

# Hukay

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On the Cover: "Digitalized Wall"

Working on a series of "visual instruments," these microgeologic elements of the landscape and macroaerial views generate immense complexity through the repetition of very simple pixilated features, giving emphasis on the language of the Earth's surface.

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# Foreword: After a Decade

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The year 2005 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Archaeological Studies Program. **Hukay** commemorates this milestone by compiling in this volume articles exploring the new methods available to Philippine archaeologists. Throughout a decade of existence, the program has emphasized the importance of utilizing methods of inquiry that can address the core issues of archaeological research in the Philippines. The program's approach to this end is three-fold: first, it hosted scholars who are specialists in their own fields for short term visits in the Philippines; second, the rapport between these experts and the local community of researchers was encouraged—and through this, a network of both local and foreign experts is kept active; third, an aggressive campaign for publication among local researchers was initiated. **Hukay** played an important role in this last aspect, as it is one of the few local venues for publication. After a decade, a rejuvenated **Hukay** appears in this eighth volume. This reinvigoration is due mainly to the new set of overseas referees who joined the original local panel. With this potent combination of experts, this volume is able to present six original articles focusing on methods and their applications.

The theme that unites these six articles is not only method but also perspective. Mijares' work takes on a microscopic perspective as it seeks to find meaning in what is perhaps the smallest unit of the archaeological matrix—soil. He applies soil micromorphological analysis to determine the various depositional processes that formed the archaeological layers of Nagsabaran, a site in Lal-lo, Cagayan. Mijares' work is very much pioneering as it is the first application of this method to an open archaeological site in the Philippines. Teodosio also discusses in part a microscopic approach to bone tools as she synthesizes the current data on bone tools in the Philippines. The article explores the macro and micro methods that can be applied to bone and identifies the issues raised by these data. In the third article, Ochoa presents a thorough overview of the domestication of the dog and its relevance to cultures in Southeast Asia. The heart of this article, however, is the result of the analysis conducted on the canid remains recovered at Ille Rockshelter, Northern Palawan in its 2005 season of excavation. With these results, the integration and practical values the dog had to the ancient inhabitants of Palawan are illustrated.

Can you tell me how the pot fell? Medrana asks this question in his experiment on earthenware breakage patterns. After breaking several pots perhaps with much compunction, he shows that there is some amount of relationship between the height of fall and the resulting mass and number of sherds. But one might also ask, what is the practical purpose of such an experimental approach to archaeology? This and a few other questions are addressed in the article. A fitting partner to this paper is Solheim's work, which revisits the Bau-Malay pottery tradition. Here, Solheim discusses the etymology of the term and provides fresh views on the understanding of this tradition.

Finally, the widest perspective is seen in the last paper on the landscape of battlefields. To demonstrate the method of identifying battle sites, Ragragio conducted a survey of the historical battlefield at San Mateo, Rizal. Filipino soldiers once engaged the better-armed American soldiers in battle here in the darkest days of the Filipino-American War. The survey showed that the landscape still keeps the remnants of this war that most have forgotten. With this method, the paper reveals that a more passionate rendering of war and history can be had when both historian and archaeologist interpret the landscape.

Such a gradation from the microscopic to the macroscopic is an apt metaphor of the development that the program has undergone through the years. It demonstrates that after a decade of existence, the small community at the basement of Palma Hall has reached a certain breadth of expertise. This continues to grow.

*Hukay* is a witness to this new rigor of scholarship in archaeology in the Philippines. With much perseverance, the journal can live on to see another decade of good research not only in the Philippines but also in the larger region of Asia and the Pacific.

**The Editors**