The Philippine Historical Association (PHA) will gather historians, researchers and social science educators at the GSIS Museo ng Sining in Pasay City and the National Museum of Natural History for a national conference on the theme “Bridging the Gap: The Role of Academic and Public History in Shaping Nation” from 20-22 September 2018.

The PHA Board declares that history is a field of continuing importance. In recent years, an increased interest in the past has been observed due in large part to social media and historians’ engagements in the public sphere.

The role of academic historians in generating cutting edge research remains of vital significance but such research must be disseminated in ways suitable for the appreciation of the mass audience, as public historians do. On the other hand, while public history conveys the lessons of the past, it must balance the rigor of the academic discipline and the needs of the audience. The public historians’ direct link with the general public should also inform academic historians on the topics that require immediate scholarly attention. Academic and public history must therefore feed on each other. Such synergy will play a powerful role in creating an informed citizenry.

Furthermore, with the recent passing of the “Grand Old Lady of Public History,” Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, the commemoration of the 100th death anniversary of pioneer public historian Mariano Ponce last May, and the recent debates on historical revisionism and negation, this is the appropriate time to look at the relevance of public history.

For technology has birthed new forms of telling history and thus, presents us with new challenges as well. A collaboration between stakeholders of public history and the academe may enhance the effective and credible telling of our past.

The conference aims to: 1. Determine the state of “Public History” in the Philippines. 2. Identify trends in the development of public history. 3. Recognize historians and other scholars doing research on public history. 4. Serve as an outlet of cutting edge historical research. 5. Provide a venue for collaboration and networking between the academe and various industries.

Dr. Maria Serena I. Diokno, Professor of History at the University of the Philippines and former Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines will keynote the event.

Prof. Michael Charleston “Xiao” Chua of the De La Salle University Manila and Public Relations Officer of the Association will speak about “Kasaysayang Pangmadla: Towards Telling the History of Public History in the Philippines.”
Si Ambeth Ocampo at ang kasaysayan pangmada

Ni Xiaoh Chau

TINATALUNTON ni Lamberto “Ambeth” Ocampo ang kanyang tabalong deka-dang karaning titnawag ng kasaysayan pangmada.

Sumusulat kadalasang ang mga akademiko ng kasaysayan may mga ternang hindi gaang naaabot ng mga karni-wang tao. Ngunit sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, may iba’t ibang taong dunaring upang ipaabot ang kasaysayan sa mas maraming tao: Si Jose Rizal na muling nagpinagbaging ng Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas ni Morga, si Mariano Ponce at Jaime de Veyra na naglagahal ng kolum na pinamagatang Elenereides Filipinas, Epifanio de los Santos at anak na si Jose P. Santos na nag-sulat ukol sa aking mga bayani, Heneral Santiago Alvarez na nag-isip ng mga saelay ng mga kapwa rebolusyonaryo at iniinahalal ito sa mga pahayagan, at iba pa na tulad sina Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil, Nick Joaquin, Doreen Fernandez, Sylvia Mayuga at Jaime Veneracion. Hindi naman talaga kaysa ang ginagawa ni Ambeth, subalit nakakuwentuhan niya ng iba’t ibang mga historia na si Teodoro Agoncillo. Ito ang nagagagabag ng takbo ng kanyang buhay.


National conference

Continued from Page 1

History in the Philippines.” Prof. Ambeth R. Ocampo of the Ateneo de Manila University, also former Chairman of the NHCP and bestselling author and lecturer, will talk about “The Future of History: Reflections on a Public Life.”

Celebrity and TV presenter Lourd Ernest de Veyra will give his experiences in presenting history in the media in “Telebisyun, Tambay, Talo: Kung Paano Magkatatatagay ng Kasaysayan ang History with Lourd.”

The afternoon of the first day and the rest of the second day will be devoted to paper presentations in parallel sessions from various stakeholders such as academicians, educators, local historians, heritage advocates and many others.

The end of the second day will be the General Assembly and business meeting of PBA members, while the morning of the last day, 22 September 2018, will be devoted to a flower offering at the Rizal Monument, a walking lecture at the Rizal Park, and a tour of the new National Museum of Natural History. The Commission on Higher Education endorsed the event and the Department of Education has issued an advisory related to it. For queries and other information, please visit http://2018Conference. pha1955.com or contact Dr. Fernando Santiago, Vice President of the Association and Conference Convener, at 2018phaconference@gmail.com or Prof. Jonathan C. Balsamo, Secretary of the Association, at (+632) 587-5354, 0905-5762181. The public is invited to join.

The year 2014 marked the beginning of a new stage of development at the Philippine Historical Association. The newly elected members of the PHA Board met and decided that the next PHA conference will be elevated into an international level. Although the decision was rather abrupt and unplanned, all members were optimistic that it could be mounted by the Board for the year 2015. Series of meetings followed along this line, the first of which was held at the University of Santos Tomas at the conference room of then Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Evelyn Songco. Dr. De Viana, chair of the History Department, gave us the initial contacts in the Malaysian Historical Society whom he met at the IAHA conference. This opportunity was taken seriously by the PHA president and arrangements were made to engage the Malaysian historians.

This resulted in my visit at the head quarters of the Malaysian Historical Society in Kuala Lumpur where subsequent meetings were held. The Malaysian delegates were headed by their executive Chairman Tan Sri Omar Mohd Hashim. The meeting was fruitful; they agreed to come to Manila for the international conference in 2015 and they even invited the Society of Indonesian Historians to participate in the said event. The 2015 International Conference...
The two-day event was composed of a series of lectures on the first day and on the second, a tour, and a courtesy call to Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Dato’ Raszan Abdul Rashid. The series of lectures was held at the Verdure, Henry Sy Sr. Hall at De La Salle University.

The first session was themed “Sharing Experiences, Oral History in Malaysia and the Philippines.”

The presentations were: Capturing Reminiscences, Preserving the Past: The Legacy of Dr. Marcelino Foronda to Philippine Oral History by Jose Victor Jimenez of De La Salle University; Oral History Association of Malaysia and Oral History Programmes in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges by Dr. Zahidi Dato’ Zainol Rashid of the Oral History Association of Malaysia; Growing Importance of Oral History in Malaysia with Few Case Studies by Professor Dato’ Dr. Raja Abdullah Yaacob of the Oral History Association of Malaysia; and Oral History and Memory: Some Considerations for Historians by Dr. Fernando A. Santiago Jr. of the PHA.

The second session was themed “Oral History and Southeast Asian Heritage.”

The papers presented were: Genealogy as Narrative and Heritage: Re-searching the Malay Family in Peninsular Malaysia by Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ahmad Murad Merican of the Universiti Sains Malaysia; Oral History Research as a Study Discipline in Enriching Malaysian Cultural Heritage Resources by Professor Dr. Sohaimi Zakaria of the Universiti Teknologi Mara; and Stories Captured by Word of Mouth: Cultural Heritage Building through Oral History by Christine M. Songco, Board Member Estrellita Muhi and Press Relations Officer Xiao Chua.

From left, Jose Victor Jimenez, Dr. Zahidi Rashid Zainol, Prof. Dr. Dato Raja Abdullah Yaacob and Dr. Fernando Santiago Jr.

PHILIPPINE Historical Association President Emmanuel Franco Calairo claimed that Emilio Aguinaldo may not be satisfied with the proclamation of independence made in his house in Kawit, Cavite on 12 June 1898.

He pointed out that Aguinaldo’s signature was absent among the many signatures in the Independence Day Proclamation. It was Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista who read the said Proclamation.

Calairo made the claim in a ceremony at the old Bacoor Municipal Plaza beside the Church where the unveiling of National Historical Commission of the Philippines Marker took place recently.

Subsequently, a book and a documentary on the Bacoor Assembly were launched. He further explained that Aguinaldo had called for another meeting in Bacoor on 1 August 1898 and signed an Act that Apolinario Mahnib drafted which explicitly proclaimed the Philippine Independence, not just a mere ratification or revelation of 12 June.

Furthermore, Calairo pointed out that the Malolos Congress ratified that 1 August 1898 Proclamation and not the 12 June 1898 document, based on records.

But, why did we forget 1 August and have been celebrating 12 June instead? It was Aguinaldo himself who can be at fault. Calairo speculated that it has to do with his later rift with his former trusted adviser Apolinario Mahnib. Read Calairo’s book for more expose.

Although it is now clear that the proclamation was actually 1 August based on historiographic documents, would we choose another less dramatic signing to a more symbolic displaying and playing of our national symbols and a mass celebration as our Independence Day?

Pobre launches book on Armed Forces history
FORMER Philippine Historical Association (PHA) President Cesar Pobre launched his book entitled History of the Armed Forces of the Filipino People Volume 2, at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines office in Manila on 30 July 2018.

National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chair Rene Escalante, World War II veteran Retired General Arnelo Balacea, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Philippine Veterans Association Office Administrator Retired General Ernesto Carolina and former President Fidel Ramos attended the launching of the new book.

Members of the PHA Board who also graced the occasion were Treasurer Evelyn Songco, Board Member Estrellita Muhi and Press Relations Officer Xiao Chua.

Surely, Calairo’s book will raise further interesting debate that will enrich our understanding of the past and the processes of writing and unwriting history.  — Xiao Chua
The Philippine Historical Association (PHA) held a national conference on teaching the Rizal course held from May 24-25, 2018 at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) in Manila. The conference aimed to enhance the teaching of the Rizal course and promote its relevance in contemporary society.

**Conference on teaching the Rizal course held**

By Roy Mabasa

PHASE BALITA

By Roy Mabasa

The Philippine Historical Association (PHA) held a national conference on teaching the Rizal course at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) on May 24 and 25, 2018. The conference aimed to enhance the teaching of the Rizal course and promote its relevance in contemporary society.

The conference consisted of several panel discussions and lectures, each focusing on different aspects of Rizal's life and legacy. The conference also featured a keynote speech by Dr. Raul Sebastian of the University of Santo Tomas, who emphasized the importance of teaching Rizal's life and work in an engaging and dynamic manner.

One of the highlights of the conference was a panel discussion on the integration of Rizal's life and work into the curriculum. Panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities of teaching Rizal's life and work, and how to make the curriculum more relevant and accessible to students.

The conference also featured a lecture by Dr. Emmanuel F. Calalito, President of the Philippine Historical Association and history professor at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, who gave a lecture on “Teaching the Rizal course at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.” Dr. Calalito discussed the significance of Rizal's life and work in the context of current events and how to engage students in the study of Rizal.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion on the future of Rizal studies and the role of the PHA in promoting Rizal's legacy. Panelists discussed the need for continued research and education on Rizal, and the importance of involving students in the study of Rizal's life and work.

Overall, the conference provided a valuable platform for educators and researchers to share their insights and ideas on teaching the Rizal course, and to promote the study of Rizal's life and work in contemporary society.
Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil
The Grand Old Lady of Public History

By Gloria Esguerra Melencio

“THE Grand Old Lady of Public History,” as historian Xiao Chua endearingly describes her, had written 30 last 30 July 2018. Carmen Maria Aurora Vicenta Guerrero y Francisco vda. de Cruz y vda. de Nakpil died peacefully at 96 leaving behind a body of work as a historian, journalist, editor, literary writer, columnist and a legacy of responsive and honest government work that she had trailblazed.

Coming from a family of renowned doctors, scientists, playwrights, painters and novelists, Chitang as she was fondly called had made an indelible mark as a staff member, editor and columnist at the Evening News, Philippines Herald, Manila Chronicle, Manila Times, Asia magazine, and Malaya, in addition to contributing lectures, essays, short stories to other publications in the Philippines and around the world for 60 years. She had 10 books to boot: Woman Enough; A Question of Identity; History Today; The Philippines and the Filipinos; The Rice Conspiracy (a novel); the Centennial Reader and Whatever; an autobiographical trilogy Myself, Elsewhere; Legends and Adventures; and Exeunt.

Foremost of her government stint was at the Philippine National Historical Commission where she served as its Chairperson in the 1960s, also at the helm of the Manila Historical Commission in the 1990s, and director-general of the Technology Resource Center from 1975 to 1985. She was also elected to the Executive Board of the UNESCO in Paris in 1983 by popular vote of the international assembly. Looking for more information on how she lived her life, Xiao Chua’s column is an excerpt taken from “Legends and Adventures,” part of Carmen Guerrero Nakpil’s autobiographical trilogy. This is published with the permission of the author and with the assistance of her daughter Lisa G. Nakpil.)

“I am sure EDSA began the day Ninoy was killed. The Marcos’ empire crumbled, not in February 1986 when, disfigured and be-draggled, he fled in that American helicopter out of Malacañang. It happened almost three years earlier when Ninoy Aquino fell dead on the tarmac.

The body in that open coffin beneath the catafalque at the church of Sto. Domingo and, later, on the bed of white and yellow flowers on the truck that moved slowly through the mass of mourners was Ninoy’s. But Ninoy did not die on that sunny Sunday afternoon in August 1983 at the Manila International Airport, for that was when he began to live forever in the hearts of his countrymen. It was Ferdinand Marcos who died that day, and he knew it. The yellow-clad street demonstrations that followed, the gruesome campaign for the Snap Election and the joyous, invincible wave of people on the city’s circumferential highway called EDSA in February 1986, were only the post-mortem.”

Indeed, Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil had lived a full life. Salute to the Grand Old Lady of Public History.

Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil

Salazar cited as prime mover of Pan-Malayan identity

IN an international conference held at the Manila Hotel on 14 September 2017, the Philippine Historical Association recognized historian Zeus Salazar as the academic prime mover of the Pan-Malayan identity as he has been making researches and lectures about the multi-ethnicity and multi-culturality of the Austronesian or Malayan identity for several decades.

The historian is described in the citation as the one “who has done most in developing Pan-Malayan identity through scholarly efforts.”

Speaking in Filipino interspersed with Bahasa Malaysia, Bahasa Indonesia and English languages, Dr. Salazar accepted the recognition given to him by fellow historians, academicians, researchers and other professionals.

Among the historians and academicians writing about the Austronesian civilization, Prof. Zeus Salazar, PhD, has been recognized as having a body of work, which include among others journal articles, scholarly essays and his books Malayan Connection: Ang Pilipinas sa Dunia Melayu (1998) and Ang Pilipinong “Banua”/“Banwa” sa Mundong Melano-Polynesian (2006).

This last scholarly work is recognized as “the most developed articulation thus far of a version of Pan-Malayanism as a consciously political-cultural-academic project,” according to the PHA citation.

PHA likewise emphasized the conceptual and cultural concepts that Salazar espoused on the study of the Malayo-Polynesian world. His studies also contributed to the strengthening of the Filipino national identity and have been connecting the Filipinos, seemingly a Westernized people, to their deeper identity as part of the Malayan world, the PHA stated in its resolution.