitly, Bronger claims to advance knowledge about the *causes* of underdevelopment and to point to the human factor in the *process* of the present state of affairs in the Philippines. He rightly places himself in the tradition of the previous geographical overviews by Kolb (1945), Spencer (1954) and Wernstedt/Spencer (1967), aiming at surpassing them in analytical depth.

Bronger does this in five chapters and each is introduced with a theoretical essay. It starts with (1) a general introduction to the country, followed by (2) the attempt to establish whether the Philippines is in fact a developing nation or a third world country, (3), the decisive role of the metropolitan monster of Manila in the formation of the country, logically connected to the next chapter (4) on the regional disparities, which finally leads (5) to an overview of the regional planning efforts, with special emphasis on economic policies, including agrarian reform. Bronger also does not shy away from suggestions (which ought to be taken seriously) about how to overcome the widening gap between rich and poor and between town and countryside. The entire book demonstrates an alert political mind, an approach most probably at variance with the majority of his colleagues.

Each chapter in which Bronger attempts to present causal links between his hypothesis – i.e. why there is what type of underdevelopment – also contains ample material on comparative data from other regions of the world. This makes his contribution especially valuable for teaching purposes.

Throughout the study, Bronger's sympathy for the poor and the wretched is felt and not buried in this myriad of facts and figures. It is especially this combination of humanity with the desire to prove everything down to the smallest detail which makes a fair review of this work of enormous diligence so difficult. And that is maybe the highest compliment to be made to this book: each reader knows exactly where s/he can place the counter arguments. To summarize, this is an extremely valuable book for every Philippinist, though of less theoretical clarity than I would have liked.

Frank Hirtz

Tim Kuschnerus/Rainer Werning: Die Philippinen unter Aquino. Facetten eines Machtwechsels. (ISP-pocket 29). Frankfurt/M.: ISP-Verlag, 1987. 144 pp., DM 17.80.

Granted: a fair review of this booklet is difficult for me. The "Facets of the Change of Power" (so the sub-title) are spelled out in 13 articles, equally distributed between