



IBETEL A KLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2011

TRADITIONAL PALAUAN VILLAGE ARTWORK COMPLETED, CREATING CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUTH

Contributed by Kelly Marsh



In the larger picture: Artist Ado Imetuker next to her completed artwork; Insert: MCCA Minister Rehuher-Marugg reviewing art with BAC staff Filly Carabit and Kelly Marsh

More than a year of meeting with knowledgeable elders, visiting the Belau National Museum, touring a traditional village, pouring over historic pictures and maps, and consulting between artist, historic preservation specialists and archaeologists to produce a painting of a traditional Palauan village is finally completed. The Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) worked closely with well-known local artist Ms. Ado Imetuker this last year to develop this artwork as an educational tool for Palauan youth. Ms. Imetuker has been working in the Ministry of Education for many years as an artist creating educational materials for island schools and has created illustrations for BAC booklets in the past.

After years of providing presentations about Palauan cultural heritage and historic sites to the public, BAC staff and local archaeologist, Jolie Liston, collaborated in identifying a good educational tool for island youth. An idea that took hold was to develop a painting that would show many of the typical elements that make up a traditional Palauan village with the main purpose being to create an opportunity for teachers and community members to discuss traditional villages and traditional life with the youth. Thus, the project to produce this painting was born.

The artwork is a sizeable three and a half by five foot painting. It combines the goals of illustrating Elder and archaeological knowledge of traditional villages with educational goals. This means several things, such as: One, the village was painted to represent typical elements of a traditional village but is not a specific village belonging to any one state. In this way, children can identify with the village and relate to it no matter which state they are from. Two, in order to help children understand many of the daily life activities, the painting showcases many of the activities than would probably occur at any one time in a typical day. (continue on page 3: Artwork)

SITE RESTORATION PROJECT AT ILIUD ER A MESIAL, NGCHESAR STATE

Ngchesar State was selected this year as the recipient of the FY'10 Site Restoration Fund Grant of \$2,000.00 to restore Iliud er a Mesial in Ngchesar State. The project started on March 26, 2011 and completed on April 3, 2011.

Iliud er a Mesial is a stone platform with a size of 5.40m x 8.10m. According to oral history, in ancient times the stone platform was used by the famous warrior Ngiramouai as a seat while guarding the village of Tmachel, Ngchesar State from wars/invasers. It was also used for bonfires made by the watchmen to signal the fishermen that an emergency had arisen in the village or to guide those returning from night fishing.

Each year each state has the opportunity to apply for this award. The principal objective of the Site Restoration and Development Project is the protection and enhancement of historical and cultural sites listed on the Palau Register of Historical Places. This goal is in accordance with the Bureau of Arts and Culture's responsibility to maintain and develop significant historic properties for the interest and education of the public. Additionally, this project is intended to bolster State level preservation activities via direct involvement of traditional leaders and villagers.



Ngchesar State Governor Romana Anastacio (l-r: first from second row) with state villagers assisting with the rehabilitation and restoration project

PCC ARCHAEOLOGY CLASS CULTURAL TRIP

Contributed by Sunny Ngirmang



Trip Visit to Terraces in Aimeliik State



Trip Visit to Elab Traditional Village



Trip Visit to Kukau el Bad



Trip Visit to Metuker er a Bisech

The PCC archaeology students along with their adjunct instructor, Ms. Sunny Ngirmang, visited several historical sites this year which included: terraces in Aimeliik State, Elab Traditional Village in Ngaraard State, Kukau el Bad in Ngarchelong State, and Metuker er a Bisech in Airai State. Each state site visit occurred on different dates. The archaeology class aims to enrich students, providing them an overview of what archaeology is about and at the same time emphasizing Palau's archaeological history. The students learn and discover who we were as a people in the past, where we came from, and the importance of these sites to the overall early history of our island.

BAC staff Mr. Calvin Emesiochel assisted by providing on-site field assistance and teaching first-hand mapping techniques using tape and a compass. The experience gained during the site visits provided the understanding of the strong need for historic preservation efforts and for protecting our archaeological and cultural environments.

For more information regarding our nation's cultural and historical sites, visit the Bureau of Arts and Culture Palau Register Section. Or, if you wish to visit the state historical sites, contact each respective state for more information.

BAC Assisted in the 3rd EU-Palau Film Festival



Jürgen Thomas Schröd, First Secretary, Cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Manila, Philippines delivering his special remarks during the EU-Palau film festival opening ceremony

Once again the Bureau of Arts and Culture under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of State of the Republic of Palau, and the Spanish Embassy (EU President) hosted the EU-Palau Film Festival in a collaborative effort. The festival was held in Palau from April 28 to May 1, 2011 at the Koror State Capitol Assembly

Hall. The theme was "Dengemesiol," meaning the strengthening of ties between nations through small connections.

The EU-Palau Film Festival showcased films from 8 countries, namely from the Czech Republic, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland. Two films were shown each evening, the viewing of which started at 6:00 pm at the Koror State Capitol Assembly Hall.

Entry was free and all were invited through advertisement via flyers inserted in the three local newspapers and via radio and TV announcements, posters, and word of mouth. Many viewers showed up during the four (4) day film festival which made it a success.

UNLOCKING OUR TREASURED PAST: TRANSLATING GERMAN VOLUMES

Contributed by Kelly Marsh



Second meeting of Local Review Committee Members, from L to R: Bernie T Keldermans, Senate Vice-President Kathy Kesolei, MOS Minister Dr. Victor Yano, and MCCA Minister Rehuher-Marugg, Project Chair. Not shown, Lydia S. Charles. MOE Minister Emesiochl, Masaharu Tmodrang and Rachel Uberbelau were not able to attend. Photo by Sylvia Kloulubak, BAC

Early 1900s German ethnographic observations of Palauan traditional villages, oral history, customs, tools, skills and more, recorded by Dr. Augustin Krämer, are now being unlocked page by page to English language readers. Native German speakers, guided by cultural consultants from Palau and long time anthropologists

Ucherbelau. Additional experts are in the process of being identified to represent the communities of Sonsorol and Hatohebei. The panel will develop lists and charts to update documented Palauan names, place names, and other terminology which were written down in an older form of orthography.

"The hard, but extremely significant, work is underway" noted Community and Cultural Affairs Minister Rehuher-Marugg who serves as Chair of the committee overseeing the project. "We feel it will be a real contribution to the peoples of Palau," she added, "This project is a long-held dream—to repatriate this knowledge back to the people of Palau."

Both local and international entities are joining together to support this important project. Partial and full translations have been donated by the Etpison Museum, the Bureau of Arts and Culture, and the University of Guam's Micronesian Area Research Center (UOG MARC). Palau project partners include: the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, including the Bureau of Arts and Culture and the Belau National Museum; the Etpison Museum; and the Honorary Consul for Germany. International partners and support come from: the Federal Republic of Germany through Mr. Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lorsch, Ambassador, German Embassy in Manila; the Linden Museum in Stuttgart, Germany; and UOG MARC. Academic reviewers include those from our region and Germany.

living in Hawai'i and New Zealand, are serving as the translators carrying out this large task. They are working their way through over 3,000 pages of recorded historical and cultural information about Palauan traditional lifeways.

A panel of local cultural and orthography experts have also begun to comb through the many volumes. They are: MOS Minister Yano, Senate Vice-President Kesolei, MOE Minister Masa-Aki Emesiochl, Masaharu Tmodrang, Bernie T Keldermans, Lydia S Charles, and Rachel

(Artwork)

Three, the landscape was purposefully painted in a way so that *blai* (family houses), *bai* (meeting structures), *diong* (bathing areas), cultural activities and the like are clearly visible which may not have always been the case in traditional times. Each of these occurrences serve as a good opportunity for teachers and community members to discuss with Day. Three, the landscape was purposefully painted in a way so that *blai* (family houses), *bai* (meeting structures), *diong* (bathing areas), cultural activities and the like are clearly visible which may not have always been the case in traditional times. Each of these occurrences serve as a good opportunity for teachers and community members to discuss with their youth what environmental and built features and activities existed in their particular community's traditional village. For those who would like to see the artwork in person, it has been framed and is being exhibited at the Bureau of Arts and Culture offices which are located in the old Civic Center building.

The next phase of the project was to produce posters of the artwork so that it will be available for viewing in public spaces. The Bureau extends its appreciation to Rechedebechei Ananias Bultedaob, Obak er a Debkar Clarence Kitalong, Ann Kitalong, Chris Kitalong, Jolie Liston and others for

HISTORIANS COMPILE FIRST DRAFT OF KLOBAK EL DIL



Society of Historians with Mr. Hang Ming Hua, ROC-ROP 2011 Pottery Project Instructor, BNM (standing 4th from the left)

The Palau Society of Historians of the Bureau of Arts and Culture/ Palau Historic Preservation Office held their First Session this year to compile the draft of their booklet entitled "Klobak el Dil" (Chief's Counterparts). The Historians reviewed and discussed the collected list of female-chief counterparts which they will later publish into a booklet. After the compilation and layout of their draft booklet, it will then be reviewed by the Bureau of Arts & Culture's Technical Review Committee Members and the female chiefs from each state of Palau.

During their one week session which was held from June 13 – 17, 2011, many visitors consisting of government officials, traditional leaders, and individual citizens including Mr. Hang Ming Hua, Instructor, ROC-ROP 2011 Pottery Project, Belau National Museum, requested to visit the Historians to seek answers to questions regarding Palau's cultural and traditional practices.

This booklet, published in Palauan and English, will be the sixteenth in an on-going series of publications on traditional Palauan practices, customs, and common law.

BAC ASSISTS MARIS STELLA 5TH GRADE CLASS CULTURAL TRIP TO NGARCHELONG STATE



On May 4, 2011, at the request of the Maris Stella 5th grade teacher, Ms. Susan Labsang, BAC staff including, Ms. Filly Carabit and Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak, accompanied and assisted twenty-five fifth graders along with several of their parents attending as chaperons and their homeroom teacher in visiting two of the many historic sites in Ngarchelong State. These sites were: Todai (Lighthouse) and Badrulchau (Stone Monoliths).

The visit extended the students' knowledge about Palau history and culture and its connections to the Palau's cultural and historical sites. This was also an opportunity to build awareness about the need for preservation and protection of Palau's Historical sites.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD HOLDS 1ST BI-ANNUAL MEETING

On June 15, 2011, the Board of Palau Historical & Cultural Advisory Board held their first Bi-Annual Meeting for FY10 to review and approve applications for nominated historical (and/or cultural) sites. The Board is tasked to review and approve nominated sites for Palau as mandated by the Directive of the President of the Republic of Palau.

During the Bi-Annual Board meeting, the Board reviewed three (3) historical sites nomination. They are:

- 1) Todai (Lighthouse), Ngaremlengui State
- 2) Roismelech Terraces, Melekeok State
- 3) Ngchesechang Traditional Village, Airai State

The sites were all deferred to review at the next board meeting due to lacking some information needed for nomination consideration.

HISTORIANS CORNER

Kemedengei?

Llechul a Omenged (Temang)

A *Temang* a cheldil a chad el mlo oumenged. A chad el mlo er a chei a outemang er a rubak el ngar er a klubed er a taoch, er a luut er ngii el me er a beluu. Ng kuabes a cheldil er a rruul el blil a temang el ngar er a diangel, e a rubak a mo kangingai a odimir er a uchei er a le ngai a cheldil el mo er a beluu. A rubak er a bek el beluu a blibii a ngerchelir er a belurir. Me ng ngar er ngii a rubak el kuk ngerchelir el mengkar a kerodel er a belurir, me te di ngar er a diangel er a taoch er a bek el sils. A uchul me ng outemang a chad el mlo oumenged, a omeksullel a rubak el klekar a kerodel er a beluu, e le te dirrek el klekar a mlai er a taoch e medenge a mlai el tuobed me a me soiseb. A outemang a dirrek el olechotel a ulekerreu me a omengull el mo er a rubak el ngar er a diangel. A chad er a omenged a mechei a cheldil me a rubak a kot el mo ngmilt a odimir e aike el mo medechel a lengai ku el mo remei.

BAC WELCOMES NEW STAFF ARCHAEOLOGIST



*Dr. Suzanne Finney,
Staff Archaeologist*

BAC welcomes new staff member Dr. Suzanne Finney who came on board on June 20, 2011.

Dr. Finney, who holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Hawaii, was hired as Staff Archaeologist in the program area of Survey and Inventory/Archaeology where she will assist the other two staff members in working to survey and record Palau's tangible cultural and historical sites.

tural and historical sites.

Prior to this position Dr. Finney worked with the Maritime Archaeology and History of the Hawaiian Islands (MAHHI) Foundation, a small non-profit based in Honolulu that promotes outreach, research, and education related to the maritime archaeology and history of Hawaii and the Pacific. Her previous work in the Pacific includes underwater archaeology surveys in Hawaii, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated State of Micronesia, focusing on 19th and 20th century shipwrecks. With her background and expertise, she will be an asset to the Bureau of Arts and Culture.

REGULATION FOR HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PROPERTIES

It is illegal to take, remove, alter or damage any historical or cultural properties, including artifacts, sunken WW II vessels and parts thereof, WW II relics, historic landmarks, and cultural properties. Detailed information on Public Laws regarding historical and cultural properties can be obtained from PNC Title 19 and its subsidiaries. To ensure compliance with these laws you may contact the Bureau of Arts and Culture/ Historic Preservation Office at (680) 488-2489 or email to hispres@palaunet.com.

Bureau of Arts & Culture/Palau Historical Preservation Office (Obis Er A Ibetel A Cherechar)

Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs

P.O. Box 100, Koror, PW 96940

Telephone No.: (680) 488-2489/3361 Fax: (680) 488-2657

Email Address: hispres@palaunet.com

ACKNOWLEDMENT OF SUPPORT: This publication has been financed in full with Historic Preservation Funds in partnership with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior and the Palau Historic Preservation Office (Bureau of Arts and Culture).

DISCLAIMER: The contents, opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

NON- DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:

This program received Federal funds from the U.S. National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in national origin, age, sex, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.