

A significant part of the book if not most of it however, tackles the same sites, i.e. Angkor Wat. Also, majority of the book discusses studies on mainland Southeast Asia. The lack of diversity in the localities discussed is evident even in the titles of parts of the book which mentions Indonesia and the Khmer. I hope the conference would be successful in its goal and attract more researches and papers from island Southeast Asia and more sites from the mainland.

*Of Gold, Spanish Conquistadors,
And Ibaloi Generational Memory*

Michael Armand P. Canilao

2011. Baguio City: Cordillera Studies Center,
University of the Philippines, Baguio

Review by Arch. Ferdinand I. dela Paz

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With the general aim of seeking an ‘understanding of the early peopling of southern Benguet (and the role of the Ibaloi in the foundation of the earliest settlements in the area)’(p. 16), *Of Gold, Spanish Conquistadors, & Ibaloi Generational Memory* is a heroic work on ethnoarchaeology. A spin off from his master’s thesis in archaeology, Michael Canilao’s book serves as a valuable consolidation of knowledge on Benguet settlements and the Ibalois as a result of various research activities here and abroad.

Canilao’s insightful interactions with scholars and meaningful mentoring from specialists greatly contributed to the simple yet successful narrative of the book as it attempts to answer these important questions: (1) *What justifiable inferences regarding the early Ibaloi can be consolidated from prior ethnohistory as crosschecked with oral traditions?* and (2) *What can archaeology contribute towards a plausible and reliable reconstruction of Ibaloi ethnohistory?* (p. 16) Other equally important questions raised by Canilao include (1) *What are the locations and characteristics of possible archaeological sites;* (2) *Which methods, heuristics, and equipment are needed?;* and (3) *What material artefacts do we expect to find in relation to an archaeological reconstruction of early Ibaloi settlements?* (p. 16).

In the foreword, National University of Singapore Department of Southeast Asian Studies’ Dr. John Miksic emphasised that this book’s major virtue is ‘that it brings back to the attention of a wider public the importance of this topic’(p. 13). He further recognised the work’s use of a

'well-defined approach to the subject using data from a multiplicity of sources'(p. 13). Dr. Miksic shares the hope that Canilao's work 'represents an early stage in what must be a long-term research program which will lead to further important understanding of the role of the yellow metal in the development of society in Luzon, and by extension in other parts of insular Southeast Asia'(p. 13).

In the introductory chapter entitled *Memory and Archaeology*, Canilao reiterates the commonly asked question *Can archaeology reconstruct the past?* Related to this, he states that his study explores two main questions: (1) How and up to what extent can archaeology contribute to the understanding of the early peopling or settlement of Benguet? and (2) Can archaeological methods engage knowledge from ethnohistory and oral traditions? (p. 22). Canilao also painted a picture of the state of research on Benguet's past as well as defined the geographic boundaries of the study area.

The book's first chapter *The Peopling of Benguet*, discussed the various theories put forward by famous scholars on the peopling of the northern Luzon Cordillera as he recognised the two most prominent conjectures. Chapter 2: *Remembrance and Resistance*, on the other hand, discussed the methodology of oral history. Here, the author evaluated oral accounts 'in terms of its importance in suggesting problems, questions and directions for archaeological studies'(p. 37).

Chapter 3: *Gold in Ibaloi History* showcased the crucial role played by gold in Ibaloi society. This chapter reviewed related literature on gold as 'a major player in early settlement selection'(p. 47). Various accounts on both pre-colonial and Spanish period gold trade were discussed including the importance of the '*Northwestern Luzon Riverine Exchange Network*' (p. 53). This was followed by Chapter 4: *Gold and Early Ibaloi Economy* which presented the early Ibaloi mining technology as well as shifting of economic activities from gold mining to wet rice cultivation.

Chapter 5: *The Search for Tonglo* explored the frequently cited pre-14th century Ibaloi settlement of Tonglo. Although its exact present-day location has remained a mystery, the ancient Ibaloi village of Tonglo is believed to be the centre of gold trading at its time. As the chapter included a number of valuable archival maps to shed light on this search, Canilao proudly puts forward what he strongly believes to be the key to locating Tonglo.

The conjunctive approach to peopling studies and the use of systematic archaeological surface survey were both highlighted in Chapter 6: *Surface Archaeology* while the next chapter entitled *The*

Archaeological Survey described the practical aspects of this methodology. Canilao also recognised the value of using the triangulated approach in looking into 'Benguet early settlement accounts based on oral traditions as a point of entry and at the same time, re-examine these accounts against the literature of archaeological, ethnographic, historical, and ethnohistorical sources on Benguet, and broader Southeast Asia from the Spanish pre-contact and contact periods'(p. 89). The author likewise characterised the climatic and geological make-up of sites in Benguet.

Mr. Canilao ends the book with a final chapter on *Considerations Crucial to Ibaloi Early Settlement Archaeology* where he presented the final synthesis of data sets obtained from the study. Among others, the author also concluded that indeed, gold extraction is the socio-economic base of early Ibaloi society. With his recommendations concerning *Oral history, historical archaeology*, and the advancement towards 'a more thorough archaeological study, or further archaeological investigations of early Ibaloi gold-mining settlements' (p. 120).

Humbly recognising that his study is 'but an initial exploration that remains largely uncharted', Michael Canilao echoes Sinai Hamada's challenge which remains to be a "continuing dare" to "braver searching souls"(p. 121).

CASA BOHOLANA: Vintage Houses of Bohol

Erik Akpedonu and Czarina Saloma

2011. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press

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The book *CASA BOHOLANA: Vintage Houses of Bohol* is indeed a pioneer in the realm of architectural heritage conservation. Encapsulating the rich collection of vintage houses spread throughout the beautiful province of Bohol, this book provides not only a typology of Boholano houses but also serves as a 'quick guide' for an impromptu architectural heritage tour.

Structured in two parts, the first presents an analysis resulting from architectural surveys conducted by the authors, Erik Akpedonu and Czarina Saloma. With their respective backgrounds in architecture and sociology, Akpedonu and Saloma were successful at showcasing the remaining relics of the past. This part of the book is further divided into four chapters tackling various aspects of Bohol's vernacular architecture.