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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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Founding Editor

Victor J. Paz

Editor

Grace Barretto-Tesoro

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Melodina Sy Cruz

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Harpy Valerio

Layout and Cover Design

Melodina Sy Cruz

Ma. Kathryn Ann B. Manalo

Anna L. Pineda

Archaeological Studies Program

Palma Hall Basement

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

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On the cover:

Spanish ruin in Barangay Poblacion, Opol, Misamis Oriental. Photo by Dennis Almazan.

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Foreword

A few years ago, I chanced upon significant archaeological data written on paper over 50 years ago. The sheets of paper on which data were recorded were stained and brittle to the touch and I was concerned that continuous handling will do more damage to the material and with it cause the written data to be lost. The way I see it digital scanning and copying offer the best way to not only save the material from further damage by handling, but also make it readily available to scholars and researchers.

Data is important in all academic disciplines. Data is the bases of research and its interpretation can confirm or refute existing hypotheses. In the case of archaeology, the primary source of data comes from the field. A systematic exploration of a given geographic area identifies potential archaeological sites for future archaeological excavations. The sound and careful analyses of artefacts and trench features and the production of images, either by illustrations or digital photography now form the backbone of any archaeological research. It is therefore of utmost importance that relevant data are recorded properly. Proper recording demands clear textual and graphic information produced using lasting recording/writing medium on equally durable material. The records must then be stored in a manner in which makes retrieval manageable. Computer technology and software has not only made data storage and retrieval easier they also made it possible to access the data remotely. In addition, data can also be played with to examine correlations among variables. Surprising patterns may appear. Another way to store data is by publishing. Published material can be accessed by many and stored in many ways: it can be scanned and distributed digitally, photocopied, kept in universities and personal or private libraries. In this volume, one article reports on the new data from archaeological explorations and another article discusses the creation of a digital database that makes data storage and retrieval efficient.

Lee M. Neri's **A Report on the Archaeological Survey Along the Coastal Area of Misamis Oriental, Mindanao** describes the latest archaeological sites discovered in Mindanao. Although preliminary in nature and the archaeological data come mostly from surface finds

including stone ruins, Neri suggests probable reasons for the presence of particular types of artefacts and their distribution across the northern coastal area of Mindanao. Nevertheless, it is a good research initiative in an area which has been generally overlooked and future systematic excavations can substantiate or refute Neri's hypotheses.

Katherine K. Esteves' **Spacing Archaeological Sites: An Application of the Geographical Information System to Philippine Archaeology** proposes how to digitise archaeological data using GIS technology. Esteves' article shows how a proper data management tool can generate significant relationships between variables and enhance our understanding of archaeological sites. Esteves' proposition is for the National Museum of the Philippines, an institution which has a long history of accumulating data from the field. Best of all her proposal can also be adopted by other organisations to guard against the loss of data. Conversely, her proposal can also be adopted by other organisations to guard against the loss of data. The software used here is one that is already invaluable to the archaeological community. However, Esteves did not include in her article an institution's financial resources and necessary skills in order to use this programme. Nevertheless, she manages to point out the need for at least one institution to upgrade their database.

A vibrant archaeological community is not afraid to share data, more so because we know that other people may have different ways of interpreting them.

Grace Barretto-Tesoro
Hukay Editor