**ARTIFACTS**

Artifacts in museums are tangible remnants of human history, embodying cultural, technological, or artistic achievements. Museums carefully curates and displays these objects, serving as a time capsule that offers a glimpse into the lives and societies of those who came before us. By visiting Museo Bulawan, individuals can explore and appreciate the rich tapestry of human heritage, gaining valuable insights into the past and fostering a deeper understanding of our shared history.

**BANTAYOG**

**1st Bantayog of Gat. Jose Rizal**

Jose Protacio Rizal, one of the martyrs during the Spanish colonial that fought for the rights of a Filipino to have equal rights with the colonizers, laid down his life at Bagumbayan, now famously known as Luneta Park in Manila. Yet a few of us know that there is an earlier monument of Rizal and is the first of its kind.  
  
At Rizal Park in Daet, Camarines Norte of the Bicol Region stands the first Rizal Monument built February 1899. It is in correspondence to the decree by the first president of the Republic of the Philippines, Emilio Aguinaldo to proclaim December 30, 1898 as the National Day of Mourning to commemorate the death of Jose Rizal in the hands of Spaniards, then, two years ago.

Jose Rizal is the country's official national hero as enacted by a law proclaimed last 1902 by the Americans. This is in response of the Philippines' new colonizers to pacify rebellion by using Rizal's life as a role model. Rizal fought for equal rights of native Filipinos during the Spanish colonization era of the Philippines through peaceful means via literary works and journalism.

The first Rizal Monument in Daet is three-sided where two of its sides features two of his famous novels, the Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo. These novels have intrinsically driven an exposé about the ills of the society during the Spanish colonial era in the Philippines and why there must be equality for the Filipino natives. The literary works caused him to be punished in a four-year exile in a far-away land that time which is in Dapitan, Zamboanga Del Norte. But his exile was escalated to death upon discovery of his literary works at the headquarters of the Katipunan, a heavily leftist group that demands total independence from Spain as lead by Andres Bonifacio. The Spaniards thought Jose Rizal was part of the Katipunan.  
  
The third side of the monument features Morga, who wrote Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas to where Rizal had his inspiration in writing Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo.

**HEROES**

**WENCESLAO Q. VINZONS (1910-1942)**

Born on September 28, 1910, at Indan (now Vinzons), Camarines Norte, he had manifested signs of extraordinary brilliance at an early age. He went to school at six, finishing his elementary and high school as class valedictorian in less time than required.  
  
He is the son of Gabino V. Vinzons and Engracia Quinito, He took his elementary education in his hometown and finished his secondary education at the Camarines Norte High School as valedictorian. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws from the University of the Philippines.  
  
In 1927, he enrolled at the University of the Philippines and became a student leader par excellence. He excelled in forensics and oration.  
He was an awardee of the Manuel L. Quezon gold medal for excellence for his oration entitled “Malaysia Irredenta” and the Abad Santos medal for excellence in debate. He was editor-in-chief of the UP’s Philippine Collegian, president of the student council, and member of the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity.  
  
In 1932, he led the youth movement in protest against the salary increase of the members of the Manila Municipal Council.  
  
In his junior year, he edited the Philippine Collegian, co-founded the College Editors Guild, and became its first president. As president of the UP-Student Council, he led demonstrations against the now infamous “Festin Rider,” an attempt by the legislators to increase their salary.

In 1933, he placed third in the bar examination. He won a seat in the Constitutional Convention in 1934 at the age of 23. He was voted most outstanding young man in politics before the war. He founded the young Philippines Party , Together with Arturo Tolentino, Teodoro Kalaw, Lorenzo Sumulong, Carmen Planas and Avelina Lorenzana (now Mrs. Camilo Osias), he waged an incessant campaign for clean government and autonomy.  
  
On July 10, 1934, he won a seat in the Constitutional Convention and became the youngest signer of the Constitution.  
  
He was one of those responsible for making Tagalog the national language of the Filipinos. In the 19335 elections, he supported General Emilio Aguinaldo for presidency against President Manuel L. Quezon. He went from province to province explaining the necessity of having a balanced two-party system to prevent abuses, corruption and inefficiency in governmental affairs. Bitterly critical of the administration, he was charged with libel and sedition after the election. The Cavite Court of the First Instance sentenced him to jail, but the Court of Appeals acquitted him.

In 1940, At the age of 30, he was elected governor of Camarines Norte. Later he was chosen as the “Outstanding Young Man in the Philippine Politics” for his independence of mind, constructive approach to national problems, courage, and consistency.  
  
In 1941, he was elected Congressman of his province.  
He led a fierce-fighting guerilla group in Bicol when the war broke out. After the fall of the Philippines, he refused to surrender and fled to the mountain to continue to struggle.  
  
The Japanese Imperial Forces in the region organized an extensive manhunt to comb the forest of Camarines Norte and captured Vinzons in Batong Bakal, in the town of Labo. Refusing to join the enemy’s fold or lay down his arms, He was killed together with his wife, Liwayway Gonzales, his father, a sister, and teo children. Their remains have never been discovered.  
His hometown Indan, was rename after him, In Manila, near Blumentritt, a school is named Wenceslao Vinzons Elementary School. The Student Center of UP bears his name.

**JOSE MARIA E. PANGANIBAN (1863-1890)**

On December 1, 1934, Act No. 4155 renamed the mining town of Mambulao, Camarines Norte to Maria Panganiban in honor of the great propagandist who died in Spain while in pursuit of reforms in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial period. Jose Maria Panganiban was born in Mambulao, Camarines on February 1, 1863. He was the eldest of the three sons of Vicente Panganiban, a native of Hagonoy, Bulacan, and Juana Enverga, a native of Mauban, Tayabas (now Quezon).  
  
Panganiban developed his interest in reading at an early age from reading the cartilla, caton, and catecismo taught by his mother. Once, his mother found him under a tree, sleeping, obviously from reading Don Quixote, the book of Cervantes, found beside him.  
  
Since his mother died when he was a little boy, Panganiban grew up in the care of his father, the clerk of court in Daet, the capital town of the province. His father sent him to the seminary of Nueva Caceres (now Naga) and became the protégé of the seminary rector Fr. Santonja. He earned the praises of his teachers because of his aptitude to easily absorb his lessons. He was good at writing and was articulate in expressing his ideas. Because of this, the Spanish Governor-General Domingo Moriones, who happened to be visiting the province and heard him speak during a school program, commended him. In April 1878, he wrote "A Nuestro Obispo" in honor of Bishop Francisco Gainza, who was on a visit to Mambulao.  
  
Father Santoja became instrumental for Panganiban’s studies in Manila. The priest recommended him to the College of San Juan de Letran where he obtained his degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1883. Wanting to become a medical practitioner, he took up medical courses at the University of Santo Tomas and at the same time took vocational courses in agriculture at Letran so that in 1885, he received the title of Agricultural Expert.

Panganiban participated in literary scientific contests at UST and earned prizes. The first was in 1885 when he won second place. In 1887, he won first prize for each of his three papers on General Pathology, Therapeutics, and Surgical Anatomy. Fr. Gregorio Echevarria, the rector of the University, had his works printed and exhibited in the Exposition of 1887 in Madrid.  
  
In May 1888, Panganiban sailed for Spain and continued his medical studies at the University of Barcelona, where he met other Filipino students. Drawn to the propaganda movement, Panganiban quit his dream of becoming a doctor. He joined liberal organizations like the Asociacion Hispano-Filipino and the La Solidaridad, both of which aimed for reforms in the Philippines. On April 25, 1889, Panganiban was one of the signers of the petition to the Spanish Minister of Colonies, requesting Filipino representation in the Spanish Cortes. While in Spain, he learned other languages like German, Italian, and French, adding to the Spanish and Latin he learned during his student days in the seminary of Nueva Caceres. He was able to translate into Spanish the book of the German author Carl Julius Weber entitled: "Die Religio und Die Religionen" (Religion and Other Religions).  
  
Using pseudonyms like JMP or Jomapa, he wrote the following articles: "El Pensamiento," "La Universidad de Manila: Su Plan de Estudio," and "Los Nuevos Ayuntamientos de Filipinas," which came out in different editions of the propaganda newspaper La Solidaridad. In "El Pensamiento," he advocated freedom of the press, while in "La Universidad," he criticized the educational system exercised by the Spanish authorities in the Philippines. A versatile writer, he composed poems and wrote short stories. Among his poems were: "Ang Lupang Tinubuan," "Noches en Mambulao," "Sa Aking Buhay," "Bahia de Mambulao," "La Mujer de Oro," and "Amor Mio." His two short stories, "Clarita Perez" and "Kandeng," were published in La Solidaridad after his death.

Panganiban worked hard in the Propaganda Movement even after contracting tuberculosis. With his meager allowance, he worked in the midst of hunger and sickness. On July 5, 1899, he wrote to Jose Rizal urging the latter to carry on the work they started, saying: “Whatever we have already started should be pushed through even at the sacrifice of our lives, our honor, and fortunes.” He wished that he had the same strength as before so that he could work with his compatriots to the end.   
  
On August 19, 1890, death came to him in his boarding house at No. 2 Rambla de Canaletas, Barcelona. He was buried in grave No. 2043 of the Southwest Cemetery of Barcelona. Dr. Domingo Abella, a historian, did a great service to this nation by locating the remains of his province mate in Spain and bringing them back to the Philippines.   
  
The Filipino propagandists in Europe mourned Panganiban’s death. Rizal saluted him as an “excellent companion of labor and difficulty… endowed with uncommon talent, with privileged intelligence, and with indefatigable industry, was one of the sacred, legitimate hopes of his unfortunate country.”

**FRANCISCO “TURKO” D. BOAYES**

Francisco "Turko" Boayes, a Bicolano World War II hero and leader of famous "VinzonsCommand" of Camarines Norte was the eldest son of Ishmael Ayyash, a Syrian national of Jewish ancestry, who came to the Philippines with his two businessmen counsins surnamed Abraham and Bichara. His Filipino mother was a Spanish mestiza named Agapita Jimenez Dames of Daet.  
  
When his father died, he lived a hard life doing odd jobs and helped support his sisters with their material needs. He worked as a baggage boy in the market, thus developing physical strength, stamina and endurance which later on proved to be his great personal asset.  
  
"Turko", as he was fondly called, was with the late Gov. Wencesclao Q. Vinzons as an aide, chaffeur and bodyguard, when the first shot was fired against the Japanese Imperial Occupation forces in Camarines Norte from December 19, 1941 to July 8, 1942. The Japanes invasion of Luzon was in full swing when Lt. Vinzons assisted by his personal aide Sgt. Boayes raided enemy garrisons from January to July of 1942.When Lt. Vinzons was captured and executed by the Japanese on July 8, 1942 in his camp in Tulay Na Lupa. "Turko" reorganized the guerilla unit and palced it under his command. Most celebrated example his bravery was a guerilla surprise attack to set free 30 Americans and Filipino prisoners of war who were about to executed in the town of Naga. From regimental commander, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.  
  
Finally, on June 13, 1968, in a ceremony camp Aguinaldo he was awarded the Gold Medal - the highest award to a war Veteran of World War II, which was personally conferred by then Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos, the crowning glory of his bravery and official recognition of his heroism.

**GEN. VICENTE R. LUKBAN**

On February 11, 1860, Vicente Lukban, was born in Labo, Camarines Norte to Agustin Lukban and Andrea Rilles.  
  
After his elementary education at the Escuela Pia Publica in his hometown, he proceeded to Manila and enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila and later, at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. He was employed as official criminalista in the Court of the First Instance where he became acquainted with Marcelo H. del Pilar, Doroteo Jose and other patriots.  
  
Back in his hometown, he worked as Delegado Municipal and Juez de Paz. In 1894, he was inducted into the Masonic Lodge adopting the name "Luz del Oriente" (Light of the Orient) and co-founded Lodge Bicol in Camarines with Juan Miguel. In 1896, Lukban resigned from government service and engaged himself in business and agriculture. He founded the agricultural society La Cooperativa Popular.  
  
On September 29, 1896 Lukban was in Manila attending a meeting of the agricultural society when Spanish authorities arrested him for his "alleged" involvement with the Katipunan. He was tortured and incarcerated in the Bilibid prison and was only released on May 17, 1897 after the Governor-General granted amnesty to political prisoners.  
  
Lukban joined the forces of General Emilio Aguinaldo and was given responsibility in putting up fortifications and gathering provisions for the revolutionists. Having earned the confidence of the General, Lukban became one of the close circles of revolutionary leaders. He was one of the signers of the Pact of Biak na Bato in December 1897 and was among the Filipino leaders who went on exile to Hong Kong.

In 1898, Lukban returned to the Philippines and resumed his involvement with the revolutionists, this time with the rank of a Colonel. On October 29, 1898, General Aguinaldo appointed him Comandante Militar of the Bicol region and through which capacity he organized the local militia, settled political disputes and collected war contributions for the revolutionary government. On December 21 of the same year, he was promoted General of Samar and Leyte. There he circulated proclamation Compoblanos Samareños y Leyteños in January 1899 aimed at uniting the inhabitants to achieve the common good and subsequently took over the command in Leyte.  
  
When the Filipino-American War broke out the in February 1899, Lukban rallied the residents of Samar to fight for freedom. Knowing the futility of fighting against a well-armed enemy, he established his arsenal in the mountains of Catbalogan and carried out guerrilla warfare, the most glorious of which were in Catbalogan, Catubig and Catarman. Because of this, the Americans offered five thousand pesos for his arrest and had the province blockaded for two years.  
  
All the efforts of the Americans did not stop Lukban from carrying the resistance, even helping the fighters in neighboring province to manufacture saltpeter. He dispatched Claro Pimentel, another fighter, to investigate the surrender of the Filipino military chief in Masbate and reorganized Leyte after its governor Ambrosio Mojica surrendered to the Americans.

On August 18, 1901, American soldiers headed by Captain H.L. Jackson of the 1st US Infantry discovered Lukban's stronghold along the Catarman River. An encounter ensued which left the Filipino General, although wounded, managed to escape while his family and several fighters were captured.  
  
On September 28, 1901, American suffered the fury of the Samareños. Many natives carried a successful attack against them in Balangiga, Samar. Although there was no document pointing to Lukban's participation in the attack, it was assumed that he had a part in organizing it.  
  
In response to the grim attack in Balangiga, American soldiers under the command of General Jacob H. Smith, doubled their efforts to arrest the Filipino fighters, including Lukban, who replied that he would only surrender until the American soldiers withdraw from the Gandara Valley. On February 18, 1902, Lukban was eventually captured by the troops of American Lt. Strebler. Lukban was imprisoned in Talim Island in Laguna de Bay until July 15, 1902 after he took an oath of allegiance to the United States.  
  
In 1904, Lukban was again imprisoned but this time, with two of his brothers, Justo and Cayetano, and charges of sedition slapped on them by the Manila Secret Police. The Supreme Court, however, acquitted them for lack of evidence.  
  
With peace restored and the civil government established, Lukban engaged in business. He joined politics under the Nacionalista Party in 1912. He was elected governor of Tayabas province and was reelected for another term in 1916, which he was not able to finish because he became ill. Vicente Lukban eventually died on November 16, 1916.