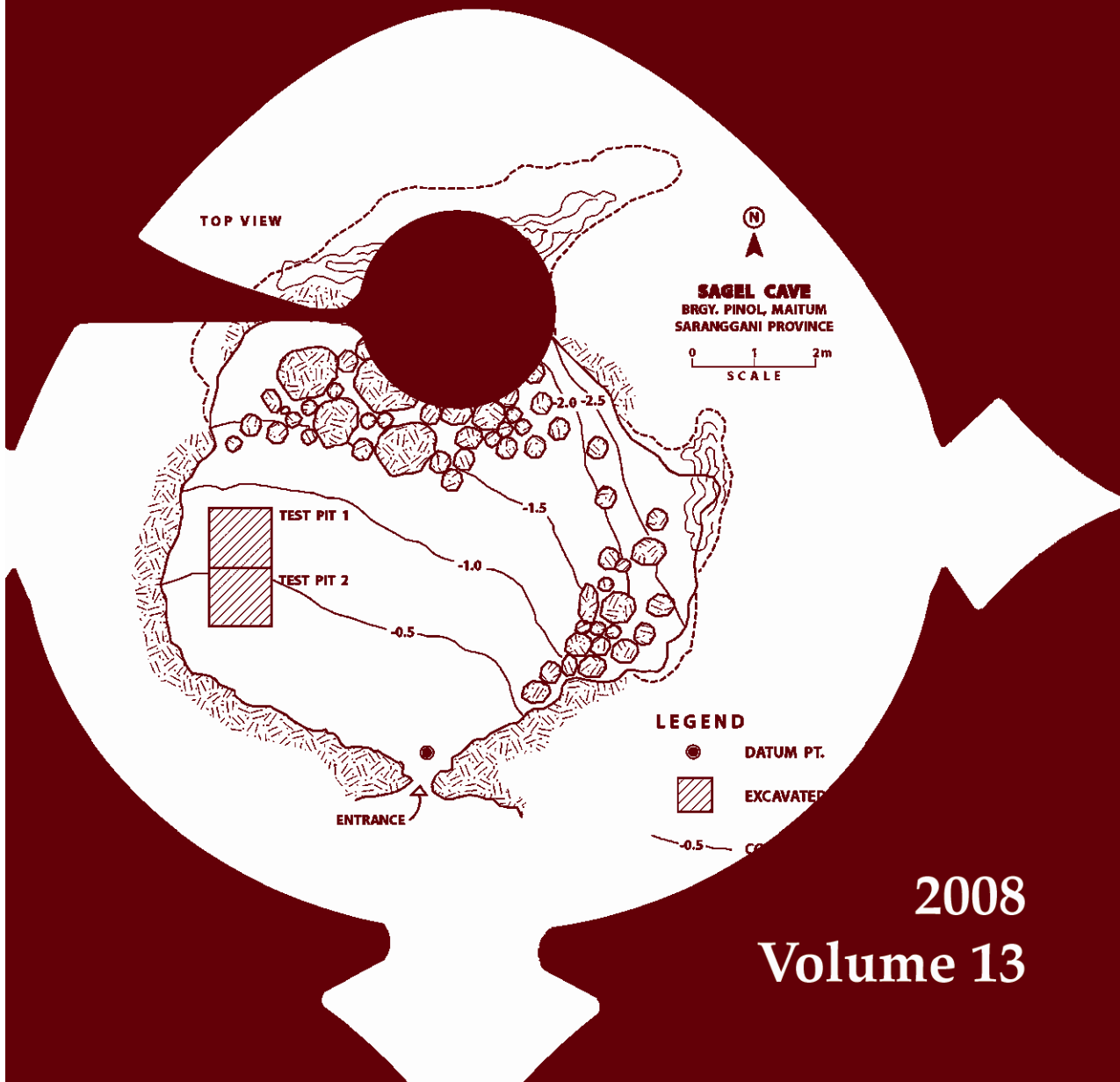


Hukay

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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, which accepts articles on the archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, palaeoenvironmental studies, and heritage of the Asia and Pacific regions.

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On the cover:

The top view of the Sagel Cave, Figure 3 of Cuevas and de Leon’s article (this issue).

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**Statement from the KAPI Board of Trustees
Regarding the Seized Maitum Artefacts**

KAPI is against the illicit trade of antiquities.

The recent news regarding the seized anthropomorphic jars in Maitum, Saranggani, Mindanao highlights a critical issue concerning the illicit trade of antiquities in the Philippines. The existing laws protecting cultural heritage are good; however, they are not enforced. The seized Maitum artefacts reveal that treasure hunting continues at a brazenly large scale.

Archaeology has been losing this battle for decades now and will continue to do so if treasure hunting and illicit antiquity trade are not stopped. We cannot tell the public how much information has been lost. We are greatly handicapped by the trade in our role as professionals who study the past for the benefit of knowledge for all. We record every piece, every data, and the minutest detail, so we can add more to our knowledge about the history of the Philippines. Excavations and analyses entail huge labour, resources, money, and sometimes even blood, sweat, and tears, and we take pride in this.

KAPI would also like to commend the local government units, particularly that of Maitum, who confiscated the materials. We need more vigilant people to report misdealings and illegal excavations.

The illicit trade of antiquities must be stopped! Let us help the lead government body, the National Museum of the Philippines, protect the archaeological heritage of the Philippines.

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Foreword

As stated in the previous issues of **Hukay**, we are continuing to transform the journal to reach more readers in the region. One of these changes is the increase in the dimensions of the journal to provide more space and enhance the quality of the graphs, figures, and plates of each contributor. The cover design has also been changed. We are now adapting designs that are closer to “home” (being a journal based in the Philippines) and yet typical to Southeast Asian archaeology: the “lingling-o” form and a “Sa-Huynh-Kalanay” pottery design, both set on a background of red which is a prominent colour in slipped pottery and hematite stained human bones in secondary burials. We are hoping to achieve a more original and eye-catching design which can be always associated with **Hukay**. We have already advertised in the websites of *Antiquity Journal* (<http://antiquity.ac.uk/events.html>) and *The Southeast Asian Archaeology* (<http://www.southeastasianarchaeology.com>) to promote the journal. We have also submitted an advertisement in the South East Asia Research Journal. Thanks to Jo Tozer, Phil Piper, John Edmondson, and Noel Hidalgo Tan for their assistance.

This issue contains three articles dealing with the migration of human populations in ancient times. Bellwood *et al.* explored Northern Luzon for evidence of Austronesian migration. Solheim, through the comparison of pottery decorations, argued for the origins and movements of the Nusantao. Cuevas and De Leon discussed the movement of the “jar burial people”, citing the case of the Sagel Cave.

Bellwood and company continued their search for Neolithic sites in Northern Luzon, specifically in Ilocos Norte. When reading the article, one would think that there is an absence of Neolithic sites in this province; however, what is striking is that the authors were resolute in their research. Such challenging query forced Bellwood and colleagues to explore the reasons why they did not find any Neolithic landscapes in Ilocos Norte. These Neolithic sites are most probably “deeply buried estuarine coastlines under the surfaces of the modern valleys” (Bellwood *et al.* this issue: 38). We look forward to the progress of this Austronesian research in this area.

Solheim publishes his paper which he presented in 2002 during the 17th IPPA Conference in Taiwan. By using published materials,

Solheim continued to provide evidence for the Nusantara Maritime Trading Network. Admitting that he may not be familiar with recent publications on Southeast Asian archaeology, Solheim's advantage, as he himself stated, is his knowledge of much earlier works in the region. Moreover, despite of their lack of theoretical background and interpretation, photos of artefacts such as pottery may still provide useful information about new or old research questions.

Cuevas and De Leon's article on the Sagel Cave, which is near the Ayub Cave where the famous anthropomorphic burial vessels now known as the Maitum pots were recovered in the early to the mid-1990s, revealed that there could be more cave sites in the area. Further explorations and analyses of such sites may generate a clearer picture of how the jar burial tradition developed in Mindanao and in the Southeast Asian region during the Metal Age. Furthermore, archaeology practitioners in the Philippines are very grateful to the local government of Sarangani for reporting the Sagel Cave to the National Museum of the Philippines. It must be mentioned that quarrying activities led to the discovery of this cave. The cooperation between local government units and the lead agency in the preservation, conservation, and protection of our cultural heritage must be adopted in other provinces. The Sagel Cave excavation also demonstrated that heritage protection can and should be part of commercial activities.

In this connection, we are publishing the statement of the Katipunan Arkeologist ng Pilipinas, Inc. (KAPI), the Society of Philippine Archaeologists, on the seized Maitum artefacts. Sacks of anthropomorphic vessel fragments recovered in unsystematic excavations were confiscated by the Maitum Mayor Elsie Perrett last August 2008 (Arguillas 2008). This controversial issue is still under investigation. The battle against the illicit trade in antiquities continues. It is already a cliché to point out that substantial information are lost in looting, but it bears repeating. Some KAPI members have reported seeing and inspecting the confiscated materials in the Records Section of the Archaeology Division of the National Museum last October 2008. The method of manufacture can still be examined; however, the archaeological context of these beautiful human heads made from fired clay would be very difficult to assess.

Four book reviews by graduate students of the University of the Philippines-Archaeological Studies Program are also included here. We hope that this will encourage others to submit reviews. In line with this,

we would like to thank the Ateneo de Manila University Press for providing us copies of Zialcita's *Authentic Though Not Exotic: Essays on Identity* and Finin's *The Making of the Igorot: Contours of Cordillera Consciousness*.

Lastly, we are saddened by the passing of former National Museum of the Philippines Assistant Director Alfredo Evangelista on 18 October, 2008. He was 82 years old. He retired in 1991. His famous discoveries include the Banton secondary burial wooden coffins in Romblon with carved snake or crocodile heads as lid decorations. This discovery opened doors for research on pre-colonial demography and health (Medrana 2005), and ancient belief systems. An extensive obituary is being prepared by Wilhelm G. Solheim II and will be published in the next issue.

The Editors

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