

Cultural Mapping of the Tangible Movable and Immovable Cultural Properties of Orion: Basis for the Development of Information, Education and Communication Materials

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Abstract— Orion tangible immovable and movable cultural properties aged 50 years and above were identified and visited in October and November 2021. They come in the form of churches, heritage houses, schools, and cemetery validated by the presence of movable cultural properties and archived documents. It is an independent study in the light of purely academic, scientific, and free local and national historiography. Methodology used was in the form interviews of the informants and primary sources using the NCCA forms, the UN SDG questionnaires, internal and external criticisms including related studies, and digital documentations and analysis. Findings show that, aesthetically, stones and steels are indeed strong materials useful both for immovable and movable cultural properties. Their preservation can help not only the environment but also the tourism industry of the municipality... Churches, schools, heritage houses, cemeteries, and good governance are socially significant as they reflect a culture and direction of the people. Results tell us that the religious freedom, the press freedom, the right to free scientific education for the masses, and social justice define the true essence of democracy. The findings validate the results of cultural mapping and the continuity of the immovable and movable cultural properties. Almost every barangay in the municipality also has the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The study concludes, therefore, that in order to promote a sustainable and holistic community, strong legislation and educational implementation on the preservation of the 70% of the existing and the 50-year old immovable cultural and government properties are needed.

Keywords— Primary and secondary sources, cultural mapping, sustainable development goals, generational connection.

I. INTRODUCTION

This study entitled, Cultural Mapping of the Tangible Movable and Immovable Cultural Properties of Orion: Basis for the Development of Information, Education and Communication Materials, was part of the bigger project prepared by the Social Science Cluster of the Department of Arts and Sciences of Bataan Peninsula State University system.

The project was entitled, Cultural Mapping of the Tangible Movable and Immovable Cultural Properties of Orion: Basis for the Development of Information, Education and Communication Materials.

This research is significant to the socio-economic development of the province of Bataan thru education and tourism industry as the same can create not only information technology but also employment opportunities in the municipality of Orion, Bataan. Since it is anchored not only in the university vision, mission, and philosophy, it has also adapted the

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 and UNESCO Memory of the World, using the Cultural Mapping Toolkit of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (2019).

We hope and pray that though this humble study is far from being perfect, this would still serve as a challenge and inspiration for many to emulate and explore more of their respective communities and localities as well.

Research objectives:

1. Identify Orion's cultural assets or tangible immovable and movable cultural properties.
2. Find primary sources to validate the authenticity of the cultural properties.
3. Get the story/ies associated with the identified properties.
4. Compare the stories with the local and national history using primary sources.
5. Assess, evaluate, and interpret the historical, scientific, aesthetic and social significance of

the identified cultural properties using verified NCCA forms and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals forms.

Limitations:

The Pre-Hispanic Period will be covered in the future studies on The Intangible Culture of the People of Orion since this research is limited...and many primary sources for the tangible immovable cultural properties were destroyed by the earthquakes and the two world wars.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Is truth knowable? Ancient and modern philosophers believe that truth is knowable. "Knowledge must be based ultimately on some principles about which there can be no question (Geisler, 2022). "Our intellect naturally knows being and its properties, and in this knowledge is rooted the knowledge of first principles." Thomas Aquinas

Demography and Geography

Orion is now a second-class municipality in the province of Bataan with a total population of 56,002 (Philippine Statistics Office, 2015). It is politically subdivided into 23 barangays, namely: Arellano, Bagumbayan, Balagtas, Balut, Bantan, bilolo, Calungusan, Camachile, Dang Bago, Daang Bilolo, Daang Pare, General Lim, Capunitan, Lati, Lusungan, Puting Buhangin, Sabatan, San Vicente, Santo Domingo, Villa Angeles, Wakas, Wawa, and Sta Elena. Majority of the public elementary schools in Orion have their names after each town in the municipality. It is 132 kilometers from Manila and approximately 31.2 nautical miles across Manila Bay. It is about 8 kilometers from Balanga, the provincial capital and bounded on the north by Pilar and Limay on the south. It has a total land area of 6,540 hectares covering the 23 barangays (Brief History of Orion, 2021).

Political System and Governance

Apparently, it was the Dominican priest who founded the municipality of Orion on 30 April 1667, but its official recognition date is uncertain... and its legendary name Udyong, that was later change to Orion, is also unreliable. Many things happened since the earthquake that shook the place on 16 September 1852. In 1892, it was Fr. Jose Campomanes who tried to reconstruct the town "from the ashes and ruins of fire" (Brief History of Orion, 2021).

The Malolos Constitution of 1898 "is anchored in the democratic traditions that had their roots on American soil." This fundamental law has created the republican form of the government that we have and the safeguard of the human rights both of the Filipinos and aliens. Tomas G. del Rosario from Bataan is one of the signatories to the 1899 Constitution. Many of its provisions are still evident in the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

The Philippines became a territory of the United States of America through the Treaty of Paris in 1899, wherein the Spanish government ceded the Philippines to the U.S.A in the amount of US\$20 million as "payment for improvements made in the colony" (Agoncillo, n.d.). Thus, from 1900 to 1905, the Bibles, that were not allowed to be read by the common "tao" during the Spanish era, were shipped and distributed to the Philippines and different Christian denominations and mission groups arrived in the country (Hill, 1995). This explains the presence of different Christian denominations in the province of Bataan, particularly in Orion. However, although there is a gap between religious practices of the Catholic, the Baptist, and the Protestants, their social thoughts agree that the Word of God is the origin of the democratic ideals. A person can be entirely human only by becoming a Christian...and "democracy must forsake its connection with atheism." Life may not be perfect, but it can be meaningful if one's life is based on the love of God and fellow humans (Bouma, 2018; Curtis, 1981).

With this new-found freedom, the town of Orion has benefitted from it and was able to contribute a great man to the country in the person of Don Cayetano Arellano, the First Filipino Chief Justice of the Royal Audencia (Supreme Court) from 1901 to 1920, under the American administration. He was born in this town on March 2, 1847 at the height of Spanish atrocities in the land. Another hero was Francisco Balagtas and author of the renowned "Florante at Laura", that was similar to "Romeo and Juliet". He married, Juana Tiambeng, a pretty lass of Orion, and lived here from July 1842 to February 1862.

Other famous celebrities like professional basketball players Kerby Raymundo, Eric Rodriguez, and Raymond Almazan, were also a product of the municipality of Orion including 2012 Ms. Universe, First Runner Up, Janine Tugonon (Brief History of Orion, 2021).

Economic, Educational and Health Systems

The first public school opened in Orion in 1907, few years after the arrival of the Thomasites. These American teachers and volunteers were tasked to propagate the American brand of education to the people. Others call it democratic education. The American has used education as a tool to colonize the country and at the same time to improve the living condition of the Filipinos.

The Arellano Elementary School, previously, Orion Elementary School, which opened in Daan Bilolo in 1907, then part of Barangay Wakas, became the major learning center in the Municipality. It was here where the Thomasites and their Filipino counterparts fostered the learning of the American language. This explains why their first set of pupils became good English speakers in terms of diction, enunciation, and pronunciation. Soon, more public schools were opened in the barrio to bring free education to everybody. Co-education and freedom of worship was also introduced.

Orion had its first high school, the privately owned Jose Rizal Institute (JRI), which opened in 1926. It was followed by the First Orion Municipal High School, also known as Balagtas High School, in 1968. The school public high school was established in the campus of Capunitan Elementary School. The school closed down ten years later. The present Orion National High School opened in Barangay Balagtas in June 2002. Today, Orion has fourteen public and five private elementary schools, one national, one vocational and three private high schools.

Nanay Rosa Trajano, who lived during the Commonwealth Period, has described the social condition in Bataan as pleasant and fair. Her late husband, Feliciano Trajano, was a barangay captain in Sto Domingo, Orion then, and he worked with others for the installation of water services in the barangay. According to her, they were enjoying their income from farming, as a land owner then, and fisheries until the ruthless Japanese Imperial army came. She was also an eyewitness to the atrocities done by the Japanese soldiers against the Filipino and American soldiers, including innocent babies/children and women, during the Death March and Japanese occupation in the province. Bataan is the last military fortress the fell into the hands of a seemingly formidable enemy (Garcia, 2016)

There is a need to conduct a cultural mapping of the movable and immovable tangible heritage in the municipality because much has happened in the political, economic and cultural history of the Municipality of Orion. What we know at present are mostly taken from the Spanish historians and covers only the Hispanic period, but we know so little about the other periods, especially the Pre-Hispanic Philippines. One of the reasons for the heroism of Rizal is his passionate character to know the whole truth and nothing but the truth... Thus the establishment of the first privately owned high school, Jose Rizal Institute (JRI) in 1926, under the American rule, is not just a mere accident... but it is a product of his passion and influence to the people of Orion, Bataan though the man has long been dead.

The legal bases for cultural mapping are the following – the 1987 Philippine constitution, RA 8371 Indigenous People Rights Act of 1997, RA 10908 - An Act Mandating the integration of Indigenous People's History in both Basic and Higher Education, and DepEd Order No. 62 Integration of Indigenous People Studies/Education into the Relevant Higher Education. The common aim of these legal mandates is to protect and preserve the generational connection of the indigenous people to the present world and to the future generation. With this in mind, the education sector plays a significant role to work with the government in reaching out to the integration of those who are left behind to the civilized world while respecting their inalienable basic human rights and dignified culture.

Historian Teodoro Agoncillo has provided an overview of the pre-colonial Philippines, their common and complex traits in the perspective of different authors, both local and foreign writers. He agrees with Jocano's position that theories explaining the peopling of the Philippines make these ethnic groups co-equal without anyone being the dominant group, radically or culturally. The observations of Pigafetta, and de Morga, for example, as primary sources for Pre-Hispanic Philippines, describe the thriving culture, language, political system, and international trading in the archipelago. Chirino has also found in the Tagalog language four qualities of the four greatest languages of the world in the 17th century – Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Spanish.

Modern research on Philippine studies, like those of Dr. Richard Vince Narag, a Hebrew scholar, and Timothy Jay Schwab of The God Culture Team, also show overwhelming and convincing evidence on the tracks of Hebrew culture in the Philippines. Few examples of them are the barangay system, language, male circumcision, women and her children's human rights, the Hebrew Bible, family values, monotheism, monogamy, hospitality, and many more. The Spaniards did not teach this to our forefathers, but they have been practicing this ever since, as we can still observe even among our own people in Orion, Bataan (Garcia, 2018).

Studies show that the whole Philippines, including Orion, Bataan is multicultural. Although, the feast of St. Michael or Apo Ige is celebrated by the Catholic devotees every 8th of May, but the whole municipality is still multicultural due to the presence of other Christian denominations and cultures, like the aetas, who are also served and protected by the local government units.

It is generally important to study the movable and immovable tangible heritage in the municipality for the purpose of policymaking, tourism, information development and education. History writing has various lenses which include demography and geography, political system and governance, economic, educational and health systems, environment and resource management system, knowledge systems and practices or culture from different periods in history. Policymaking also plays a vital component in the development of tourism and education in the municipality through independent research.

Looking back to ancient wars history, the name of the game was tribal invasion, annihilation, and burning of cities to erase culture... thus it posts a challenge for history writers and educators to do cultural mapping without touching history, and independently use reliable primary sources to interpret movable cultural properties, retrieved fossils, relics, and remains of civilization in the right context and cultural setting.

The two major world wars have taught us the concept of nationalism. The concept did not only originate from the French revolution, but it is actually innate in the character of our forefathers long before the Spaniards arrive in the Philippine archipelago. The Spaniards called our forefathers in a derogatory term "indios" and there was no sense of national unity...that made them

vulnerable to the "divide et empera" (divide and rule) colonial policy of the Spaniards and other foreign colonizers who have more advanced military technology and higher system of education. In fact, it was only in 1889 that the natives of the archipelago were called Filipinos, after King Philip II who never set foot in the country (Agoncillo, n.d.).

A generational cut, moreover, in writing history is just like "planting trees without roots." The right contextualization and interpretation of historical materials/data and historical landmarks in any city/province are beneficial for policy and decision making on the development of the tourism industry, educational sector, and restoration of the forgotten history and dignified culture of the Filipino people, especially in the municipality of Orion.

III. METHODOLOGY

The Study 4 proposal was presented to and approved by the governing body of BPSU Research and Development Office in June 2021.

The National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA), The Bataan Provincial Tourism Office, and The Municipal Tourism Office of Orion have likewise extended their support to this challenging and painstaking research by calling meetings and sending letters to concerned municipalities and barangay officials to make this research a realistic and successful one.

Videographer, photographer, and lay out artist were hired to do specific tasks for the purpose of digital documentation. The Orion Team, moreover, has likewise conducted interviews of the informants and primary sources using the NCCA forms.

The researchers' work has included the analysis of old documents, relics, and other movable cultural properties for verifying the age and authenticity of the existence of the immovable cultural properties for over fifty years. The criteria in assessing the cultural properties were give equal percentage in significance – 25% historical significance, 25% scientific, 25% aesthetic (if 70% of the structure has been retained), and 25% social significance (socioeconomic, sociopolitical, and spiritual)

Previous research questionnaires floated were used for surveying the cultural properties of each barangay and

for testing the continuity and impact of the cultural property in the community. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) questionnaires were also developed to verify the continuity and sustainability of the historical data in the barangay levels, and the percentage of their compliance with it. External and internal criticisms, using related literatures, were also conducted to come up with an independent, credible, and reliable findings and recommendations presented in the research abstract.

In order to see and fully understand the establishment or existence and development of each barangay cultural property, the Study Leader has resolved to present them chronologically in the discussion based on the Three Major Periods in Philippine History- Hispanic, American, and Post War.

IV. RESULTS

Cultural properties aged 50 years and above were identified and visited in October and November 2021. They come in the form of churches, heritage houses, schools, and cemetery. It is considered to be an independent study in the light of purely academic, scientific, and free local and national historiography.

The Orion Cultural assets or tangible immovable and movable cultural properties using the NCCA and UN SDG Forms for verification and for the satisfaction of the Objective-Data Driven Field Visits Tables 1 and 2 of the Proposal, pp.12-14 are the following:

Hispanic Period

Authors must convince both peer reviewers and the editors

1. San Vicente – Orion Parish Church – 1667 (Church Bell, 1866) – A Spanish and Catholic Heritage
2. Wawa – Balagtas Monument, 1788-1862 – Memory of a Great Filipino Poet
3. Sabatan – Villa Panteon, 1898, (Burial ground of veteran Orion rebels, headed by Victor Balagtas, against the Spanish troops.) – A Place of Encounter for Freedom

American/Commonwealth Period

1. Arellano – Arellano Birthplace Marker, 1847 – 1920, The First Filipino Chief Justice
2. Wakas – Unknown Heroes Monument, 1903; He is Victor T. Baltazar

3. Balagtas – Gonzales Heritage House and Sta. Veronica Image - The Family Guardian Angel
4. Daang Bilolo – Arellano Elementary School, 1907 – First Public School in Orion, American Period
5. San Vicente – Jose Rizal Institute, 1926, - First Private High School in Bataan Jose Rizal Monument Orion Public Cemetery, 1920
6. Lusungan – Heritage House Judge Joco Heritage House – Memory of a Good Christian Judge
7. Lati – Heritage House of Quicho and Paguio (Images of Jesus' Agony and Entombment – Pre WW2 Images of Mary and Saint John – Post WW2). An Annual Reminder of Christ's Death and Resurrection Through Procession of Images
8. Bagumbayan – Hizon- Mariano Ancestral House, 1940, Rosalia Ocampo Residence WW2 Temporary Japanese Camp, with the image of John the Evangelist
9. Bantan – Bantan Elementary School, 1928, 1955. A Symbol of Democratic Education and Culture
10. Calungusan – Calungusan Elementary School, 1950. A Symbol of Democratic Education and Culture
11. Camachile – Camachile Elementary School, 1961, 1965 - A Symbol of Democratic Education and Culture
12. Sto. Domingo – Sto. Domingo Elementary School, 1949 - The School Stage – A Silent Witness

Post-War to 1971

1. Balagtas – The Gonzales Family Guardian (Sta Veronica statue, age 150 years, owned by Mrs. Purita M. Gonzales)
2. Bagumbayan – Ang Tapahan Zoilo Hizon Heritage House, 1953 (Post WW2 Tapahan and Bagoongan, and Religious Objects)
3. San Vicente – Symbols of Freedom Liwasang Balagtas, 1955. Orion Municipal Hall, 1955
4. Wakas – Salakot - A Detention Cell, 1965
5. Daang Pare – WW2 Evacuation Center, 1942. Daang Pare Elementary School, 1940
6. Daan Bago – Fishery Education and Nature Protector. Bataan School of Fisheries, 1965, 1971 RA 4222
7. Bilolo – Access Road, 1971, The Bridge

8. General Lim (Kaput) – The Life of Soldiers. General Lim Elementary School, 1965. Water Irrigation System, 1945
9. Lati – Pangilinan-Antonio Heritage Houses, 1950's. First Pharmacy in Orion and Post War Clinic (Old clinic of Dr. Severino and First Pharmacy in Orion)

Primary sources that have validated the authenticity of the cultural properties come in the form of movable cultural properties like pictures, school records, laws, and images attached in the Appendices of the Study.

The stories associated with the identified properties have come from local historiography, barangay profiles, interviews, and oral tradition which are also found in the Appendices of the Study.

Stories gathered have authenticated/confirmed or correct, and vice versa both the local and national histories based on the No. 2 and 3 evidence.

Using the Proposal, Table 2 on the Criteria in Assessing the Significance of a Cultural Property (p.13-14), the following are the findings:

- a. For historical significance, old archives authenticate the existence of the identified built heritage for over 50 years. They are useful for the development of instructional materials.
- b. For aesthetic significance, stones and steels are indeed strong materials useful both for immovable and movable cultural properties. They can withstand the tests of time except natural disasters and calamities like earthquakes, fire, storms, wars, etc. Their preservation can help not only the environment and tourism industry of the municipality, but it can also provide employment opportunities for the people.
- c. For social significance, churches, schools, heritage houses, cemeteries, and good governance are the reflection of the culture and direction of the people of Orion. Recommendations were made below for these cultural properties.
- d. For scientific significance, history tells us that the freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to education or free education for the masses, and social justice define the true essence of democracy. This freedom, guaranteed by the Philippine Constitutions

since 1899, has paved the way for more Filipinos, especially the people of Orion, to have access to science and technology through public education.

- e. Every barangay in the municipality has the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to maintain a democratic culture especially in the area of health, education, human rights, and family preservation. These findings validate the results of cultural mapping and the continuity of the immovable and movable cultural properties.

V. CONCLUSION

In summary, we can say that the results in the cultural mapping of Orion have helped the researchers to add their findings in the development of the information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to reconstruct history and find the missing links in the cultural history of the municipality of Orion. The findings are already useful as the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. Indeed, it is quite challenging for any historians to study culture without touching history.

One of the sun rays in the Philippine flag represents the province of Bataan who took part in 1896 Philippine Revolution against the Spanish authorities. This is also evident in the existence of Villa Panteon in Sabatan, Orion where the group of Victor Balagtas used to ambush the Spanish troops coming from Limay, Bataan.

The American Period marks the beginning of democratic culture, education, and governance verified by the existence of public schools in 1907, although sadly many properties and documents have been destroyed during World War 2.

Moreover, pictures, documents, the Philippine Constitutions, and the international treaties and laws can still serve as primary sources to authenticate the historical significance of the cultural properties that have been studied in this research, even today.

Heritage Houses, markers, and shrines should remind us how far we have come as a people, and that the ruling authorities should hold themselves responsible to continue the dreams and aspirations of their fellow Filipinos through the preservation of what our heroes,

known and unknown, have started... God is forever enthroned.

This has led us to the conclusion that in order to promote a sustainable and holistic community, strong legislation, legal mechanisms, and educational implementation on the preservation of the 70% of the existing and the 50year old immovable Cultural Properties, especially the government one-storey structures/properties, are needed. They will not only strengthen the sense of history of our posterity, but it will also boost the economy of the country. Social and political awareness and involvement can make it possible.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

The researchers highly recommend for the following:

Legislation and mechanics

1. Preservation of the 70% of the existing and the 50year old immovable Cultural Properties, especially the present government one-storey structures/properties;
2. Creation and strengthening of local historiography agency/museum/study center for the Protection of immovable properties, archived materials and movable cultural properties;
3. Funding for promotion and preservation of cultural properties relevant to national progress and social-economic and political development;
4. Educational materials and seminars should be developed to enhance the sense of history among the local officials and members of the community;
5. Endorsement to the NCCA for registration to PRECUP of 50 years old cultural properties identified in the barangays mentioned above based on the verified available movable cultural properties and documents, their geographical locations and major periods in Philippine History.

Market Potential

The preservation and protection of the identified cultural properties through legislation and budget appropriation will empower the Local Government Units (LGU) to create programs for community sustainability and find partners for the goals which are the weakest links in the previously conducted United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Tourism plays a very important role to invite foreign visitors and business

investors. Beauty and strength attract people how much more if the people are likewise beautiful and strong inside and out.

Resource Availability

Much of the identified private cultural properties were funded by private individuals, particularly the church structures, because of the principle of separation of church and state embedded in the Philippine Constitutions since 1897.

However, the establishment of public schools during the American Period has paved the way for an integrated education system supported and appropriated by the government, without neglecting the spiritual needs of the students. This has become possible because of the open Bible system in 1898.

For the purpose of developing information and instructional materials, the government has given the highest budgetary priority to educational needs of the people. The human resources are the key to economic development. Moreover, the people who know their own history are capable to give more life and dignity to the works of humanity for the glory of their Creator.

The preservation of cultural properties bridges the missing links between the past, the present, and the future. It likewise protects the primary sources of historical data for the future generation. Destroying these cultural properties is considered a generational cut by many historians.

Supply/Demand Situation

The tourism industry was indeed affected by the pandemic... but as the world begins to rise from the ashes of this nightmare, with the help of the Almighty, the tourism industry in the Philippines will do the same.

Supply/demand situation both in the local and international tourism industries can work hand in hand in the promotion and boosting of the tourism world through advertisements and international promotions.

Industrial Prospects

Chances of industrial assimilation and technological adaptability are high as the LGUs strive to stay committed and to constantly monitor the sustainable development of the municipality. Partnership for the goals and international linkages are also significant and highly recommended.

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