

## **Introduction**

This paper represents a report to the Ford Foundation and Mindanao State University by the latter's two representatives of the Aga Khan Museum. Under the Foundation's travel and study awards, they participated in the project of Travelling Symposium for Museum Development during April and May, 1971. The observation trip covered extensive visits to selected museums in the Philippines, Singapore, West and East Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Macao via Hongkong (Plate A).

Equipped with cameras, notebooks, and drawing materials, the symposium group was composed of eight members, mostly curators or directors of small but developing museums in the Visayas, Mindanao, and Sulu. The participants were Mr. Demetrio Sonza, Iloilo City Museum; Mrs. Leonesa Ramas, University of San Carlos; Reverend Father Francisco Demetrio, S.J., Xavier University; Mrs. Oswalda Cabel, Notre Dame of Jolo College; Dr. Mamitua Saber and Mr. Dionisio G. Orellana, Director and Assistant Director of MSU Aga Khan Museum. Mr. Orellana was the artist-illustrator for the group.

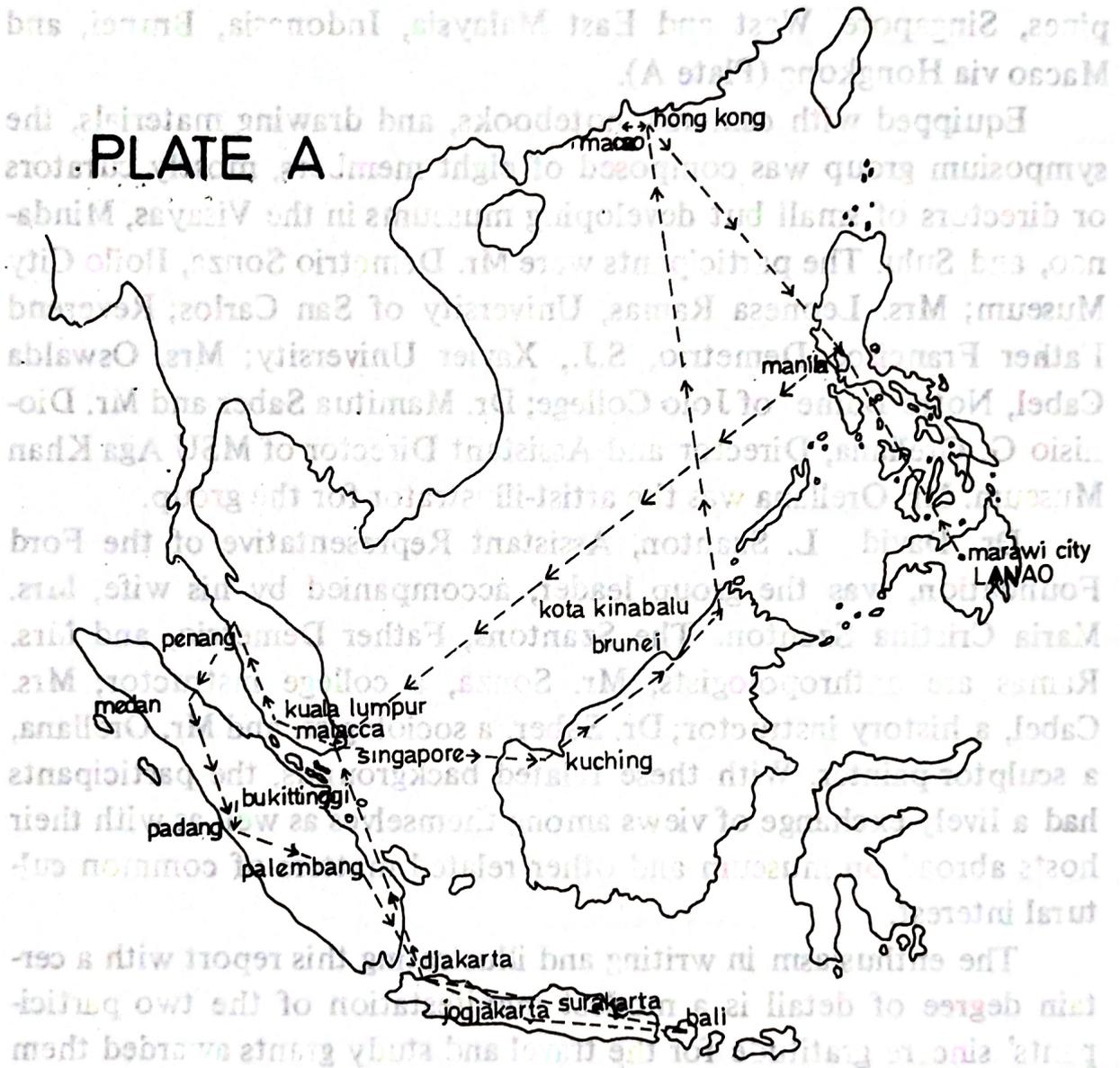
Dr. David L. Szanton, Assistant Representative of the Ford Foundation, was the group leader, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Maria Cristina Szanton. The Szantons, Father Demetrio, and Mrs. Ramas are anthropologists; Mr. Sonza, a college instructor; Mrs. Cabel, a history instructor; Dr. Saber, a sociologist, and Mr. Orellana, a sculptor-painter. With these related backgrounds, the participants had a lively exchange of views among themselves as well as with their hosts abroad on museum and other related matters of common cultural interest.

The enthusiasm in writing and illustrating this report with a certain degree of detail is a modest manifestation of the two participants' sincere gratitude for the travel and study grants awarded them by the Ford Foundation. Special thanks are due to Dr. Clark C. Bloom, Ford Foundation Representative and his staff, for selecting the two for the study-travel awards; and to Dr. Mauyag M. Tamano, President of Mindanao State University, for recommending and getting the confirmation of the University Board of Regents that enabled both representatives to participate in the rare study tour in

**Introduction**

This paper represents a report to the Ford Foundation and Mindanao State University by the two representatives of the travelling symposium for the study of museum development in Southeast Asia. The symposium was held during April and May, 1971. The objective of the trip was to extend visits to selected museums in the Philippines, Singapore, West and East Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Macao via Hong Kong (State A).

# PLATE A



The enthusiasm in writing and in this report with a certain degree of detail is a result of the participation of the two participants since grants for the travel and study grants awarded them by the Ford Foundation. Special thanks are due to Dr. Clark C. Bloom, Ford Foundation Representative and his staff, for selecting the two for the study-travel awards; and to Dr. Manay M. Tamano, President of Mindanao State University, for recommending and getting the contribution of the University Board of Regents that enabled both representatives to participate in the rare study tour in

this region where ancient and modern civilizations have interestingly met.

**Objective and Justification.** The purpose of this symposium, according to its sponsor's aim, was to provide the participants with useful ideas and techniques applicable to the organization and general programs of the museums represented as well as the interpretation and exhibition of their collections. With this objective, the Ford Foundation is obviously aware of the needs in the Philippines to stimulate interest and action toward a nation-wide museum development. The Foundation extended generous financial assistance to the participants whose museums or universities are objects of development with potential involvement in museum general development. Priority for assistance was given to the small museums in Central and Southern Philippines that need to come up to the level of other museum institutions located in the Manila Metropolitan Area. Thus the representative of these southern museums were deserving recipients of the travel and study grants awarded them.

**Widely-travelled and well-informed observers will easily appreciate Ford Foundation's objective and assistance to help accelerate Philippine museum development which could be inspired by knowledge of the growth and achievements of similar institutions in America, Europe, Asia, and other regions and countries abroad. Even the museums in Metropolitan Manila are sadly wanting faster development from relative lack of public and private interest.**

Long before this symposium, one of the writer-participants had visited large and small museums in the United States to compare with Philippine museums. As a Fulbright travel grantee in 1956, he visited the Metropolitan Museum in New York. In the summer of 1965, he went on a 22-day trip visiting among others the museums in the Midwest and the Great Lake Region between the United States and Canada.

The large ones he visited were the Museum of Natural History in Chicago and the museum of the Edison Institute of Technology established by Henry Ford at Dearborn, Michigan. In the Chicago Museum's Division of Anthropology, he saw comparative exhibits from Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. He visited smaller museums in Wisconsin, Michigan and Kansas including the Eisenhower Memorial Museum at Abeline, Kansas, and the Bishop Museum at Honolulu.

lu, Hawaii.

At the University of Kansas, he frequented the Museum of Natural History including the Museum of Arts, rated as one of the finest university museums in the Union. Although not a professional museologist, this writer acquired this background and interest in helping develop the Aga Khan Museum since 1961 when MSU first opened in Marawi City.

**Significance.** The symposium group was the first of its kind to be sponsored for an organized visit from the Philippines to selected museums in Island Southeast Asia and East Asia, with the trip extension to Macao. The participants witnessed the achievement, potential and problem of museums in this section of the Asian and Pacific area where forces of isolation prevent better people-to-people contact among the citizens of the different governments.

The participants observed the obvious need of the Philippines to accelerate its museum development, by evaluating conditions here compared with the museum progress obtained in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. The entire museum institution in this region may be compared or contrasted with the trends elsewhere, to serve as incentive for national and regional museum development among Southeast Asian countries.

The writer and the illustrator of this report may tend to show bias for comparing some of the museum exhibits in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei with those of the Philippines, especially of the country's Muslim area where Mindanao State University and its Aga Khan Museum together form an educational and cultural center. They hope that any omission or limitation in this work may be compensated for by the reports of our colleagues in this symposium.

Our attempt for an orderly presentation of this report appears in the outline of the Table of Contents.