

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

The Recovery Of The
Manila Galleon

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA CONCEPCIÓN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological recovery of the *Nuestra Señora de la Concepción* by Pacific Sea Resources (PSR) was a comprehensive five year project that was the result of the cooperation of many individuals and organizations. The effort involved a wide variety of activities and disciplines including historical research, legal and contractual studies, financing, engineering and mobilizations, personnel recruitment and management, development and implementation of a comprehensive archaeological program, environmental monitoring, logistic support, film making, government supervision and cooperation, and the preparation of reports, exhibits, articles, books and other promotional material.

The support of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was a key element in the success of the project. In particular, Governor Lorenzo Guerrero, Lt. Governor Pedro A. Tenorio, Deputy Attorney General Eric Smith and Special Assistant to the Lt. Governor's Office Brenda Tenorio are to be thanked for their efforts. Additionally, Scott Russell and Mike Fleming of the Historic Preservation Office, and Robert Rudolph and Ben Aldan of the Coastal Resources Management Office provided essential support and cooperation.

The foundation of the project was the historical research provided by two historians who are specialists in Spanish maritime trade. Dr. Peter Earle of the London School of Economics and Dr. David Hebb researched the Manila Galleon trade in the libraries and archives in seven countries. Eventually the focus was narrowed to the *Concepción*, reputedly the largest ship of her time. Dr. Catherine Lugar collated and analyzed the data uncovered during the first three years of work and prepared a detailed historical report on the Manila Galleon trade. Sir John Hale, a noted military historian and trustee of the British Museum, was a valued advisor on all historical and cultural matters.

The complex legal and contractual aspects of PSR's marine archaeological program were coordinated by William H. Mathers, a senior partner with the law firm of Chadbourne Parke in New York. In Saipan, David Nevitt and Dean Robb, senior partners of the Carlsmith, Ball, Wichman law firm, guided PSR through local incorporation and negotiations with the government. The preliminary legal studies of the relevant international maritime and Commonwealth laws were undertaken by Yale Law School students Jaye Leton and Laird Lucas.

Financing by British, United States and Singaporean interests was coordinated by one of the partners, Per Bang-Jensen, who also provided on-site financial advice. Brian Chang, a major partner in the project, provided operational support through Promet, his offshore equipment fabrication company in Singapore. Mr. Chang was also an important advisor throughout the project. In London, Richard King of Fathom-Line Pacific, provided administrative, financial, and historic research assistance. Through the coordinating efforts of Miles Rivitt-Carnac and Charles Irby, the British merchant bank Baring Brothers assembled a group of investors experienced in both venture capital and maritime operations. Crispin Gascoigne, Anthony and Christopher Knight provided financial support and participated in site operations.

PSR's archaeological program was fundamental to the *Concepción* project and included procedures for artifact documentation, conservation, restoration, and study. The program was laid out under the supervision of Dr. Henry Parker, PSR's Deputy Project Director and was implemented on site by archaeologists Kelly Bernard, Amanda Crowdy and Corey Malcom. Artifact conservation techniques were developed and carried out by Noel Siver, Myrna Clamor and David McIntosh. W. Andrew Oddy, Director of the Conservation Department at the British Museum, Alex Hildred of the Mary Rose Trust and Peter Marsden of the Museum of London made themselves readily available for technical discussions and personnel references. The Institute of Archaeology in London was also most helpful in locating project personnel. The late Peter Throckmorton offered enthusiastic support and important assistance in publishing some of PSR's material. Marjorie Driver and Hiro Kurashina of the Micronesia Area Research Center in Guam visited the site and provided support for the *Concepción* exhibition in Saipan.

Technical and logistic support came from a number of companies in Singapore, PSR's operational base. Most importantly, IpcMarine and its CEO Charles Hardeman provided PSR with office and warehouse space, as well as accounting and logistic support services. Eddie and Richard Foo of Atlantis Maritime and Construction were the primary fabricators of the numerous items of specialized equipment. Diving and survey systems were provided by Jeff Bradford of Advance Marine. The comprehensive image capture and computer system was assembled by Olaf Venema of Eeresindo. Rafe Walker of Hogg Robinson developed the comprehensive insurance program required for all aspects of the projects. In Saipan, Ivan Groom of the Northern Islands Company served as an important sounding board and Darlene Cabrera of Saipan Shipping acted as our friendly shipping agent. And in London, DSB Offshore provided office facilities during the post-excavation phase of the project, and Jean MacDonald served as a liaison officer.

Restoration of the recovered and damaged gold jewelry was a major project in itself. The British Museum, under the direction of W. Andrew Oddy, initiated the process of restoration; however, the bulk of the work was undertaken with excellent results by Antique Jewellery Restoration Laboratories of Singapore, under the supervision of Anita Wong and Janis Wee.

Comprehensive studies of the artifacts were undertaken in 1989 and 1990. Dr. Beatriz Chadour's penetrating investigation into the origins and significance of jewelry recovered from the *Concepción*, involved extensive studies of collections and data. Maura Rinaldi, an expert in Ming porcelain, prepared an insightful report about the ceramics recovered from the *Concepción*. Dr. Rosemary Gianno, of the Smithsonian Institution, investigated the resin cargo. Michael Flecker, in coordination with various authorities, determined the function of many of the artifacts. We are also grateful to the museums, art galleries, libraries and owners of private collections who provided us with the detailed illustrations, photographs and drawings that appear in this Report with appropriate acknowledgement.

PSR undertook extensive video documentation of all phases of the project. Tim Cothren provided a brief film on the first season. Ned Johnston, an experienced cameraman and film producer, summarized his two months diving and filming on board the recovery vessel in a film about the project members. Cathy Moore-Lin produced a comprehensive video documentary for Guam Cable TV. Finally, Randy and Kirstin Wimberg, utilizing footage from the entire operation, produced a film for American television hosted by *Miami Vice* actor Philip Michael Thomas. Additional photographic documentation was provided by Sisse Brimberg, William Burkhart, Beatriz Chadour, Michael Mathers, Fredrick McDonald and William Spurlock. The paintings and illustrations that depict the Manila Galleon trade and views of the recovery operation were produced by New Zealand maritime artist Rogers Morris, project diver Marilee Krinitt and project illustrator Eduardo Bersamira. The chart of the Manila Galleon trade routes was designed by Robert Tope. Frank Mastini, of Hartsdale, New York, constructed the model of the *Concepción* for the Collection.

Media coverage resulted from two articles which appeared in the September 1990 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* about the Manila Galleon trade and the *Concepción* project written in cooperation with Spanish historian Dr. Eugene Lyon. William Allen supervised the photography and layout and William Graves edited the articles. Karen Gibbs and David Woodell coordinated the dramatic illustrations and the related maps were produced under the supervision of Maureen Kennedy Flynn. Additional articles on the project were written by Nancy Shaw and Frank Quimby. Writer Sam Toperoff participated in the first field season and then continued to provide guidance in our writings.

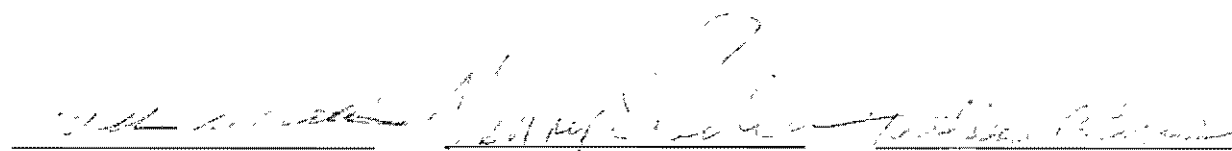
The most important result of the *Concepción* project was the mutual decision of the Government and PSR to maintain the entire collection of artifacts as an entity. Apex Corporation, a Japanese resort company, purchased the collection for its museum in Saipan which will house the entire collection. Mr. Hajime Mori, Chairman of Apex, shared our enthusiasm and declared that because the collection was such a significant part of the Chamorro heritage that he intends to donate all artifacts to the Government within forty years. Raymond Sancroft-Baker of Christie's in London coordinated the sale of the collection which was jointly owned by the CNMI Government and PSR.

The Archaeological Report was prepared by a team of seven individuals coordinated by Kathleen Copus who enthusiastically undertook the diverse tasks required to get this volume to print. William Mathers and Henry Parker served as co-editors. Catherine Wygant gathered and organized pictures and worked on layout and content. Victoria Birkett provided the most efficient typing services available; Sharon Stumph helped edit the Jewelry Catalog and Susan Hannah designed the cover of the report and provided editing and layout support. Page Foster, Susan Conway and Tina Carter of All-8 Printing enthusiastically provided extensive photocopying and photographic reproduction services.

Financial accounting for the project was provided by B.S. Mangat and Company in Singapore and C.W. Amos & Company of Annapolis, Maryland. Glass Radcliffe in Hong Kong handled the corporate administrative functions for the project.

During the period of contract negotiations and project inception, Enid Holsopple was most helpful as the Administrative Assistant. Donald Rabinowe provided important assistance in the initial contract negotiations and later at various key times. Susan Parker served ably as the onshore liaison for the 1988 season; in Singapore, Teresa Perera assisted PSR throughout the project in numerous matters. Special appreciation is due to project team members Michael Flecker and Cecilia Lee, for their enthusiastic, humorous and professional work both at sea and during the many months of onshore preparations. Lastly, many thanks and warm regards are due to each member of the *Tengar's* crew, with whom it was a great pleasure to work.

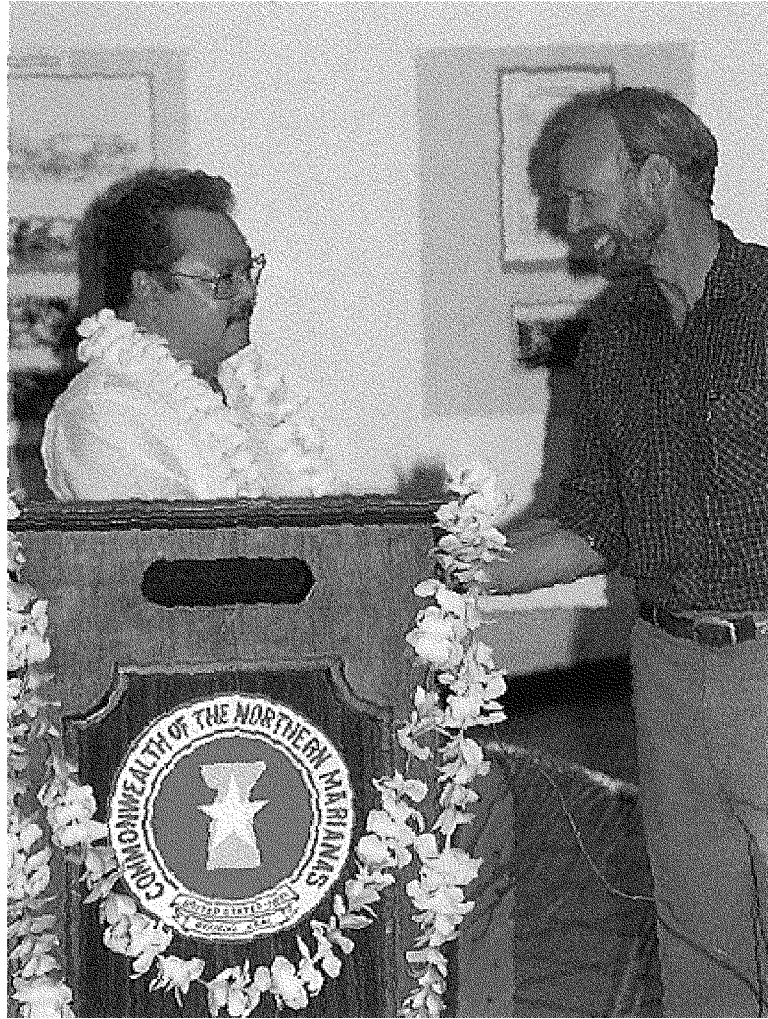
The *Concepción* project brought together a wide range of persons, companies, and organizations and it has been their smooth interaction that has resulted in this successful project.



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*Governor Pedro T. Tenorio congratulating
Project Director William M. Mathers at the Opening
of the Concepción Exhibition in Saipan, 28 June 1988*