

## PERFORMING THE BALANCE: CONSERVATION AND INNOVATION IN THE KANKANA-EY BAYYOG AND DAY-ENG.

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This paper presents a description of two Kankana-ey vocal genres in Buguias, Benguet: the bayyog invokes the names of various deities whose presences are sought in sacrificial rites we generically label as *cañao*; *day-eng* are sung as well as spoken poetry and narratives which comprise the main event of wakes. In a community coming to terms with the continuing intensification of globalization, bayyog and day-eng are classified among the cultural objects which constitute *ogali di ogaya* (ways of the ancestors) – the recognized markers of Kankana-ey identity. I will examine the ways these two expressive categories delineate or blur the boundaries that separate the imagined Kankana-ey universe from the outside world.

The name Abatan is translated as “meeting place”, or in another sense, “exchange”, a name befitting its mercantile atmosphere. Concrete buildings and bustling commerce attest that Abatan in the municipality of Buguias is among of the boom towns of Benguet Province created by the vegetable industry. Lying at an elevation of about 6,000 ft. above sea level, the town is established around the intersection of Halsema Highway (also named Baguio-Bontoc Road but more popularly known as the Mountain Trail) and