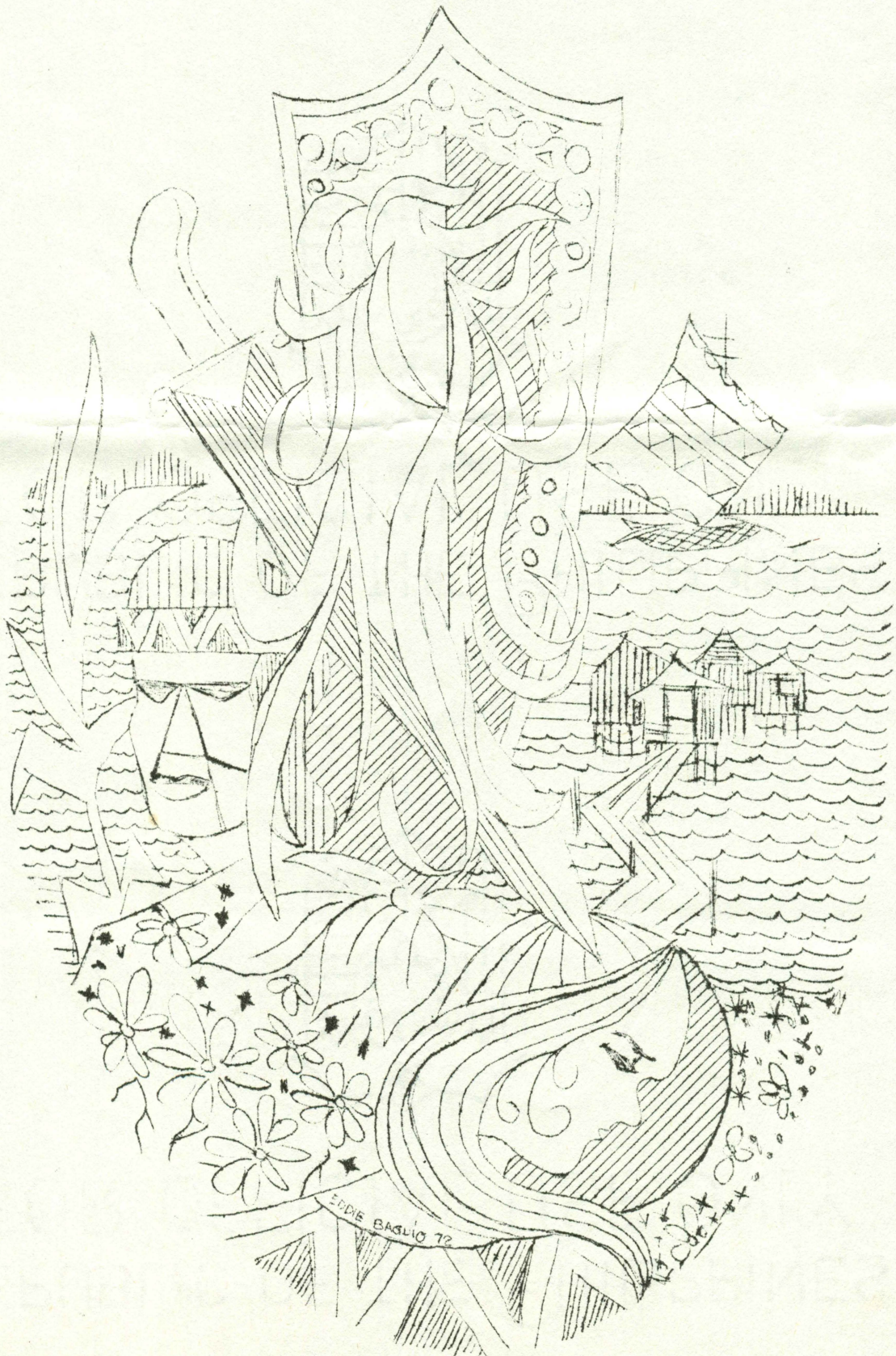


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# SARSILA

THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SULU  
NEWSLETTER

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## SEMINAR ON MINDANAO & SULU CULTURES SLATED HERE

A seminar on Mindanao and Sulu cultures with focus on Sulu will be held in Jolo on Aug. 17-19 under the sponsorship of the Silliman University, Southeast Asian Studies Program, the Dansalan College, the Coordinated Investigation of Sulu Culture in coordination with the Sulu Cultural Historical Society.

The seminar is expected to gather scholars from the Philippines and abroad who have done research work on Sulu and those who have developed a great interest in the various ethnic groups in the area, with the intention of exchanging their findings and ideas with their local counterparts.

The non-Sulu researchers will be headed by Dr. Eric Casino, head of the anthropology division of the National Museum. He did a fieldwork among the Jama Mapun of Cagayan de Sulu and Southern Palawan for about two years.

Expected from the Mindanao State University are Dr. Mamitua Saber, sociologist who will present a slide show on the ukkil art; Dr. Juan Francisco, anthropologist and historiographer; and Prof. Datumanong Saranguani.

Those coming from other areas in Mindanao are Prof. Muhammad Kurais II, and Prof. Fred Tiamzon.

From Silliman University, Dr. Luz Ausejo, Miss Beris Groyne and Dr. Hubert Reynolds will come to meet one of their former colleagues, Dr. Peter Gowing, who is now based in Singapore.

The United States contingent will include Dr. W. Geogheagan, an anthropologist from Berkeley; Dr. Thomas Kiefer, and anthropologist now with Brown University who did his two-year fieldwork in Luuk and Bunbun, Patikul. Kiefer will present a paper on Tausug during the seminar.

Also slated to come from Australia is British historian Dr. Fry, an authority on the British Country Trade in Southeast Asia and head of the Philippine Studies Program of James Cook University in Townsville, Australia.

The first session starts at the Capitol Building on Aug. 17, 2:00 P. M., with Gov. Murphy Sangkula giving the opening address.

The opening program will be followed by four sessions on Tausug culture, Samalan cultures, Sulu history and the ukkil art. A guided tour of the various historical and archeological sites in the Jolo mainland is being planned.

A dinner will be hosted by the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society at the residence of Mrs. Oswalda Cabel. This will be followed by a cultural presentation to entertain the guests and the general public. Samples of native dances and music will be presented.

The seminar will end Saturday noon at the social hall of the Notre Dame of Jolo College.

All the colleges are invited to send representatives from their respective social science departments.

The decision to hold the seminar in Jolo was arrived at during the fourth seminar held in Cotabato City sometime last year.

The sponsors, for the past five years, had conducted a series of seminars on the various cultures of Mindanao and Sulu. The past four seminars were held in Marawi City and Cotabato City.

### SEMINAR SKED

The schedule of the seminar on Mindanao and Sulu cultures is as follows:

Thursday, Aug. 17: Registration at the Notre Dame of Jolo College social hall, 1 p.m.; opening session at the Provincial Capitol Building, 2 p.m.;

opening remarks by Fr. Gerard Rixhon, OMI, 2:15 p.m.; invocation; welcome address by Gov. Murphy Sangkula; first session on the Samalan-speaking peoples at the Capitol building.

Topic to be discussed by Dr. Eric Casino, Chief of the National Museum division of anthropology, is "The Jama Mapun of Cagayan de Sulu and Southern Palawan.

Mrs. Santanina T. Rasul will be the moderator during the first session. Those who will compose the board of panelists are Dr. William Geoghegan, Prof. Muhammad Kurais, Hadji Hussein Uc-Kung, Fr. Peter B. Nami and Fr. Jose Arong.

This will be followed by a dinner at the social hall to be tendered by the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society and later the presentation of Tausug and Samal songs and dances.

Friday, Aug. 18: From 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Dr. Thomas Kiefer of the Brown University will speak on the Tausug of Sulu at the NDJC social hall. Moderator will be Dr. Juanito Bruno while Yusop Tan, Samuy Tindick, Jawali Ladja, Fr. Rixhon and Thomas Lechner will be the panelists.

After the morning session, lunch will follow at the NDJC canteen.

In the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30, an organized tour of historical and anthropological sites in Jolo and the surrounding areas like Maubo, Bud Datu and Indanan will be conducted.

at 5 p.m., Princess Tarhata Kiram will tender a merienda at her residence in Maubo.

Dinner will be served at the social hall at 6:30 p.m., after which the third session follows wherein a slide show will be shown by Dr. Mamitua Saber, MSU Agha Khan Museum director. The ukkil art will be discussed during the third session.

Mrs. Oswalda Cabel will be the moderator. Panelists will include Dr. Casino, Prof. Palong-palong and Datu Pangilan.

Aug. 19: The fourth and last session, which starts at 8:30 a.m., will revolve around the history of Sulu. Prof. Alfredo T. Tiamson will speak on the notes on the historiography of Sulu. In this session, Yusop Tan will serve as moderator while Atty. Jainal Rasul, Dr. Juan Francisco, Dr. Howard Fry, Dr. Peter Gowing, Mrs. Noralyn Young, Miss Lynette Yu will be the panelists.

At 11:00 a.m., Princess Tarhata will give the closing remarks.

#### THE BIRTH OF THE SCHS

The idea of organizing the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society (SCHS) was conceived in August 1971 and with local concerned citizens who made up the Charter members, namely: Hon. Salih Ututalum, Mr. Yusop Tan, Princess Tarhata Kiram, Fr. Gerard Rixhon, Hadji Hussein Uc-Kung, Atty. Aurora P. Navarrete-Reciña, Hon. Sheik Hasan Bagis, Dr. Felipa Abubakar, Fiscal Jainal Rasul, Dr. Javier Rasul, Mrs. Leonor Rasul, Mrs. Santanina Rasul, Miss Geraldine Valbuena, Hadji Jayari Hawari, Mrs. Oswalda Cabel and Judge Eugenio Suarez, the Society was officially inaugurated on December 4, 1971.

Dr. Alunan Glang was the guest speaker at the first induction program of the society with Provincial Fiscal Martin A. Paulate as the inducting officer.

The directors of the society are Yusop Tan, who was elected chairman, Fr. Gerard Rixhon, vice-chairman, Oswalda Cabel, secretary, Atty. A. P. Navarrete-Reciña, treasurer, Jawali Ladja, auditor, Hadji Jayari Hawari, Princess Tarhata, Fiscal Jainal Rasul, Judge Eugenio Suarez, Hon. Salih Ututalum and Dr. Javier Rasul.

The present membership of the society other than its chartered members and Board of Directors are: Dr. Juanito Bruno, Dr. Miguel Cuevas, Lu Yong Beng,

Lily Cid, Dr. Basil Jajurie, Mr. Sattal Jajurie, Hadji Badria Jajurie, Misses Rahiema, Hannah and Junaida Bagis, Hussin Sahidjuan, Dr. Jose Llenado, Dr. Benjamin Obsequio, Fiscal Jose T. Piñon, Dr. Rolando Chio, Mr. Asclepiades Valbuena II, Provincial Fiscal Martin A. Paulate, Noralyn M. Young, Atty. Abraham Rasul and Mrs. Alma Stewart Rasul and Amirbahar Aluk.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Sulu Cultural-Historical Society was organized for the purpose of uniting all persons interested in the culture and history of Sulu and primarily, to accomplish the following objectives.

1. To promote understanding and appreciation of the Culture and History of the people of Sulu;
2. To establish and maintain a library-Museum which shall serve as the repository of all relics, artifacts, memorabilia, literary and other works, reflecting the history and culture of Sulu;
3. To identify, mark, improve and secure appropriate recognition from proper government authorities ancient culture-historical landmarks, places, objects, tools, and implements, good customs and usages most expressive, that can serve not only as tourists' attraction but can also preserve, pure and undefiled, through a succession of ages and transmit unimpaired, the most excellent heritage of Sulu institutions;
4. To encourage, recognize and promote researches, studies, investigations on the history and culture of the people of Sulu, with the end in view of delineating or identifying the role of Sulu, in the Struggle of the Filipino people for national consciousness, to eliminate popular beliefs and inaccuracies;
5. To gather, collect or collate all materials such as articles, periodicals, books, pamphlets, lectures, addresses, dissertations, or any copyrightable works that have bearing in the culture and history of Sulu and make these available to members and non-members interested in the history and culture of Sulu;
6. To publish works of members on the culture and history of Sulu in order to give proper incentive to others in the future, similarly situated, as the Board of Directors may deem fit;
7. To study, identify and recommend cultural and historical places in Sulu that need archeological exploration or excavation in order to help enrich genuine Philippine culture and history;
8. To contact or approach other Cultural or Historical Associations, Foundations, colleges or universities in the Philippines or elsewhere for coordination and financial help to assist members of this Association in their researches, studies, investigations, publications of their works and study-tours abroad, that will ultimately redound directly or indirectly to the benefit of the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society or/and its members;
9. To encourage the establishment or organization of Cultural-Historical clubs in all high schools and higher institutions of learning in Sulu and to guide and develop young students along the lines of our general objectives and its plan of operation shall be the lease or ownership of suitable Clubhouse for presentation of historical, literary and social programs not only for public entertainments but also as a means to develop genuine interest and respect in the History and culture of the people of Sulu;
10. To empower the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society to perform any other duties or work or to secure cooperation from local or national government, or any financial help necessary to accomplish its general objectives, ever remembering that this association shall be truly non-partisan, non-sectional, non-sectarian and non-profit.

The Society had for its first activity a Cultural-Musical Concert, which it jointly sponsored with the local Evangelical Church, presenting the Good

Shepherd's Fold Chorale and String Ensemble featuring talented children, who are complete orphans.

At the moment the SCHS is busy working on the identification, restoration, beautification and preservation of the Historical and Cultural relics in this province.

It has successfully caused the eviction of the squatters along a portion of the walled city fronting the Boy Scouts Reservation, built a friendly fence around it, painted white, and now for the first time in Sulu's history stands a marker which reads:

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL:

From whatever angle it is viewed, the historic grandeur of MORO fearlessness in battle and firm determination to resist foreign aggression, which this SPANISH WALLED FORTRESS silently lend to the Great Citadel of ISLAM in the Philippines never diminishes. Known for decades by the name of Jolo, this ancient city, popularly called Lupa Sug, (the land of the current) may be aptly considered the First City in the Philippines.

This brick wall was constructed upon order of Spanish Governor General Jose Malcampo in 1876 during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Ahlam, Sultan of Sulu, to protect Spanish troops. It ESPECIALLY STANDS as the undying monument showing to the victorious progress of the Filipino Nation, the magnificent spectacle of Sulu Muslims' heroic defense of our nativeland, unpararelled in the history of colonization. Thus, this monument is preserved as a grim reminder of a glorious past.

#### MESSAGE FROM YUSOP TAN, SCHS PRESIDENT

"This maiden issue of the SARSILA, by its very existence, is a historical event. It marks the first attempt of a cultural and historical organization, which is also the first and only one of its kind in the province, to put out a paper that will record its activities and opinions for public appraisal. The SARSILA will be the vehicle by which the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society can project to the community its aims and purposes, update the public on its projects and activities and express its opinions on matters relevant to Sulu Culture and History.

For the first time in Sulu, an organization has been created for the express purpose of promoting and preserving Sulu's cultural and historical heritage. Among its primary projects, the Society proposes to write a new history of Sulu. It is presently conducting researches for this purpose. The society is also engaged in locating and preserving historical landmarks to promote cultural and historical awareness among the people, as well as to attract visitors to Sulu.

With this first issue of the SARSILA, the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to all those who have extended to us their kind help, material or otherwise. We hope we can continue to count on their cooperation and encouragement, without which the Society may not be able to realize its aims."

#### PURPOSE OF THE SARSILA

To acquaint the membership and the people interested in the Culture and History of Sulu with the activities of the Society and its members and the recent researches on Sulu published in the Philippines and abroad.

ON GOING RESEARCHES ON SULU

A number of local residents of this community who are members of the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society are undertaking researches relative to the history and other pertinent facts about this beautiful scenic province. When asked to comment on their work, they very readily advanced the herein quoted statements:

The Rev. Gerard Rixhon, C.M.I. of the Notre Dame of Jolo College on the coordinated investigation of Sulu Culture says:

"Sulu Studies 1 was no sooner out of the press that as planned, work started on the second issue. Hopefully it should be out by April 1973.

The research on the Sulu folk literature is progressing satisfactorily with the help of two new assistants, Miss Irene Hassan and Mr. Moh. Daud Abdul. The Rashob Foundation, an American private foundation, made a small grant to support the project.

The Director is also looking into the wider dissemination of the Sulu oral traditions for educational purposes not only in Sulu, but also outside of Sulu. As he experimented with it in a Summer Institute, he discovered that many of these stories are ideal materials for the social studies and social sciences at all level, not forgetting the teaching of Filipino literature and even basic English courses in high school and college. In this, he eagerly seeks the advices of competent Sulu educators and the willingness of thesis and dissertation writers.

In the meantime, Mr. Thomas Leckner, a doctoral candidate in anthropology of the State University of New York at Buffalo, New York, has started his fieldwork preparatory to his dissertation in Luas, Parang, and Jolo town.

In town also for his PhD dissertation for Stanford University (SIDEC) Father Joe Arong, the CISC's assistant director, is presently focusing on students' expectations within an institutional framework. With these preoccupations research takes a turn to applications in the educational field as well as in community development assistance. The CISC continues to make available its collection of books, papers, microfilms and microcards, and materials to its visitors and particularly to students of Sulu History and Cultures."

Fiscal Jainal D. Rasul on the Islamic Law and Tradition: Among other things, says it discusses -

"Muslim personal law and its comparison with Philippine Civil Law, from the historical point of view; The need for codification of Muslim law and Governmental Machinery to take care of its operation (Not imperium in imperio); The Muslim Culture as part of the curriculum especially applicable to Muslim students and those interested in it; and The power-sharing approach to national government as an alternative to revolution."

Jawali Ladja on his present studies says that: "There are many Makhdums and not just one as erroneously believed; that Islam came to Sulu as early as the later part of the thirteenth century, is true as evidenced by the inscription in Bud Datu; that there is a need to cross check local data with Cambodian, Spanish, Chinese, Malaysian, Indonesian, Arabian and Indian sources and that Islam came to Sulu thru the Malaccan empire"

Noralyn M. Young of the Provincial Governor's Office:

"Provincial Governor Murphy A. Sanjula, in line with his interest in promoting and preserving Sulu's culture and historical heritage, initiated this project which he terms "rewriting Sulu history."

In the research, oral traditions and histories are being thoroughly examined and cross-checked against existing documents, chronicles, and other records. Many interesting facts about Sulu history, heretofore unknown to us, have been uncovered in the taped interviews as well as the library research. It is intended that the research will be as exhaustive and as authoritative as possible, so that efforts are being made to acquire first-hand and even original materials.

Like all other similar efforts where the native attempts to write local history, we are faced with the inherent historiographical problem: how to recognize the line between objectivity and subjectivity, how to fuse facts and presentation in a manner where truth will not suffer. Should we be successful in interpreting our history with this distinction properly acknowledged, then it will not be too optimistic to expect that the proposed book will be well written.

Although far from completed, the library research has been very rewarding because of the discovery of a great volume of materials on Sulu history, particularly in private libraries and collections in Manila. A considerable number of these however, especially original manuscripts and documents are contained in libraries abroad. It has to be admitted that the research phase is the most difficult part of this project, but what we have realized so far more than compensates for our efforts: Sulu has indeed a history so rich and proud, it is well worth writing about."

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

Those interested to join the Sulu Cultural-Historical Society, are welcome to the fold, pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the SCHS, Article III, on membership which reads:

"1. Any Sulu native of legal age or any person genuinely interested in the culture and history of Sulu may upon proper application and payment of the required fees, be admitted as member.

2. Honorary members, who are non-residents and truly interested in the culture of Sulu, may be received by the Association upon nomination of at least three (3) members who shall state their reasons therefor and with the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting specially called to consider the matter. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any kind of fees or dues and shall not vote nor be voted upon in any election."

Article VII on Fees and Dues, read as follows:

"1. Entrance fee for each member shall be P10.00.

2. All members, excepting honorary members, shall pay a monthly fees of two pesos or P20.00 in advance per year.

3. Any Member of the Association of good standing may become a life member upon payment of P500.00. Life members shall be entitled to special privileges as may be accorded by the Board of Directors."

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