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Hukay is a Tagalog term that can either be the verb “to dig” or a noun, “a hole in the ground as a result of digging”. It also means “an excavation” among archaeology practitioners in the Philippines. Published twice a year, **Hukay** is the refereed journal of the University of the Philippines - Archaeological Studies Program. We accept articles on the archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, palaeoenvironmental studies, and heritage of the Asia and Pacific regions.

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On the cover:

Mixed tools from Gullukho, Figure 9c from Babul Roy’s article on p. 90.

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Foreword

Hukay Volume 17 contains four articles and several book reviews. The articles included in this volume are interesting for the authors have looked at archaeology and heritage from behind different lenses. A common theme in two of these articles is how people see the world and the process of owning it by assigning names and meanings to land formations, bodies of water, and movements of celestial bodies.

Rafael Dy-Liacco in his article *Comets, Cults, and Coins: A material-theoretic framework for the archaeoastronomical study of the Book of Revelation* has provided sufficient evidence that the human engagement with the physical environment goes beyond what is known and what is here on earth. The attempt to understand what Dy-Liacco terms as the 'astral landscape' is captured on Roman coins. The act of incorporating astral events in everyday objects gave legitimacy to Roman authority. This article also demonstrated that the Book of Revelation can be dated through the synthesis of data from multiple sources. Dy-Liacco's article should have a wide appeal to scholars in archaeology, theology, astrology, and astronomy because all four disciplines merge to produce material evidence for how humans make sense of the world around them including the night sky.

'Owning' parts of the landscape is best described in Eulalio R. Guieb III's article *Place names, seascape and cartography of marine rights: Cases of claims to places on the reef of Batasan in Bohol*. Guieb illustrates that integral to understanding resources allocation, directional locations, and boundary maintenance is to recognise the locals' perception of how spaces and places fit in their view of the landscape. What is also interesting about this article is that the environmental map is in fact a 'cartography of rights' because 'owning' is possessing information about the place and its resources. This article shows how physical geography influences social dynamics. Places are tied to local histories, ascribing them with symbolic functions and temporal dimensions. This article is significant to archaeologists because it provides new avenues to understanding how people could have viewed and incorporated the physical environment in their daily lives in the past. In addition, learning the local geo-ecology offers people involved in heritage studies new

approaches to eco-cultural management and tourism.

Rhayan Melendres proposes a method in identifying foreign ceramics recovered from Philippine sites in his article *Determination of Oriental Tradeware Ceramics: A proposed system for identifying and documenting pottery in Philippine archaeological sites*. Although a similar method has been practised in the Philippines, Melendres' contribution is to define formally the system. Babul Roy discusses microliths and the continuing tradition in *Microlithic Sites of Mandla (Madhya Pradesh: India) and the Problem of Schematic Generalisation in Prehistoric Archaeology*.

One of the reviews included in this issue is not a book review but a look at how selected journals treat a particular topic. Michelle Eusebio looks at the development of the discourse on Austronesian expansion in the last 15 years.

We would like to thank the Ateneo De Manila University Press, National University of Singapore Press, and JAS Arqueologis S.L.U for the complimentary copies of the books reviewed in this volume.

We mourn the passing of Dato' Adi bin Haji Taha. He was formerly the Director-General of Museums and Antiquities in Muzium Negara (National Museum), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He will be missed.

Grace Barretto-Tesoro
Hukay Editor