

Research Report for 2017 Archaeological Studies at San Dionisios (GHPI site 66-02-1024), Humatak, Guam

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Abstract

This report summarizes the first season of archaeological excavations that we conducted in 2017 at the church and cemetery of San Dionisios. This investigation has: 1) documented the different construction moments of the church of San Dionisio Areopagita; 2) elucidated questions about its architectural structure; and 3) locate the possible colonial cemetery that the popular memory located in what would have been the church's front yard. These excavations are part of the larger collaborative project ABERIGUA (Archaeology of Cultural Contact and Iberian Colonialism in Guam). This project combines the efforts

of archaeologists and documentary historians to understand the local processes of identity, change and continuity related to the incorporation of Guam and the Mariana Islands into the colonial network of the Spanish empire.

Our campaign, therefore, has provided new information about the colonial period in Guam as well as new questions that we will have to study in the near future. We have worked in the framework of community archeology, integrating Humatak students and officers of the Guam Preservation Trust. At the same time, we have promoted the interest of the public for the history and archeology of this area and formed in the field students and volunteers of the Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona, the University of Guam and the University of Hawaii.

Introduction

In 2017 (June 26-July 21), we carried out the firsts systematic excavation in the Bay of Humatak (figure 1) within the framework of the ABERIGUA project (*Archeology of Culture Contact and Iberian colonialism in Guam*). Fieldwork took place at the site of San Dionisio, corresponding to the remains of the church of San Dionisio Areopagita and its associated cemetery (figure 2). Archaeological work was aimed at better understanding the processes of identity, change and continuity related to Spanish colonialism in the cultural sequence of the Mariana Islands, with a specific focus on the impact and consequences that these processes had on native population.



Figure 1. Humatak Bay and San Dionisios. Courtesy of Richard Schaefer y Cardno GS Inc.

The archaeological campaign of 2017 had the following goals:

1. The excavation of the remains of the church and the potential documentation of the cemetery of San Dionisio Areopagita at Humatak.
2. The organization, inventory, and preliminary analysis of the cultural materials that were recovered by the excavations.

In the coming years, we would like to investigate the Jesuit mission in a broader perspective that includes excavations at the so-called *Palasio* (corresponding to the House of the Governor) and the Humatak' *reducción*. Our goal is to have a representation and understanding of the different *loci* that integrated colonial daily life in Guam.

In this report we describe the most relevant procedures that we have followed during 2017 one-month long fieldwork. We opened two excavation units: Unit 1 and Unit 2. In a complementary manner, we proceeded to follow two rows of parallel stones that are located along the central nave of the church. We also excavated a pit test on the northwest wall (TPI) (figure 2). We established a nearby laboratory at the Humatak Cultural Centre to conduct the first processing of materials.

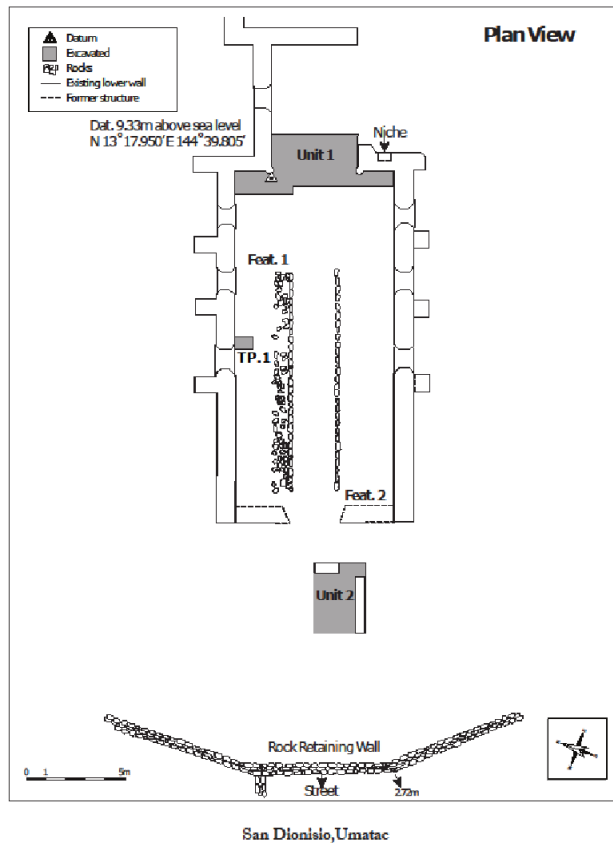


Figure 2. San Dionisio plant with the excavated area. Courtesy of Richard Schaefer and Cardno GS Inc.

Excavations at San Dionisios have been conducted within the framework of "community archeology" involving the current residents of Humatak as active partners and collaborators to support their deep interest in the history and archaeology of their heritage. With the commitment to work with the community and not only in the community, archaeological excavations were planned to meet Humatak's residents concerns about their first church and the existence of a colonial cemetery. The presence of this colonial cemetery is undocumented in the historical sources, but has however remain in oral tradition.

Key personnel for the archaeological investigation has included Dr. Sandra Montón Subías (ICREA Research Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Dr. James M. Bayman (Professor of Anthropology, University of Hawaii-Manoa) and Dr. Natalia Moragas Segura (University of Barcelona). These personnel has directly supervised other fieldworkers, students, and volunteers who have participated in the field effort and laboratory analysis. The field research has also been undertaken in consultation with

faculty and collaborating researchers at the University of Guam and the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) including Dr. Omaira Brunal-Perry and Dr. David Atienza. Likewise, we have counted with the advice of Dr. Boyd Dixon, Dr. Jolie Liston, Dr. Darlene Moore, Dr. Cacilie Craft, Dr. Judy Amesbury and D. Jorge Luis Abejez, and Dr. José Luis Ruiz Peinado. Fieldwork has been conducted in partnership with archaeologists Enrique Moral, Anthony Alvarez, Verónica Peña and Jacy Moore and school children Xavier Quinata, Samaria Quinata, Ben Quinata, Detra Santiago, Gabriella Topasna, Michaela Aguon, Tyler Aguon, Kiana Siguenza, Jaren Aguon y Troy Cruz. Dr. Rick Schaefer has done the planimetry of the site. Mr. Joe Quinata has led the organization of the Humatak community participating in the excavation.

Historical Context

The European exploration of the Mariana Islands began in 1521, with the first Magellan-El Cano circumnavigation of the world. It was then that the first contacts between the local Chamorro populations of Guam and the crew of Magallanes took place. Due to a cultural misunderstanding, the island received the unfavorable title of *Islas de los Ladrones* (Islands of the Thieves). However, it was not until 1565 that Miguel López de Legazpi claimed the islands for the Crown of Castile, and not until 1668 when their permanent colonization began in establishing Diego Luis de San Vitores the first Jesuit mission. It was then also when, in honor of Queen Regent Doña Mariana de Austria, they were renamed as *Islas Marianas* (Mariana Islands). These islands remained in Spanish hands until 1898, when they became a US' colony after the Spanish-American war.

The Spanish colonization of the Mariana Islands was linked to the Manila Galleon trade route that united Acapulco (Mexico) with Manila (the Philippines) between 1565 and 1815 (Schurtz 1959; Spate 1979). Guam was a mandatory technical stop in the Galeón *tornaviaje*, so it became a fundamental place for administration and exchange in the Western Pacific.

Needless to say, human settlement in Marianas and Guam had begun much earlier, around 1500 BC according to archaeological evidence (Carson 2012; Kurashina & Clyshulte 1983). As in many other places that have endorsed European colonization,

conventional periodizations end prehistory around the first contact with the European world. In this case, two main divisions have been established: a pre-latte period (1500 BC-900/1000 AD) and a latte period (900/1000 AD-1521 AD). The point of inflection between one and the other is marked by the appearance of latte structures. Recently, however, it has been proposed to extend this second phase to 1700 AD, since it seems to coincide with the time when most of Latte settlements are forcibly abandoned due to the *Reducción* colonial programme (Brunal-Perry 2009; Hezel 1989).

Humatak results a privileged enclave for the long-term study of colonial processes. Together with Agaña, it was the most important city of the Spanish colonial administration. In addition, Humatak is one of the most emblematic places of Guam. It is considered to be the place where Magellan's crew stopped in 1521. In 1565 Miguel López de Legazpi took possession of the island in this same place, and the area, favored by a welcoming bay with fresh water sources, became an important way station for the Manila Galleon transatlantic trade (Bjork 1998: 25; Brunal-Perry 2004; Van der Porten 2005; Yuste 2007). Therefore, it must have been at Humatak where the contacts between the native populations of Guam and the travelers of the Galeón were more intense during the long period of contact that began in 1521 and ended in 1668 with the effective colonization of the island. Likewise, there are several latte settlements in the area with material culture on the surface that show their belonging to the moment of contact.

When the reduction period began in the 1670s, Governor Quiroga made the seat of his official residence in the town of Humatak, which led to the construction of a series of fortifications to defend the bay, especially when the berthing and disembarkation of the products of the Galleon visited Guam on its transatlantic route (Delgadillo et al., 1979, Driver and Perry 1994). First, the battery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, followed by Fort Saint Angel, Fort San José, and Fort of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad. Although the excavations we have carried out have been the first at San Dionisio, other archeological works had previously been carried out in the fort of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, Fort San José (Moore and McNerney 1984), and some prehistoric settlements (Moore 1989, Brown 1990).

San Dionisios Areopagita

To place the colonization of Guam in global perspective, we need to frame the process within the worldwide expansion of Jesuit missions (Banchoff & Casanova 2016; Clossey 2008; Coello et al. 2012; Molina 2013; Prosperi 1992). San Dionisios Areopagita was one of such missions. In fact, it is one of the first Jesuit missions built in Guam and the Mariana Islands.

The only information related to the Jesuit mission of San Dionisios comes from a bunch of references scattered in documentary sources (Annual Letters and Relations) and old engravings and paintings made in the framework of various expeditions to Guam in the nineteenth century. Like other buildings on the island, we know that the mission was affected by a series of natural disasters, as well as by the passage of time after its abandonment in 1909. From the historical sources we know that the mission was rebuilt on at least three occasions. The first building was built with wood and other perishable plant materials, and it was rebuilt in 1680 following a devastating typhoon. We also know that this first reconstruction was carried out, at least partly, by re-using building stones (possibly from its foundations). After its destruction by yet another typhoon, the church was again rebuilt in 1693, this time with walls that were made entirely of stone and covered by a thatched roof. In 1848, it seems that the church was destroyed again by an earthquake. In 1887 Governor Olive mentioned this building in his written report: “Islas Marianas. Ligeros Apuntes acerca de las mismas, Porvenir al que pueden y deben aspirar, y ayuda que ha de prestar la administración para conseguirlo”. He noted that the church was made of stone although the roof was made with jigay or nete. The different old engravings that exist only provide idealized images of the exterior of the church. Neither the old engravings nor the documentary sources provide any detail about a possible cemetery.

The 2017 archaeological excavations of San Dionisios (GHPI site 66-02-1024)

As previously stated, during 2017 fieldwork at San Dionisios two excavations units (Unit 1 & Unit 2) were open; two rows of parallel stones along the central nave of the church were located (feature 1 and Feature 2) and a test pit (TP1) was excavated (figure 2). We established a nearby laboratory at the Humatak Cultural Centre to conduct the first processing of materials. We have located our datum in one of the columns that would have framed the main altar of the church (figures 3), with a GPS location N13° 30.259 ', E 144° 47.933', at 9.33 m. above sea level.

During the excavation, we have followed the natural stratigraphy of the area and the different constructive phases of the building, as well as we have screened the entire sediment and collected samples to perform subsequent analysis of flotation and phytoliths. The standardized field forms have been complemented with field journals, plans, sections and photograph.

In addition to the archaeological excavation, we organized simultaneously a laboratory for a preliminary processing of the archaeological materials (mainly pottery, lithic industry, bone industry, faunal remains, human skeletal remains, malacological remains, metal objects and construction materials) and leave them ready for subsequent analyses by specialists. Tasks associated with this laboratory involved the washing and drying of those materials that required it, their labeling, a first inventory (which is attached below for each of the excavated units), its graphic record and its storage in the corresponding bags. The sequence and findings from each of these units is presented below.



Figure 3. Location of the datum (GPS N13° 30.259', E 144° 47.933').

UNIT 1 (U1)

Unit 1 was designed to excavate the area corresponding to what should have been the main altar of the church (see figure 2). An area of 3 by 3.20 m was opened, following the orientation of the northwest wall of the church (at 230° N). The orientation of the unit is therefore 230°N in its length and 140°N in its amplitude. We place the datum for this unit at 51 cm from the general datum. The southern part of the unit was not

excavated with the exception of the southwest corner, where we reached the sterile layer.

In this unit we could verify six different constructive units and define 4 layers before reaching the sterile layer.

Layer 1

It consists of a very dark brown organic sediment (2/2 10 YR) of recent addition. It covers most of the extension of the unit with the exception of the northeast and southwest corners. In some cases, it covered the collapse that constitutes Layer 2.

Initial depths: NE: 72 cm bd; NW: 76 cm bd; Center: 90 cm bd; SE: 123 cm bd; SW: 123 cm bd.

Inferior depths: NE: 80 cm bd; NW: 83 cm bd; Center: 138cm bd; SE: 129 cm bd; SW: 130 cm bd.

Layer 2

It corresponds to the most recent collapse of the church (figure 4). It was found in the whole unit, in some cases covered by Layer 1. It is composed of stones of different sizes, some of which are flat-faced and have remains of mortar (corresponding to the exposed part of the walls). Other stones correspond to the filling of the two external walls that constitute the main wall. Some of them are pebbles partially covered with mortar. In this collapse there are quite a few *tridacnas* (figure 5) and coral, most likely used as building material for the filling of the wall.

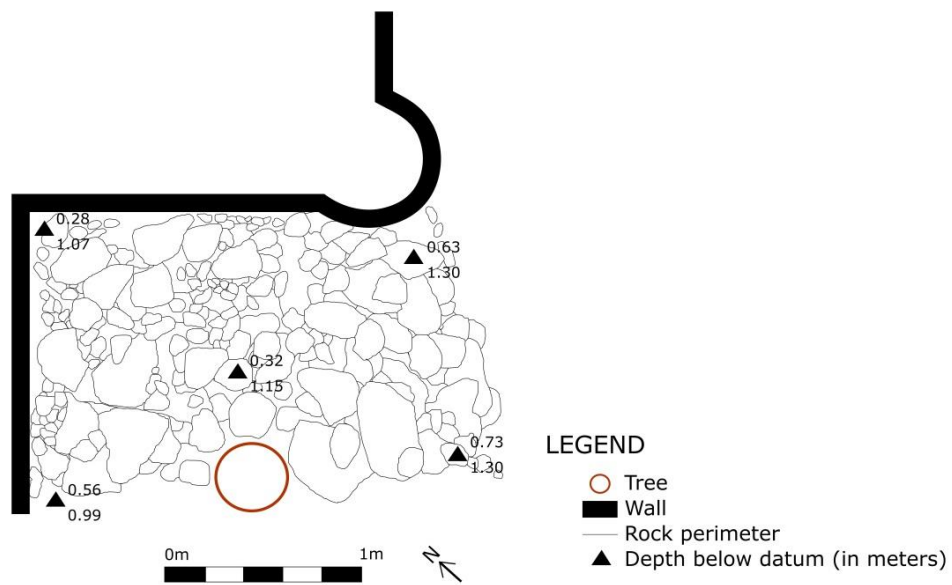


Figure 4. Recent collapse with initial and inferior depths.



Figure 5. *Tridacnas* found in the collapse of the walls of the church.

The sediment contained in some parts of this collapse is dark grayish brown (3/2 10 YR). It is a sediment of sandstone with limestone inlays.

This collapse is very modern, as indicated by the material found (beer cans, marbles or plastic, among other modern materials).

When removing the lower part of the collapse attached to the northern wall we discovered traces of painting with some signs (for example an “X”) (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Painting remains possibly representing a “X”.

Construction structure 1

This structure corresponds to a pavement that seems to be contemporary with the rows of stones (feature 1) that can be seen on the surface of the central nave of the church.

Construction structure 2

It corresponds to the remains of what could have been a limestone stairway (figure 7 and figure 8). It appears partially covered by the remains of Layer 2. Its initial construction is prior to the Constructive structure 1.

The limestone stairway is a massive construction since the base of the column and part of the column shaft are both made from one only block of stone. This indicates that the lower part of the stairway is contemporary in its beginning to that of the walls that currently define the High Altar. The formal features of the column in its base and preserved shaft are characteristic of the artistic style ascribed at the end of the 17th century.

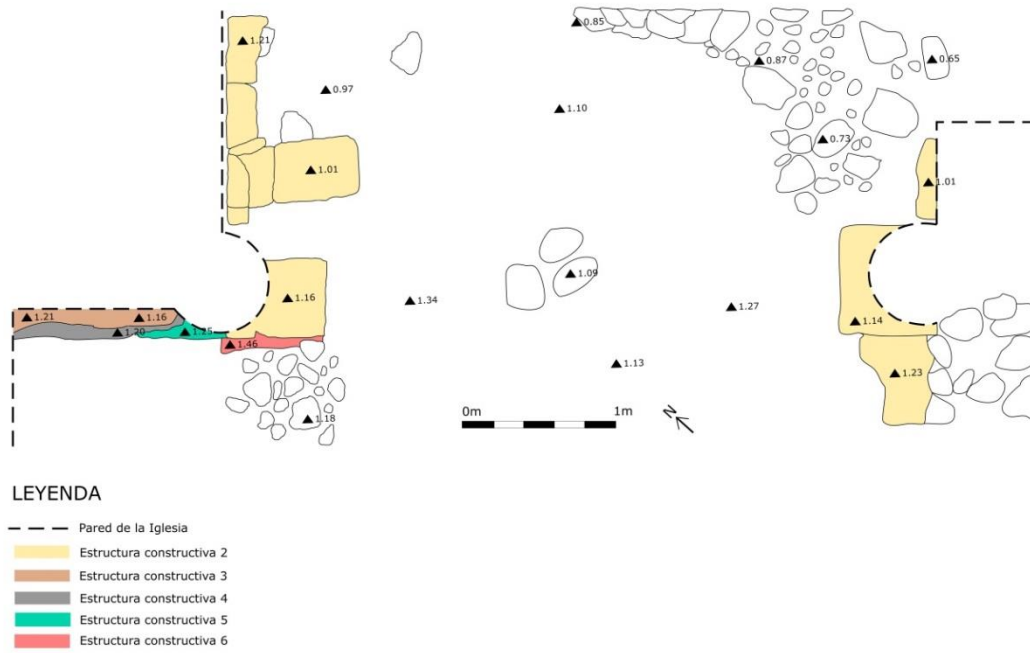


Figure 7. Map of Unt 1 with construction structures 2,3,4, 5 and 6.

Construction structure 3

It corresponds to the last remodeling of the pavement, directly associated with the wall of the church and the base of the column (see figures 7 and 8).

Construction structure 4

It corresponds to the first remodeling of the pavement directly associated with the wall of the church and the base of the column (see figures 7 and 8)

Construction structure 5

It corresponds to the pavement directly associated with the wall of the church and the base of the column (see figures 7 and 8).



Figure 8. Limestone stairway (Constructive structure 2) and associated pavements (Constructive structures 3, 4, and 5) in the SW of Unit 1.

Construction structure 6

It corresponds to the first pavement of the church. It passes under the columns and is therefore prior to the remodeling of the High Altar (figures 7 and 8).

Layer 3

Dark brown sediment (3/2 7.5 YR) just below the Construction structure 1.

Layer 4

Sediment of very dark grayish brown color (3/2 10YR).

Layer 5

Sterile reddish-brown sediment (3/3 5YR).

Preliminary Inventory of Archaeological Materials

SD2017 U1	Pottery		Faunal remains		Shell		Metal	
	Layer1	NR=3 20,7gr	NR=3 6,6gr		NR=12 37,9gr		NR=114 1176,7gr	

Layer2	NR=16	209,3gr	NR=59	150,6gr	NR=32	3560,4gr	NR=136	1191gr
Layer 3	NR=2	10,5gr	-	-	NR=2	21,8gr	NR=3	18,9gr
Layer4	NR=1	4gr	-	-	NR=3	86gr	NR=3	18,4gr

SD2017 U1	Building material		Modern material		Lithic tools		Human remains	
Layer1	NR=44	1082,7gr	NR=159	502,1gr	NR=6	231gr	NR=12	41,6gr
Layer2	NR=119	7629,5gr	NR=80	1385,7gr	NR=6	506,8gr	-	-
Layer3	NR=13	151,5	NR=2	10,6gr	NR=2	15gr	NR=1	2,5gr
Layer4	NR=47	305,1gr	-	-	NR=1	71,6gr	-	-

CENTRAL SECTOR

We have cleaned the rows of stones that could be appreciated on the surface (feature 1 and feature 2, see figure 1). We have also open a pit test attached to the west wall of the church (TP1 in figure 1). The excavation of these two constructive units will be carried out in subsequent campaigns.

Construction structure 1

It corresponds to a pavement with two possible post holes that remain to be explored (feature 1 in figure 1).

The initial depths are 107 cm bd in the closest part to the High Altar, 125 cm bd in the center and 169 cm bd in the furthest part from the High Altar.

Construction structure 2

It corresponds to a pavement parallel to the Constructive structure 1 that remains to be explored (feature 2 in figure 1).

The initial depths are 101 cm bd in the closest part to the High Altar, 126 cm bd in the center and 172 cm bd in the furthest part from the High Altar.

In the 2017 campaign we have only proceeded to the cleaning of the surface of these two structures.

TEST PIT 1

We decided to open a 1per1 test pit (TP1 1 in figure 2) to verify whether or not the pavements recorded in Unit 1 were also present in this part of the church, and to evaluate the possibility of digging in this area in the future.

The same pavements that in unit 1 were recorded, together with three different layers before reaching the sterile level. The constructive methods were the same than those determined in Unit 1, with two constructive structures related, at least visually due to their coating and composition, to Constructive structures 5 and 6 of Unit 1. However, this area has not been excavated in extension, so these possible concordances must be taken with caution, pending future investigations that may confirm them.

Construction structure 1

It corresponds to a pavement made of stones that seems to be contemporary with the row of stones (feature 1) that can be seen on the surface in the central nave of the church.

Construction structure 2

It is the first structure identified and corresponds to the last remodeling of the pavement, directly associated with the side wall of the church.

Construction structure 3

It corresponds to the first pavement of the church detected in this area. It probably corresponds to the Constructive structure 6 of Unit 1.

Samples of the pavements have been taken in order to carry out mortar analyses.

Layer 1

A very dark brown organic sediment (2/2 10 YR).

Initial depth: 124 cm bd

Inferior depth: 131 cm bd

Layer 2

It corresponds to the most recent collapse of the church, partially covered by Layer 1. It is composed of stones of different sizes. The sediment that contains some parts of this collapse is dark grayish brown (3/2 10 YR). It is a sediment of sandstone with limestone inlays. This collapse is very modern, as indicated by the associated material found (beer cans, marbles or plastic).

Initial depth: 131 cm bd

Inferior depth: 140 cm bd

Layer 3

It corresponds to Layer 4 in Unit 1.

Initial depth: 140 cm bd

Inferior depth: 153 cm bd

Layer 4

Sterile sediment of dark reddish brown color (3/3 5YR).

Initial depth: 153 cm bd

Archaeological Materials

The materials from this survey are pending analysis.

UNIT 2 (U2)

Unit 2 was an area that originally measured 2 meters wide per 3 meters length. During the course of the excavation, as we will point out below, we had to extend it half metre in the NE corner (figure 2).

Here we excavated five archaeological layers (figure 9), and we did not reach the sterile layer. Here we recorded one constructive structure corresponding to the church front yard pavement (constructive structure 1), a modern dog pit burial (feature 1) and two bone accumulations that have been named respectively feature 2 and feature 3.

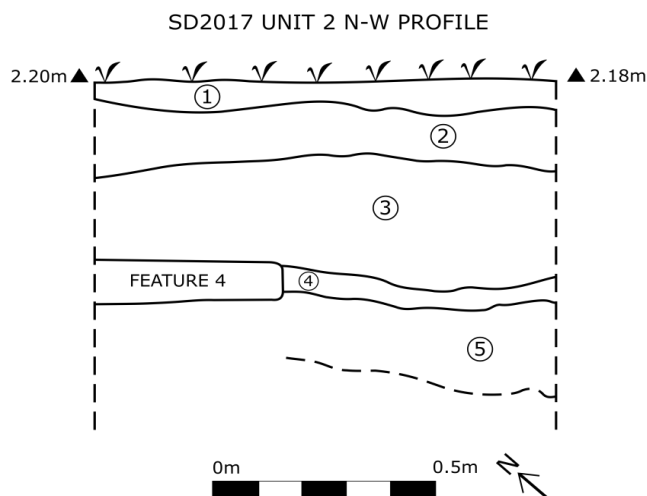


Figure 9. Profile N-W, Unit 2.

Excavations in this unit are to be continued during the 2018 archaeological season. Stratigraphy in this unit is as follows:

Layer 1

Superficial level made of dark brown organic soil (2/2 10YR).

Initial depth: NO: 220 cm bd; NE: 218 cm bd; Center: 235 cm bd; SO: 257 cm bd; SE: 255cm bd.

Inferior depth: NO: 224 cm bd; NE: 223 cm bd; Center: 241 cm bd; SO: 263 cm bd; SE: 257 cm bd.

Initial depth in Northeast extension: NO: 210 cm bd; NE: 212 cm bd; Center: 214 cm bd; SO: 218 cm bd; SE: 218 cm bd.

Inferior depth in Northeast extension: NO: 219cm bd; NE: 220 cm bd; Center: 220cm bd; SO: 226 cm bd; SE: 229 cm bd.

Layer 2

Layer of very dark brownish-grey sandstone with inlays (3/2 10YR).

Initial depth: NO: 224 cm bd; NE: 218 cm bd; Center: 241 cm bd; SO: 263 cm bd; SE: 257 cm bd.

Inferior depth: NO: 241 cm bd; NE: 239 cm bd; Center: 255 cm bd; SO: 264cm bd; SE: 263 cm bd.

Initial depth in Northeast extension: NO: 219cm bd; NE: 220 cm bd; Center: 220cm bd; SO: 226 cm bd; SE: 229 cm bd.

Inferior depth in Northeast extension: NO: 236cm bd; NE: 236 cm bd; Center: 240cm bd; SO: 248 cm bd; SE: 250 cm bd.

This layer contains modern material, like a coin from 1967. Scattered fragments of animal and human bone together with different types of artefacts were also found. Cutting both this layer and the following one, a construction rod probably used to make the planimetry of the church by Mardith Schuetz-Miller in the 1980s was also found. The Initial depth of the rod is 219 cm bd and the inferior depth (already in stratum 3) is 253cm bd.

This layer was also cutted by the excavation of a pit (feature 1).

Feature 1

Feature 1 consists of a small pit excavated in Layer 2 and 3 to allocate the remains of a modern dog. The dog appears inside a plastic bag with soft sandy dark brown sediment (2/2 10YR), approximately in the middle of the unit (99 cm from the NE profile, 97 cm from the SW profile, 70 cm from the SE profile and 65cm from the NW profile. A coin from 1998 appeared in the sediment. One of the Umatac schoolchild who participates in the excavation remembered to have buried a dog here around 10 years ago.

Pit's Initial depth is 242 cm in the centre, and inferior depth is 260cm bd.

Layer 3

Sandy and much looser dark brown sediment (4/2 7.5 YR). Part of this layer is cutted through by feature 1.

From this layer onwards, we only excavated the northern half of the original area. Thus, the excavation area was reduced to 1.5 m length per 2m wide.

Initial depth: NO: 241cm bd; NE: 239cm bd; Center: 251cm bd; SO: 264cm bd; SE: 263cm bd.

Inferior depth: NO: 259cm bd; NE: 263cm bd; Center: 262cm bd; SO: 272; SE: 264cm bd.

Initial depth in Northeast extension: NO: 236cm bd; NE: 236cm bd; Center: 240cm bd; SO: 248cm bd; SE: 250cm bd.

Inferior depth in Northeast extension: NO: 251cm bd; NE: 252cm bd; Center: 255cm bd; SO: 260cm bd; SE: 260cm bd.

This layer might possibly correspond to a filling. As in the previous layer, artifacts and bones were scattered throughout the unit. However, there was a higher concentration of human bone in the southeast area. Some of these bones appear to be in anatomical connection (supine lateral decubitus). We named feature 2 the area where the spine and right arm was located and feature 3 the area where we found the possible corresponding skull (to the southwest). Artefacts consists mainly of building material, with important amount of tiles.

During the excavation of this layer we discovered a paved area in the northwest section that we named constructive structure 1 (figure 10).



Figure 10. Constructive Structure 1 (U2).

Construction Structure 1

It corresponds to a pavement running NW (figure 10) consisting of limestone slabs of different sizes and thickness. The northernmost slab is 9 cm thick. We have not yet reached the bottom level in the remaining ones.

Feature 2

Feature 2 corresponds to a significant accumulation of human bones. Some of them appeared in anatomical connection (spine, clavicle and right arm) (figure 11). The sediment containing the bones was dark yellowish brown (4/4 10YR). The appearance of these bones just in the northeast edge of the profile's unit forced us to extend the unit to accommodate the excavation of the bones. Bone accumulation before articulated remains has a 253 cm initial depth and 260 cm final depth. Initial depth for articulated remains (corresponding to a rib) is 257 cm bd. Two bone buttons were found close to the bone remains (figure 12).



Figure 10. Feature 2 Unit 2.



Figure 12. Buttons associated to bones found in feature 2.

At the bottom of feature 2 we began to find remains of wood, nails and an iron device still to be identified. One of these nails is in the middle of a piece of wood (at 80cm NW

profile and 10cm W profile), with a depth of 277cm bd (figure 13).



Figure 13. Wood remains and iron artifact.

Layer 4

Layer 4 corresponds to a very compact and hard grayish brown layer (5/2 10YR), with many inlays of degraded limestone. This level is very thin and contains very little material. Depths indicate that it might have been a relatively flat level. Our hypothesis is that this layer might be the preparation of a floor or a very degraded floor.

Initial depth: NO: 261cm bd; NE: 263cm bd; Center: 262cm bd; SO: 270cm bd; SE: 264cm bd.

Final depth: NO: 267cm bd; NE: 269cm bd; Center: 266cm bd; SO: 276; SE: 270cm bd.

Construction structure 1 cuts this level. There is very little material.

Next, a layer of softer darker brown sediment appears (perhaps because there is less incrustation of degraded limestone). At this layer, and in contact with the next one, a skull appears (with a depth of 269 cm bd at its midpoint) that could correspond to the articulated bone remains found in the northeast corner. We name this feature 3.

Feature 3

As just stated, feature 3 corresponds to the skull remains that could correspond to bones in feature 2. Depth equals 269cm at its midpoint (94cm NW profile and 65cm SW profile). It is possible that the head of the skeleton had rolled off to the south. It is also

possible that these remains had been placed next to the filling, and that part of the skeleton was connected by the skin. In the same area, wood remains with associated nails were found (figure 14). One possibility that we are considering is that these remains could belong to a coffin. The soil associated with the group of bones is dark yellowish brown (4/4 10YR).



Figure 14. Nail with wood remains in feature 3 (U2).

Layer 5

Very sandy and loose dark brown layer, similar to layer 3 (4/2 10YR). This layer has not been totally excavated, and excavations will continue during the 2018 season.

Initial depth: NO: 267cm bd; NE: 269cm bd; Center: 266cm bd; SO: 276; SE: 270cm bd.

Preliminary Inventory of Archaeological Materials

SD2017 U2	Pottery		Animal bone remains		Shell		Metal	
	NR=	gr	NR=	gr	NR=	gr	NR=	gr
Layer1	NR=5	74,9gr	NR=11	54,1gr	NR=33	192,7gr	NR=17	123,4gr
Layer 2	NR=20	300,3gr	-	1681,53gr	NR=33	534,4gr	NR=112	524,1gr
Layer 3	NR=10	102,8	NR=5	55gr	NR=9	361,2gr	NR=14	403,9gr
Layer 4	NR=1	15gr	NR=58	36,5gr	NR=4	34gr	NR=2	6,5gr
Layer 5	-	-	-	24,7gr	NR=3	5,2gr	NR=11	30,2gr

Feature1	-	-	-	-	NE=1	1,3gr	NR=3	27,3gr
Feature2	-	-	-	-	-	-	NR=8	67,8gr
Feature3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SD2017 U2	Construction material		Modern material		Stone tools		Human remains		Charcoal
Layer 1	NR=22	260,6gr	NR=30	60,2gr	NR=1	22,3gr	-	-	-
Layer 2	NR=365	9617,1gr	NR=67	123,1gr	NR=8	200,8gr	NR=47	180,61gr	3,4gr
Layer 3	NR=157	5850,6gr	NR=6	13,8gr	NR=5	613,4gr	-	1026,1gr	-
Layer 4	NR=14	505gr	NR=1	0,6gr	-	-	NR=42	63,7gr	-
Layer 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	224,6gr	-
Feature1	-	-	NR=6	40,51gr	-	-	-	-	-
Feature2	-	-	-	-	-	-	NR=1	34,8gr	-
Feature3	NR=2	169,6gr	-	-	NR=1	3,6gr	-	117,7gr	-

Conclusions and Future Actions

During the archaeological season carried out in June-July, one of the main colonial enclaves on the island of Guam was excavated for the first time: the mission of San Dionisios. The materials recovered are still under study and analysis, and our results are at a preliminary stage.

However, we have been able to verify different constructive phases of the church, some of which are briefly mentioned in the historical documentation that exists for Guam. We have also been able to better understand the constructive technology of the church and we have recovered part of the material culture that was used in it. Finally, we have also confirmed the existence of a cemetery in the front courtyard of the church, a fact that confirms the Humatak's oral tradition about the existence of such church.

Our excavations have as well raised many research questions for the future. We need to open more excavations units to better understand the correlation between the different areas of the church. Our most imminent goals are the following:

1. To better understand the connection between the colonial patio/cemetery and the interior of the church's structure..
2. To better understand the connection between the area of the Main Altar, the Sacristy and the convent that would have hosted the missionaries.
3. To find out whether or not the church was constructed using foundations for their main walls. As this cannot be detected inside the church because of the presence of pavement, the best option to dilucidate this question is to open a unit attached to the exterior walls.
4. To extend the excavation area related to the cemetery in order to better understand its dynamics and function. This is the first colonial cemetery on the island that can be systematically excavated.
5. To understand the implications that the establishment of the church had on daily life in the Humatak area.
6. To better understand the implications derived from the construction and maintenance of an architectural structure such as the one we have begun to excavate (for example, the existence or not of home workers, the mechanisms to obtain the different constructive material used, the people involved in its construction, etc.).

Our work is also guided by broader objectives such as:

1. To document and examine the archaeological sequence of the broader site area from its construction to its abandonment.
2. To attain a better knowledge of the evolution over time of its architecture and building technology in relation to the different building periods.
3. To document and compare the material culture that was used in in other colonial-period enclaves on the island.
4. To study the similarities and differences between the constructive technology of Spanish-style buildings at Humatak and other Spanish-style buildings in Guam.

5. To proposed guidelines for the future stabilization / architectural restoration of the church of San Dionisio Areopagita.
6. To systematize all of the archival information that is related to this particular building in the Spanish Document Collection of the MARC (Micronesian Area Research Center) and with other archives in Europe, and elsewhere.

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