

F DE P RODOREDA

Francisco de Paula Rodoreda was a Spanish sculptor, writer, and municipal official who lived and worked in Manila during the late Spanish colonial period of the Philippines. The earliest records show F de P Rodoreda as a sculptor working in Manila between 1882 and 1888. Between 1889 and 1899, records show him as a sculptor (or marble worker) to the Royal Household, with office located at Escolta 24, Manila and marble workshops located at Carriedo 14, Plaza de Quiapo 4, and Palma 8, Manila.

In 1894, Francisco is noted as being an elected member of the Board of Works for the Port of Manila (Junta de Obras del Puerto de Manila), a Spanish colonial government body responsible for planning, financing, and supervising improvements to Manila's harbor and port facilities during the late 19th century. In 1898, he was the treasurer of the Economic Society of Friends of the Country (Sociedad Economica de Amigos del Pais), a type of reformist organisation created to improve agriculture (sugar, tobacco and hemp), encourage local manufacturing and crafts, promote education and vocational skills, and advise colonial authorities on economic policy.

Between 1900 and 1905, records indicate that Rodoreda, Vilamala y Copmania were successors to F de P Rodoreda. The company remain sculptors to the Royal Household and dealers in Marble. In 1900 they retained the same premises with offices located at Carriedo 14, Plaza de Quiapo 4, and Palma 8. Between 1902 and 1905 records show the company located at Carriedo 126, Plaza de Quiapo 19, and Palma 20. No further company related information has been found after 1905.

Between 1904 and 1905, records show that Francisco de Paula Rodoreda being part of the faculty of Law at the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Thomas (managed and maintained by the Dominican Fathers).

Francisco de Paula Rodoreda is well regarded as contributing to the artistic life in Manila in the 19th century. He executed marble carving work, which had been imported from Italy, for the altar of the San Ignacio Church in Intramuros, one of the most important Jesuit churches in Colonial Manila.

Francisco de Paula Rodoreda is also attributed as being associated with Filipino painter Juan Luna, where it is reported he encouraged and supported Luna during the creation of the famous Spolarium (the monumental painting showing dead gladiators in ancient Rome, later reinterpreted as a powerful symbol of colonial oppression and Filipino nationalism).



Altar of San Ignacio Church

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PRIVATELY PRINTED COVER

F. DE P. RODOREGO – MANILA.

F. DE P. RODOREDA MANILA.



27 October 1894 – Manila to Hamburg, Germany

8c Stamp paying single weight rate to UPU Country tied with Correos – Manila Circular Date Stamp

Hamburg (18 January 1895) Receiving Circular Date Backstamp

Provenance: Donald Peterson Collection