

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

The Excavations

Robert B. Fox

Philippine Studies vol. 7, no. 3 (1959): 390–401

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

THE EXCAVATIONS



Plate I.—Excavating at Pulung Bakaw; seven graves side by side were uncovered in this area. The ocean and fringing reef lie just beyond the characteristic strand flora shown in the background.



Plate 2.—Grave of an adult (#1193) at Kay Tomas, before excavation. Many graves were found in a coralline clay about 15 cm. below the surface. When the top soil had been cleared away, the original outlines of the graves were easily distinguished due to differences in the soil colors.



Plate 3.—The same after excavation. Like many others it shows the association of early 15th century, blue and white Chinese potteries with Sawankhalok jarlets. A pottery spindle whorl may be seen on the edge of the large plate.



Plates 4 and 5.—Disintegrated remains of a juvenile excavated at Kay Tomas (Grave #1196). The two photographs show a "grave marker" made of giant clams and coral, a white slipped plate decorated with three colors of enamel over the glaze associated with a Sawankhalok jarlet, and two brass anklets on the right ankle. Numerous minute glass beads were also found near the right wrist.





Plate 6.—A typical distribution of grave furniture is shown in this photograph (Pulung Bakaw, Grave #184). The two inverted "hole-bottom" saucers of Chinese origin are common in Philippine burial sites dating from the late 14th to the early 15th centuries.

Plate 7.—Shallow grave of adult in supine position found at Kay Tomas (Grave #1036). As frequently encountered, a plate was inverted over the pubic area. The eight front teeth in both the upper and lower jaw of this individual were filed. Teeth were filed on the labial and occlusal surfaces.

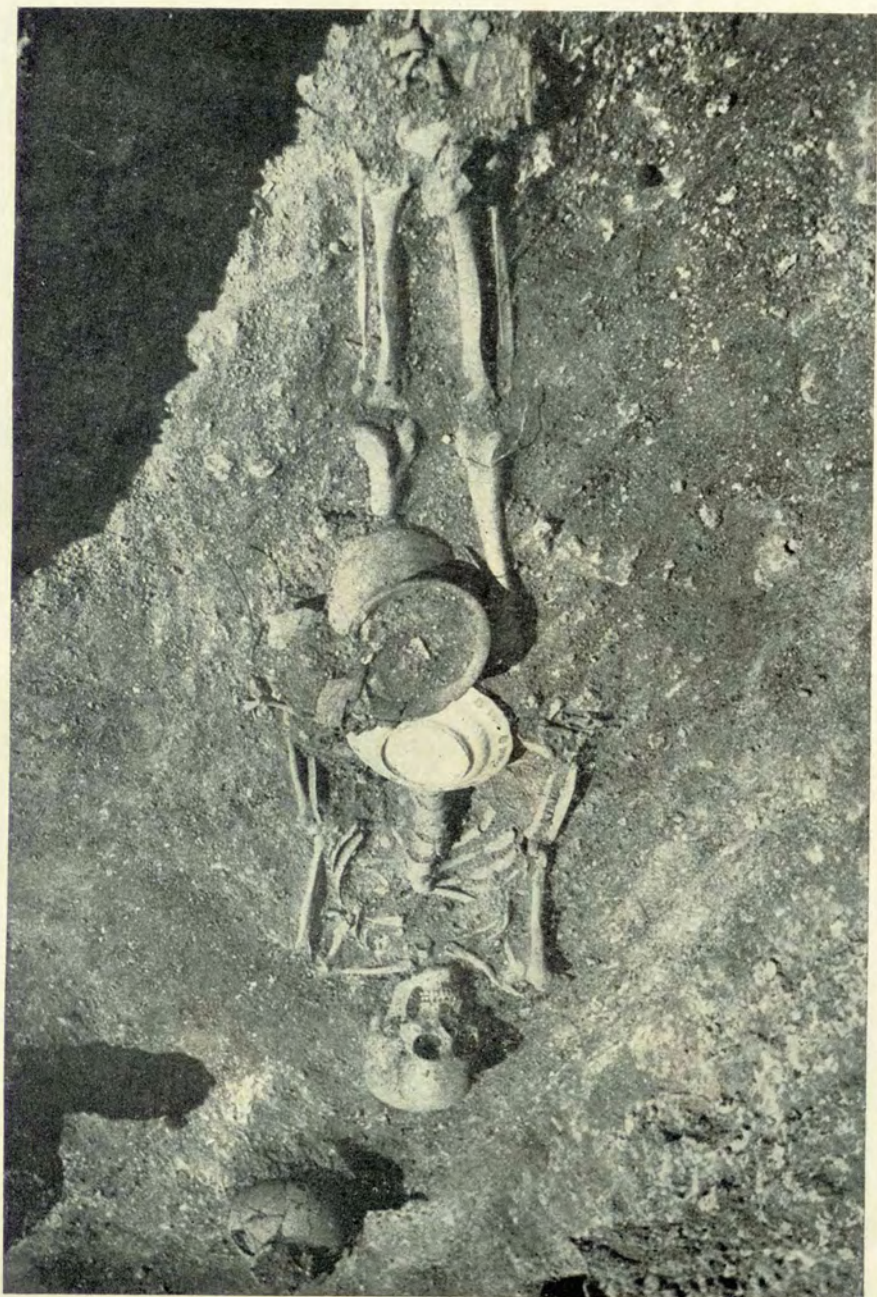




Plate 8.—Jar burial of an infant (#1090 Kay Tomas) with blue and white plate covering the mouth of the jar. The supine remains of the juvenile with a monochrome bowl over the pelvic area may be seen beneath the jar. The burials were placed in a single grave.



Plate 9.—Infant jar burial with "hole-bottom" sauce-dish covering the mouth of a large Kalong (Siamese) jar. A plate had been placed in the jar with the remains of the infant (Grave #1169, Kay Tomas).

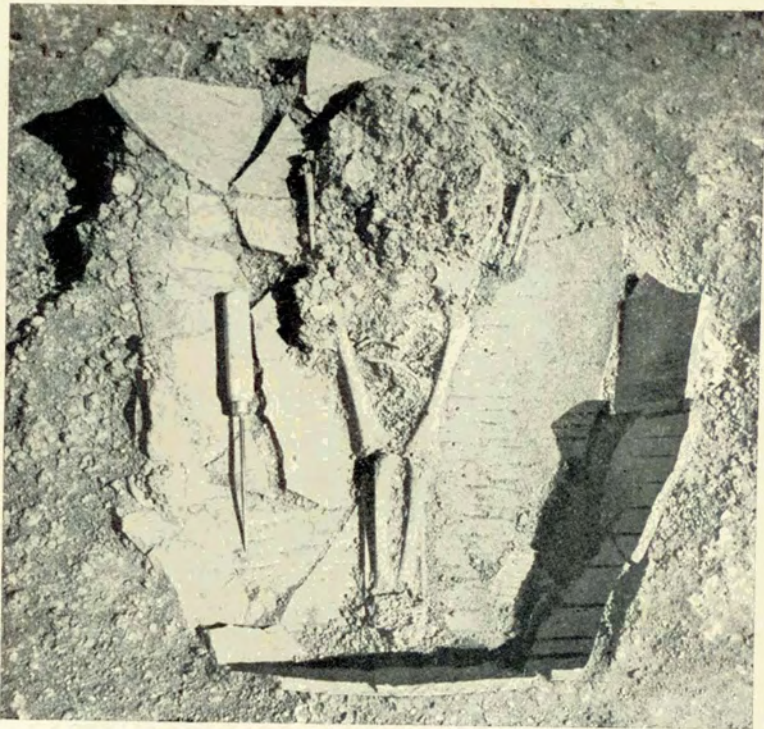


Plate 10.—Supine skeleton of an infant which has been placed inside a stoneware jar of (Siamese) manufacture (Grave #1111, Khammas).



Plate 11.—When interred, infants and children were sometimes placed in a semi-flexed position, and frequently the remains were not accompanied by grave furniture (Grave #110. Pulung Bakaw).

Plate 12.—Association of Sawankhalok jarlets with two celadon saucer-dishes, the latter probably of 14th century date and from the Ch'u Chou kilns (Grave #1123, Kay Tomas).



Plate 13.—Clusters of typical Chinese export pottery and locally earthenware near feet of an adult (Grave #142, Pulung Bakaw). Chinese bowls were often used as covers for earthenware vessels which contain food. The dead, white coral, which can be clearly seen in the photographs on this plate form the base-layer of the two burial sites.



Plate 14.—Young adult excavated at Kay Tomas (Grave #1027) with iron spear blade lying over the skull and the upright earthenware vessels behind skull. Another iron implement, probably an axe, was found at the left shoulder.



Plate 15.—A large (36.5 cm.) spear blade is shown near right femur of this young adult. A blue and white Chinese drinking vessel of *kendi* shape (See plate 34) was also recovered next to the head (Kay Tomas, Grave #1021).



Plate 16.—Vessels, invariably Filipino-made earthenware, were commonly found at a very shallow depth above a grave, apparently placed on or near the surface of the ground after the grave had been filled in. The grave in this photograph (Kay Tomas #1071) was one-half meter in depth whereas the pottery above the feet were less than 20 cm. in depth.

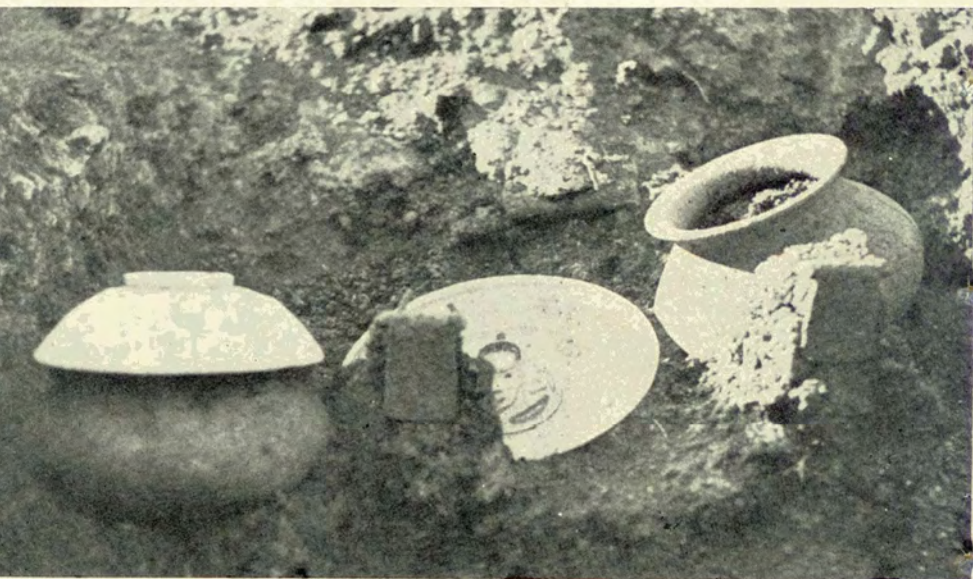


Plate 17.—A chest with only the iron parts surviving (hinges, Chinese-type lock, and brads) was found at the foot (Kay Tomas #1104). The chest contained a plate, coverbowl, jarlet and cup—all of Chinese manufacture—and two earthenware vessels, one covered with the Chinese bowl, stood on each side of the chest.

Plate 18.—A number of skeletons were excavated in which the skull was missing. In some instances, however, the atlas and cervical vertebrae were present which would preclude head-taking and indicate a post-mortem disarticulation of the skull (Kay Tomas #1024).



Plate 19.—At Kay Tomas many graves were found which had been dug into a hard clay. When the clay around these graves was scraped, numerous deep round holes of varying sizes appeared. The patterns formed by the smaller holes suggest that they were post-holes and that superstructures had been built over the graves. The larger holes, frequently linked with the graves were possibly caches of perishable materials.



Plate 20.—Three graves at Kay Tomas (#1183, 1185, 1186) showing in the upper left a skeleton from which the head had been removed (the atlas was present) and replaced with brain coral and the multiple burial of an infant and adult.



Plate 21.—Grave of juvenile at Pulung Bakaw (#167) dug into hard clay and showing the original size and form of the grave. Frequently, as shown here, Sawankhalok jarlets were placed behind the head of the remains, and other trade