

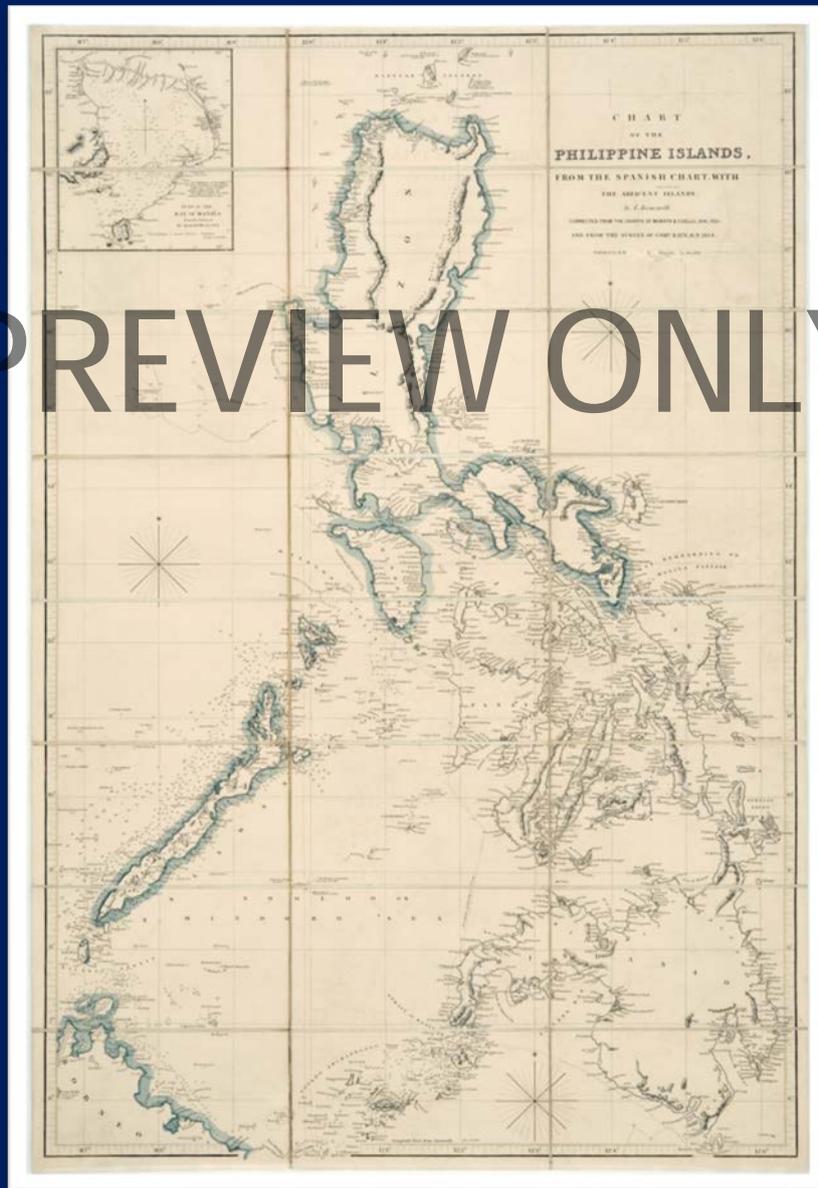
# *The Murillo Bulletin*

Journal of PHIMCOS

*The Philippine Map Collectors Society*

Issue No. 2

June 2016



*In this issue:*

Antonio Pigafetta in the Visayas • Mapping the Batanes • Rhubarb in Central Asia



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## *In this Issue*

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PHIMCOS News & Events	page 2
<i>A Venetian in the Visayas: Antonio Pigafetta's Journey through the Islands</i> by Margarita V. Binamira	5
<i>The Naming and Mapping of the Batanes: Mapmakers have a Problem with these Islands!</i> by Peter Geldart & Christian Perez	9
<i>Rhubarb and the European Mapping of Central Asia</i> by Richard T. Jackson	17
PHIMCOS Board Members & Members 2016	22
PHIMCOS Committee Members 2016	23
PHIMCOS Membership & Enquiries	24

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The Philippine Map Collectors Society (PHIMCOS) was initiated in 2007 by a group of five enthusiasts in Manila who conceived the formation of the first club for map collectors in the Philippines. Membership of the Society, which has now grown to a current total of 26 active members, is open to anyone interested in collecting maps, historical prints, paintings, and old photographs of the Philippines. At the Society's general meetings, held quarterly, members discuss club business, exchange cartographic news, and show each other items of interest. After dinner a member or invited guest (or sometimes both) will give a presentation. The Society also sponsors exhibitions, lectures and other educational events.

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**Front Cover:** *Chart of the Philippine Islands, from the Spanish Chart, with the Adjacent Islands.*

*By A. Arrowsmith. Corrected from the Charts of Morata & Coello, 1841, 1851, and from the Survey of Com.<sup>r</sup> Bate, R.N. 1854. Published by R.H. Laurie, No. 53 Fleet Street, London, 1862.*

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## PHIMCOS News & Events

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OUR FIRST issue of *The Murillo Bulletin* was published in April and was received with enthusiasm. We thank our readers for their support, especially those members of PHIMCOS who purchased 20 copies of the journal (see below); and we are also very grateful to our advertisers without whom we would not be able to maintain and enhance this and future issues.

The first general meeting of 2016 was held at the Arya Residences on 10 February. The conversation was lively, with 17 members and six guests in attendance including our newest member Bill Brandenburg and his wife Marcy. After dinner we enjoyed two excellent presentations. The first, by Marga Binamira, was *A Venetian in the Visayas: Antonio Pigafetta Maps the Islands*, in which she spoke about Pigafetta, his account of the Visayan portion of Ferdinand Magellan's voyage around the globe, Magellan's death on the island of Mactan, and the various editions of Pigafetta's magnum opus *Primo Viaggio Intorno al Globo Terracqueo* or the *Journal of Magellan's Voyage*. The article on page 5 expands Marga's presentation.

In the second presentation, *Rhubarb and the European Mapping of Central Asia – From Munster to the Present*, Richard Jackson (an acknowledged expert on the subject) gave a highly entertaining discourse on the nature of rhubarb, its properties, varieties and value as a medicine in the late Middle Ages, and the maps that located its mysterious sources in Chinese Tartary. Among other little-known facts, we learned of the connection between rhubarb and the plague-carrying marmots of Mongolia. The meeting was rounded off with a delicious rhubarb pie very kindly provided by Rolf Lietz. Richard's full article is on page 17.

Our second meeting of 2016 took place on May 18, at the same venue. The PHIMCOS Board of Directors for the current year was approved, being the same board as in 2015 with the addition of Hans Sicat. The President announced that the board has approved both a modest increase in the attendance fees for members and guests (see page 24) and a new category of Joint Membership for members who wish to join as a couple.

## THANK YOU

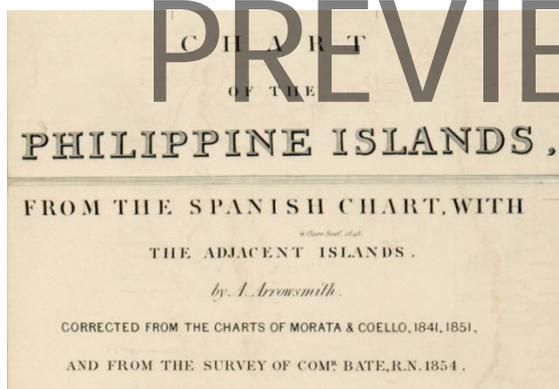
*to the following members of PHIMCOS  
for supporting the inaugural issue of*

### *The Murillo Bulletin*

- Margarita V. Binamira ● Mariano Cacho, Jr. ● Peter Geldart ●  
● Jaime C. González ● Jaime C. Laya ● Rudolf J.H. Lietz ●
- Raphael P.M. Lotilla ● Jose L. Mabilangan ● Carlos Madrid ●  
● Alberto Montilla ● Christian Perez ● Vincent S. Pérez ●
- Dieter Reichert ● Alfredo Roca ● Hans B. Sicat ● Jonathan Wattis ●

After dinner Alfredo Roca gave a presentation on *The Philippine Islands through the eyes of Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, Francisco Diaz Romero and Antonio Ghandia* in which he compared Murillo Velarde's famous *Carta hydrográphica y chorográphica de las Yslas Filipinas* (1734) with the equally beautiful (but much less well-known) *Carta Chorographica del Archipelago de las Islas Philipinas* by Diaz Romero and Ghandia (1727). Alfredo's article on these two maps (in the context of other maps of the period) will appear in the next issue of *The Murillo Bulletin*.

Peter Geldart then gave short presentations on two maps he had brought to show members. The first was Aaron Arrowsmith's *Chart of the Philippine Islands, from the Spanish Chart 1808*. He explained that Arrowsmith's map, published in London in 1812, was copied from the *Carta General del Archipelago De Filipinas* by Felipe Bauzá published by the Spanish Dirección Hidrográfica in 1808.



*Title from the 1862 edition of Aaron Arrowsmith's Chart of the Philippine Islands*

New editions of the chart were published by Samuel Arrowsmith in 1832 and by Richard Holmes Laurie (with the addition of an inset *Plan of the Bay of Manila*) in 1845, 1853 and 1862. The last of these, illustrated on the front cover, has been corrected from the charts of the Spanish cartographers Juan Morata and Francisco Coello, and the surveys of Commander William Thornton Bate of the Royal Navy.

The second map shown at the meeting was the rare "pirated" version of Herman Moll's map of *Asia* by the Dublin publisher George Grierson. This will be the subject of another article to be included in the next issue of our journal.



*The Roving Exhibition at De La Salle University*

In *The Murillo Bulletin* Issue No. 1 we featured the PHIMCOS Roving Exhibition, which displays reproductions of important maps of southeast Asia and the Philippines at schools and universities in order to introduce students unfamiliar with the subject to the historical and geopolitical importance of cartography.

These well-attended events are always received with enthusiasm. In the first half of this year the PHIMCOS Education Committee was able to arrange for the Roving Exhibition to be displayed at four venues, starting with the Philippine Women's University, Manila from 25 January to 5 February. PHIMCOS organised the exhibition in conjunction with the PWU's Schools of Arts & Sciences, Fine Arts & Design, Tourism, and International Relations & Diplomacy.

On the last day of the exhibition at PWU Dr Leovino Garcia gave a lecture on the theme "Putting the Philippines on the Map", attended by Mel Velasco Velarde who had kindly provided a full-sized copy of his example of the famous Murillo Velarde map.



*Dr Leovino Garcia lectures at the PWU*



Jimmie González,  
Joel Binamira,  
Marga Binamira,  
PWU President  
Dr. Francisco Benitez,  
Amb. Rosario Manalo,  
Olivia Villafuerte,  
Rina Filart and  
Manny Ticzon at  
the opening of the  
exhibition at PWU

The other Roving Exhibitions so far this year took place at St Scholastica's College, Manila from 7 March to 15 March; at The Manila Polo Club from 8 June to 14 June as part of the club's Independence Day activities; and at De La Salle University, Manila from 20 June to 29 June, arranged by the DLSU Libraries. The Roving Exhibition has now been moved to Cebu, where it will be on display at the University of San Carlos from 11 to 22 July.

PHIMCOS is proud of its tradition of arranging and sponsoring exhibitions of maps, prints and

related historical items, and the preparations for our next exhibition, to be entitled *Mapping the Philippine Seas*, are well in hand. An Exhibition Committee has been formed and is in the process of selecting the maps and charts from members' collections to be included. Our current plan is for the exhibition to open on 14 March 2017, most likely at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, and run until the end of April 2017. Further information will be provided as our preparations progress, and we hope that as many readers of *The Murillo Bulletin* as possible will be able to attend the events.

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