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Master's Thesis

AUTHOR	De la Torre, Amalia A.
TITLE	The secondary burial in pottery vessels at Ulilang Bundok site in Calatagan, Batangas: a case study
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ABSTRACT	<p>This is a case study of the secondary burial or re-interment of bones and teeth in earthenware vessels or pots observed and systematically unearthed from archaeological excavation at Ulilang Bundok in Sitio Dayap, Barangay Tanagan in the Municipality of Calatagan, Batangas Province in 1995 to 1997. The main problem of the study was what is secondary burial in earthenware vessels? The location, the position of the burial vessels in situ, the depth of the deposition, and the distribution of the burial vessels were studied. The condition of the skeletal remains was so fragmented that age and sex of the dead cannot be ascertained.</p> <p>The second problem was how do the pottery burial vessels look like? The typological, stylistic, and technological attributes were looked into. The form or shape, size, color, surface texture, paste, and the manufacturing technique were analyzed. Based on the reconstructed pottery vessel, this has an ovaloid ("egg-like") shape, with an approximate height (from neck to the base) of 58 cm.</p> <p>The assemblage of grave goods was sorted, identified and counted as to number of pieces per artifact types per burial vessels. Some of the materials found associated with the human bones and teeth inside the pots were: shells both bivalve and</p>

	<p>univalve, earthenware sherds both plain and decorated, beads made of glass, shells, nephrite, and other, obsidian flakes and chips, chert flakes, nephrite stone adzes, and others. The shells were both from a brackish and marine habitat.</p> <p>One sample of the nephrite stone adze was analyzed by using Oxygen Isotope X-Ray Diffraction at the Geology Laboratory of the National Taiwan University and was a subject of a Masteral Thesis of Hsiao-Chun Hung. She confirmed that this nephrite or white adzes from Batangas belonged to Tremolite.</p> <p>Samples were sent for radiocarbon dating, and the date for the Ulilang Bundok Site was 870 +/-40 BCE, or ranged from 830 BCE to 910 BCE. This falls within the Late Neolithic to the Metal Age Periods in Philippine Chronology. To date, this is the oldest well dated archaeological site for the Batangas area. During this time, the people practiced multiple re-interment of bones or secondary burial in earthenware vessels.</p>
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