

# Hukay

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*Journal of the University of the Philippines Archaeological Studies Program*

Volume 9

2006



Archaeological Studies Program  
University of the Philippines  
2006

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*Hukay* is a refereed journal of the graduate community of the University of the Philippines Archaeological Studies Program. It welcomes articles from local and foreign authors who wish to present new data relevant to Philippine archaeology. It is published bi-annually. The journal accepts articles of varied length (from 2,000–10,000 words), provided that these are independent and have not been previously published. Book reviews are also accepted. Manuscripts may be mailed or personally submitted with a soft copy to **The Editor, *Hukay*, Archaeological Studies Program, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City 1101**, or sent to this address: asp@up.edu.ph. The Editors and the Board of Consultants are not responsible and should not be held liable for any personal views or opinions expressed here by the contributing authors. All questions and/or reactions to such should be addressed to the individual author concerned.

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ISSN 0119 173X

On the Cover: Some of the human skulls from the archaeological site of Guyangan,  
Banton Island, Philippines. Photograph by J. G. L. Medrana and Myra Lara.

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## Foreword

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The growth of our discipline in the Philippines manifests itself in several events taking place on 2006. Among these was the hosting in the University of the Philippines of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA), an organization of about 400 Asian and Pacific archaeology scholars, by the UP Archaeological Studies Program and the National Museum of the Philippines. Then there were the many fieldworks successfully negotiated, some of it also accomplished within the year. These have contributed to the continuous efflorescence of the discipline, and archaeology in the country now is beginning to assume a multifaceted character. A broad range of paradigms are being accommodated as the various theories and perspectives imported from outside or developed within blend in a harmonious, constructive stew. There is a wide range of interest in terms of period, from the palaeolithic to the historical phases. This has been made possible by the ever-expanding network of researchers eager to carry on previous studies into greater heights or to break new ground in archaeological *terra incognita*. It has also resulted in the representation of more locales in the Philippine archaeological map.

Papers included in this volume show the diversity and progress of our discipline in terms of theory, method, and issues. Starting from the island of Luzon in the north, material culture has been examined to reinforce the theory of an immigrant Neolithic culture to the country. Cameron and Mijares present their study of a spindle whorl from the edge of the Cagayan Valley that could support the hypothesized movement of so-called “Austronesian speaking people” from Taiwan into the Luzon.

Cultural influence is also the theme of a study by Arriola in which porcelain-inlaid earthenware occupies center-stage, and the setting now is the Manila of two to four centuries ago. A thrust in the archaeology of the more recent periods is beginning to take shape and it is a sign that in every aspect, the discipline in the local arena keeps pace with developments going on in other parts of the globe. Arriola argues that although ceramics of this type generally trace their origins in Iberian countries and their other colonies, the details of the product is uniquely a local innovation in the Philippines.

One of the papers read in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the IPPA concerns the antiquity of Philippine Negrito populations. Jonathan Kress, a scholar of Palawan archaeology and a contemporary of Dr. Robert Fox, reevaluates existing publications to probe the Negritos' place in Philippine prehistory. This was done through an examination of previous ethnographic, anthropometric, archaeological, and genetic data, together with new dates. Kress repackages this relatively old issue with refreshing data from the Ille Cave, a new site in Palawan presently being excavated, to come up with a more substantial interpretation of the subject.

Another positive aspect of research is the increase in the development of methodologies that could be used in the study of Philippine archaeology. Suspicious of the validity of existing standards to be applied on the assessment of human skeletal remains from Philippine sites, Lara tested these approaches on a Philippine population, most particularly the ones related to determining the sex of the individual. She made use of the skeletal remains from the Guyangan Cave site on Banton Island for her study.

The boom in archaeological investigations has resulted not only in a great production of data to create a useful body of information, but also in the sometimes unforeseen cropping up of issues that could be ethical, legal, or social in nature enshrouding the archaeological investigations. One of the most popular is the Huluga Site in Mindanao Island. Hernandez and Faylona touch on the issues generated by the Huluga controversy as they review the heritage aspect of this site. They also present the criteria used to evaluate this and discuss the circumstances of coming up with the heritage value of this site.

Aside from the usual archaeological papers of reporting, analysis and interpretation, more twigs are now starting to grow from the traditional concerns to tackle up new and interesting areas as the discipline expands. A balance between scholarly, rigorous work and papers dealing on applications that anchor the discipline to the concerns of society is a sign that the beginning of the year 2006 promises a positive trend for archaeology in the Philippines. It is in the pages of *Hukay* that we could see this balance.

The Editors