

THE INVENCION OF CALABANGA, CAMARINES SUR: DYNAMICS OF FAMILY, LAND, AND POWER

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Abstract

This paper is an ethnographic study which documents and analyzes the *invención* in the social context of the town of Calabanga, Camarines Sur. The annual performance of the *invención* performed in honor of the Holy Cross on the third day of May is supported by an elaborate system of family sponsorship and land ownership rotated among kindred and heirs of its initiators, the Danabar, Reganit, and Barba patriarchs. The ritual practice consists of three indispensable artistic components: the *koronasyon*, the *lagayláy*, and the *dalít*. These three parts honor the Holy Cross through the performance of women who take the roles of Queen Elena and her attendants in elaborate song and dance sequences.

The dynamics of *familia* (family), *umá* (land), and power (*isog*) are also unraveled in the discussion of the formal and cultural elements of the *invención*. These elements, together with the social dynamics, are examined in order to determine the significance and meaning of the