

FOLK GAMES IN THREE COASTAL COMMUNITIES OF  
SURIGAO DEL NORTE: AN EXPLORATORY  
AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

---

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School  
University of San Carlos

---

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Anthropology

---

by

IRENETTA CREENCIA-MONTINOLA

April 1982

PROPERTY OF USC LIBRARY SYSTEM

#080

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled "FOLK GAMES IN THREE COASTAL COMMUNITIES OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE: AN EXPLORATORY AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDY" prepared and submitted by Mrs. Irenetta C. Montinola in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval for ORAL EXAMINATION.

Thesis Committee

*Zenaida R. Uy*  
ZENAIDA R. UY, M.A.  
Adviser

*Resil B. Mojares*  
RESIL B. MOJARES, Ph.D.  
Member

*Josephine F. Pelaez*  
JOSEPHINE F. PELAEZ, M.A.  
Member

*Leonisa L. Ramas*  
LEONISA L. RAMAS, M.A.  
Member

-----  
PANEL OF EXAMINERS

Approved by the Committee on Oral Examination with a grade of PASSED.

*Alicia J. Tan*  
ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Chairman

*Zenaida R. Uy*  
ZENAIDA R. UY, M.A.  
Adviser

*Josephine F. Pelaez*  
JOSEPHINE F. PELAEZ, M.A.  
Member

*Leonisa L. Ramas*  
LEONISA L. RAMAS, M.A.  
Member

*Rosario M. Macairan*  
ROSARIO M. MACAIRAN, Ed.D.  
Representative  
MECS, Region VII, Central Visayas  
Cebu City

Accepted and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology.

Comprehensive Examination Passed, May 12 and 19, 1979.

*Alicia J. Tan*  
ALICIA J. TAN, Ph.D.  
Dean, Graduate School

Date: April 19, 1982

PROPERTY OF USC LIBRARY SYSTEM

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports through the Schools Division Superintendent, Felicisimo Q. Patrimonio, Division of Surigao del Norte, and Rodulfo F. Alipayo, General Secondary School Principal II, Surigao del Norte National High School, for giving the writer the privileges of a Study Leave of Absence with Full Pay as provided for under the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers (R.A. # 4670);

To Mrs. Zenaida R. Uy, the writer's adviser, who helped in giving the work its form;

To Dr. Alicia J. Tan, Dean, USC Graduate School, whose constant reminders encouraged the writer;

To all the informants for the study who were kind and patient, especially Mayor Mariano Espina of Loreto, Surigao del Norte, who shared with the writer the historical facts of the place and to Miss Sofronia Menil, the writer's special photographer;

To the writer's panelists - Dr. Resil B. Mojares, Mrs. Josephine F. Pelaez and Mrs. Leonisa L. Rama - who were accommodating and helpful in improving the text of the thesis;

To Mrs. Mila C. Fuentes of the USC Graduate School, for her generous help in making the books available;

To Boy and Beng Tiukinhoy, who were so concerned over the writer's comfort during her stay in Cebu;

To the Staff of the USC Planning Committee, for their moral support during the Research Design hearing;

To Asterio Eslao, Dept. Head, Practical Arts, Surigao del Norte National High School, who wrote the musical notations of two vigil songs;

To Sidronico C. Barba, Administrative Officer I, Rolando Bautista, Clerk I, of the Surigao del Norte National High School and Alicia S. Ecoben, Filing Clerk, MSSD, Surigao del Norte Branch, who gave assistance in some clerical work;

To Miss Olivia V. Restauero, Secretary, USC Department of Sociology-Anthropology who typed the draft;

To Linda Alburo, who edited the thesis;

To the writer's relatives and friends who in one way or another gave their moral support;

To all of these people, the writer expresses her deep gratitude.

And finally, the writer is most grateful to her husband, Ricardo L. Montinola, from whom she got her inspiration.

THE RESEARCHER

PROPERTY OF USC LIBRARY SYSTEM

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I	INTRODUCTION . . . . . 1
	Statement of the Problem . . . . . 7
	Importance of the Study . . . . . 9
	Scope and Delimitation of the Study . . . . . 12
	Definitions of Terms . . . . . 14
	Review of Related Literature . . . . . 17
	Organization of the Study . . . . . 21
II	RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN . . . . . 23
	Research Environment . . . . . 23
	Research Subjects . . . . . 26
	Research Design . . . . . 27
	Interview . . . . . 27
	Observations . . . . . 29
	Letters of Request . . . . . 29
	Instruments Used . . . . . 30
III	CLASSIFICATION AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION OF GAMES . . . . . 33
	Classification of Games . . . . . 33
	Structural Description of Games . . . . . 39
	Preliminary and Post-Games . . . . . 52
	Choosing the "it" or choosing sides. . . . . 52
	Choosing the "mano" or first player . . . . . 60
	Post-Game: Punishing a Loser . . . . . 65

PROPERTY OF USC LIBRARY SYSTEM

CHAPTER	PAGE
Games Utilizaing Indigenous Materials . . .	66
Games Played with Bamboo . . . . .	66
Games Played with Shells or Stones . . .	87
Games Played with Coconut, Rattan or Vine . . . . .	117
Games Played with Soil and Water . . .	131
Games Played with Wood . . . . .	138
Games Played with Animal or Insect . . .	153
Games Utilizing Non-Indigenous Materials.	157
Games Played with Coins . . . . .	157
Games Played with Rubber Band or Ball . . . . .	162
Games Played with Marbles . . . . .	173
Games Played with Tin Cans . . . . .	178
Non-Material Games . . . . .	183
Games Played on the Seashore . . . . .	183
Games Played Indoor or Outdoor . . . . .	190
Vigil Games . . . . .	198
Games Requiring Materials . . . . .	202
Games Not Requiring Materials . . . . .	206
 IV HISTORICAL, CALENDAR AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF GAMES . . . . .	218
Historical Context . . . . .	218
General Historical Background of Philippine Games . . . . .	218

CHAPTER	PAGE
Specific Historical Notes on Games in Research Areas . . . . .	229
Approximate Duration of Popularity . .	231
Calendar Context . . . . .	240
Cultural Context . . . . .	260
Beliefs . . . . .	260
Customs and Traditions . . . . .	264
V    ANALYSIS OF GAME FUNCTIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	267
The Manifest Functions of Games . . . . .	267
Conclusions . . . . .	271
Recommendations . . . . .	272
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	277
APPENDICES	
A    INFORMANTS' PROFILE - AGE-LEVEL GROUPS . . . .	283
B    INFORMANTS' PROFILE - POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS . . . . .	288
C    INTERVIEW GUIDE . . . . .	290
D    TEXT OF "ITSA DE PANYO" . . . . .	292
E    SAMPLE TEXT OF BORDON SONG . . . . .	304
F    SAMPLE TEXT OF "BANDO-REMUS" SONG . . . . .	305
G    STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY AND POST GAMES . . . . .	306
CURRICULUM VITAE . . . . .	310



LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
I	STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF PRELIMINARY AND POST GAMES . . . . .	42
II	CLASSIFICATION OF GAMES . . . . .	50
III	APPROXIMATE DURATION OF POPULARITY . . . . .	235
IV	STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF GAMES ACCORDING TO SEASON . . . . .	242

PROPERTY OF USC LIBRARY SYSTEM

LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1	PENPEN DE SERAPEN . . . . .	56
2	PITO-PITO LAGURING . . . . .	58
3	POSPORO . . . . .	60
4	LUNES, PARES, ONO . . . . .	61
5	KULOB-HAYANG . . . . .	62
6	TODO . . . . .	63
7	TAWO-AGUILA . . . . .	64
8	KIRKINMANAY . . . . .	65
9	PAAWAY-TABANOG . . . . .	68
10	SIPA-SIPA . . . . .	70
11	LUMBA-KARANG . . . . .	71
12	COCONUT SHELLS . . . . .	72
13	EMPTY CANS . . . . .	72
14	LUTHANG . . . . .	74
15	BALINSAY-KAWAYAN . . . . .	76
16	DUMBOL-KAWAYAN . . . . .	78
17	HATUM or SIATONG . . . . .	82
18	KANYON-KANYON . . . . .	84
19	SPALDING or BATIR-BATIR . . . . .	86
20	SUNGKA . . . . .	90
21	KALAY . . . . .	92
22	KANTITO or SANTITO . . . . .	94

PROPERTY OF USC LIBRARY SYSTEM