

## Philippine Cartography and the Jesuits

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Cartography, in all the early missions, was practically part of being a missionary. Working in uncharted areas, he had to make original maps for his own use. It was a rare missionary who did not draw accurate sketches of the region where he lived, the paths he took, rivers crossed and mountains traversed. He faithfully wrote long *ex-officio* letters to Superiors. These were also destined for an audience curious not only about the progress of evangelization but also about the strange climates and cultures where he labored. A great variety of maps and charts accompanied these letters with detailed observations on local geography, climatology, ethnography, etc. These treasures lie largely untapped, awaiting analysis and publication. This brief study will be limited to cartography in the Philippines, and is undertaken as a contribution to the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Jesuits in the Philippines.

### GEOGRAPHIC MAPS

#### THE CHARTOGRAPHY OF FR. PEDRO MURILLO VELARDE, S.J.

The first map of Fr. Murillo Velarde was preceded by the map of Fr. Andrés Serrano, S.J., published in 1701 at the end of a religious book.<sup>1</sup> We do not know of any other previous maps. Fr. Murillo mentions that the first map of Mindanao was made by Fr. Pedro Gutierrez, S.J. who, while sailing around the island,

1. Pedro Murillo Velarde, S.J., *Geografía histórica* (Madrid: G. Ramirez, 1752), Prologo, p. 30.