

Translation: Jasmin Günther

Wuerttemberg Association for Commercial Geography

Stuttgart, 10th November 1905

[To Dr. Gustav Niederlein, Zittau]

Your Excellency!

Dear Doctor!

All's well that ends well! I am delighted and able to inform Your Excellency that the Philippine collection, which has been missing for many months, has entered my possession three days ago.

I myself have immediately opened the five boxes that looked undamaged from the outside and have matched the items to the list you gave me.

I have already been convinced by the list that I will receive a fine and thorough collection, which embraces all aspects of the natives' lives; this impression came true at sight of the collection.

The collection gives a wonderful – and, for some tribes, exhaustive – overview of what the native needs in times of war and peace, for his home, his clothing, his adornment.

In order to emphasize some items from the richness of this extensive collection, I would like to point out the uniqueness and variety of the spears, of which especially the ones of Mindanao stand out due to how diligent they were made, as well as the interesting arrows that were used for the deer hunt; I particularly take delight in the possession of these arrows because I own some specimens that were used for the same purpose but are entirely different in their style. Also, the Pampanga and Bataan Negrito bows found a ready welcome and I saluted the bows, quivers and arrows from the Tinguians, who have lovely coats of which some are in my possession already, with a cry of joy.

The elaborate swords will look good in the exhibition and I am looking forward to the time where I can present the dressed, life-size model of a Moro;

It would, in an immodest way, be very time-consuming for Your Excellency, if I would write about every single section of the collection; humbly, I send you – also in the name of the Association – our warmest and sincere thanks for this wonderful gift, which will enhance my Philippine collection to a new and unexpected level, and respectfully add that I will instantly advertise the arrival and content of your collection in an appropriate place.

Concerning the identification of the individual items, I only had difficulties with 2-3 objects because the labeling of these did not match the numbers on the list. However, I believe that I was able to successfully identify the respective provenances. I only note that one lance of Mindanao has been labeled with a false tag, which stated that the object was from the Igorot people.

For the sake of completeness, I add that one of the four turbans (No. 12605), a Davao Bagobos jacket (No. 111), an Igorot shield (No. 36099), legwear from the Davao Bagobos (No. 13557) as well as a hat made from palm leaves (No. 724) are missing; but because we have similar objects within our collections, I believe their loss to be manageable. However, I deeply regret the absence of the two Philippine house models (No. 13594).

Again assuring my deep gratitude and my respect, [Karl Graf von] Linden