

Hukay

Journal of the University of the Philippines Archaeological Studies Program

Volume 11

2007

Partially sponsored by the Australian Research Council



Archaeological Studies Program
University of the Philippines
2007

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Foreword

In this foreword, we would like to emphasize some new developments. First, *Hukay* welcomes its new editor, Grace Barretto-Tesoro, who will now lead the editorial staff for future instalments. Barretto-Tesoro has worked on previous issues of *Hukay* as editor, and her return from her doctoral studies signifies some changes that will be implemented for the standardization of the journal. Another is that *Hukay* has revised its editorial policies. *Hukay* has expanded its geographical area beyond the Philippines. We now accept articles on the archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, heritage, and palaeoecology of the Asia and Pacific regions. More than ever, we believe that *Hukay* is ready to publish articles that will be enjoyed by a wider audience. To begin with, the Archaeological Studies Program (ASP) has a growing number of graduate students doing research on various fields of archaeology and prehistory. Adding to that is a growing international network of research collaborations as this issue demonstrates.

We have now standardized the guidelines for contributors, the *Hukay* layout, and made the review process more rigorous. Due to the global network the ASP has established through the years, *Hukay* taps the expertise of scholars from around the globe who review articles for us, thus, providing contributors with comments from varied perspectives. It has also been decided to come up with theme volumes when we feel that a particular topic should be highlighted. Papers may be submitted throughout the year while contributions for theme volumes have specific deadlines. Articles are reviewed by at least three specialists. Reviewers' comments and suggestions are forwarded to the author(s), who should implement them in the final version of their paper. We have also put up a website (www.upd.edu.ph/~asp/hukay/index.html) which prospective contributors can visit for more information about the journal and its previous issues.

The second point that we would like to emphasize is the importance of regional projects. The ASP has concerted efforts to contribute more to local histories through in-depth archaeological excavations and analyses in various parts of the Philippines. Such projects are now ongoing in Batanes, Cagayan Valley, Batangas, Mindoro, Northern Mindanao, and Palawan. Data from these sites will contribute to understanding the archaeology of the whole region. *Hukay* therefore encourages scholars from various fields interested in the archaeology of the region to share data, exchange ideas, and to make reports accessible to all.

This special issue focuses on the island of Palawan, the venue for the

continuing series of archaeological expeditions. The work in Palawan was re-initiated in 1998. In more recent years, research collaborations in Northern Palawan among the Archaeological Studies Program, the National Museum of the Philippines-Archaeology Division, The Solheim Foundation for Philippine Archaeology, and researchers from western institutions supported by the British Academy may have significantly deepened the archaeological date between the Late Pleistocene to the Early Holocene in Island Southeast Asia. Archaeological activities have generated data significant to the study of ancient burial practice, ecology, technology, trade, and human occupation in the region. Several dates have been published through the generous assistance of the British Academy. These dates have been made public through institutional manuscripts and research articles published in leading scientific journals here and abroad. Further south of the island, recent work in Tabon Cave, first excavated by Robert Fox in 1962, has deepened direct evidence of modern human antiquity in the Philippines. The work here, which has been contributed on by the joint efforts of Filipino and French scientists, have also raised a renewed interest in Pleistocene archaeology in the Philippines.

The first article in this special issue discusses the results of the excavation of Linaminan Site in Barangay Isumbo in Central Palawan. The excavation, supported by the Australian Research Council, was headed by Katherine Szabo' and Eusebio Z. Dizon. The team offers a nouvelle approach of writing a site report. In addition to the detailed documentation of the excavation of Linaminan, various topics in sidebars deal with ethnographic data that are relevant to the study area, including preliminary analyses of artefacts recovered from the site. The assortment of materials recovered from Linaminan, at the moment, does not point to a specific site-category. The excavators offer the possibility that Linaminan was a ritual site. At the end of the article, the authors listed possible areas of future research in connection with the analyses of the materials recovered from the site. Thus, we eagerly wait for the results of such studies.

The second article has Philip Piper and Janine Ochoa writing about the stink badger, an endemic species recovered from Ille Cave, also in Palawan. Phil Piper, a zooarchaeologist from the University of York, is the newest member of the ASP faculty, Janine is a graduate student at the ASP who is currently finishing her masters dissertation on vertebrate remains. Their paper is noteworthy because it reports of the first zooarchaeological evidence for the stink badger in the Philippines. Furthermore, it contributes to our understanding of Philippine faunal connections with that of Borneo. The presence of the stink badger in the island's Early Holocene archaeology indicates that it was not caused by humans but of a spontaneous dispersal. However, the question of when this dispersal occurred still remains to be

answered. This article thus irks for more research on this specialized topic in archaeobiogeography. And so Phil's involvement in ASP and Janine's decision to specialize in zooarchaeology are welcome additions to the Philippine archaeology community who can help, not only in identifying animal bone fragments from sites, but also shed light on paleoecological issues in Southeast Asia.

Both articles show that the archaeology in the Philippines is indeed on the rise. The cooperation between foreign scholars and local archaeologists, who complement each other are fruitful endeavors that benefit both parties. Greater attention to excavation methods and artefact recovery has led archaeologists to make better interpretations of sites. The Palawan Project has a lot to offer in terms of being a laboratory of field methods and site interpretations. This could serve as an ideal and standard for other archaeological excavations in the region.

Lastly we would like to thank the Australian Research Council, through the efforts of Katherine Szabó, for partially sponsoring the publication of this special issue

The Editors