

Draft

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF *ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑ*¹

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This paper traces the survival of a journal—Φιλοσοφία—in the process of ups and downs. It continued to do so and we hope it will go on to have a permanent niche in history.

INTRODUCTION

The Philippine National Philosophical Research Society (PNPRS) was created to ensure the survival of a philosophy journal. *Σοφία* (*Sophia*) was the journal of the Philosophy Department of De La Salle University (DLSU). When I joined the staff of *Σοφία*, the journal was in existence for twenty eight years (from 1970-71 to 1998-99). DLSU highly subsidized the journal because it was losing. Its income could not finance even one issue of the generally two issues of the journal. In some cases, the journal issued only one copy. This was true to every journal of the various departments of the university, at least, in the College of Liberal Arts.

In 1995-96 I became the managing editor of *Σοφία*. The reason why I accepted the position of managing editor was that I wanted the journal to become world class—something that will be recognized as such by the international philosophical community. As managing editor, I accepted submitted manuscripts, which I sent to readers—without the names of the authors—for evaluation. Once the evaluation came in, I sent the notice to the author whether it was accepted, rejected, or to be revised. I worked on the accepted or revised paper by incorporating the Turabian documentation format (2013). This format places the parenthetical references (PR) in the main body while the explanatory notes are placed at the end of the paper before the reference list (RL). If the submitted paper is in the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Modern Language Association (MLA) format, it will have to be transformed into the Turabian format, and this generally takes between two to six hours of work, depending upon the length of the article. If it is submitted in a Turabian format, then it takes only less than an hour of checking. Once the paper is in the accepted Turabian format, *content editing* is done. The managing editor tries to see if the arguments are logical, consistent, and coherent. Concepts that seem to be vague in meaning are clarified by consulting the Internet. This takes between two hours when written clearly or about two days when written in garbled or unclear language in order to make the arguments coherent. Once the paper is finished in content editing, it is given to the editor, who at that time was Dr. Brian Douglas Elwood. In some cases when the article was in the Turabian convention, I gave it directly to Brian. After Brian had edited the papers and after I had inputted the corrections, these were given to De La Salle University Press where its copy editor—usually Camilo Villanueva or Nora Dimagiba—took care of the grammar, misspellings, and similar changes. Once finished and the changes were in place, De La Salle University Press printed the journal. Regularity then was not an issue, because the DLSU Press scheduled the printing of many manuscripts and if there were many books ahead of *Σοφία*, then the journal would be printed very much later.

BIRTH OF *ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑ* (PHILOSOPHIA)

I was managing editor for three years (1994-97) but Brian was thinking of giving up the editorship for some family reasons. In 1997, DLSU announced it would no longer support the publication of the Department journals. It would instead reduce the ten CLA journals to three: one for the social sciences (the *Asia Pacific Social Science Review*), one for the arts and humanities (*Ideya*), and the other is the retention of a university journal (*Malay*). I was distraught and depressed. Should I give up and what would happen to my desire of making the journal a world class one? By that time, the income of the journal derived from subscriptions could finance only half of the expenses of one issue of the journal. I thought that if we create an organization to raise funds for the continued publication of the journal, then we can probably finance two issues. I reckoned that if we could have an organization, we can raise membership fees. Then the organization could sponsor some lectures with fees and the amount might be able to finance the second issue.

I brought the idea to some of the department faculty members. They agreed and a meeting was scheduled to organize the Philippine Philosophical Society (PPS). We adopted the format of the original Philosophical Association of the Philippines where there was a chairman, the executive director, and other officials voted by the board of directors. To differ from the original PAP hierarchy, PPS changed the word “director” to “governor.” Some representations were made to the DLSU administration so that PPS could sponsor some lectures throughout the year using the DLSU facilities free. Once approved, we issued a registration fee of P50 per entrance. The first set of five lectures started in 1996-97. Later the entrance fee was reduced to P20.

The first executive governor was Dr. Florentino Timbreza. The main function of the executive governor was to raise funds to finance the journal. Brian still served as editor while I remained as managing editor. We were able to get membership fees, some institutional subscriptions, and the proceeds of the lectures enabled us to publish two issues of *Σοφία* (1997-98). The following year, we continued with the lectures and we also published two issues of the journal (1998-99). It was during this time that I noticed the executive governor was not as *passionate* in raising money for the journal especially in terms of getting new members and in inviting many students to attend the lectures that sometimes I felt jittery that the funds may not be raised for the second issue of the journal. During the next election time (1998) I campaigned to be the executive governor so that there would be a direct linkage between raising the funds and the journal survival. In this way, it is the primary responsibility of the executive governor as managing editor to raise funds for the journal.

PPS could not be registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission because, we were told, there was already an organization called “PPS.” SEC suggested two additional letters, and after a while, the Philippine National Philosophical Research Society (PNPRS) was formally established on 19 March 1997 with SEC Registration No. A199704867. The DLSU administration informed PNPRS that the name “*Σοφία*” is owned by the university, and therefore PNPRS had to use another name. So “*Φιλοσοφία*” became the name of the new journal—as a substitution of *Σοφία*. *Φιλοσοφία* was now identified as a PNPRS journal and not a DLSU Department journal.

In 2009, Brian decided to resign as editor because of some family problems which needed his attention. His father was sick and his wife had some kind of illness. Besides, there was really nothing to benefit from the work as editor. Editorship was not paid, the work was tiresome, and discipline was necessary. As managing editor, I thought I should not surrender. The journal must go on. It should not be a choice between the family and the journal. It is not an “either or” proposition. Both must be served, even if at the start it would be 80% of my time for the family and my work and only 20% for the journal. I envisioned, as the years go by, that it may eventually be raised to 50% for the journal and 50% for the family and work.

As executive governor, I raised more participants to the lectures, solicited more subscriptions, and more PNPRS members. The institutional subscriptions and the membership fees could finance one journal issue while the lectures could finance the second issue. I tried to see to it that there would be a little extra to save for possible lean years. We continued to issue two journals per year.

As managing editor, I decided to select an editor from the outside: Dr. Tomas Rosario Jr. of Ateneo de Manila University for 2000 and Dr. Leonardo de Castro of the University of the Philippines for 2001. Also as managing editor, I continued doing the initial editing of the journal before giving the manuscript to the editor twice a year. Basically, my function was content editing. At that time, I was not so well adept at using the computer, so I had to print the manuscript and travel long distances to bring the manuscript to the editor and after several weeks to retrieve it. In 2002 I decided to take the editorship because, at any rate, I did the dirty job while the editor did only some minimal work and besides I felt tired travelling to the editor and back. As editor in 2002, I requested Nora Dimagiba to serve as associate editor. Her main function was to copy edit and proofread while I did the content editing. By this time (2002), PNPRS had a meeting and decided to amend the By-laws, making the position of the executive governor for life. This decision made a permanent linkage between the executive governor, who raised the money, and the journal editor, who always assured himself that money was sufficient. To make more money for the journal, PNPRS decided to publish a textbook in 2004, titled *The philosophical landscape: A panoramic perspective of philosophy* (2004-2008), which was edited by the executive governor. This ran into several editions from 2004 to 2008, and it grew in size from 183 pages to 621 pages. It was also in 2004 that the first PNPRS National Assembly Conference took place in DLSU-Dasmariñas campus and it continued to be held in various venues every two years, the last *memorable* one was at New Horizon Hotel in Mandaluyong City (2008).

The executive governor also made some linkages with the Philosophical Association of the Philippines and the Philosophical Association of Northern Luzon where *Φιλοσοφία* was made a part of the registration fees. PNPRS published 200 copies of the journal because it was the minimum that was cost-effective. We sell only—on the average—about 80 to 100 of these, and to recover the cost and the attendant mailing charges, supplies, and so on, PNPRS pegged the price to P1,600 for institutional subscriptions and P850 for PNPRS membership fees. The rest of the copies were given as exchanges or complimentary copies for possible citations. In addition, we have the income from the lecture series and the income from the textbook. There was a time when we had a substantial savings. I envisioned that the savings should increase to take care of lean years because the sources of the income may not be permanent. Moreover, I started to think in terms of a PNPRS building in the future. From 1999 to 2006 I travelled to foreign countries to read papers in philosophical conferences—Tehran, Bucheon (Puchon) City, Bangkok, Depok City, Kuala Lumpur, Istanbul, Phnom Penh, Winooski, and Washington, D.C. I

carried some *Φιλοσοφία* journals for complimentary and exchange purposes. It was also during these travels that I selected some foreign people to serve as consultants or readers of *Φιλοσοφία* papers.

RETIREMENT

In July 2007, I would be sixty years old. Under the DLSU *Faculty manual*, one can seek an extension of retirement service. In the contract of employment, the *Faculty manual* is part of the contract. Under the manual, the DLSU academic vice president can create a committee on extension which will decide, on the basis of some criteria, whether the faculty member, may be extended or not. If he or she meets all the criteria, then he or she may be extended, otherwise he or she may not be. The DLSU administration decided that they suspended that provision of the manual *unilaterally*, and would no longer make any extension despite the fact that the committee on extension recommended that I be extended for five years. I contested the decision as a violation of the contract at the Department of Labor and Employment but the deputy commissioner, after one year of waiting, decided negatively. I wanted to raise the issue at the level of the commissioner, because I was convinced that the suspension of the extension provision was a violation of the contract. I was torn between fighting for my right and the possibility of my discontinuing of the editorship. The journal may not survive since it was necessary to find ways of raising funds and I would be enmeshed with arguments and counter-arguments regarding my case in the Office of the Commissioner, and this would take another year. Moreover, I might be working in a job that I do not like in order to survive, like working in a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), otherwise known as the “Call Center,” which will consume my time. So finally I decided to concentrate in continuing the PNPRS activities. So for this love of my discipline, the journal must continue and my desire to make it be recognized internationally must be placed in its right track. I, therefore, got all my monetary receivables from DLSU and finally retired.

During this period, 2007 to 2009, there were a lot of changes to the situation. Firstly, the lecture series income from DLSU was cut off, but PNPRS continue to have a few lectures held at my residence with foreign lecturers on various occasions. In 2009, Peter Gan of Malaysia, Luca Scarantino of Italy-France—who was the Secretary-General of the World Congress of Philosophy—and William Sweet of Canada visited the country and delivered some lectures at PNPRS. PNPRS also decided in 2008 to publish the 5th edition of the *Philosophical landscape* with C & E Publishing, Inc.

Secondly, PNPRS continued to publish the two issues of the journal. PNPRS had enough savings to finance the publication for the next seven or so years. Moreover, we continued to sell some journals during the PAP and PANL annual conferences.

Thirdly, the responsibility of the executive governor is primarily to the PNPRS members, not only to the officers. So when the officers did not renew their memberships, except one, in 2009, I decided to have an emergency meeting with the members who were interested to continue the survival of PNPRS and I designated some acting or assistant officers who continued the functions of the vacant offices until the next elections. It was during this time (2009) that the officers amended the By-laws making the associate editor as the successor of the editor should something happen to the latter. This provision of the By-laws also made the associate editor—in effect—as the vice executive governor, who will succeed the position of the executive governor.

Fourthly, during the visit of typhoon Ondoy (“Ketsana”) in September 2009, we could not sell the journal to PAP and PANL, which postponed their conferences, and during this year we lost some sixty thousand pesos. Our saving grace was that we were able to retrieve from our past accumulated sales of the *Philosophical landscape*, through the persistent follow-up by the PNPRS treasurer (Fr. Anthony Ben Ayubo) to collect from a bookstore, which helped in paying the journal deficit.

Fifthly, some officers of PAP slowly started questioning the making of *Φιλοσοφία* a part of the registration fees since it bloated the registration fees and such was also the case with PANL, even if PAP and PANL received some percentage of the sales. Eventually, these sources of income also disappeared. There were feeble attempts to have the journal distributed by Filbars, a magazine bookstore, but Filbars could only sell four issues. So we did not renew our contract.

Sixthly, PNPRS continued to hold the lecture series at Jade Vine Executive Inn, United Nations Ave. corner Bocobo St., Malate, Manila, and later at Max’s restaurant in Gateway Mall, Cubao, Quezon City where we received some minimal incomes. All officers were required to pay their registration fees even when they were absent. At the later part of the lecture series, the incomes could hardly self-liquidate, so in one meeting, the PNPRS Board decided to let the officers solicit at least one donor to help finance the lecture series and the journal. In the final analysis, those who did not or failed to solicit would pay a share equivalent to the remaining donor sum. Right now (2014), we are holding our lecture series at the University of Santo Tomas because the previous venues raised their rentals.

Seventhly, in 2009 the authors from the DLSU Philosophy Department wanted the *Philosophical Landscape* to have its last edition—that is, they would not want it republished anymore—and would want to receive half of the royalty of the existing 5th edition. The PNPRS treasurer, Fr. Ben Ayubo and myself agreed. So one by one, the sources of *Φιλοσοφία* income have vanished.

Eighthly, in 2007 the executive governor wrote *ISI Web of Knowledge* to evaluate *Φιλοσοφία* and determine if it can be abstracted. The reply was that *Φιλοσοφία* complied with the requirements (viz., regularity of publication, the editor is published internationally, the board of consultants have many known foreigners, there was a documentation convention followed, there were foreign authors who were of known repute), except that *Φιλοσοφία* did not pass the minimum number of citations from books, articles of anthologies, or of foreign journals, especially their own list of journals. In 2009 I inquired again, but this time, *Thomson-Reuters*, who bought *ISI*, informed me that *Φιλοσοφία* passed the minimum number of citations, and they abstracted the 2009 issues, including the 2008 and 2007 ones. In addition to this, *Scopus* communicated with the editor, expressing its intention to abstract *Φιλοσοφία*.

Tenthly, for a long time we have been using the accession number (ISSN) of *Σοφία*. I was informed by Dr. Jeffrey Centeno of St. Louis University that in the list of accession numbers of the National Library, *Φιλοσοφία* was missing. I went to the National Library and inquired. The one in charge of copyright and accession numbers informed me that *Σοφία* was defunct and another journal with the name of *Σοφία* applied for an accession number. So thereupon I applied for the ISSN or accession numbers for *Φιλοσοφία* in both the printed and online versions. As a consequence, we have to readjust the volume numbers of *Φιλοσοφία* with number one starting in 2000. This means that volume 29 of 2000 would now be counted as volume 1. We informed *Thomson Reuters*, *Scopus*, and *The Philosopher’s Index*² about this change.

Lastly, when the sources are depleted and the lecture series could hardly survive, I computed that *Φιλοσοφία*, with its accumulated funds, could still survive for a little more than ten years. In 2012 Dr. Atty. Noel Ramiscal, the PNPRS legal adviser, informed PNPRS that CHED would grant some monetary incentives for journals abstracted by *Thomson Reuters* and/or *Scopus* for the next three years, starting in 2012 (CHED Memorandum Order No. 5, series of 2012). These are journals which CHED classified as A-1. This signifies that *Φιλοσοφία* can go on for the next three years, but the lecture series—because it could hardly support the journal—would have to exist by itself. We could not reverse the procedure and make *Φιλοσοφία* subsidize the lecture series. So we continued the procedure of PNPRS officers paying the registration fees, even if they are absent and for each one to solicit at least one donor for the lecture series, or to share in the donor sum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Since this year's annual conference includes the election of officers, I would like to say something about the By-laws. PNPRS is nonprofit, nonstock, nonsectarian, and journal-oriented organization. This means that the efforts of the officers are geared towards the survival of the journal. PNPRS is unlike PAP whose main concentration is the annual conferences and the journal or proceedings may or may not come.

Under the PNPRS By-laws, the executive governor—who is the journal editor—and the vice executive governor—who is the associate editor—are responsible in seeing to it that funding continues to come in to ensure the continuance of the journal and the lecture series, and in that sense their positions are considered for life.

The only vacant positions are nine offices: the chairman, the vice chairman, the secretary, the treasurer, the auditor, the public relations officer, and the legal adviser. PNPRS expects every officer to perform his or her duties. We do not want to have a PNPRS officer to be a wall flower, or a mere decoration, that is, his or her name is in the list of officers but is not doing anything relative to his or her duties. Everybody is busy with one's family and work, but at this point in time, we request the presence of the officers in PNPRS lecture activities, the few meetings, and other PNPRS matters, aside from one's own basic duties. The officer must be able to devote a certain time for PNPRS functions. PNPRS does not demand all of one's time, so that for some reasons he or she may be absent, but PNPRS only request a reasonable part of one's time.

All positions are important, but the chairman, the treasurer, the auditor, and the secretary must be able travel to Quezon City to sign SEC records and the Ayson Accounting firm's records for the BIR because there are deadlines to meet. Usually the signing was done in Trinoma, Quezon City or in Gateway, Cubao. In the past, I had to go to one's office for the officer to sign. Of course, there were occasions that the officer's staff went to the house to get the document and after the signing returned the document in my house. When there was enough time I sometimes mailed the documents via LBC to the officer's house and after signing he mailed it via LBC back to me. Communications are very important, so please have your cell phone open and read regularly your emails regarding PNPRS matters. There were occasions that I sent an email to an officer, and there was no response. And sometimes the cell phone number cannot be contacted.

Before I close this paper, I want to emphasize the responsibility of the treasurer. Usually, I prepare the draft of the Annual Financial Statement because in the past the treasurer had no time. How I wish the treasurer would have time to prepare it. Anyway, when I prepare the first draft, the treasurer should read it well and verify from the receipts, which I give to him. If he

notices that some amounts are small or large, or missing, or there are discrepancies, then he should correct them or call my attention to these so that we can rectify it, because I am not all-knowing. If he knows there are discrepancies and he just sign his name, then it is already his responsibility and no longer mine. Of course, in the past there were corrections suggested by the auditors, but the treasurer must also do his homework and not just say, “I report and sign this financial statement as prepared by the executive governor.” As I said, once the treasurer signs it, then it is now his own responsibility. The treasurer must allocate enough time to verify the records. If there is no more time because it is now needed by Ayson Accounting firm, then he signs it but *verbally* in a meeting, or through an email, qualify as “subject to his final verification.”

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that PNPRS is a journal-oriented organization. As such, all those who intend to become officers must support the journal’s survival and also the continuance of its lecture series. It is important to mention, that under the By-laws, the officers must pay, within a specified period of one week, their membership fees for three years. In addition, it would be advisable that the PNPRS treasurer should collect from the officers the registrations fees for all six lectures during the first lecture registration.

NOTES

1. Paper read on 17 May 2014 during the 6th PNPRS National Conference held at the AMV Multipurpose Hall, College of Accountancy, University of Santo Tomas, Manila. The theme is “Philosophical Research vis-à-vis the K-12 Program.”

2. The first to abstract *Φιλοσοφία* was *The Philosopher’s Index* of Bowling Green, Ohio.

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