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Rizal in Ateneo, Ateneo in Rizal

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Rizal in Ateneo, Ateneo in Rizal

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Level 2, Rizal Library Special Collections Building

Ateneo de Manila University

Curated by Ambeth Ocampo



“I had entered college still a boy, possessing only a limited knowledge of the Spanish language, my intelligence only moderately developed, and my emotions scarcely cultivated. By dint of study, of self-analysis, of aspiring to ever greater heights, and of countless corrections, I began to be transformed little by little, thanks to the beneficent influence of a zealous professor [Fr. Francisco de Paula Sanchez, S.J.]”



Ambeth Ocampo, "Rizal in Ateneo, Ateneo in Rizal"





Sacred Heart
Batikuling wood
Ca. 1875

This statuette was carved by Jose Rizal during his student days in the Ateneo. It stayed there until December 1896 when the Jesuit fathers visited Rizal in Fort Santiago. Fr. Luis Viza, S.J. returned the statuette to Rizal who placed it on his desk and kept it until he was led to his execution. On December 30, before leaving his cell, he kissed the statuette and gave it to the Jesuits who were with him on his last day.



Alcohol Burner

Rizal handed this alcohol burner to his sister Trinidad, whispering in English: "There is something inside." Hidden in it was a folded piece of paper, 9.5 x 15 cm, on which a poem was handwritten by Jose Rizal. Untitled and unsigned, it is now popularly known under the title *Mi Ultimo Adios*.

From the collection of the heirs of Don Estanislao Herbosa







Wicker Table

Part of the Herbosa family tradition is the belief that Rizal wrote portions of *Mi Ultimo Adios* on this wicker table from his cell in Fort Santiago.

From the collection of the heirs of Don Estanislao Herbosa

View of Ateneo from outside Intramuros, Manila



On the morning of December 30, 1896, Rizal walked calmly to his execution in Bagumbayan. When he sighted the spires of San Ignacio church he asked, "Is that the Ateneo?" After the Jesuits who accompanied confirmed this he added, "I spent seven years there."

