

A Brief Description

Ongoing Researches of the Philippine National Museum

The National Museum of the Philippines through its Anthropology Division actively engages in anthropological researches in several parts of the country. These include both archaeological and ethnological studies. Aside from research activities, the Division also conducts support activities like preservation and conservation work and educational programmes to inform the public of its cultural heritage.

Researches in Archaeology

The archaeological projects currently being undertaken are as follows:

1. Early Man Project in Cagayan Valley

Researches are conducted in open and cave sites. The open-site research consists of pleistocene geological studies to determine the character and distribution of the Awidon Mesa formation and archaeological excavations at the Cortez Site, Calama-niugan, Cagayan Province.

Excavations also continue at the various cave sites at the Penablanca limestone formation. Lattuc-lattuc and Callao caves are two of the caves explored.

2. Agusan Valley Archaeological Project

Two sites have been excavated — the habitation site of Upper Caasinan, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte (a Song site) and the Ma-ug site at Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur (a Paleolithic and Neolithic site). A thorough exploration of the area is planned.

3. La Union Archaeological Project

This is part of the archaeological exploration being undertaken in the Western flank of the Cordillera Mountain Range and the Ilocos Region in general. Twelve



1. *The Minori Cave in Penablanca, Cagayan has been the object of archaeological work for some time now.*

2. *Mapping is conducted with the aid of modern surveying equipment.*

graves with porcelain, stoneware and earthenware sherds have been discovered.

4. Intramuros Archaeology and Restoration

The National Museum provides support and assistance to this project through excavations of key areas and determination of the historical value of some structures. It conducts laboratory work to ascertain the kinds of stones to be used as replacement for the destroyed portions of the wall.

5. Survey and Census of the Kabayan Mummy Caves

Three burial rockshelters in Kabayan, Benguet were surveyed. The investigation revealed that the following activities have to be undertaken: conservation of



the mummies, improvement of the rockshelter approaches and posting of guards in the area.



Anthropologists of the National Museum in consultation as they go about mapping the cave.

6. Palawan Archaeological Project

This involves excavation of key cave sites in Quezon, Palawan and the re-excavation of the Guri Cave, a post-pleistocene habitation site. The activities have shown that the findings of the first and second excavations have to be re-analyzed and collated before some conclusions can be made.

The activity is part of the training programme in pre-history that the National Museum is undertaking with SPAFA.

7. Salvage Archaeology at Abra

A burial site in San Quintin Abra which dates back to the Song period was disturbed by pot hunters. It is now being systematically studied to determine the early burial practices of the people in that area.

Ethnographic Studies

The studies in ethnology are as follows:

1. Ethnographic Survey and Photographic Documentation of the Ilocos Coast and its Ethnic Population

An ethnographic profile of the Ilocos Coast and its ethnic inhabitants — Ilocano, Bago, Kankana-ey, Ibaloy and Tingian — will result from the study. This consists of photographic documentation, collection of representative ethnological specimens and research on subsistence and economic-related activities of the people.

2. Negrito Study

The bandsize, population distribution, subsistence patterns and other cultural activities of the Ata Negrito, a hunting and gathering tribe in the Cagayan Valley, are the subjects of this study. It also includes collection of ethnological specimens.

3. Okir Project

The Philippine ethnic arts and crafts are the research topics of a joint project of the National Museum and the Design Center of the Philippines. It aims to study the ethnographic art traditions of the country and to insure their preservation through adaption/application in contemporary arts and crafts.



These two scenes taken at different angles show the diggings being done in Chamber D of the cave.