

Translation: Jasmin Günther

Württemberg Association for Commercial Geography

Stuttgart, 21st December 1905

[To the Chief of Cabinet Baron v. Gemmingen]

Your Excellency!

Dear Baron!

Some time ago I had the honor to inform Your Excellency about the intent to approach the consul for Guatemala and Costa Rica, Dr. Ernst Gustav Niederlein, citizen of the Kingdom of Saxony, currently residing in Zittau i.S., Brüderstrasse 3, in order to obtain an ethnographic collection for the Museum of Ethnology.

Dr. Niederlein, who had been sent to the Philippines on occasion of the World's Fair in St. Louis with the intent to compile a collection of all kinds of artefacts and products from the Philippines, made use of this opportunity and further acquired a relevant collection for the local Museum of Ethnology in private.

This collection, which entered into my possession a few weeks ago, is excellent in both quality and quantity (it comprises over 300 items) and was obviously put together with expertise and diligence.

The collection includes objects from a large number of island groups belonging to the Philippine Archipelago, but particularly comprises a complete ethnography of the various tribes settling on the two large islands of Luzon and Mindanao. Thematically, the collection contains a variety of adornment, clothing and everyday objects, of which some stand out due to the particularly beautiful work and quality of the fabric, a fine selection of weapons, such as the infamous but elaborate Head-Axes, as well as bows, arrows and quivers, and a large number of spears and knives alongside keris and shields from various tribes; the assembly of instruments is also great and unique. Furthermore, the collection includes a fine compilation of fishing equipment and models of boats as valuable evidence of shipbuilding craftsmanship; similarly, other models present the common house building practices of the Philippines.

I have the impression that the collection is representing the lives and activities of the respective tribes in a thorough and interesting way and that its incorporation into the museum is of great worth, especially because the North American occupation of the Philippines might make it impossible to obtain larger collections from the Philippines in the future.

The outstanding significance of this collection obliges me to inform Your Excellency about the situation, in case you, honorable baron, would deem a report about this matter to His Majesty the King appropriate.

Most respectfully yours,

[Karl Graf von] Linden