

EDITORIAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR IPPA BULLETIN 30, 2010

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WELCOME

This is the first issue of BIPPA to be published under new editorship since the retirement of Peter Bellwood in January 2010. Most of the papers in this issue were presented at the 19th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association in Hanoi. We would like to thank the many conference delegates who submitted papers, conference section leaders who managed the peer review process, and peer reviewers. We had many unexpected technical challenges in moving the Bulletin to its new home at the University of Washington (UW), and we thank all of you for your patience with software problems and the delay in publishing this issue. We thank Peter Bellwood for his years of service as editor of this journal and his ongoing support. Thanks also to Ann Lally of the University of Washington Libraries Digital Initiatives Unit for her help in moving the journal from the ANU to UW, and to UW graduate students David Carlson, Emily Peterson and Ian Ostericher for their assistance with editing, page layout and author communications.

We are working closely with the IPPA Board to ensure that BIPPA continues to serve its members and the Indo-Pacific archaeology scholarly community into the future. Your suggestions in this regard are always welcome. We encourage you to continue to submit papers for consideration, and also to consider submitting short field reports, papers with multimedia content and other non-traditional ways to communicate your research to our readership. Please contact the editors at any time at bippa@uw.edu with questions in this regard.

NEXT IPPA CONFERENCE

At this writing, the IPPA Board is considering proposals from Cambodia, China and Sarawak to host the 2014 IPPA Conference. Ian Lilly, IPPA General Secretary, plans to announce the decision in August 2011.

GRANUCCI FUND NEWS

Three awardees have been selected for the Anthony F. Granucci Fund for Archaeological Research in Indonesia and Timor-Leste for 2011:

1. Endang Widyastuti and Sudarti Prijono, Balai Arkeologi, Bandung, Jawa Barat, Indonesia — Project Title: *Penelitian Masyarakat Akhir Masa Prasejarah di Situs Patenggeng, Subang, Jawa Barat*
2. Nia Marniati Etie Fajari, Vida Pervaya Rusianti Kusmartono and Bambang Sugiyanto, Balai Arkeologi, Banjarmasin, Kalimantan Selatan, Indonesia. — Project Title: *Ekskavasi Situs Gua Payung, Kalimantan Selatan*
3. Marlon Ririmasse, Balai Arkeologi, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia. — Project Title: *Survey Awal Situs-Situs Pemukiman Pra-Kolonial di Kepulauan Tanimbar, Maluku Tenggara*

The following report on a Granucci project funded in 2008 was submitted in by Dr Nuno Vasco Oliveira, Assessor/Adviser in the Secretaria de Estado da Cultura, Ministério da Educação, Dili, República Democrática de Timor-Leste. See BIPPA 29 for 2009, page 1, for a pre-research description of this project.

Documenting archaeological sites in Timor-Leste – a first systematic approach

This proposal included training in recording and describing archaeological sites for East Timorese staff of the National Directorate of Culture, as well as the setting up the national database of archaeological sites in the country. Between the 4th and the 6th of May 2009 a workshop was conducted for the staff at the National Directorate of Culture, from both the central office in Dili and from all 13 districts within the existing 5 regions in the country. This workshop aimed at providing basic techniques in recording of archaeological and ethnographic sites, using site recording sheets, a GPS and a digital camera. It took place in and around the capital city, with the participation of H.E. the State Secretary of Culture, and

consisted also of two days of lectures on the importance of documenting Timor-Leste's cultural heritage sites.

The National Directorate of Culture was able to acquire cameras and GPS for staff in all 5 regions from its national budget. Those were used during the training and were later taken to the regions so that recording of sites could continue throughout the year. The sites recorded will later be added to the national database of archaeological and heritage sites, once the National Directorate of Culture finds the necessary budget.

Between the 17th and the 21st of November 2009 archaeological excavations were conducted in the village of Dair, ca. 30 km west of Dili. This site was first found in the 1980s, during the Indonesian occupation, when two prehistoric jar burials are said to have been found at ca. 3 metres below ground level while building a latrine. Even though the jars were reported, they were never excavated. During 2009, the Office of the State Secretariat of Culture began a project of recording an old fishing tradition in the same village. The village of Dair is known in Timor for its tradition of manta ray fishing, said to be very old. As we initiated the project, it became obvious that the site must have been a habitation site for a long time, as there was evidence of hundreds of prehistoric potsherds on the surface.

Two entire pots were then brought to our attention, and villagers still remembered the story of when the jar burials were sighted. Thus, we decided to excavate a 3x2 metre test pit and use the opportunity to train staff from the National Directorate of Culture in archaeological field techniques. Excavations progressed to a depth of ca. 3 metres below the surface. Chinese ware and Dutch ware and glass were found, alongside with many fragments of earthenware, animal bones and shellfish. Most of the deposit seemed to be disturbed, which is in accordance with the story that the site had been previously excavated to build a latrine – and later refilled. Even though the jar burials were not found, the excavations were a good opportunity for the staff at the National Directorate of Culture to gain experience in archaeological field and recording techniques.