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✓ ^{Index} **Ateneo conducts historical research on Davao**

By Eder Escudero

The Ateneo de Davao University is conducting a historical study on Davao. Considered a "first" from the standpoints of medium used, approach and methodology, the research project will cover the period from 1847 (the date of the founding of Davao as one of the four districts of Mindanao) until World War II.

The research work started last October 1976 and will be completed by March 1978. Publication will be made in May 1978. It consists of three phases namely: 1) library research 2) archival (record of parishes) and 3) field

interviews. The entire work will be written in Pilipino.

Author and prime mover is Mrs. Heidi Gloria, a member of Ateneo's social science faculty. Mrs. Gloria holds a master's degree in history from San Carlos University (where she taught history before coming to Ateneo) and a bachelor's degree in foreign service from the University of the Philippines. Assisting her are selected students from her history classes.

These past few weeks, Mrs. Gloria and her research workers have been devoting a great part of their time to field interviews with Davao's old political figures,

religious and lay leaders, prominent and ordinary private citizens in various municipalities in the three Davao provinces and key barrios/districts in the city.

Extracted from these interviews are individual recollections dating from World War II down to the last century of the Spanish rule. The informants are also asked about the legends in their localities and other significant and unusual events that happened during their time.

Mrs. Gloria said that she found the informants from the provinces more enthusiastic and more lucid in their recollections of historical happenings than their counterparts in the city. They are more cooperative, too, she added. More than 80 persons have been interviewed so far. About 200 individuals are to be interviewed to complete Phase 3, Mrs. Gloria said.

Todate, Mrs. Gloria has visited Mati, Banaybanay, Lupon, Calinan, Toril part of Davao City. More archival research work (Phase 2) will still be conducted in Caraga, Sigaboy and several other parishes in the provinces, she added.