

## FOREWORD

**B**orrowing the words of Charles R. McGimsey III in his commentary published in the *American Antiquity*<sup>1</sup>, is archaeology "a band of brethren or does it constitute a true profession?" He set three guidelines for archaeology to be a true profession. First individuals concern should agree on a common goal and methodology that will distinguish it from other disciplines or profession. Second, there should be an internal organization in which membership is strictly defined and will recognize qualified members. And lastly, it should have a recognized public utility and be accountable to the public.

It is our opinion that archaeology in the Philippines is both a band of brethren and a true profession. We are a mixed breed of scholars deriving pleasure from doing archaeology. We each have different interests and academic backgrounds but we more or less share a common aspiration-- to understand the human past. For archaeology to be considered as a true profession, however, there is a need to conform to the guidelines put forward by McGimsey.

To date, efforts are being made to professionalize Philippine archaeology. In response to the requirement for the existence of an archaeological organization, the **Katipunan Arkeologist ng Pilipinas, Inc. (KAPI)** was established (see *Updates* this issue). The organization's criteria for membership was at first debatable. Nonetheless, the issue was resolved and the constitution was ratified.

Secondly, Dr. Jesus Peralta's 1978 Field Manual in Archaeology published by the National Museum aims to standardize field techniques used in the Philippines by both local and foreign scholars. Researchers at the Archaeology Division, National Museum have already gained sufficient knowledge and experience in designing field strategies. Due to lack of field equipment, however, they constantly have to make their own innovations to carry out field explorations and excavations. These innovations, in turn, distinguish archaeology from other disciplines.

Lastly, is archaeology accountable to the public? Yes. The public supports these excavations, indirectly. Being members of the same culture, the public has the right to know the results of these projects. The venue for sharing these project results however, is yet to be realized. Although the National Museum already publishes a journal and a monograph prior to the establishment of the KAPI, these were not entirely dedicated to archaeology. The same goes for the *Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society* of the University of San Carlos in Cebu. Thus, with regards to having a recognized public utility, the closest Philippine archaeology came to was in terms of setting up exhibits. Clearly, this is not enough. A journal dedicated to the advancement of archaeological studies in the Philippines must be established.

The Archaeology Division is already doing their share. Now the graduate community of the Archaeological Studies Program through this journal aims to do theirs. Both must be able to "produce reports which provide maximum information from the data available" (McGimsey 1981).

In this issue, Ms. Carol Tobias, hailing from the province of Cagayan traces the archaeological history of the province. Mr. Jun Cayron reports on the explorations he led in El Nido, Palawan this year. We also received an article contribution from Germany. The paper discusses how to obtain bone samples for DNA testing. Lastly, Dr. Wilhelm Solheim II's paper focuses on his Nusantao hypothesis, a maritime -oriented group believed to be responsible for the widespread distribution of artifacts across Southeast Asia.

### The Editors

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<sup>1</sup> Charles R. McGimsey III (1981) "Still a band of brethren." *American Antiquity*, 4(62):378-380.

## UPDATES

### **Porac Fieldschool**

Sandy Santiago

In the tradition of the Calatagan and the Samonte Park Summer Archaeological Field School, the UP Archaeological Studies Program (ASP) conducted the third summer field school project in Porac, Pampanga. The field school was held for three weeks from April 18 to May 6, 1999 under the supervision of the Dr. Eusebio Z. Dizon and the National Museum. ASP students from the third batch namely Carol Tobias, Bobby Orillaneda, Sandy Santiago and Amy de la Torre was joined by Caloy Tatel from the second batch for the said fieldwork. With the students were ASP staff Anna Briones, Jonathan Jacar, and Jun Castro. National Museum archaeologists namely Rey Santiago, Joe Santiago, Nida Cuevas, Tony Peñalosa, Ed Caronan, and Eduardo Doroin also participated in the project and acted as the advisers for the students. Amy de la Torre, third batch student who is also a National Museum archaeologist acted as team leader for the three-week project.

The Porac field school, funded by the UP Office of Research Coordination and the National Museum, is part of a research project that has an overall goal of gathering information on prehistoric sites in Porac as identified by previous researches. Moreover, the fieldwork was an opportunity for the ASP students to improve their skills and to expand their knowledge of archaeological field methods and techniques.

The archaeological site is located in the sugarcane plantation of Nestor Dizon in Babo Balukbuk, Hacienda Dolores, Porac. Approximately 26 kilometers from the provincial capital of San Fernando, the open site lies near the edge of a gully that goes down into the floodplain of the Porac River and is accessible by approximately four kilometers of rough road from Porac town proper. The Porac site was first explored in 1935 by G. M. Goodall and in 1939 by E. D. Hester, G. Woods and H. Costenoble. Twenty years later in 1959-60, Robert B. Fox and the National Museum excavated in the Balukbuk and Gubat areas of Porac. They recovered several archaeological materials and exposed extensive middens and graves which suggested the existence of large prehispanic habitation and burial areas.

During the Porac field school, the students applied their theoretical knowledge of archaeological methods and techniques and conducted the various steps in archaeological field excavation such as mapping, setting grids, excavation proper, dry sieving, mapping stratigraphic profiles, and washing, sorting, accessioning of specimens. The archaeological team opened a total of three 4 x 4 squares that reached a maximum depth of 110 cms (datum point). The excavations revealed a total of 9,673 archaeological specimens from all three squares. Earthenware sherds dominated the archaeological record along with a variety of tradeware sherds from the late Sung (12<sup>th</sup> century AD) to the early Ching (17<sup>th</sup> century) dynasty. Other notable archaeological specimens encountered by the archaeological team include a 24-centimeter long bolo, iron slags, spindle whorl fragments, animal bones and teeth.

While analysis of the excavated materials are presently being conducted by the National Museum, a second excavation is being planned for the last quarter of 1999.

### **Formation of the *Katipunan Arkeologist ng Pilipinas, Inc.***

Recently, the Katipunan Arkeologist ng Pilipinas, Inc. (Society of Philippine Archaeologists) was formally organized with its first general assembly at the National Museum last June 1999. The Constitution and Bylaws of the organization was ratified and Members of the Executive Board were elected during this meeting.

As stated in its constitution, the organization was created with the following objectives:

1. To promote and spearhead the interest of and research in archaeological science in the Philippines;
2. To advocate for the protection, conservation and preservation of archaeological and cultural resources in the Philippines in accordance with the National Museum System Act (RA 8492);
3. To promote a liberating education through public awareness on the importance of our archaeological and cultural heritage;
4. To publish and encourage the publication of results of archaeological researches in the country;
5. To foster collegiality among archaeologists working in the Philippines;
6. To promote and abide by the Code of Ethics in Archaeology (to be drafted by the Executive Board and approved by the body); and
7. To foster dialogue through consultation, conferences and meetings with international archaeological societies and individuals.

The elected members of the Executive Board are: President - Mr. Wilfredo Ronquillo, Chief of the Archaeology Division, National Museum of the Philippines (AD-NM); Vice-President - Dr. Eusebio Z. Dizon, Curator I, AD-NM and Director, University of the Philippines-Archaeological Studies Program (UP-ASP); Secretary - Mr. Cecilio Salcedo, Director III, National Museum; Treasurer - Mr. Maharlika Cuevas, Researcher II, Underwater Archaeology Section, AD-NM; Board members at-large: Mr. Rey Santiago, Researcher II, AD-NM; Ms. Lerma Yambot, Head, Ugnayang Pang-Agham Tao (UGAT); and Grace Barretto, President, UP-Archaeological Society. The Executive Board will hold office for two years.

Early to the middle part of this century archaeology was dominated by foreign archaeologists usually assisted by Filipino scholars. It was only in the early 1970's when Filipinos in the field of archaeology started to achieve proper academic training. Still finite in number, most of the researches were conducted by personnel from the Archaeology Division of the National Museum; sometimes in cooperation with foreigners from leading universities abroad and some local universities as well. In 1995, the creation of the UP-Archaeological Studies Program paved the way for the

further advancement of archaeology in the Philippines. The population of the students are steadily increasing every year, and visiting professors are always present. According to elected President Ronquillo, the creation of the Katipunan Arkeologist ng Pilipinas, Inc. is very timely for the establishment of the UP-ASP will bring a new workforce in the field and he is optimistic that eventually the Philippines will have its own paradigm in archaeology. Furthermore, this professional organization aims to standardize exploration and excavation procedures, ethics and encourage mature discussions among its practioners.

Membership is open to Filipino citizens practising archaeology. Regular members are those who have obtained a Masters degree in archaeology or anthropology majoring in archaeology and/or by virtue of his/her long experience (minimum of 5 years). Associate members are required to have a post-graduate Diploma in Archaeology. Honorary memberships may be given to individuals who do not fall under the above categories but have contributed to the growth of the discipline.

Those in attendance were staff from the Archaeology Division, National Museum; members of UGAT; and graduate students of the UP-ASP.

### **Batanes Lecture**

The University of the Philippines Archaeological Society sponsored a lecture on Batanes Archaeology last July 29, 1999 at the Faculty Center, UP Diliman. The lecture was given by Mr. Armand Salvador Mijares, Researcher I of the Archaeology Division of the National Museum of the Philippines. He is the Project Coordinator of the Batanes Archaeology Project which was started in 1995. Dr. Eusebio Z. Dizon, ASP Director and Curator I of the Archaeology Division heads the said project. Mr. Mijares is currently in the United States pursuing his masters in archaeology at the University of New Mexico.

There are four major archaeological features in Batanes. The *ijangs* are high rocky formations believed to be ancient habitations. Stone boat-shaped burials are unique features for nothing compared to this site has been found elsewhere in the Philippines nor in Southeast Asia. The only site that may be compared to these are the boat-shaped burials of Scandinavia. *Nakavajayans* are ancient habitations usually found on hillsides or in gullies. The last feature is the stone columnar with drilled holes which might have been used as a roofing support. The stone columnars are found in the *ijangs* and *nakavajayans*.<sup>1</sup>

Below are excerpts from selected reaction papers submitted in Social Science I classes under Ms. Grace Barretto in UP Diliman.

*The Ijangs indicate the Ivatans' ingenuity and creativeness in modifying nature at its best. Come to think of it, tools then were not as efficient as the present tools we have today but still, they were able to build these structures similar to Japan using only perhaps stones or other simple materials available within the area. The Ivatans are competing with their environment the best way possible as shown with the practices*

*they implement between them and nature. The frequency of destructive typhoons dictate both their agricultural and architectural patterns.*

*- Mary Grace Kristine Cruz, freshman*

*I realized that we already have our own culture even before the Spanish arrived in the Philippines. Because of the finds in Batanes, I have developed a deep respect for our ancestors.*

*- Cesar Ramirez, Jr, sophomore*

*Regarding the Ijangs, I really was amazed at these structures that proved Filipino intelligence just like the Rice Terraces. I would just like to comment on the rationale given by the speaker behind the existence of the ijangs. He kept on telling us tales handed by the locals there though there were no hard evidence. He said that the ijangs were used as fortresses to protect themselves from other invading tribes. But how could he say that where there were no stone boulders found near the ijangs? Could conflicts between societies exist in such a small island?*

*- Janjan Reforma, sophomore*

*Certain facts about these sites that the speaker shared with us was that these stone boat-shaped burial markers were facing the sea and that the jar burials had some parallelism with those boat-shaped ones. It was also believed that these burials were in the shape of a ship for the belief that these would carry the dead bodies' souls to the next life, that it would help the soul's journey to the afterlife. It was also said that these two kinds of burials might have been a symbolism for the existence of such hierarchy in society. Beyond the facts, I saw how archaeology is really hard work. Patience guides these people to discovering much of the artifacts that would lead them to much knowledge about the past. I saw this clearly when the speaker told us about the measurements that they took for every site that they dug up. For instance, he told us about the listing of the rocks; making sure that after the excavation, these rocks would be brought back to their same place which would then make it seem as if nothing was excavated. I saw the value of respect for the past when he told us of these measurements. True, it may seem foolish to have to position the rocks back to their old places when these are only stones but accuracy steers these honorable men and women of archaeology to doing such a tiring and tedious work.*

*- Hana Ria Pantua, freshman*

*As I have noticed from the pictures of Batanes, the houses that could be seen there today also have the same characteristics of the houses before, showing that their adaptation to their environment was passed on from generation to generation. It is just unfortunate that selfish people like the treasure-hunters would get all artifacts, so we lose the chance of tracing the ancient settlers' origin and knowing about their life. I also discovered that archaeology is a very meticulous science, because everything must be detailed. At the same time, it is also an interesting field of work because you get to learn about the past and go to different places.*

*- Brookeshield Navarro, freshman*

*I have learned that the early settlers of Batanes have a rich culture and artistic mind. And the evidence is the archaeological sites are free from the influence of other cultures and are uniquely their own. And this is something that we can be proud of. And we have to protect and preserve this for the future generations to behold.*

*- Ma. Celia M. Lomio, freshman*

*Batanes archaeology is another proof of the richness of the culture of people who lived in these islands even before the Spaniards came. It provided explanations and descriptions of past cultures, a sort of peek to the past. However, there are still a lot left to be discovered in Batanes. Findings that might give more enlightenment on past Batanes culture.*

*- Ma. Aireen A. Abiera, freshman*

*The stone boat-shaped burial markers and the jar burials show that the past inhabitants of Batanes value death and respect their remains. These also reveal that they have a social structure. The ijangs manifest the creativity and skills of its manufacturers.*

*- Veronica Adriano, freshman*

*The stone boat -shaped burials in Batanes is a social practice greatly influenced by their maritime tradition. Since these people went on journeys across the sea, sailing to sustain a living, their cultural traditions and practices were inspired by these activities. The presence of fine architecture, the pursuit for better structural designs is exemplified by the ijangs. These castle-like structures were modified by humans. There could have been an exchange of culture between the Batanes and Okinawa inhabitants since the castle-like structures are similar in both places.*

*- Angela Pia Alonzo, junior*

*My analysis is that Taiwanese culture played a major role in the Batanes archaeology owing to the geographic nearness of both islands. I think that before the Spanish came, the dominant culture in Batanes is influenced by Taiwanese culture. Perhaps the sites found in Batanes may also be found in Taiwan.*

*- Charlston D. Chavez, sophomore*

*Burial finds provide a kind of evidence of inequality in ancient communities or societies. It is generally assumed that inequality in death reflects inequality in life. Thus, we are led to conclude that a community had differences in status when only some of the dead were buried with special objects. In this case, the stone boat-shaped burial markers which were found were only a few. This could not mean that the early inhabitants of the area were only those who were buried under those stone markers. Rather, it could mean that those who were buried there were the ones who were special - those who held high positions in the community. The shape and the orientation of the markers depict the ancient belief that the soul of the dead will have a journey through the sea to the "other life".*

*- Love Joy Castillo Brillantes, freshman*

Based on the reaction of the students, the lecture imparted to them that archaeology is a discipline and a “meticulous science”. They explicitly witnessed the relationship of culture and environment as manifested by the archaeological sites. They were likewise surprised that such sites exist uniquely in Batanes and nowhere else in the Philippines. They attribute this to the past inhabitants’ “ingenuity and creativeness”. Though, others see it as diffused from places such as Okinawa and Taiwan, refusing to believe that a culture exists here prior to the Spanish arrival.<sup>2</sup>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For additional information on these archaeological sites, the following references may be checked:

Barretto, Grace

1999 *Ijangs: Mountain Fortresses of Batanes*. Paper presented at the KATIPON Lecture Series. College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, Diliman. March 19, 1999.

Dizon, Eusebio Z.

1997 *Batanes Archaeological Project: 1997 Status Report*. Manila: National Museum of the Philippines.

1997 *Batanes Archaeological Project: 1996 Status Report*. Paper delivered at the SEAMEO-SPAFA Conference on Current Developments of Southeast Asian Archaeology and Museum Studies. Held at the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila from 5-11 May 1997.

1998 *Batanes Archaeological Project: 1996 Status Report*. *Ivatan Studies Journal* 2-4:25-29. Basco: St. Dominic College of Batanes Graduate School.

Dizon, Eusebio Z. and Rey A. Santiago

1994 Preliminary Report on the the Archaeological Exploration in Batan, Sabtang and Ivuho Islands, Batanes Province, Northern Philippines. *Ivatan Studies Journal* 1(1994):7-48. Basco: St. Dominic College of Batanes Graduate School.

1995 *Batanes Archaeological Project: 1995 Status Report*. Manila: National Museum of the Philippines.

Paz, Victor, Armand Mijares, Grace Barretto, Jun Cayron, Yoshi Hara and Danilo Galang

1998 *Batanes Expedition Report, July 21- August 8, 1998*. Unpublished Report. University of the Philippines, Diliman: Archaeological Studies Program.

<sup>2</sup> The Philippines was under Spanish Rule since the late 1500’s until late 1800’s. The study shows that these archaeological sites, specifically the *ijangs*, and stone burial markers were not mentioned in Spanish accounts. The *ijangs* though are part of the present population’s oral tradition.