

ISSN 0119-173X

# Hukay

JOURNAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



2014  
Volume 19

**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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ISSN 0119-173X

**On the cover:**

A bottle of Chamberlain’s Pain Balm from Melodina Sy Cruz’s Article on p. 34.

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*Journal for Archaeological Research in Asia and the Pacific*

*Volume 19*

2014



Archaeological Studies Program  
University of the Philippines  
2014



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# Foreword

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Of the seven articles in this issue, four discuss the outcome of the excavations of the ruins of two stone houses in San Juan, Batangas, Philippines. These two adjoining sites were excavated during the University of the Philippines-Archaeological Studies Program's annual field school from 2009 to 2011. Ena Angelica C. Luga discusses the construction methods of the second structure known as Structure B. The construction methods of Structure A written by Angelus Maria P. Sales was published in *Hukay* Volume 18. Melodina Sy Cruz analyses the glass shards from Structure B. Her study is a pioneering work on glass bottles from a historical period site. Cruz's paper can be used as a reference for bottles found in same period sites. An important contribution made by Cruz's paper is the identification of bottles based on the lips and seams. Andrea Natasha E. Kintanar investigates scratch marks on porcelain sherds recovered from Structure A. Same as Cruz's paper on glass shards, Kintanar's work is the first of its kind in the Philippines. She expands research on porcelains found in the Philippines by studying usewear, an area which earlier ceramicists overlooked. Kintanar's article is significant because it looks at activities which involved porcelains that may help us understand past lifestyles. Pauline A. Basilia's work on buttons recovered from Structure A is another interesting article. Using Energy Dispersive X-ray, Basilia identified the buttons and concluded that some were sourced from France. Cruz's and Basilia's works can be used to understand trade and distribution of imported items during the late colonial period.

Rhayan G. Melendres who participated in the Porac, Pampanga field school in 2002, writes on the significance of tradeware ceramics recovered from the site as time markers. He correlated the radiocarbon dates of the site with the dates of the foreign ceramics and found out that the latter are as good as the former in dating sites. Melendres' study illustrates that Chinese and Southeast Asian ceramics from secured contexts in well-documented excavations can provide good dates.

Rafael Dy-Liacco's article on boat-shaped burial markers in Batanes and Catanauan demonstrates his interest in archaeoastronomy. Dy-Liacco interprets the boat-shaped burial markers as representations of

an earlier world view shared by the Austronesians when the Milky Way was an integral part of that consciousness.

Maria Sagrario R. Simbulan tackles a sensitive issue in her article on managing archaeological databases. She tries to reconcile the need for the public to access relevant data on archaeological sites and the same time the need for archaeologists to protect sites by concealing information.

All seven articles are groundbreaking because they investigate good research topics and open new avenues for archaeological investigations such as new approaches and methods in artefact analyses. The topics discussed in this volume have not yet been studied before in the Philippine context. This shows the ingenuity of the writers, all graduate students, by looking at Philippine archaeology with fresh perspectives.

Lastly, we thank the National University of Singapore for providing the two books reviewed in this volume.

**Grace Barretto-Tesoro**

**Hukay Editor**