

THE U.P.-NATIONAL MUSEUM MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT: A HISTORIC CONTEXT

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One historic event in the development of anthropology in the Philippines was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the U.P. Anthropology Department and the Anthropology Division of the Philippine National Museum on August 27, 1964 in the Office of the U.P. President by President Carlos P. Romulo and Director Galo B. Ocampo. The memorandum united both institutions in scientific research and training. Among those present during the ceremony were:

From the U.P.: Dr. Enrique T. Virata, Executive Vice-President and University Professor; Dr. Ricardo R. Pascual, Dean of the Graduate School and of the U.P. Tarlac College; Prof. Francisco Nemenzo, Sr., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Cesar Adib Majul, Dean of the University College; Dr. Mario D. Zamora, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology; Dr. Juan R. Francisco, Assistant Professor of Indology at the U.P. Institute of Asian Studies and Honorary Curator, Indo-Philippine Studies of the National Museum; Prof. Moises C. Bello and Miss Natividad Garcia, both faculty members of the Department of Anthropology. Participants from U.P. who were absent: Dr. Ruben D. Santos-Cuyugan, Dr. Milton L. Barnett (Visiting Professor), and Prof. E. Arsenio Manuel.

From the National Museum: Prof. Alfredo E. Evangelista, Senior Anthropologist; Dr. F. Landa Jocano, Senior Anthropologist; Mr. Eric Casiño, Junior Anthropologist. Participants from the Museum who were absent: Dr. Robert B. Fox, Chief Anthropologist; Mr. Avelino Legaspi, Junior Anthropologist.

At this point, a brief explanation of the historic context of this Memorandum would be helpful. On August 1, 1963, the Anthropology Department faculty convened to discuss the possibility of effecting closer relations with the National Museum anthropologists on an official basis. The Museum staff also realized the

need for collaboration with the U.P. anthropologists. This sentiment was expressed by Director Galo B. Ocampo in a letter to me on Sept. 6, 1963: "I am happy to learn that the members of the faculty of the U.P. Dept. of Anthropology have advocated a closer relation with the National Museum. Being a public service institution, the Museum is willing to coordinate its various scientific, cultural, and educational activities with institutions and individuals... I trust that this will presage a fruitful collaboration between the University and the National Museum." Two days earlier, I received an *aide memoire* from Dr. Francisco, suggesting among other things that "it is now timely for both institutions to sit down and draw the proposals for cooperation."

In early September, 1963, an exploratory talk was held at the Office of the U.P. President between the U.P. anthropologists and the representatives of the National Museum in the presence of President Romulo and Asst. Vice-President (Academic Affairs) Santos-Cuyugan. President Romulo stressed the importance of coordination between the two governmental institutions. It was the consensus of the group as a whole that a memorandum of agreement be prepared and that the body meet again to discuss the details. A luncheon meeting was given by President Romulo at the Executive House on Sept. 19, 1963 for this purpose. Dr. H. Otley Beyer honored the group with his presence at the luncheon.

The U.P. panel met on Sept. 30, 1963 to discuss with Dr. Santos-Cuyugan the points for an agreement with the Museum. The U.P. group prepared detailed proposals and transmitted them to the Museum anthropologists; the Museum group drafted their counter-proposals. At two joint meetings with Vice-President Virata, the details were discussed and clarified.

A draft of the agreement was then prepared by the anthropologists of both institutions. On March 6, 1964, Director Ocampo forwarded a copy of the draft to Honorable Alejandro R. Roces, Secretary of Education and Chairman of the U.P. Board of Regents for endorsement. Secretary Roces received the letter on March 20, 1964, and referred the same to the President, University of the Philippines.

On August 27, 1964, the memorandum was signed and was approved by the U.P. Board of Regents.

The memorandum was immediately implemented with the appointment of Dr. F. Landa Jocano and Mr. Alfredo Evangelista as professorial lecturer and associate lecturer, respectively, in the U.P. Dept. of Anthropology. A number of joint projects have also been planned in the spirit and context of this document which is published in full in the succeeding pages of this issue of *Asian Studies*.