

## NEW SITES IN SOUTHEASTERN BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES. REPORT ON THE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE UP- ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES PROGRAM IN 2008

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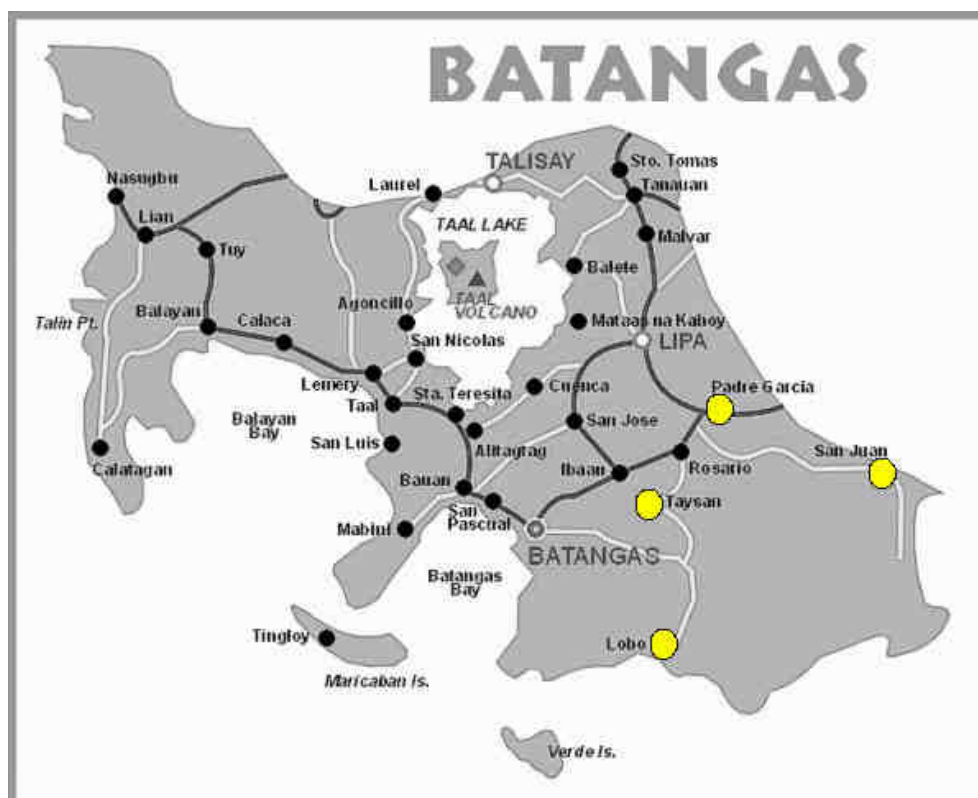


Fig. 1. Map of Batangas showing towns surveyed (with yellow dots).

**TÍTULO:** *Nuevos sitios en la Batangas sudoriental. Informe sobre el estudio realizado por el Programa de Estudios Arqueológicos de la Universidad de las Filipinas en 2008.*

**RESUMEN.** *La investigación en Batangas se inició en el siglo XX y se centró en la parte suroeste de la provincia. La parte oriental de Batangas se pasó por alto. Para examinar el potencial de esta zona, las exploraciones arqueológicas se realizaron en los municipios de San Juan, Lobo, Taysan y Padre García. El equipo registró 20 sitios de enterramiento, algunos de los cuales libraron*

**ABSTRACT.** *Research in Batangas started in the early 20th century and focused in the southwestern part of the province. The eastern part of Batangas due to research agenda was generally overlooked. To examine what the potential of this area, archaeological explorations were conducted in the municipalities of San Juan, Lobo, Taysan, and Padre Garcia. The team recorded 20 burial and settlement sites and some of these yielded datable materials belonging to the Developed Metal Age (100-400 AD), 15th century, and late 1800s. These new sites and dates will bring new perspectives on the archaeological history of Batangas.*

**KEYWORDS:** *archaeology, survey, new sites, new dates, Batangas.*

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*materiales datables pertenecientes a la fase avanzada de la edad de los metales (100-400 d. C.), al siglo XV y a finales del XIX. Estos nuevos sitios y las fechas aportan nuevas perspectivas sobre la historia arqueológica de Batangas.*

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *arqueología, estudio, nuevos sitios, nuevas fechas, Batangas.*

### INTRODUCTION

THE REPORT BELOW DISCUSSES THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS conducted in southeastern Batangas last April-May 2008 (fig. 1). It outlines the background of the project, the actual activities conducted, the results of the survey and analyses of the finds, the problems en-

countered, and recommendations for future research. The team was composed of members of the University of the Philippines-Archaeological Studies Program namely Grace Barretto-Tesoro, Fredeliza Campos, Anna Pineda, and freelance photographer Archibald Tesoro.

## BACKGROUND

This project in Batangas aims to investigate the presence of archaeological sites in the southeastern portion, in particular along the municipality of San Juan. Until our recent work, San Juan has not yet been explored extensively, except for preliminary investigations in Calubcub Segundo in 1979 (Salcedo 1979). The excavations in Calubcub generated 16 skeletons in jars and open-pit burials, which were associated with earthenware vessels, glass beads, and tradeware ceramics. The site was dated around 500 AD and 10th-15th centuries AD based on the mortuary objects. In addition, the town itself has been overlooked in favour of other municipalities in Batangas, specifically Calatagan (Fox 1959, Ronquillo and Ogawa 1996). In the last five years, excavations were conducted on Spanish colonial structures in Sta. Teresita (Paz 2003) and in San Nicolas (Dizon *et al.* 2005).

## OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Calubcub site and the neighbouring coastal municipalities are significant because they could provide graves earlier than the 15th century AD burials found in Calatagan (Barretto-Tesoro 2008a, Fox 1959) and thus could give us an opportunity to learn more about the ancient mortuary practice in Batangas. Furthermore, the San Juan town proper was near the sea in a barangay<sup>1</sup> now known as Pinagbayanan but due to flooding was moved to its present location. Archaeological explorations in this area may yield late pre-colonial and early colonial sites. This project is, therefore, very timely because it will contribute more information regarding the pre-colonial period of San Juan, Batangas.

The initial phase of the project was conducted last April-May 2008 and will be the subject of this report. The aims during the initial phase were: 1) to identify potential archaeological sites in southeastern Batangas through walk surveys and interviews with locals for future large-scale excavations, 2) to establish the chronological sequence of the sites, 3) to prepare a map showing

probable sites, 4) to describe the topography of the probable sites.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This project is an expansion of an earlier work (Barretto-Tesoro 2008a), which examined the functions of earthenware vessels recovered from the Calatagan burials in the early 1960s by Robert B. Fox. Barretto-Tesoro argued that distinct pottery styles and their locations in the graves are representations of identity, particularly cultural affiliation and status. Since this research focused on identity, we would like to further analyse the changing representations of the Tagalogs through time. Barretto-Tesoro (2008a) has also demonstrated that the bird and solar motifs as symbols are significant to the early inhabitants of Batangas as seen in the earthenware vessels and foreign ceramics in Calatagan. Although, the sun and bird symbols have been documented in ethnohistory and ethnography, and some archaeological objects (Barretto-Tesoro 2007; Salazar 2004, 2005), we are interested in what archaeology can contribute in investigating the geographical and spatial extent of these symbols in Batangas.

## METHODOLOGY: SAMPLING DESIGN, VARIABLES, MATERIALS, AND PROCEDURES

One of our main objectives was to look for prehispanic burials in southeastern Batangas. Since earlier reports indicated that burials were found along the coast of San Juan (Salcedo 1979), we decided to survey all coastal barangays first leaving inland settlements for future explorations. We showed an archaeological kit to the people we interviewed. The archaeological kit is composed of artefacts such as porcelain fragments and potsherds. This kit enabled the interviewees to recall if they have observed such items in the area. We also showed Salcedo's (1979) publication on earlier excavations in Calubcub.

We also used a site discovery form to record the potential areas for future excavations and all coordinates were taken using a Garmin GPS 76. In the survey form, we took note of the following information: site name, site accession number, site type, exact location of site (sitio, barangay, municipality), coordinates, elevation, property owners, informants, surface finds, description of the area, topography, recorders, and other remarks. The artefacts, such as earthenware vessel sherds and fragments of foreign ceramics recovered from our explorations, were accessioned using a specimen inventory record. We took

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<sup>1</sup> Barangay is the basic socio-political unit in the Philippines. Towns are usually divided into several barangays.



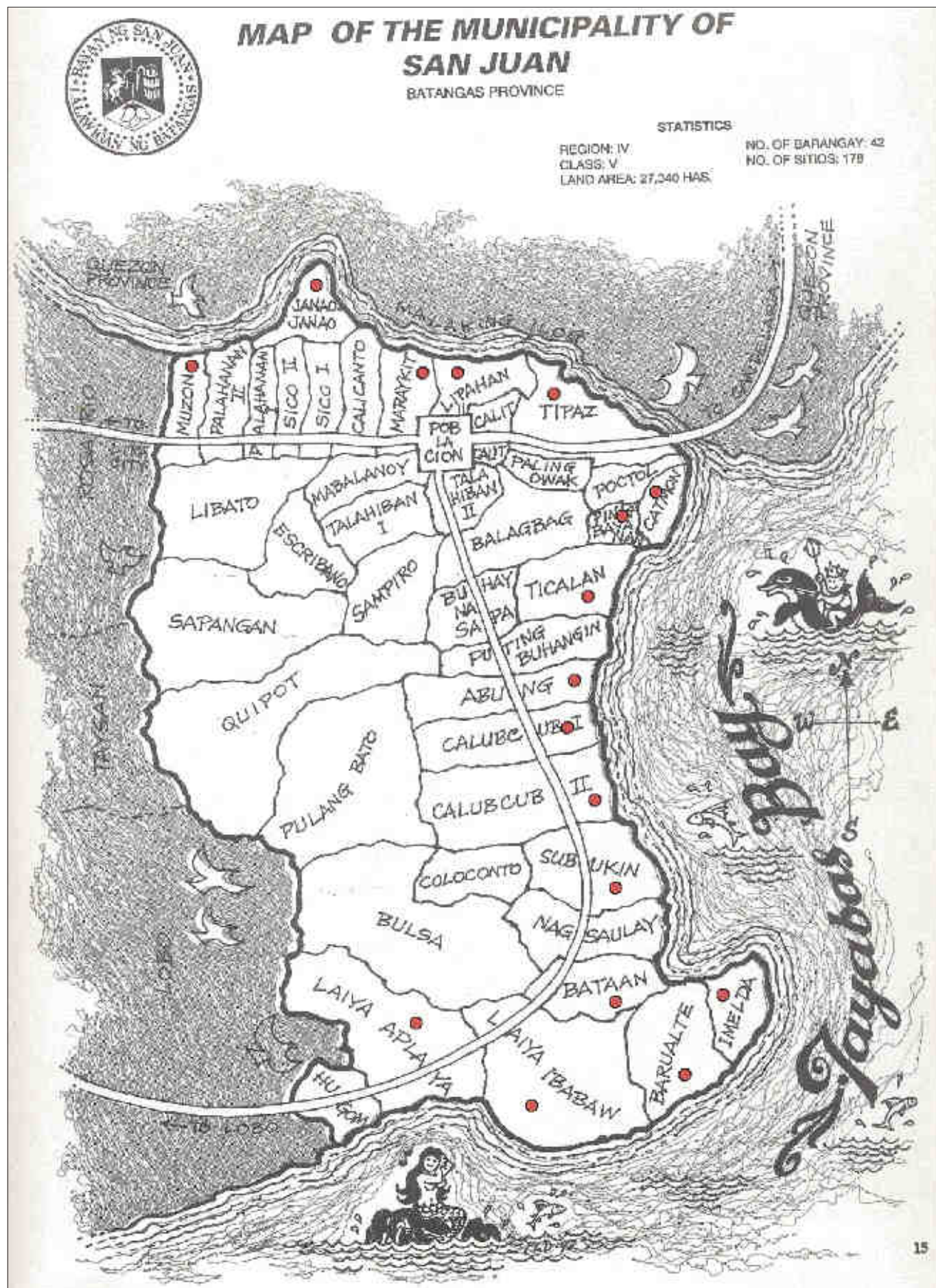


Fig. 2. Map of Batangas showing towns surveyed (with yellow dots).



Table 1. Sites recorded during the 2008 survey.

Site name and location	Accession Code	Probable type of site based on materials collected and local reports
1. Barangay Catmon Site, San Juan	IV-2008-W1	settlement
2. Lumang Simbahan ng (Old Church of) San Juan and Associated Structure, Pinagbayanan, San Juan	IV-2008-T1	church ruins
3. Arsenio Lopez Jr. Site, Abung Silangan, San Juan	IV-2008-J2	not yet known
4. Sitio Centro Site, Abung, San Juan	IV-2008-I2	not yet known
5. Klaus Baertges Site, Puntor, Calubcub I, San Juan	IV-2008-U1	burial
6. Sitio Puntor Site, Calubcub I, San Juan	IV-2008-R2	burial
7. Calubcub II, San Juan	IV-2008-H2	burial
8. Sitio Puntor, Subukin, San Juan	IV-2008-G2	not yet known
9. Sitio Ilaya, Bataan, San Juan	IV-2008-F2	burial
10. Coco Grove Resort Site, Laiya Aplaya, San Juan	IV-2008-Z1	not yet known
11. Sitio Balakbakan Site, Laiya Aplaya, San Juan	IV-2008-Y1	burial
12. Virgin Resort Cave Site, Laiya Aplaya, San Juan	IV-2008-X1	burial
13. Lumang Libingan ng Padre Garcia, Padre Garcia	IV-2008-L2	burial
14. Kweba ng Hapon, Ibaba Malaman, Pinagbayanan, Taysan	IV-2008-K2	habitation
15. Calumpang Site, Purok 1, Fabrica, Lobo	IV-2008-M2	not yet known
16. Masaguitsit Elementary School, Masaguitsit, Lobo	IV-2008-N2	burial
17. Sabas Anyayahan Site, Purok Pagkakaisa, Banalo, Lobo	IV-2008-O2	settlement
18. Oscar Araya Site, Fabrica, Lobo	IV-2008-P2	not yet known
19. Sitio Balugbug, Sawang, Lobo	IV-2008-Q2	burial
20. Mercy Reynolds Site, Balugbug, Sawang, Lobo	IV-2008-V1	burial

photos of the sites and the artefacts we collected. The site accession numbers are assigned by the Archaeology Division (NM) and team leaders should obtain these prior to their surveys. At the end of each day, we wrote the day's events in a logbook (Barretto-Tesoro 2008b).

## PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

This section is divided into three parts. The first section describes the sites we have surveyed, their topography and their locations. In the second section, we describe the artefacts we collected in each site during our surveys and the relative dates of the sites based on the artefacts collected.

### *Descriptions of the sites*

For the 2008 survey, we concentrated our explorations along the coast of San Juan and Lobo. We also surveyed some inland areas in Taysan and Padre Garcia. We visited 34 barangays. In San Juan, we surveyed the following barangays (fig. 2): Janao-Janao, Muzon, Palahanan II, Maraykit, Tipaz, Lipahan, Poctol, Pinagbayanan, Catmon, Calubcub I, Calubcub II, Buhay na Sapa, Ticalan,

Putting Buhangin, Abung, Subukin, Bataan, Barualte, Imelda, Laiya Ibabao, Laiya Aplaya, and Hugom. We only surveyed the centre of Padre Garcia. In Taysan, only the barangay of Pinagbayanan was explored. We visited the following barangays in Lobo: Fabrica, Masaguitsit, Banalo, Olo-olo, Lagadlarin, Sawang, Soloc, Tayuman, Mabilog na Bundok, and Biga. We were told that there was a barangay in Lobo called Sabana but is now non-existent. The locals do not know where this was actually located. They believed that this was an old barangay.

We documented 20 potential sites during our surveys (see Table 1). These sites have been assigned National Museum accession codes.

In this section, we will describe the sites mentioned in this table. Other areas surveyed listed above will not be included here but have been described elsewhere (Barretto-Tesoro 2008b).

### *Barangay Catmon Site, San Juan (IV-2008-W1)*

It was too difficult to obtain the coordinates in this site due to clouds at the time of the survey. The closest we got was 121° 26' 58.3" and 13° 48' 22.5" (2D Differen-





Fig. 3. Recording the walls of the old church in Pinagbayanan, San Juan (A. Tesoro).

tial). A nine-year old girl was our informant. Maureen Paredes directed us to the broken sherds found along the sandy banks of the Ilog Sirena. Near the river was a midden area which was surrounded by coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) and aroma trees (*Acacia farnesiana*). Some areas showed evidence of burning. She said that she and her playmates would use the sherds as *pamato* for *piko* (hopscotch). An initial look at the sherds collected from Catmon reveal fresh breaks. According to Maureen, they

break the sherds for their *piko*. The sherds were probably exposed during rains and after floods.

### **Lumang Simbahan ng (Old Church of) San Juan and Associated Structures, Pinagbayanan, San Juan (IV-2008-T1)**

The town of San Juan was formerly located along the coast. This was moved to its present location because of

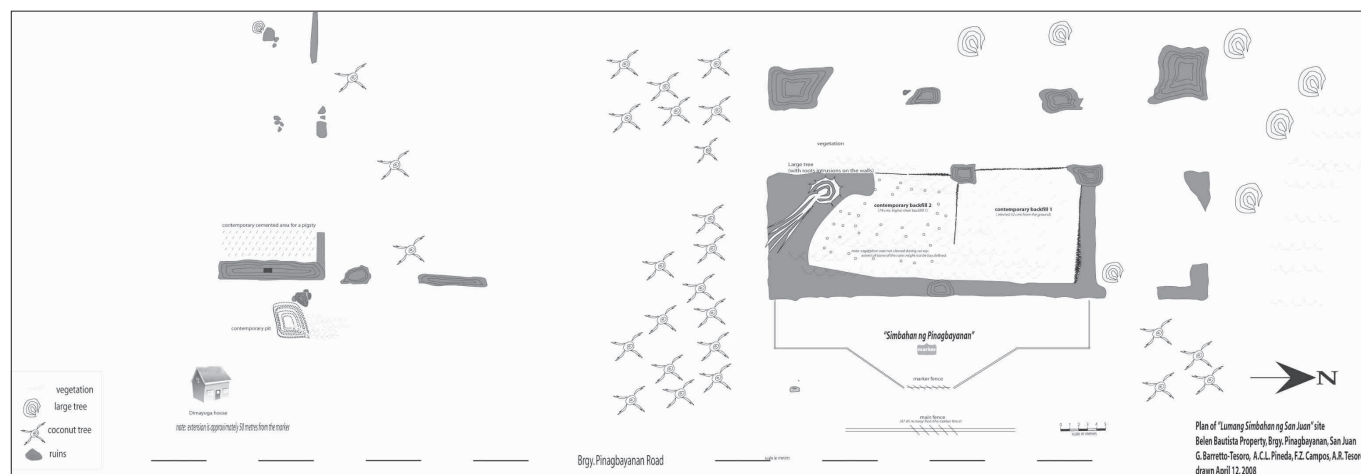


Fig. 4. Plan of the Old Church of San Juan (right) and associated structure (left). Both plans scaled. Distance between structures not scaled (F. Campos).





Fig. 5. Extension of the old church in Pinagbayanan, San Juan, Batangas (A. Tesoro).

constant flooding according to the locals. The old location is now known as Pinagbayanan, or the place where the old town can be found. Belen Bautista, a former National Historical Institute employee, owns the land where the ruins of the old church in San Juan are located. She and her husband bought the land from the De Villas in 1987. We recorded the profile of all the remaining walls, including those inside the ruins (fig. 3). The floorplan was also drawn (fig. 4).

In 1995 January, the local government and the people in the town held a program as a celebration of the town's patron San Juan. Mrs. Bautista showed us photos of this celebration, including a copy of the program brochure. The photos helped us in the reconstruction of some parts of the ruins. The southern portion was backfilled, removing all vegetation in the area except for an old tree; a bamboo roof was built where the mass was held. The northeastern enclosure was also backfilled but 74 cms lower than southern portion where the program was held. Again, everything was cleared out and the front walks were scrubbed clean. A cement marker was built along a small fence and the front area was cleared out to accommodate the crowd. There appears to be an area or passageway at the inner walls of the eastern portion; these areas were not remodelled or cleared for the said program except for the removal of some vegetation. A river, though

water is no longer present, was found at the western side of the ruins. The alluvial deposits might have well concealed these activities and could have archaeological potential. Mrs. Bautista said that they did not add cement or any modern materials on the ruins except for the said roof and the backfill for the centennial celebration. However, some of the walls indicate that reinforcements were added in many of its cracks and crevices. The area, aside from the ruins, is a coconut plantation with gates and a motorised pump at the northern side used to supply water for the nearby houses.

South of the church ruins stands another structure (fig. 5) in the property of the Dimayugas, cousins of the former. This structure is probably contemporaneous with the actual church based on its proximity to the church ruins and the materials used for construction. A window is still visible in the structure. The structure may be connected to the ruins in Bautista's lot with the marker the "Pinagbayanan's Church" or both may belong to the same complex/compound. The floorplan of this extension was also drawn (fig. 4). The structure was also reinforced and was previously used as a pigsty by the current users. According to Dionisio Dimayuga (54 years old), this structure was actually the old church of Pinagbayanan but because of the rising water level, they had to build and transfer the church to the one found in Belen Bautista's

compound. Based on Dionisio Dimayuga's accounts, their church was not used because the priest died (however, this still needs confirmation).

### **Sitio Centro Site, Abung, San Juan (IV-2008-I2)**

The Sitio Centro Site is located in Barangay Abung, along and west of the National Highway. It has coordinates of 121° 24' 52.2" longitude and 13° 46' 11.1" latitude and has an elevation of 21.5 metres above sea level. We found sherds of foreign ceramics and earthenware vessels along the dirt road leading to the property of Sopio Florida (71 years old) and Juana Florida (67 years old). The site is covered with ipil-ipil trees (*Leucaena* sp.), buri trees (*Corypha utan*), langka (*Artocarpus heterophylla*), camachile (*Pithecellobium dulce*), caimito (*Chrysophyllum cainito*), sampaloc (*Tamarindus indica*), mango trees (*Mangifera* spp.), and grass. The western section of the site is elevated and objects we observed were probably eroded or deposited coming from the higher areas. Juan Florida mentioned that many people had excavated along the coast of Abung until Barangay Hugom from 1973 to 1986. They further added that they did not allow people to dig in their property so this site is undisturbed.

### **Arsenio Lopez Jr. Site, Abung Silangan, San Juan (IV-2008-J2)**

Ereberto Ortal (70 years old) reported that an empty stoneware jar was recovered when the fishpond near the coast in Abung Silangan was constructed in 1991. The late Arsenio Lopez Jr. and wife Ophelia Ledesma own the prawn farm, fish pond, and resort house Ortal was referring to. This area, which is located at 121° 25' 55.5" longitude and 13° 45' 46.2" latitude with a 7.1 metres elevation, is on the sandy beach along the coast. There are coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), cactus, and palm trees (*Palmae* sp.) found in the site, most probably part of the landscaping done when the house was built. Ledesma said that they found nothing when the house was built in 1968. Ledesma added that when they bought the property it was marshland and was later reclaimed.

### **Klaus Baertges Site, Puntor, Calubcub I, San Juan (IV-2008-U1)**

Finds were reported in the property of Klaus Baertges, a German who has been living here in the Philippines for 20 years, in Sitio Puntor, Calubcub I. The site has the coordinates 121° 25' 50.1" longitude and 13° 45' 26.1" latitude. It has an elevation of 7.7 metres above sea level. Inside the property we observed fishponds, several house



Fig. 6. Earthenware vessel retrieved in unsystematic excavations by Vicente Sayat (A. Tesoro).

structures, canals for irrigation, coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), and the ground was covered with grass. The caretaker, Apolonio "Polly" Indicio, reported that a jar containing teeth were recovered at 60 cms deep from the area during ploughing activities. In 2006, the area was bulldozed, though there are still remaining areas that were undisturbed. A small area in the Baertges property has been excavated to make a rice field. The fill was dumped within the same property and thus elevated the land. We collected sherds of foreign vessels and local pottery. We learned that the previous owner of the land was Roman Perez who treasure-hunted pots with a group of men in the 1980s.

We met with Mr. Baertges to explain the significance of his property. He was receptive to the idea of future excavations. We shall work on the undisturbed parts of his property – the bamboo area and the front of the house, as these areas are undisturbed. Baertges requested that some underwater archaeologists survey Tayabas Bay, the part that he owns. He is interested in finding shipwrecks. He also added that all diving equipment shall be supplied.

### **Sitio Puntor Site, Calubcub I, San Juan (IV-2008-R2)**

Outside the Baertges property, the team retrieved more earthenware vessel sherds that were scattered along the



dirt road. The coordinates of this site are 121° 25' 51.1" and 13° 45' 19.2". The sandy surface is covered with coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), guava trees (*Psidium guajava*), and grass (*Paspalum* sp.). Our main informant, Vicente Sayat is an 88-year old local, who was an active treasure hunter in the 1980s. He mentioned that he retrieved many earthenware vessels in the area which he sold in Manila. He found them by poking sticks into the ground. Sayat showed us one of the earthenware vessels found in the area (fig. 6). This pot has two handles and is decorated with continuous and broken incised lines around its carinated body. This jar is similar to one pot recovered in Calubcub II (Salcedo 1979).

Sayat's neighbour, Fortunato Antonio (61 years old) remembered that during the construction of the basketball court, a jar with human bones was unearthed. Nellie Carandang (68 years old), also a neighbour of Sayat, reported that some pots were found in her property.

### **Calubcub II, San Juan (IV-2008-H2)**

This site was the same site that Salcedo (1979) excavated. It is located at 121° 26' 12.4" longitude and 13° 44' 6.4" latitude with 8.7 metres elevation. This area is covered with mango trees (*Mangifera* spp.), coconut trees, and sineguelas trees (*Spondias purpurea*). Leonora Romasanta (58 years old) and Manolito Romasanta (56 years old) recalled the excavations in Calubcub II by Salcedo in the 1970s. The excavations were indeed popular because Cirilo Estimadora (70 years old) and Librada Estimadora (72 years old) also remembered them. The couple accommodated the National Museum staff and recalls the late Fred Evangelista former NM Assistant Director. He also said that during the National Museum excavations, a team of "private archaeologists" were also digging in the area. Cirilo said that the National Museum staff confiscated the treasure hunters' equipment. During our interview, Mr. Estimadora was currently reading a Philippine history textbook *Pilipinas: Heograpiya, Kasaysayan at Pamahalaan* published by the Vibal Publishing House in 1998. The book mentions the Calubcub excavations and the Estimadoras were very happy that their hometown is part of Philippine history. They also said that when the local chapel was constructed, they found broken pots and plates. Likewise, when the deep well was constructed, about one metre from the surface, the workers found human teeth.

### **Sitio Ilaya, Bataan, San Juan (IV-2008-F2)**

This site is located in the property of Lolita Bolaños Quezon and has the following coordinates: 121° 26' 26.9"

longitude and 13° 42' 7.4" latitude. It has an elevation of 10.5 metres. The area is covered with camachile trees (*Pithecellobium dulce*), banana trees (*Heliconia* sp.), coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), sampaloc trees (*Tamarindus indica*), atis (*Anona squamosa*), and sineguelas trees (*Spondias purpurea*). Sherds and shells were scattered on the surface. Husband and wife Serafin (57 years old) and Catalina (52 years old) Dapug said that they found a pot containing shells when they ploughed their field years ago. According to them, treasure hunters visited their place 40 years ago. Mr. Dapug also reported that his father dug up a whole jar during ploughing and that some of the pots were full of shells. These finds were about 15.2 centimetres below the surface. Near this area was a cave which was blocked by a big balete tree. Since a fishpond was created, water stopped flowing through the cave.

### **Sitio Puntor, Subukin, San Juan (IV-2008-G2)**

The Sitio Puntor Site is located at 121° 26' 24.7" longitude and 13° 43' 51.6" latitude with an elevation of 4.3 metres. The area is covered with coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), atis (*Anona squamosa*), and papaya (*Carica papaya*). The owners of the site are the Makalintal Family, the same owners of the site excavated by Salcedo in 1979. Barangay Captain Ulysses Rubia (51 years old) said that there are no more artefacts in their barangay because antique dealers bought them five years ago. Silvestre Rubia (71 years old) said that he observed broken plates and pots in the area. He said that when he was 55 years old, excavations took place there. When shown the Calubcub II publication (Salcedo 1979), he indicated that the objects found in this area were similar to those recovered by the National Museum personnel. The barangay north of Subukin is Barangay Calubcub II where National Museum excavations occurred in the 1970s. The old man was probably referring to this event. However, it is also possible that illegal excavations were conducted in Sitio Puntor as narrated by our informants in Calubcub II.

### **Coco Grove Resort Site, Laiya Aplaya, San Juan (IV-2008-Z1)**

The Coco Grove Resort is located at 121° 24' 30.4" longitude and 13° 40' 9.4" latitude with 8.7 metres elevation. The site is covered with coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), mango trees (*Mangifera* spp.), aroma trees (*Acacia farnesiana*), and grass. Mel Guevarra and Celso Vergara, supervisor and worker of Coco Grove Resort respectively, said that the place was treasure hunted 15 years ago. The treasure hunters recovered plates and jars. According to Vergara, the place used to be a cemetery. We





Fig. 7. Earthenware vessel with a spout and a lug recovered from Balakbakan owned by Ricky Abanilla (ACL Pineda).

did not investigate the area where Coco Grove Resort was standing, but we surveyed the immediate vicinity. This still has rich vegetation but some parts of the land were burned due to shifting cultivation. Right next to it is an area full of vines. At the first trail and in the area with vegetation, we found newly used large sherds of earthenware. They look new and newly broken. We also saw a potted plant with a broken pot next to the trail. However, we also saw weathered potsherds with what looks like possible net impressions. We recommend that area should be studied as soon as possible because the developer will construct more beach resorts in the area. On the way to the main road, we observed blue and white sherds on the area that was cleared for the gravel road.

### **Sitio Balakbakan Site, Laiya Aplaya, San Juan (IV-2008-Y1)**

The Sitio Balakbakan Site is located at 121° 23' 16.3" longitude and 13° 40' 18" latitude with an elevation of 11 metres. The beach area is settled and covered with coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) and aroma trees (*Acacia farnesiana*). Pacifico Abanilla (56 years old), reported that many objects such as human bones, broken pots, dragon jars were found during the construction of compost pits and houses. We took photographs of the compost pits to identify depth of sediments. Most of the sherds were observed near these pits. A septic tank that is under construction is 1.20 meters deep from the surface. Ricky Abanilla (35 years old), Pacifico's son, recovered a whole pot with two spouts and two lugs when he was digging a

compost pit (fig. 7). According to Ricky, the depth of the pot was about 4-6 feet below the surface (1.22-1.83 meters). The form of the pot resembles those found in Calatagan (Fox 1959). Based on our observations and our interviews with the locals, the artefacts are probably deep. This means that there is a high potential for intact artefacts in the area. At present, the area is under a land dispute currently ongoing for 14 years as of this writing. The issues are between the local residents of the area and the Laiya Development Corporation who bought the property. Based on the reports and the finds, it is highly recommended that a systematic excavation be conducted as soon as possible in this area to avoid further destruction of the archaeological materials.

### **Virgin Resort Cave Site, Laiya Aplaya, San Juan (IV-2008-X1)**

Justino Sulit (76 years old) reported finding sherds but could not remember anymore where. He mentioned that a human skull was found in a cave in Laiya Aplaya, another barangay in San Juan. We also interviewed Councilor Isidro Barrion (44 years old) who pot-hunted the cave. He said that he found a stoneware jar with bones, and another jar with three skulls. The cave was pot-hunted five years ago for about two months. Shirley Magpantay, whose husband Benito Magpantay (56 years old) was involved in the diggings, has two jarlets recovered from the cave (fig. 8). At present, these jarlets are being used as candleholders and placed in the house altar. One of the jarlets has a design similar to those found in Calatagan (Barretto-Tesoro 2008a). This blue design resembles a solar pattern if viewed from the top. Rolando Atienza (63 years old), a resident of Sitio Balakbakan, said that he dug and found bones, a coffin made of mulawin wood (*Vitex parviflora*), and a dragon jar in the Virgin Resort Cave. Ben Dimaano (86 years old) said that the area has

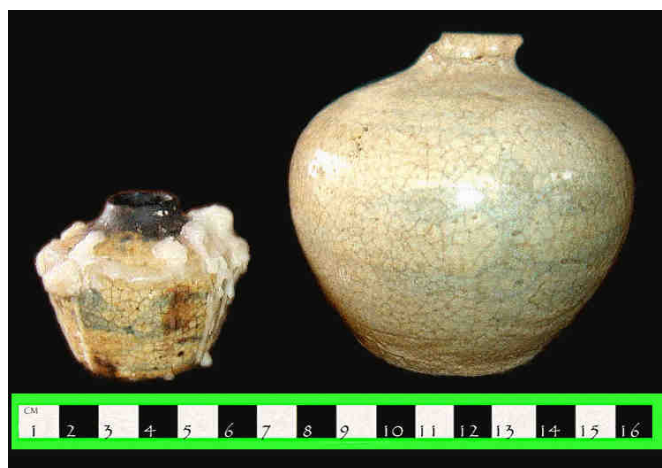


Fig. 8. Jarlets recovered from the Virgin Resort Cave. These are now in the possession of Shirley Magpantay (ACL Pineda).



Fig. 9. View from outside the Virgin Resort Cave (G. Barretto-Tesoro).



Fig. 10. View from inside the Virgin Resort Cave (G. Barretto-Tesoro).

already been treasure-hunted. However, the team still believes in the potential of the area.

Myrna Magpantay (57 years old), a migrant from Puerto Galera in Mindoro, accompanied us to the cave. She told us that stoneware jars were also found in the cave. The cave, which faces the ocean, is part of the Virgin Resort property owned by Federico Campos (figs. 9 and 10). The surrounding areas are privately owned and beach resorts are currently being developed. The beachfront was being bulldozed during our survey. Vijay Oliva, the caretaker of the Virgin Resort said that the area was developed during the last five years. This coincides with the local diggings. At present the cave is hidden from view; it was probably more concealed prior to the construction of the resort.

Dense vegetation, which include ipil trees (*Leucaena* sp.) found just outside the mouth of the cave, prohibited us from recording the coordinates. Thus, we obtained the coordinates at the foot of the mound where the cave was located. The coordinates are  $121^{\circ} 22' 45.6''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 40' 0.3''$  latitude, and the elevation is 4.9 metres. The cave is of a limestone formation. The width of the cave mouth is 6.30 meters, the height 2.63 meters, and the depth is 10.10 meters long. The present ground surface inside the cave was heavily disturbed by the locals; backdirt can still be observed. We recovered broken clay pots, shell beads, and possible human bones. One rim sherd has cut-out designs.

### **Lumang Libingan ng Padre Garcia, Padre Garcia (IV-2008-L2)**

According to the Padre Garcia locals, the old cemetery was behind the Padre Garcia Central School. This cemetery has coordinates of  $121^{\circ} 12' 41.1''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 52' 47.8''$  latitude with an elevation of 177.3 metres above

sea level. Now, the site is covered with coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*), lahitan, and banana trees (*Heliconia* sp.). It was reported to have been excavated by Professor Jerome Bailen previously of the Anthropology Department, University of the Philippines Diliman, to look for the remains of Padre Garcia. Among the skeletons uncovered in the cemetery, they believed that the bones of Padre Garcia were buried with beads resembling a rosary. The skeleton was in a supine position. The bones are now in a chamber in the church.

Elpidio Kasilag (68 years old), accompanied us to the old cemetery. On the way to the cemetery, we noted the remains of a brick road (fig. 11). A bridge (figs. 12 and 13) to the cemetery is also definitely not modern. According to Kasilag, Bailen did not excavate the whole area. They learned of this cemetery through their elders. Rodolfo Mapoy (68 years old) added that the burial of Padre Garcia contained a cross, buttons from neck to feet suggesting that the body wore a priestly garb. Today no one really owns the land where the cemetery is located,



Fig. 11. A. Pineda arranging a scale along the brick road leading to the old cemetery of the town of Padre Garcia (A. Tesoro).





Fig. 12. Behind G. Barretto-Tesoro is the old cemetery of the town of Padre Garcia and in front of her is an old bridge (A. Tesoro).

however among the locals they believed that the Ricafort Family probably now owns the lot because they have been planting in the site since the 1950s. Now the area is being used to burn garbage.

### ***Kweba ng Hapon, Ibaba Malaman, Pinagbayanan, Taysan (IV-2008-K2)***

This rockshelter is known among the locals as “Kweba ng Hapon” or “cave of the Japanese” because they said that the Japanese used this as a campsite during World War II. It has coordinates of  $121^{\circ} 14' 47.5''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 44' 28.7''$  latitude with an elevation of 146.2 metres above sea level. It is owned by Antonio Cerizo. This rockshelter is along the River Casayahan and its mouth faces east (fig. 14). This is probably reached by the rising river water during heavy rainfall. Immediately next to this is another rockshelter. Coffee trees (*Coffea robustus*), bamboos (*Bambusa vulgaris*), and coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*) are found in these areas. We found earthenware vessel sherds and fragments of foreign cera-



Fig. 13. G. Barretto-Tesoro pointing to the old bridge leading to the old cemetery of the town of Padre Garcia (A. Tesoro).

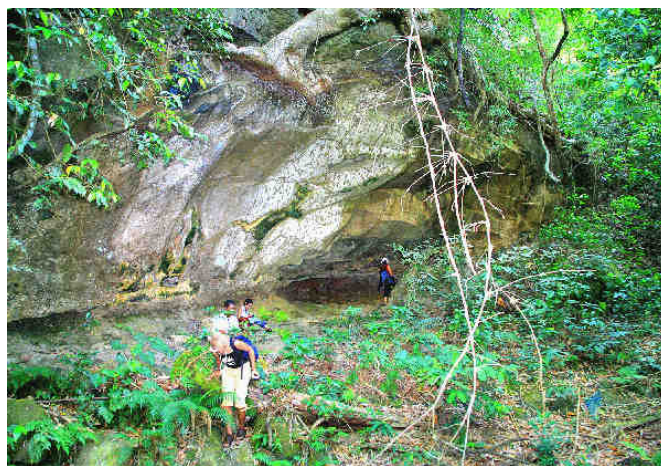


Fig. 14. View of Kweba ng Hapon from the River Casayahan (A. Tesoro).

mics. The first rockshelter is 4.76 metres wide, 2.62 metres high, and 4.03 metres deep. The second rockshelter is 2.06 metres wide, 71 centimetres high, and 2.80 metres deep. We observed five holes along the southwestern wall of the first cave (fig. 15). We measured the height of the holes from the present surface, their diameters, and depths (Table 2). Hole No. 1 is the outermost hole and Hole No. 5 is the hole nearest the cave mouth. Based on the dimensions of the holes, it is highly possible that these were utilised for beams for a temporary shelter. However, these have to be investigated further. We recommend that the area above the cave and also upstream and downstream should be investigated. The area above it is suggested to be explored too because the cave's current surface looks like eroded material.

### ***Calumpang Site, Purok 1, Fabrica, Lobo (IV-2008-M2)***

The Calumpang site in Fabrica (fig. 16) is located in the Maranan Property. It has coordinates of  $121^{\circ} 11' 47.9''$



Fig. 15. Holes along the southwest wall of the Kweba ng Hapon (A. Tesoro).



Table 2. Dimensions of holes observed along the southwestern wall of the Kweba ng Hapon site.

Hole No.	Height from surface	Diameter of hole	Depth of hole
Hole No. 1	1.0 m	16 cm	57 cm
Hole No. 2	1.07 m	13 cm	39 cm
Hole No. 3	1.03 m	10 cm	23 cm
Hole No. 4	1.03 m	13 cm	36 cm
Hole No. 5	1.13 m	11 cm	35 cm

longitude and 13° 38' 15.7" latitude with an elevation of 7.7 metres above sea level. The site, which is along a river, is covered with atis (*Anona squamosa*), sampaloc trees (*Tamarindus indica*), ipil-ipil (*Leucaena* sp.), and coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*). Reports indicate that pots, jars, and plates were retrieved here. Apart from the contemporary earthenware pots and porcelains, we also observed foreign ceramic sherds and fragments of broken pots. We also recovered a fragment of an earthenware cover incised with lines. Alfredo Ibañez (58 years old) who has been living in the property for the last nine years said that he sees many sherds when he digs holes for his

plants. The depths of the holes are about “tatlong dangkal” or about 30 centimetres.

### **Oscar Araja Site, Fabrica, Lobo (IV-2008-P2)**

One informant Oscar Araja (47 years old) is having the area behind his house dug out when we visited him. The pit is 10 metres deep (fig. 17). Araja’s target depth is 13-14 meters where he believes that he will find gold. At five metres deep, he found a *tapayan* (jar). The broken *tapayan* was left near the edge of the pit but Araja kept

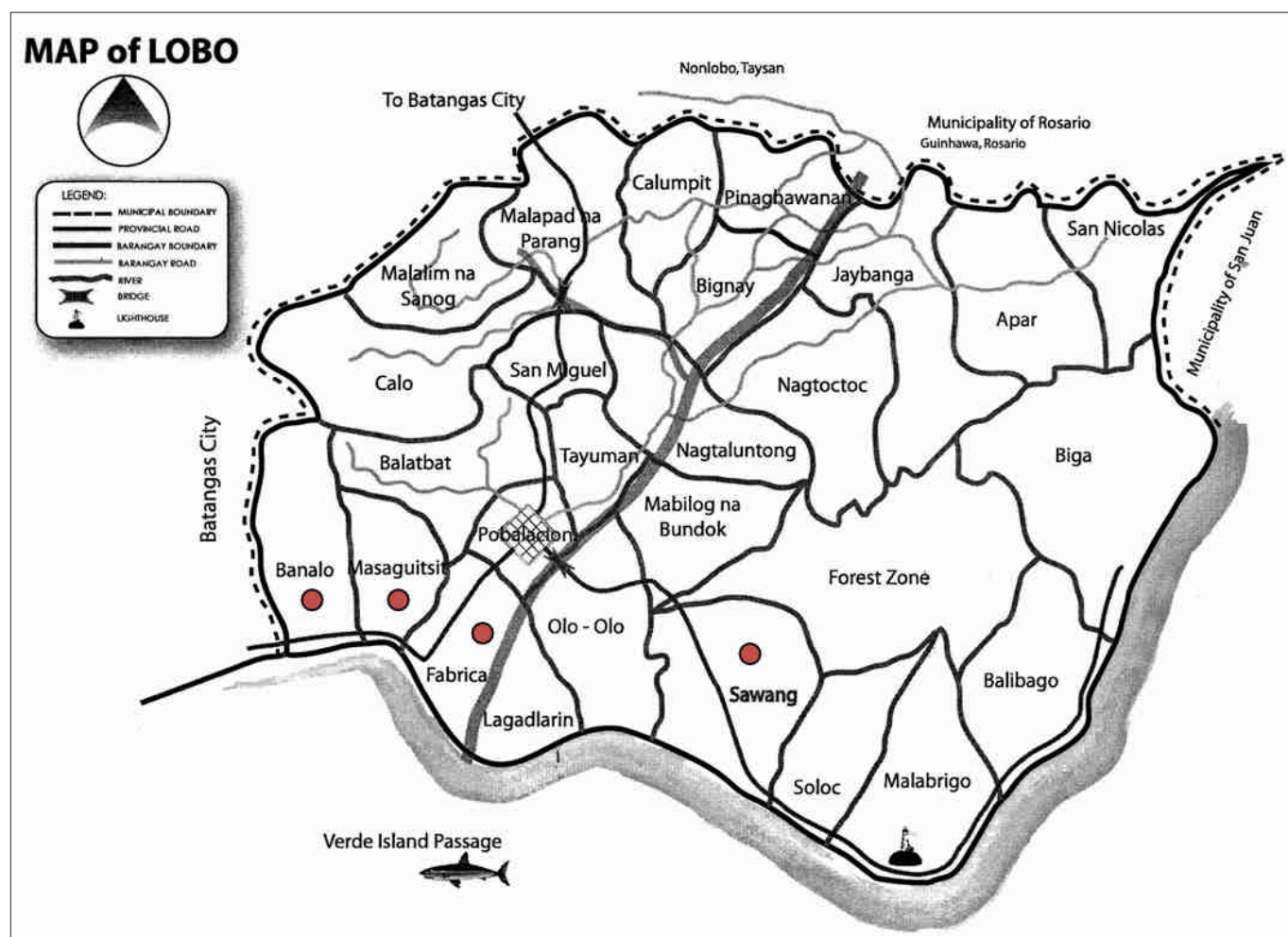


Fig. 16. Map of Lobo showing some of the barangays (with red marks) surveyed in 2008 (Municipality of Lobo).





Fig. 17. A. Pineda and G. Barretto-Tesoro in front of the treasure hunter's pit in Barangay Fabrica, Lobo (A. Tesoro).

the part of the mouth rim, which has an inscription (fig. 18). The site is located near the river and has coordinates of  $121^{\circ} 12' 24.3''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 38' 28.8''$  latitude with an elevation of 12.6 metres above sea level.

### **Masaguitsit Elementary School, Masaguitsit, Lobo (IV-2008-N2)**

Masaguitsit is one of the oldest barangays in Lobo. On a good day, you can take a banca to Mindoro from this coastal barangay. The site, 4.8 metres above sea level, is located in the grounds of the Masaguitsit Elementary School with coordinates of  $121^{\circ} 11' 39.4''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 38' 24.8''$  latitude. When the covered court was built seven years ago, the workers found earthenware vessels with human bones at more than a metre deep. The objects were included in an exhibit but at present, the locals have no idea where the artefacts are. We observed numerous tiny sherds around the court. However, we did not collect them. This site may still be undisturbed as only the surface has been modified. Only six foundations of the covered court may have disturbed the area.



Fig. 18. Part of the rim with inscription found in the Oscar Araja site (A. Tesoro).



Fig. 19. A. Pineda pointing to the terracing at the Sabas Anyayahan Site, Lobo (Photo by A. Tesoro).

### **Sabas Anyayahan Site, Purok Pagkakaisa, Banalo, Lobo (IV-2008-02)**

In Purok Pagkakaisa, Kagawad Tony Maranan (38 years old) and his father former Kagawad Dionisio Maranan (61 years old) brought us to their farm lot. The site is elevated from the coast and located behind the informants' house. Presently, the site is planted with mango trees (*Mangifera* spp.). There were also sampaloc trees (*Tamarindus indica*), forest grass, coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), banana trees (*Heliconia* sp.), buli (*Corypha utan*), and papaya (*Carica papaya*). The site is covered with decaying mango leaves. According to the older Maranan, he said that he found empty water jars, jars, and pots there 40 years ago. He just left them there where he found them. They were usually whole but broken when a pickaxe hits the objects during planting. The depth of the pickaxe when it hits the ground is 15.2 centimetres. We also observed that the site has evidence of terracing; the Maranans told us that it is old and it has always been found in their farm (fig. 19). We found a decorated earthenware vessel rim in their farm. It was difficult to obtain the coordinates for the site because of the mango trees so we recorded the coordinates of the Maranan's house ( $121^{\circ} 11' 13.9''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 38' 38.8''$  latitude).

### **Sitio Balugbug, Sawang, Lobo (IV-2008-Q2)**

Barangay Captain Dante Arguilles (62 years old) recalled that digging activities took place in Sitio Balugbug headed by a man from Calatagan from 1965-1967. They found pots with shells. He mentioned that *lila* or porcelain sherds can be seen anywhere. Jose Arguilles (98 years old), Dante's father, also remembers the diggings in Sitio Balugbug. According to the elder Arguilles, a jar with a small skull was found there about a metre from the sur-



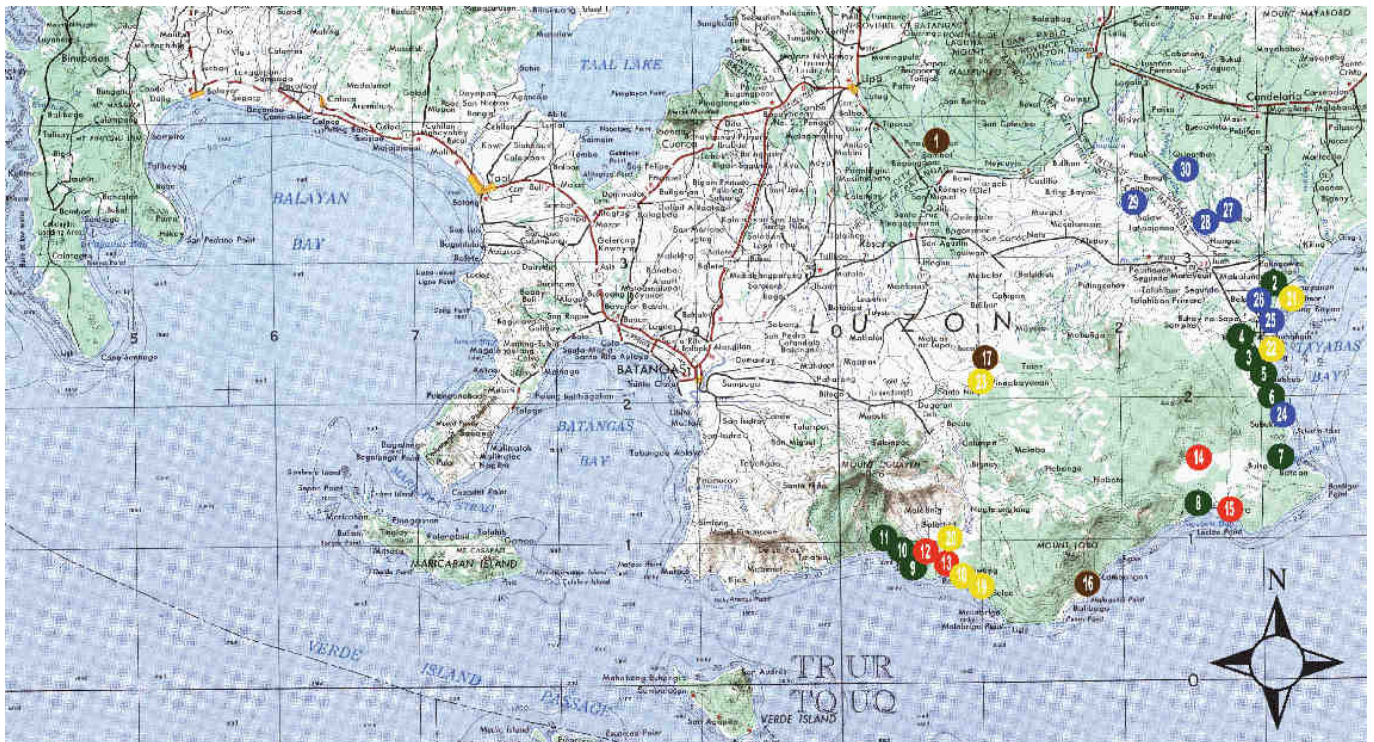


Fig. 20. Map of southeastern Batangas showing areas surveyed in 2008. Legend: Green – high priority for excavations, Brown – recommended for further explorations, Yellow – low priority for explorations and excavations, Red – looted, Blue – reported positive by the locals but the team did not find anything. 1. Padre Garcia; 2. Lumang Simbahan ng (Old Church of) San Juan and extension; 3. Klaus Baertges Site, Puntor, Calubcub I; 4. Sitio Centro Site, Abung; 5. Sitio Puntor Site, Calubcub I; 6. Calubcub Segundo Site; 7. Sitio Ilaya, Bataan; 8. Sitio Balakbakan Site, Laiya Aplaya; 9. Calumpang; 10. Masaguitsit, Lobo (School); 11. Sabas Anyayahan Site, Banalo, Lobo; 12. Oscar Araya Site; 13. Sitio Balugbug; 14. Virgin Resort Cave Site, Laiya Aplaya; 15. Coco Grove Resort Site, Sitio Talisay, Laiya Aplaya; 16. Biga; 17. Hilerang Kawayan, Pinagbayanan, Taysan; 18. Mercy Reynolds Site; 19. Soloc 20. Mabilog na Bundok; 21. Barangay Catmon Site; 22. Arsenio Lopez Jr Site, Abung Silangan; 23. Kweba ng Hapon, Ibaba Malaman, Pinagbayanan, Taysan; 24. Sitio Puntor, Subukin; 25. Puting Buhan-gin; 26. Ticalan 27. Lipahan; 28. Maraykit; 29. Muzon; 30. Sitio Campo, Janao-Janao (F. Campos).

face. We interviewed a man who was involved in the diggings. Daniel Ramirez (73 years old) and Rosenda A. Ramirez (66 years old) said that the name of the man from Calatagan was Macario Putol, and that he came around 1975. The objects were discovered because of ploughing activities. They used a tool, which resembles an ice-pick. He said that they found saucers, celadon, and human bones about 20-30 centimetres deep. Bowls were found on the pelvises and saucers on chests. The couple believed that these were sex markers as Macario indicated. They could not collect the cups anymore because they were stuck to the bedrock. Furthermore, the skeletons were found with pots near the head and hip regions. The skeletons were burned. They said that pots can also be found near the coast.

The couple's grandson, Mark Lester Geslani (17 years old) and his friend Ronel Claveria (20 years old) accompanied us to Sitio Balugbug. The site is near the coast and on an elevated but relatively flat area. It has the following coordinates:  $121^{\circ} 14' 3.7''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 37' 44.4''$  latitude. This area is 37.9 meters above sea level. We learned that the area was re-excavated in 2003. According to the boys, the men used metal detectors and

they employed both Geslani and Claveria. Claveria said that one skeleton was buried with a pot. We still observed small fragments of pots. The descriptions of the burials offered by the locals suggest similarities with the graves found in Calatagan (Barretto-Tesoro 2008a).

### ***Mercy Reynolds Site, Balugbug, Sawang, Lobo (IV-2008-VI)***

Dante Arguilles remembers another local Rogelio "Roger" Romo who found human bones and a pot containing shells in his yard. According to Arguilles' recollection, the skeletons were orientated towards the sea. The bones were reburied and a cross was erected to mark the grave. We paid Roger Romo a visit. The Romos lived near the coast and beside their property is a large house owned by Mercy Reynolds (52 years old). Rodel Romo (30 years old) said that he often sees broken pots in their property. They even found human bones, which they reburied. The skulls were orientated towards the east. This site is located along the sea and has the following coordinates:  $121^{\circ} 13' 58.9''$  longitude and  $13^{\circ} 37' 42.1''$  latitude. It is 12.3 metres above sea level.



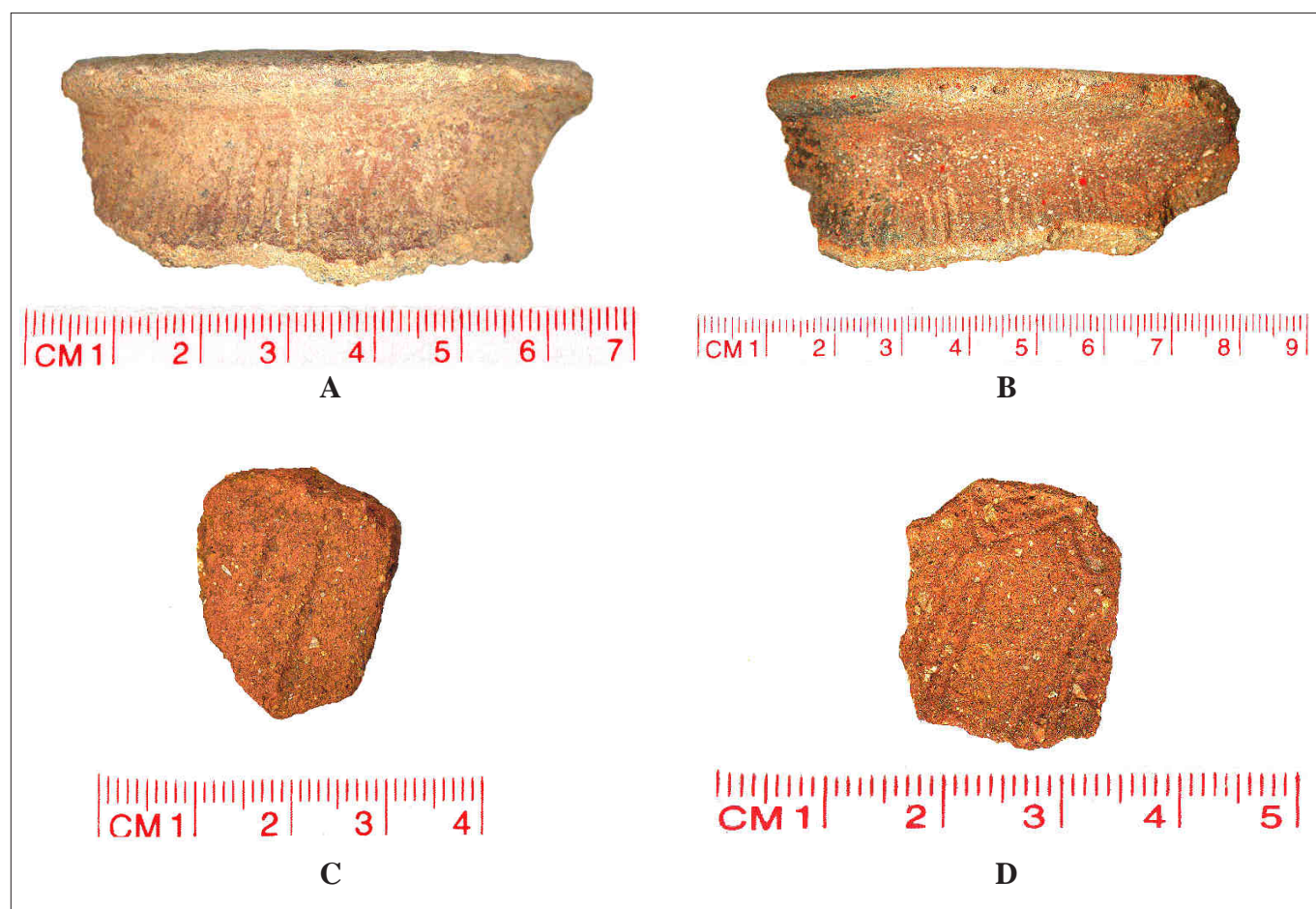


Fig. 21. A. IV-2008-X1-12 from the Virgin Resort Cave Site; B. IV-2008-O2- 1 and C. IV-2008-O2-8 were found in the Sabas Anyayahan Site; D. IV-2008-G2-1 from Sitio Puntor, Subukin.

Reynolds also reported that when her house was built in May 2006, the workers found jars and skeletons about 1.5 metres deep. Similarly, she instructed the workers to rebury the bones within her garden. We showed her the Calubcub publication (Salcedo 1979) to ask if the pots they found were similar to those illustrated in the monograph. Reynolds said that they also found pots with incised lines. We asked her if she still has the pots but she refused to answer.

Based on our explorations, we have recorded and identified 20 potential archaeological sites in southeastern Batangas through walk surveys and interviews with locals. Some have been earmarked for future large-scale excavations. Figure 20 shows the distribution of all the areas, including those sites mentioned in Table 1, we surveyed as of this publication.

## THE ARTEFACTS

We collected 304 earthenware vessel sherds some of which are decorated; we also collected 34 porcelain sherds, 4 stoneware vessel sherds, 2 glass shards, frag-

ments of a *tapayan*, 2 shell beads, 1 human tooth, and some bones. In this section, we want to highlight the artefacts which we used to relatively date the sites, and assess the nature of the sites.

### *The pottery sherds*

Decorations on pots are good indications of their time periods. Pots belonging to the Metal Age in the Philippines have distinct decorations. Some pottery forms are unique to some regions in the Philippines that it is identifying them is straightforward. Below are the decorated sherds we recovered from the new sites in Batangas we recorded.

Sherds in Figure 21 are similar to sherds found in Calubcub Segundo, which dates to the Late Metal Age (Salcedo 1979). Salvador “Jun” Canosa (43 years old), a local of San Isidro, opposite of Barangay Tipas (Quezon Province) recalls the unsystematic excavations in his town in the 1980s when we showed him a copy of Salcedo’s publication. The burials were similar to those found in Calubcub Segundo. Canosa named the figures we showed him from the said book. Figure 3 in the Salcedo (1979)



Fig. 22. Decorated earthenware sherds recovered from Sitio Puntor Site, Calubcub I in San Juan: IV-2008-R2-39 (left), IV-2008-R2-40 (middle), IV-2008-R2-41 (right).

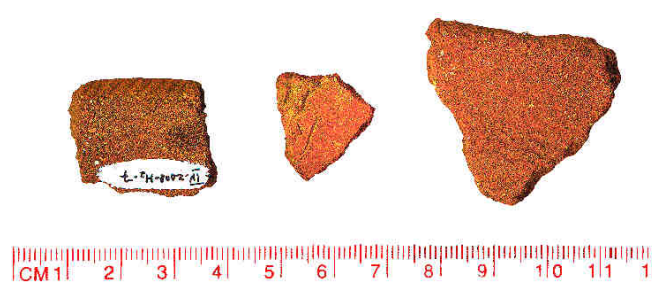


Fig. 23. Sherds recovered from Calubcub II, San Juan: IV-2008-H2-4 (left), IV-2008-H2-5 (middle), IV-2008-H2-7 (right).

report was what the locals call “sinag-araw” (sunrays) and Figure 4 in the same report are the jars they call “beaded” as the jars have “ears” and decorations around its “neck”. He said that they sold the artefacts they collected from the San Isidro burials. The “sinag-araw” is priced lower and the “beaded” can be sold for Php 20,000 in the 1980s. Some “sinag-araw” pots contained bones and some were very small.

The decorated sherds we recovered from Sitio Puntor Site, Calubcub I (fig. 22) are similar to other sites in Batangas. The decoration on IV-2008-R2-40 is similar to those found in Calatagan classified as KT-incised: Form B design (Main and Fox 1982: 46, fig. 56). IV-2008-R2-41 is similar to the pot owned by Ambeth Ocampo found in the Batangas-Laguna area (Valdes 2003). It is also similar to a pot recovered in Lemery, Batangas (Locsin *et al.* 2008: 211, fig. 6.32). The Ocampo and Lemery pots both belong to the Developed Metal Age.

IV-2008-H2-4 is similar to pots recovered from Lemery, Batangas (fig. 23) (Locsin *et al.* 2008: 203, fig. 6.24: 213, fig. 6.37). The design on IV-2008-H2-7 is similar to Calatagan vessels Fox (1959: 85, fig. 98) classified as Pulong Bakaw Incised and impressed, Form A-II sherds. However, it is difficult to say if the pot this sherd came from also has impressed designs.

We collected other sherds that also belong to the Developed Metal Age. The sherd in Figure 24 is similar to the pot in the Bobby Quisumbing Collection (Valdes 2003).

At the Coco Grove Resort Site, we recovered two sherds with which exhibit mat impressions on their exterior surface (figs. 25).

We recovered a fragment of a foot rim from the Virgin Resort Cave Site (fig. 26). It is most probably a foot rim of a presentation dish. Similar vessels were found in Lemery (Locsin *et al.* 2008: 216, fig. 6.41), San Nicolas

(Dizon *et al.* 2005), Rizal Province Sites (Beyer 1947: Plate 14), and Panay Island (Solheim 1981: 58, fig. 38). Some were also recovered from unsystematic excavations in Batangas (Solheim 1981, Valdes 2003). This type of presentation dish belongs to the early Iron Age. According to Solheim (1981, 2002: Plate 37), this belongs to the Novaliches Pottery Tradition. Figure 26 is part of the ring stand with triangular cut-outs around. Beyer dated this pottery to between 250 BC and 400 AD or the Middle Late Formative (AD 100-500) according to Solheim’s reconstruction of the periodisation of Philippines prehistory.



Fig. 24. IV-2008-F2-4 from Sitio Ilaya.





Fig. 25. Sherds with mat impressions: IV-2008-Z1-4 (left) and IV-2008-Z1-6 (right).

### Foreign ceramics

Chinese and Southeast Asian markets produced ceramics with distinct patterns in any given time period, thus making them reliable yet relative time markers. Most of the Philippine archaeological sites are dated based on the presence of ceramics and the designs they bear. The absence of ceramics in sites is mostly interpreted as belonging to an older time period prior to the advent of long distance trade in the Philippines, usually before the 10th century AD. Below are some of the foreign ceramics we found during our survey in Batangas. We found the earliest foreign ceramics in Sitio Balakbakan Site which dates to the late 15th to early 16th centuries (mid-Ming Dynasty) (fig. 27a-b). The type of decoration on IV-2008-Y1-38 is common to those ceramics found in the Calatagan burials (Barretto-Tesoro 2008a, Fox 1959). It is also a type found in Hong Kong, Penny's Bay site on Lantau Island – all the blue-and-white porcelain was attributed to the Jingdezhen kilns in Jiangxi) (identified by Professor Peter Lam, email communication from Mick Atha to Fredeliza Campos, 2009). Figure 27c found in Sitio Balugbug is also dated to the late 15th to early 16th centuries AD (mid-Ming) (also identified by Professor Peter Lam, email communication from Mick Atha to Fredeliza Campos, 2009).

We recovered fragments of bowls from Kweban ng Hapon and Sitio Balakbakan (fig. 28). Stacking rings are present in the interior centre of these bowls. They are known as Miner's bowl and dated to the late 19th to early 20th centuries (Harrison 1995: 87, fig. 100; The Southeast Asian Ceramic Society West Malaysia Chapter 1981: 64, fig. 36; also identified by Professor Peter Lam, email communication from Mick Atha to Fredeliza Campos, 2009).

Many of the porcelain fragments we recovered belong to the late 19th to the early 20th centuries (late Qing) (fig. 29) (identified by Professor Peter Lam, email communication from Mick Atha to Fredeliza Campos, 2009). The designs on Figure 29h could be crab designs (The Southeast Asian Ceramic Society West Malaysia Chapter 1981: 59, fig. 25). Figures 29i and 29j are block-printed designs.

We found a jar fragment in Lobo with paddle-impressed designs (Louise Cort, email communication to Yukie Sato 10 March 2009) and not incised as we first thought (fig. 30a). This dates to the 18th-20th centuries and was probably made in southern China. According to Louise Cort, Curator of Ceramics, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution, it is difficult to say if this was manufactured in Guangdong as migrants would often established kilns in Ratchaburi (Thailand) or Bien



Fig. 26. A fragment of an earthenware vessel pedestal recovered from the Virgin Resort Cave Site (IV-2008-X1-4).

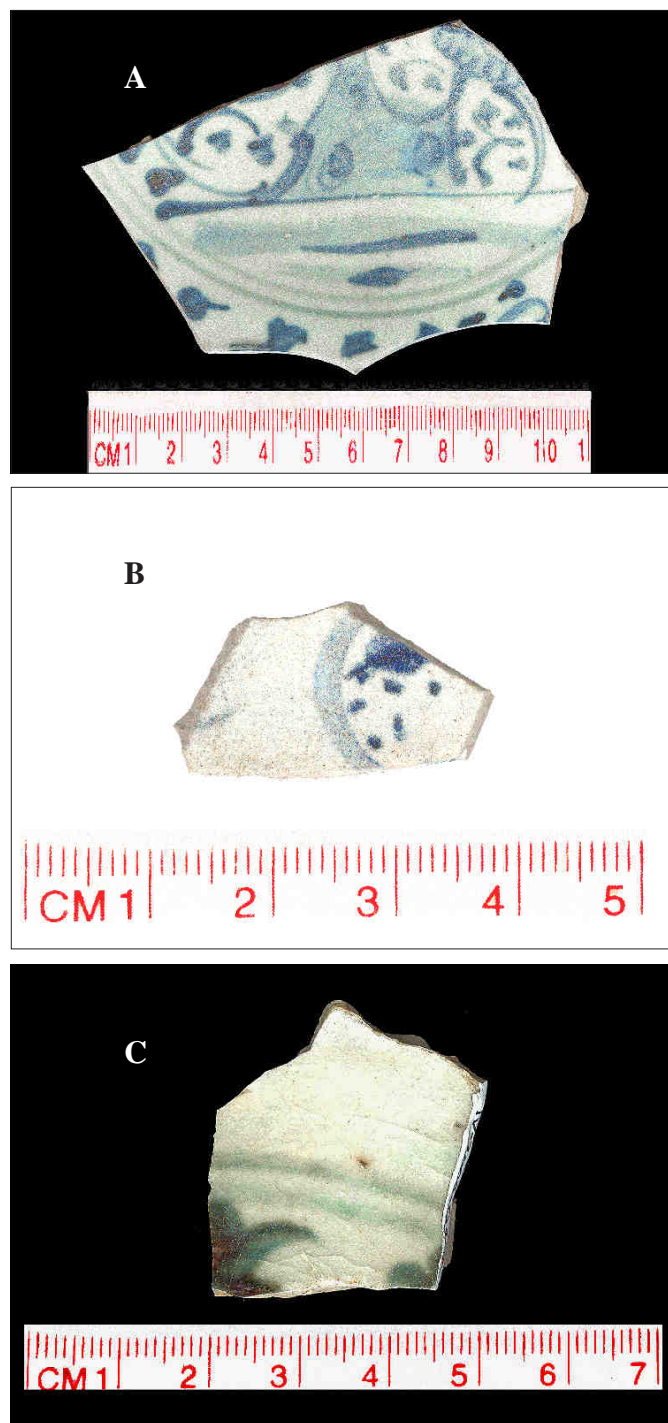


Fig. 27. The earliest porcelain fragments found during the 2008 survey: A. IV-2008-Y1-38; B. IV-2008-Y1-37; C. IV-2008-Q2-5.

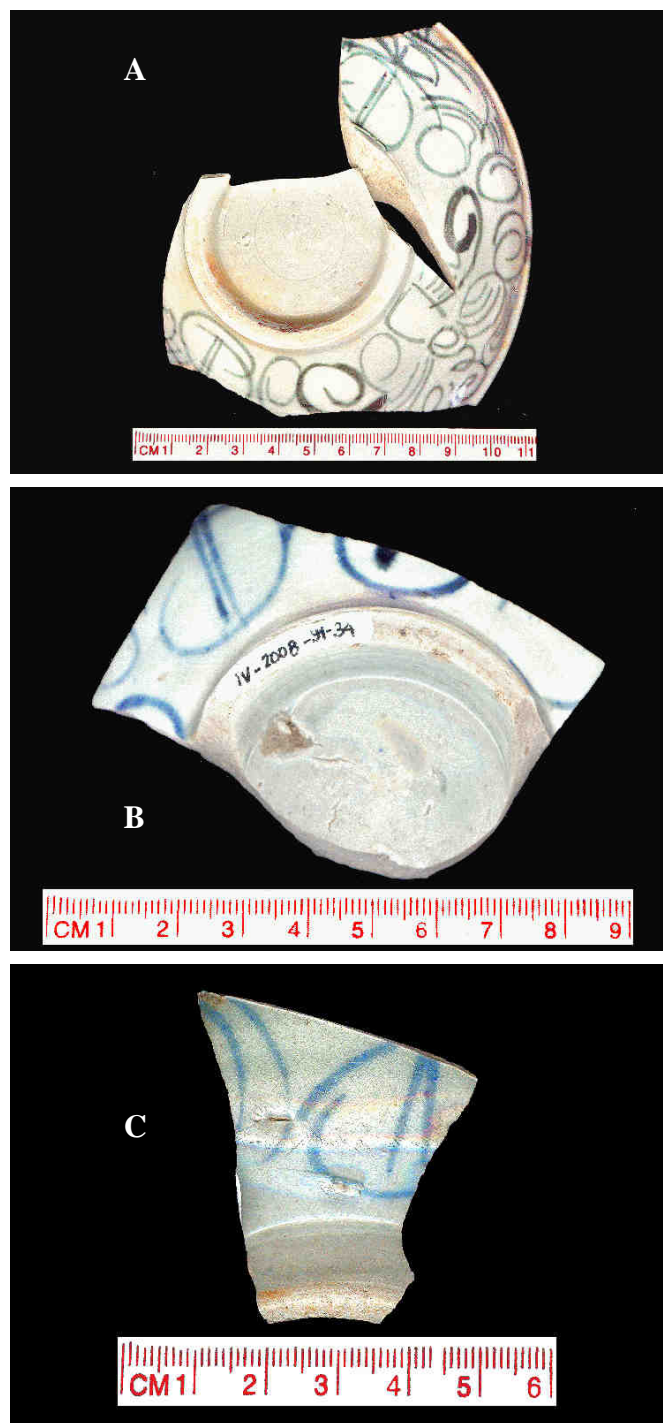


Fig. 28. Bottom of three bowls: IV-2008-K2-5 from Kweba ng Hapon (A), and IV-2008-Y1-34 (B) and IV-2008-Y1-35 (C) from Sitio Balakbakan.

Hoia (Vietnam) (email communication to Yukie Sato, 10 March 2009). Similar jars have been found across South-east Asia (<<http://seasianceramics.asia.si.edu/>>, Catalogue number S2005.53). However, according to David Rehffuss of the Washington Oriental Ceramic Group (email communication to Yukie Sato 8 March 2009), this type of jar is of the 19th or 20th centuries and most probably manufactured in China or Thailand. Similar jars can be found in the national museum in Kuala Lumpur or at the Sarawak Museum in Kuching. We found an intact jar

bearing similar designs in San Juan in one of the residents' house we interviewed (fig. 30b). Yasuo Terada, master Japanese clay and kiln expert agrees that the sherd and this jar are of the same type (Yukie Sato, email communication to Grace Barretto-Tesoro 23 February 2009). Terada thinks that the "white part seen on the (intact) jar at the bottom could be the rice straw ash and pulverised shell which were used in the mould" (Yukie Sato, email communication to Grace Barretto-Tesoro 23 February 2009). It could have been made in Fujian Province.



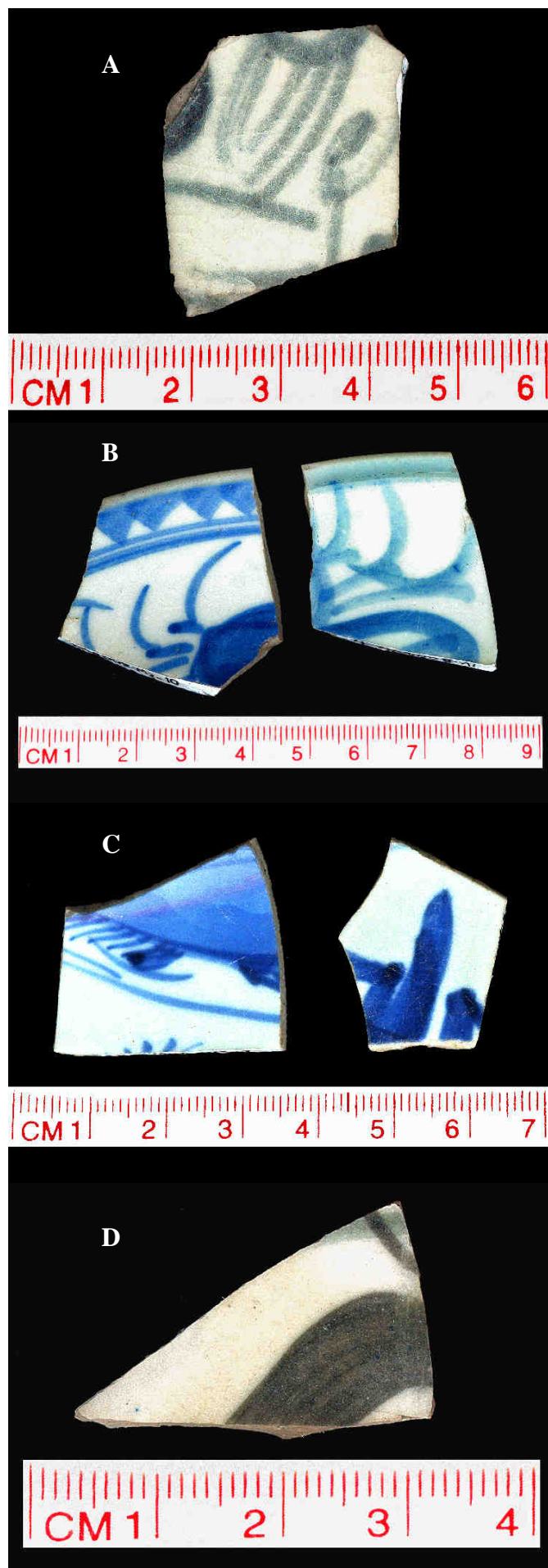
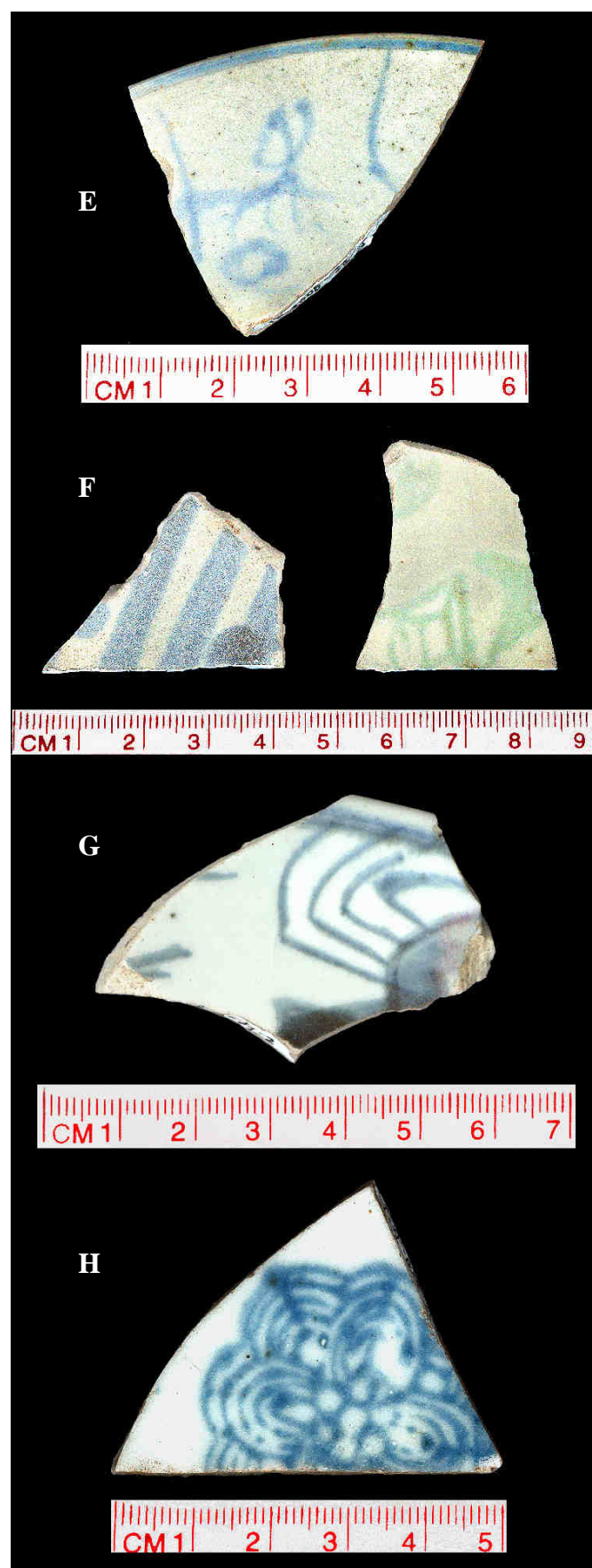


Fig. 29. A. IV-2008-P2-10; B. IV-2008-M2-10, IV-2008-M2-11; C. IV-2008-I2-2, IV-2008-I2-3; D. IV-2008-G2-12; E. IV-2008-I2-5; F. IV-2008-M2-13, IV-2008-M2-14; G. IV-2008-J2-2; H. IV-2008-T1-1.



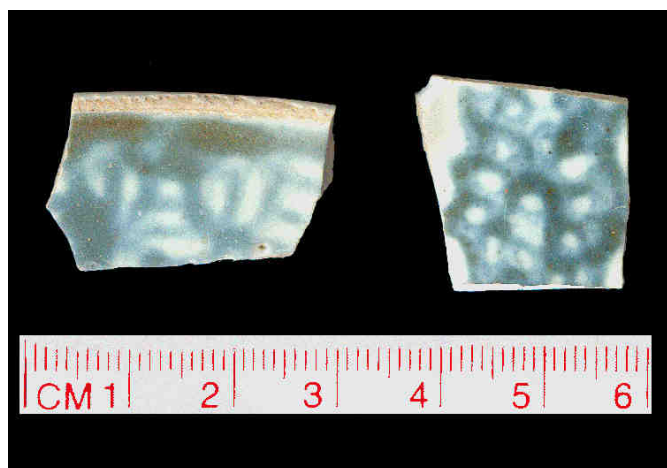


Fig. 29. I. IV-2008-R2-29 (left), J. IV-2008-R2-42 (right).

### Non-pottery finds

From the Virgin Resort Cave Site, we collected two types of shell beads (fig. 31). These beads were associated with pottery in Figure 26. The left bead is a whole shell bead and the one on the right is a cut-shell bead.

Based on the analyses of the decorated pottery sherds, the designs on foreign ceramics, and data from literature, we were able to put relative dates to some of the sites.

## CONTEMPORARY POTTERY

We also visited and interviewed several potters in Palahanan II in San Juan to check if there is a continuity of pottery forms and decorations. Palahanan II is known for its pottery industry. Some women used a combination of wheel and paddle-and-anvil techniques. Women still produce handmade cooking pots whereas men manufacture flowerpots using moulds. They also produce *patukaan*

or chicken feed. Luz Florendo (41 years old) can form 30 large cooking pots or 60 small cooking pots daily (Figure 33). They apply the slip (*hibo*) using a fishnet. Paddles are carved by men using *mulawin* wood (*Vitex parviflora*). The wheel is called *labian* (*labi* = lips) because the mouth is formed using it. The potter places ash on top of the wheel before the clay is placed and formed so that clay will not stick to the wheel. They use rice husk (*ipa*) to cover the earthenware vessels after an hour of firing and the embers die naturally. This produces black-colored pots.

According to the potters that we interviewed, the present clay source is found in the boundary of Barangays Libato and Palahanan. One sack of clay produces 20 pots. They distinguish two types of clay – *mayumi* and *matalas*. One can make a pot just using *mayumi* but not *matalas*. One needs to add *mayumi* to *matalas* everytime so that the pot will not crack during firing. Pots produced using *mayumi* clay is stronger while pots using *matalas* clay produce a *mataginting* sound.

In Obet Obligar's Pottery store, they mechanically knead and mix the clay. They use a mould for flowerpots and fire their wares in a kiln, which usually takes about two to three hours. They get their slip from Mauban, Quezon because San Juan has no known source. They have a different set of terms for the clay perhaps because Mr. Obligar's wife is not a local. She said that they call them *magaspang* (harsh) and *pino* (fine). Similarly, *magaspang* and *pino* clays must be combined to make a pot otherwise just using *magaspang* will produce cracked pots during firing. Since they have moulds for their flower pots, they can make 350-400 large pots and 500 small flower pots daily. We also observed several *tapayans* or stoneware jars around San Juan still being used as water containers.

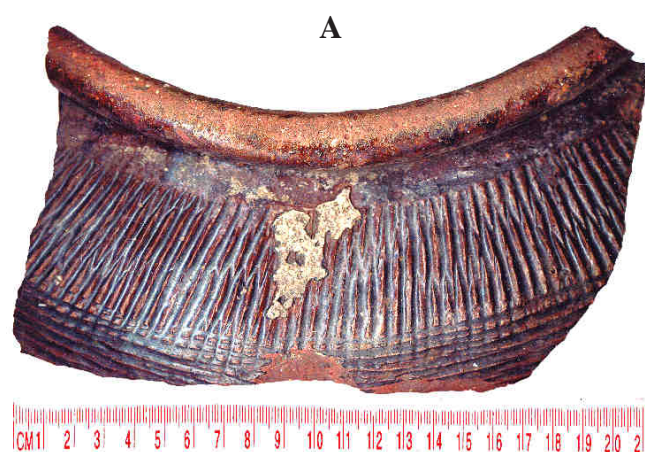


Fig. 30. A. A fragment of a stoneware (IV-2008-V1-9) recovered from Lobo, Batangas; B. An intact jar showing similar designs around the neck found in San Juan, Batangas (owned by Alice Sayo).





Fig. 31. Shell beads recovered from the Virgin Resort Cave Site.

## DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATIONS

One of the long-term objectives of the project in Batangas is to explore the use of the sun and bird symbols in

burials. When we showed some of the locals the Calubcub Segundo publication (Salcedo 1979), they said that some of the pots were similar to those found in San Isidro, Quezon. One interesting thing that came out of our interview with the locals is the term “sinag-araw” or sun-rays. They referred to some of the pots in the Calubcub Segundo publication as “sinag-araw”. This is significant as some of the decorations on some earthenware vessels and foreign ceramics in Calatagan were described as having solar patterns (Barretto-Tesoro 2008a). We have also observed the presence of solar patterns and similar symbols in some of the houses in the towns we visited including the gates leading to the Provincial Capitol. During our free time, the team would go around the barangays to photograph houses exhibiting such decorations.

The earliest time period we have recorded based on the artefacts collected is the Late Metal Age (AD 100–400). Metal Age finds were collected in Sitio Ilaya (Bataan) Sabas Anyayahan Site, Sitio Puntor (Subukin), and

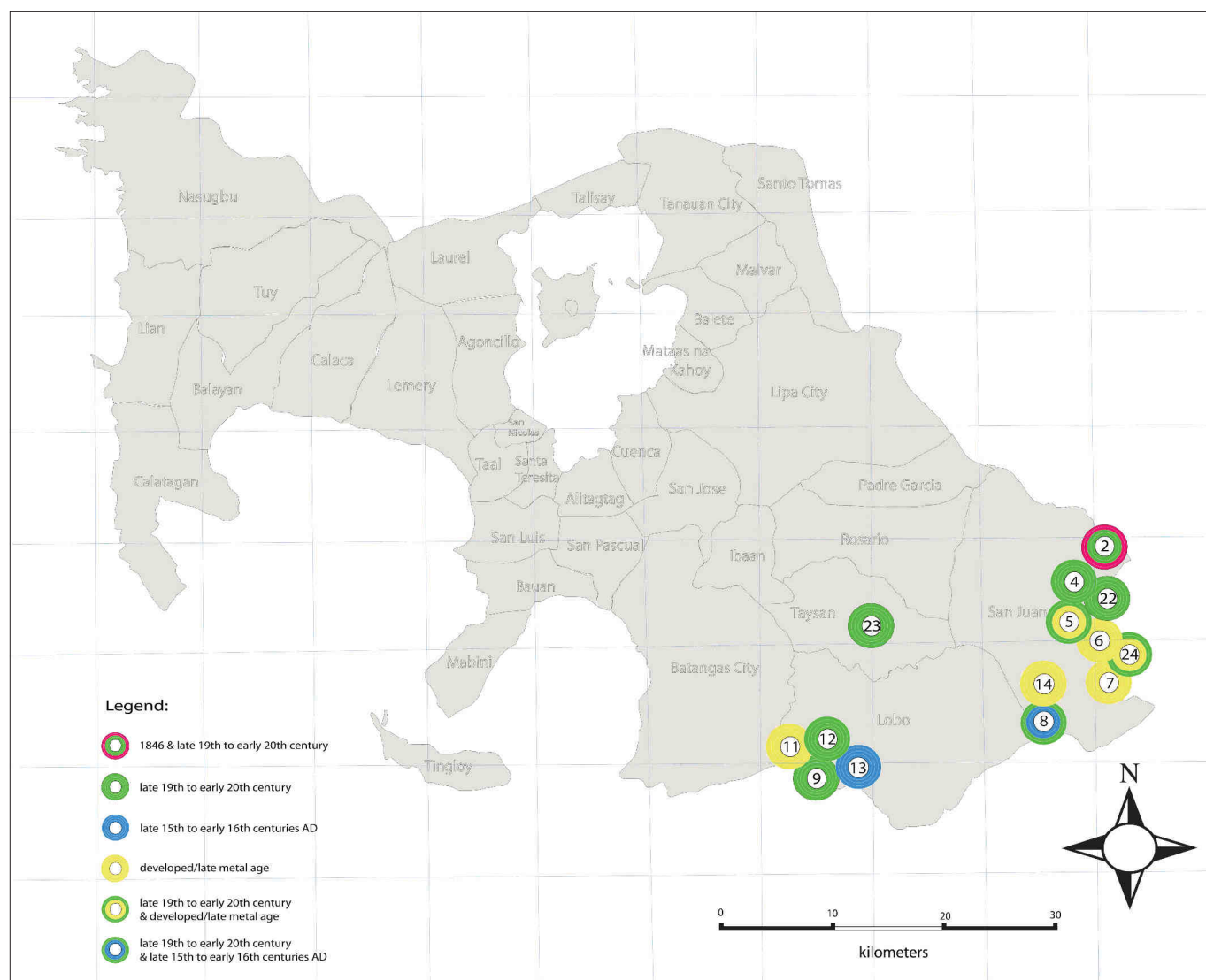


Fig. 32. The numbers refer to the same site indicated in Figure 20. Legend: green – late 19th to early 20th century; blue – late 15th to 16th centuries; yellow – developed/late metal age (ca. 400 AD); pink – 1846 (establishment of old town of San Juan, Batangas).



Fig. 33. Luz Florendo, a potter from Palahanan II, San Juan, forming a pot (A. Tesoro).

Virgin Resort. Sitio Puntor (Calubcub I) and Calubcub II yielded finds that belong to the Late Metal Age and 15th century period. Sitio Balugbug (Sawang) and Sitio Balakbakan contained materials from the late 15th to early 16th centuries AD. Sitio Balakbakan also had materials belonging to the late 19th to early 20th centuries. Other sites dated to the late 19th to early 20th centuries are Kweba ng Hapon, Lumang Simbahan ng San Juan, Calumpang Site (Fabrica), Sitio Centro Site (Abung), Arsenio Lopez, Jr. Site, Oscar Araja Site, Sitio Puntor Site (Calubcub I), and Sitio Punto (Subukin). The date of the ceramic recovered from the vicinity of the Lumang Simbahan of San Juan coincides with the establishment of the town in the late 19th century.

As shown in Figure 32, some sites are multiphase sites. Based on the available data, the early sites are found along the coast of southeastern Batangas, specifically in San Juan and Lobo. Future excavations in these areas and surveys in inland barangays of San Juan might generate new dates in this region.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2008 survey focused on coastal barangays in San Juan, which yielded many potential sites. Due to time constraints, thorough surveys of the other municipalities were not undertaken. We only visited one barangay in Taysan; and we did not survey Rosario because the locals directed us to Padre Garcia. In Padre Garcia, we only surveyed the centre poblacion. Due to its distance from San Juan, we only visited a few coastal barangays in Lobo.

Local reports in the barangays along the Malaking River (fig. 2) suggested that artefacts were found across the river in Quezon Province, and near the Pinagsibaan River in the town of Rosario (Batangas). According to one

San Juan Municipal official, more than 3000 artefacts were recovered from unsystematic excavations in Barangay San Isidro in Candelaria, Quezon in the early 1980s. Unfortunately, they sold the artefacts in Ermita, Manila. Some locals reported that they found porcelain sherds when they tilled their land or after heavy rains. A team must conduct a survey in Sitio Pulyok, Barangay San Isidro, Candelaria, Quezon, particularly along Malaking River because this has been identified by many of the informants in Tipas, San Juan, Batangas, as a place where many antiques were found.

Due to resort developments along the coast of San Juan, it is urgently recommended that rescue investigations be conducted because of the reported finds and our observations (Barretto-Tesoro 2008b).

A more thorough survey of Hilerang Kawayan in Barangay Pinagbayanan in Taysan should also be conducted. Though we did not find any artefacts probably due to its high elevation, which could have been prone to erosion, the place name suggests that it is the old town. Results of previous explorations and excavations of old towns generated many sites and artefacts (Barretto-Tesoro 2008b, Paz 2003, Tenazas 1968). We must obtain a copy of the report of Bailen regarding his excavations in Padre Garcia and conduct further surveys in this town. The area on top of the Kweba ng Hapon and areas downstream should also be surveyed for the presence of other possible sites.

The areas adjacent to the covered court in Masaguitsit Elementary School in Lobo must be test excavated to check for the presence of other artefacts. Investigation should also be conducted on the terraces found in the Maranan Property through test excavations. Father Tom Villafranca, the town priest, also mentioned that ruins of a convent can also be found in Looc, Nasugbu, Batangas. This should also be further explored.

We also recommend further exploration of Sitio Calbasahan, Biga and Barangay Soloc. We did not realise that sites could be present on top of hills in Lobo since we were concentrating our efforts on lowland coastal areas. However, the results of our survey in Lobo revealed otherwise. The presence of two sites on high flat areas in Lobo calls for a thorough exploration of similar locales in the municipality. We should also explore areas mentioned by informants next field season. A separate team from the Archaeological Studies Program is conducting research activities in Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon (Paz *et al.* 2008, Ragragio 2008). We have already informed them of Arsenio Capili's report.

Finally, the fabric of the earthenware sherds we collected must be compared with the pots manufactured in Palahanan II to check if similar sources of clay and manufacturing techniques exist.



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