
THE SOLHEIM FOUNDATION BULLETIN

A Publication of the Wilhelm G. Solheim II Foundation for Philippine Archaeology

A Message from the President

Dear Members,

Welcome to a new and fresh start for the Solheim Foundation!

This year, we'll be looking back just to assess how far we've gone as well as making plans for the rest of the year. Stay with us. We aim to keep you updated as well as informed about the subject dearest to our heart, **archaeology** and why we think that in this day and age, when events seem to be moving so fast, we persist. Perhaps that's because we are convinced we have not turned into an anachronism.

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of the past. It is only one of three other

branches of anthropology that includes Cultural and Social Anthropology as well as Linguistics. To put it simply, the focus of Archaeology is the scientific study of man through his material remains.

Early man first ventured out of his cave in search for food. Nearby were trees heavy with fruit. It was enough at first to feed his family. But the children were growing fast; meat was needed to fill up their tummies.

With a homemade weapon, early man went further afield. Here and there were small animals scampering about. It was easy enough to bring



rabbit home for dinner, and to roast it in a spit over charcoal (if the rabbit was young enough, it would be tender, a little tough if it was older). Even without salt, it was enough to make a hearty meal for Papa, Mama, brother and sister. Baby was still suckling at mother's breast, its main sustenance but it could already eat some solids, if you flaked or diced it first. Ah, there you have it, the first tools and implements of early man. Was it made out of stone, of jade, even? Who knows? If it worked, well then, it served its purpose.

It goes without saying that there must have been a source of water somewhere: a stream with sparkling water, a flowing river, or maybe he dug a well. (yeah, early man was resourceful!)

When his wife learned to make a pot, it became so much easier. Yeah, they say the first potters were women, except of course, if what you needed to make was a bigger jar, then you would need someone stronger to do the lifting, the carrying, transporting, etc. (Sources of clay were not always easy to come by.) With a pot, *sasalok ka na lang, iigib, o di kaya'y maghihintay ng ulan*. Glorious rain! Do you wonder that they danced, recited chants, and made offerings to the gods if you needed rain? Precipitation will fill up your jar, enough for the entire family to drink, cook with, and hopefully to clean up with. It was more fun to bathe in the stream. Ah, life was simple then.

To go back to our subject matter: Why do we study archaeology? Because it's interesting! Dig? Sifting through the debris of ages, finding the littlest bead, is a glorious experience. Because it will unfailingly, without

the slightest doubt, eventually tell us what the ancestor must have been like. To our surprise, we might find out he wasn't really too different from you and me.

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

Brown Bag Sessions

The Brown Bag Sessions is a series of Talks or Workshops on subjects related to Archaeology, Anthropology, Culture, Artifacts, etc. held every Thursday, around lunchtime at the UP Archaeological Studies Program at the Palma Hall Basement, University of the Philippines, Diliman. It is sponsored by the UP ASP and the W.G. Solheim Foundation for Philippine

Archaeology Inc. You may bring any specimen for discussion. If you know something about it, tell us. If you don't, maybe we can tell you.

Anyone at all with something interesting to share can be a speaker, or participate, or just listen. But no filibustering allowed! We can eat, discuss, even laugh and enjoy, but we must not, should not disrupt the sessions.

We aim to learn, inform, and spread only correct information. It takes a while to be able to do that. But in time, we sort of get the hang of it. Archaeologists (who would really prefer to spend most of their time digging), need others to further analyze that little bead they dug up.



Binalot Session with Dr. Harold Conklin

Sometimes, even amateurs, with the right attitude of course, can have something interesting to contribute.

Rule on Library Materials and Books

The ASP maintains a library, the core of which, some 4000 volumes, was donated by Dr. Bill Solheim, Prehistorian, Archaeologist, and former Editor of *Asian Perspectives*, a publication of the Anthropology Division of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. We would like to dedicate this library to the memory of his late wife Ludy Montenegro Solheim, a Filipina, upon whose initiative (constant nagging?) prompted Bill to bring the books to UP.

As much as an entire chapter may be photocopied from a book or journal from the Library. In order to properly maintain the

Library a minimal fee for photocopying plus service charge will be asked from non-UP ASP students. Please handle all our materials with utmost care, we aim to preserve them for the use of future generations of students as well as the Filipino public, who like us, is interested in learning.

Membership dues are due at the beginning of the year. Please refer to the website and let us know the category of membership you would like to join. If you can afford Php 500.00, then please be a "Sustaining member."

As I had explained in the letters to members (see "message link" at website), we inadvertently overcharged those who attended the 2005 Annual General Meeting. Therefore, you may either donate the extra Php 500.00 you paid

for, or if you prefer, it may be applied to your 2006 dues. Please call Pam Faylona, Foundation Board Secretary, or Lee Neri, Board Treasurer at the UP-ASP (telephone number 9241836). At the mid-year, we will send out Statements of Accounts to collect dues from members. At that time, you may also indicate the type of member you would like to be. We need your support! Join us.

To overseas members, donations are welcome. Instead of cash, we are also interested in publications you might like to donate to our library. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Cynthia O. Valdes
President (2005-2006)
W.G. Solheim Foundation for
Philippine Archaeology, Inc.

Archaeological Community Christmas Party 2005



Dr. Solheim at the Festive Headgear-themed party

The Philippine archaeological community held its Christmas Party last December 16, 2005, at the Paz Residence in the UP-Diliman campus.

Archaeologists and friends from the UP-Archaeological Studies Program, the National Museum, and the Solheim Foundation gathered in the evening for dinner and drinks. The guests, in keeping with the party theme "Festive Headgear," arrived wearing a variety of hats, helmets and elaborate headdresses. Many opted for indigenous Filipino headgear, while others displayed their creativity by wearing their own creations. ©

SOLHEIM FOUNDATION UPDATES

First Meet of the Wilhelm G. Solheim II Foundation Board for 2006

The first Solheim Foundation Board Meeting for the year 2006 was held last January 31 at the Archaeological Studies Program – University of the Philippines, Diliman. It was attended by all the members of the Solheim Foundation Executive Committee, with the exception of the President Cynthia O. Valdes, who was not able to attend due to health reasons.

A highlight of the Board Meet was the addition of two new Board members, namely, Mr. Danny Galang and Ms. Mary Garlicki, who were also both present at the meeting. This was necessitated by a review of the Foundation's Articles and By-Laws, which prescribed a total number of nine members of the Board. The Board previously only had seven members.

The Board also decided to set their following Quarterly Meetings for every second Tuesday of June, August and October, for the rest of the year. The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, on the other hand, is scheduled on November 19, 2006. This date also coincides with Wilhelm Solheim's birthday celebration.

Among the other matters discussed were the Foundation's involvement in the Jade lecture at the Ayala Museum. It was also resolved that the Foundation would shoulder the cost of buying solar panels for the next excavation season at the Ille Rockshelter in El Nido, Palawan. ©

THE JADE TRAIL

A lecture on Jade and Jade-like Artifacts in Philippine Collections will be held at the Ayala Museum on March 18, 2006. Dr. Peter Bellwood of the Australian National University is the main speaker. His talk is entitled "The Jade Trail: Amazing New Discoveries from the Batanes Islands, Northern Philippines." Solheim Foundation president Mrs. Cynthia O. Valdes will also talk about jade and jade-like artifacts found in the Philippines.

The 18th IPPA Congress is in Manila

The 18th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association will be held in Manila this March 20-26, 2006. Delegates from around the world will be coming to exchange ideas and discuss the region's prehistory and heritage. For more information, contact the ASP at 9241836.

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