

Editor's Note (Volume IV, Number 1)

Enthusiasts of history, on behalf of the editorial board, it is with great pride that we present to you the first issue for the year 2021. This issue marks another significant milestone for the journal as we publish its fourth volume in modest pursuit of historical research and discourse.

Historical writing unearths the connection between the past and present, time and space, people before and people today. However, these connections are not only revealed to us by historical accounts of scribes and historians but is manifest even in the minute expressions of culture and behavior. To give an example, one may find intercultural links by examining food served between different countries in the same region. We might even discover how a fortification is intimately linked with the development of a small town; or how a close reading of sources about artifacts reveals their relationship with an ethnolinguistic group.

Historical writing is not merely an act of uncovering temporal and causal connections but also lays bare the relations between all the dimensions of human life such as environment, food, artifacts, and artworks. Related dimensions that we could fittingly encapsulate in the word *ugnayan* meaning connection or relation—the overarching theme of this issue.

Glossing the meaning of the front cover, the artistic and colorful mural of clasped hands is laden with many symbolisms alluding to the significance of *ugnayan*. The melding of different colors, the act of clasping, the state of holding another's hand—all of them correlated by meaning, act, and state despite variation, difference, and interpretation to unveil an impactful significance and a refined image. This is similar to the diverse topics and discussions offered by this issue, wherein the articles provide glimpses and articulations of different aspects of human life just as the colorfulness of the mural and the literally clasp of hands tells us of something profound such as care, love, or unity.

In this issue, we offer five articles that tackle differing topics. Axle Christien Tugano turns his gaze to Filipino cuisine in his attempt to present his preliminary investigation on the direct relationship between taste (aesthetics), food, and the local expansion of the concept of *Kalutong Bayan*. John Paul Arceno provides us with a biographical sketch of Henry P. Silbor, a Filipino Southern Baptist pastor, who, he argues, was a key figure in the Filipinization of the Southern Baptist denomination in the Philippines. Jan Coballes and Harold De La Cruz came up with an ethnography of the Ibanags, examining their warfare and weaponry. Dominique Juntado explores and produces a close reading of a COVID-19 themed animated lantern intended to be an expression of hope. Lastly, Edwin F. Pamaran investigates the role that Fort Isabela II played in the development of Pasangan, a small village in Basilan.

For the book reviews, on one hand, Mark Joseph Santos probes into a particular aspect of Resil Mojares' historiography by examining his *Interrogations in Philippine Cultural History*. Luis Zuriel Domingo, on the other hand, looks into Nicole Cuunjieng Aboitiz' *Asian Place, Filipino Nation*, a work that challenges long-established narratives about the Philippine revolution.

Moreover, it is not only the correlation of articles that have made this issue significant but also the continued support of TALA's readers, contributors, and partners. Relationships that we are earnestly grateful as the journal pursues its vision of arousing interest in history by publishing credible historical research on the internet, free of charge.

We hope that the diverse set of articles would satisfy your desire for reliable historical knowledge. We also hope that this continued support would entice you to contribute to the existing historical literature on a wide range of topics both explored and unexplored.

Para sa kasaysayan,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Adrian Kyle A. Vergara', is written over the printed name.

Adrian Kyle A. Vergara
The Managing Editor