Recommended Reading List

In researching for my history of the United States and the Moros, here are a few books related to the subject that were found to be informative, accurate, and well-written. Some are now out of print but can still be usually found through your local library’s “inter-Library Loan” program.

Books that address the broader context of how and why the United States colonized the Philippines in the first place:


Books that address the greater Pacific military context:


Three military histories:


First-hand, personal accounts (alphabetical by author):

15. Lt. Col. Harold Hanne Elarth, Ed., *The Story of the Philippine Constabulary* (1949). A compilation of Elarth’s own and many other first-hand experiences as officers in the Philippine Constabulary. A caution is in order, however, since it was compiled decades after the period there are numerous factual errors.
17. David Potter, *Sailing the Sulu Sea: Belles and Bandits in the Philippines* (1940) – very entertaining memoir of the experiences of a junior US Navy officer on board the gunboat USS Manila in 1899 and 1900.
18. Hugh Lenox Scott, *Some Memories of a Soldier* (1928) – A fascinating memoir from a soldier whose career placed him at the very center of the history of the US Army from the week after the
Custer Massacre to Armistice Day World War I. Scott was fondly remembered by the Tausugs as the “Gubnor” of Sulu for many years after he left.

19. Col. John R. White, *Bullets and Bolos: Fifteen Years in the Philippine Islands* (1928) – a true modern-day “Renaissance man”, born in England White fought in the Greek Foreign Legion, was a miner in Yukon Gold Rush, a US soldier in the Philippine War, one of the most important officers in the Philippine Constabulary, a homesteader in British Columbia, fed starving Serbs in the Balkans, at 39 was the oldest Pursuit pilot in WW I, became an expert in Giant Sequoia’s and a founder of the US National Park Service.

The **Victor Hurley** books.


Cautionary note: Almost everyone interested in this topic comes across these two ubiquitous and colorful books and in the 1930’s Hurley gained direct access to a number of first-person accounts. However a reader should also be aware both books contain numerous inaccuracies and interpretations which are contradicted by both fact and other documents.