

# COMPILATION OF NEWS & ARTICLES ON THE MURILLO VELARDE 1734 MAP

## Man at His Best:

06.2017

### ESQ&A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY

He now has in his hands the map that proves Scarborough Shoal always belonged to the Philippines. **MEL VELARDE**, CEO of tech company Now Corporation, talks about the map's journey from Hogwarts to The Hague, and now finally home.

Interview by Audrey N. Carpio  
Photographs by Jilson Tiu

Continued

Esquire









**Murillo Velarde 1734 Map Commemorative Stamp**





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## MURILLO-VELARDE 1734 MAP MOTHER OF ALL PHILIPPINE MAPS

**C**arta Hydrographica Y Chorographica De La Yslas Filipinas Manila, 1734 is regarded by historians as the “mother of all Philippine maps.” The first scientific map of the Philippines, it was prepared by Spanish Jesuit Friar Pedro Murillo Velarde together with two Filipinos—Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who engraved it.

This large-format map (1120mm x 1200mm) shows the entire Philippine archipelago. It is flanked by two pasted-on-side panels with twelve engravings. Among its features is a tiny island with the label “Panacot” which was later named Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal. Also appearing are the rocks and islands of Spratlys named in the map as “Los Bajos de Paragua.”

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Tirol Carpio discovered that the map was among the 80 heirlooms owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Ralph

George Algernon Percy, that were scheduled to be auctioned by Sotheby’s London on November 4, 2014. Justice Carpio shared this information to various public and private museums and individuals including Filipino technology entrepreneur and educator Mel Velasco Velarde.

Velarde participated in the auction and gained ownership of this artifact.

Through a deed of donation signed with the Office of the Solicitor General of the Philippine Government, represented by the Honorable Secretary Jose C. Calida, the map was donated by Mel Velasco Velarde as a gift to the Filipino people. He believes ownership of the map is every Filipino's birth right.

Replicas of the map are being donated to government agencies, academic institutions and private organizations as part of a public awareness campaign on the map and its significance to our cultural and historical heritage.



## On the Cover

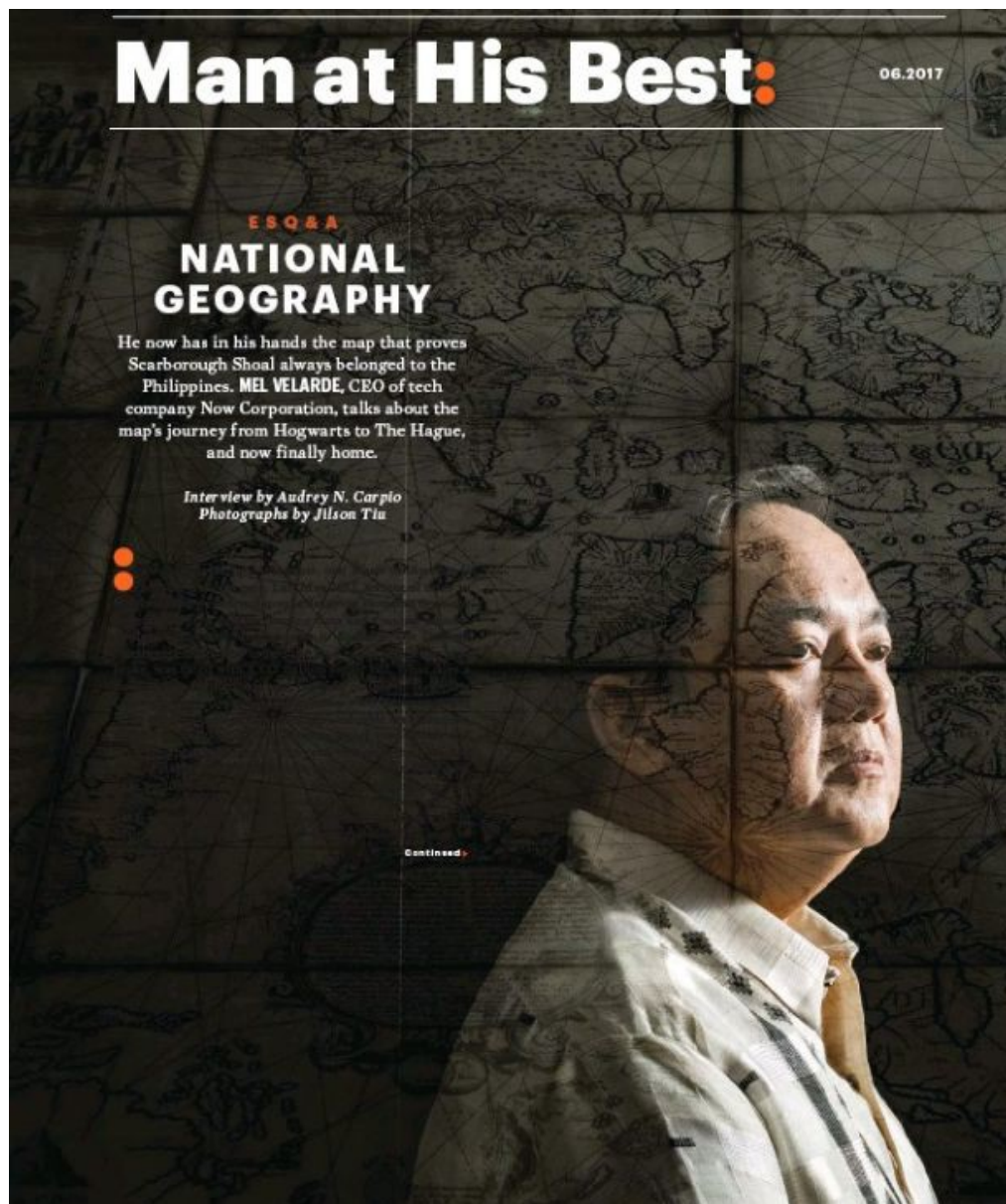
### Man at His Best Esquire Q&A: National Geography

#### LINK:

<https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/esquire-philippines/20170601/282071981859591>

He now has in his hands the map that proves Scarborough Shoal always belonged to the Philippines. MEL VELARDE, CEO of tech company Now Corporation, talks about the map's journey from Hogwarts to The Hague, and now finally home.

*Esquire (Philippines) | 1 Jun 2017 | Interview by Audrey N. Carpio Photographs by Jilson Tiu*





How the “mother of Philippine maps” found its way home.

How did a map of the Philippines end up in some dank English castle? In 1762, the British occupied Manila, following their victory over Spanish forces in the Battle of Manila. When Manila fell on October 6, 1762, British soldiers pillaged (and raped, razed, and plundered) the city for 40 hours. One of the looted artifacts, taken by Brigadier General William Draper, was a set of eight copperplates of the 1734 Pedro Murillo Velarde map, the most comprehensive map of the archipelago at the time. (Fr. Murillo Velarde was the Jesuit priest and polymath who designed the map, also known as *Carta hydrographica y chorographica de las Islas Filipinas*, but it was drawn and engraved by the skilled Filipino artisans Francisco Suarez and Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay.)

Draper donated the copperplates to Cambridge University, which ran new prints of the map. Later, the British melted the copperplates when they needed copper to print their admiralty charts. One of these prints was then acquired by the Duke of Northumberland, who kept the map for over two hundred years, until it was unearthed after the flood, put to the auction hammer and won over the phone by a Filipino IT entrepreneur named Mel Velarde (no apparent relation to Pedro) in 2014. The Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio had encouraged Velarde to acquire it for the good of the nation, after several museums he first approached said they couldn’t afford the pricey artifact.

The “Mother of all Philippine Maps” arrived in the country on April 28, nearly three years after it was auctioned off. Esquire emailed Mel Velarde to talk about the map, which he is donating to the National Museum.

ESQUIRE: What does it feel like to finally bring the Murillo Velarde map home?

MEL VELARDE: Jubilation and relief. The signing of the deed of donation with the Solicitor General Jose Calida last April 21, 2017, and the subsequent collection of the map from Sotheby’s London, handed to me personally and to the Assistant Solicitor General (Usec. Henry Angeles) last April 28, 2017, marked the culmination of a journey that started on November 4, 2014. On that day of the auction, I had a mission: to participate in the auction of this map by Sotheby’s London, to win the auction and bring that map back to the Philippines. I embrace this whole journey as a personal civic duty; as this journey culminates, I have jubilation in my heart, and triumph in my mind. Relief, too, because the 1734 Murillo Velarde map has finally arrived in the Philippines, and will be formally turned over to the government on June 12, 2017.

ESQ: The map took almost three years to make its way here after it was won at auction. Can you tell us what has been happening since then, and why it had been decided to bring in the map at this time?

MV: While the case at UNCLOS was ongoing, keeping the map at Sotheby’s London would be convenient if in case—for whatever reason—it is needed. When UNCLOS released its decision in July last year, we began the process of its eventual transport to the Philippines



including, among others, the signing of a deed of donation, the physical examination of the map by the National Museum team of experts, the securing of export license from the UK government, and the actual physical collection of the map by me and the official representative of the Philippine government.

ESQ: Did the map play any part in the arbitration hearings at The Hague?

MV: The 1734 Murillo Velarde map as historic artifact was cited in the Philippine complaint against China at UNCLOS. There are very few copies of this map in the world today—you can count them on one hand. Problem was the Filipino people, through their government, never owned a single copy of this map. I was told it would be of enormous value that we as a people would own a copy of this map for current and future concerns.





ESQ: You were engaged in a bidding war that brought up the price of the map up to P12 million. What went on in your mind? Who were the other bidders?

MV: The floor price was about P1.5 million. At most, we calculated that this could double or even reach four million pesos to conclude the auction. There were a number of bidders who just increased whatever price I gave; I just heard their voices over the telephone and I wondered what business they had with this map. So furious was the bidding that I felt I was buying a company with valuable and quantifiable assets. Later on I found out there was a Filipino conglomerate that participated, and some Asian individuals participated as well.

Because the map's value could not be quantified at that moment, I realized it is precisely not quantifiable because its value is incalculable. After the four million peso ceiling was breached during the bidding, the dominant thing in my mind was to win; I felt there was a larger consideration in this whole exercise where my personal role was but a footnote. In my mind, I was reminded of soldiers ready to die for our country. It's a long shot, and quite a stretch of imagination, to think that a map could prevent them from dying or getting into war, but I'd take that shot any day, nonetheless; so I did.

So many other things were in my mind: the map being the one true land title of every Filipino; it being historic artifact; an evidence of our historic rights; a source of narrative for our youth to love our country; an embodiment of our material being as a nation, so on and on, so many other things came into my mind until the price reached almost P13 million. Voila! I won the bidding for the mother of all Philippine maps. I knew right then and there, she was not mine to keep. My role was to return her to the people, to whom she rightfully belongs. In short, just to bring her back home.

ESQ: Aside from the fact that Panacot (Scarborough Shoal) is shown to be part of the Philippines, what else can we learn from this centuries-old map?

MV: Spratlys is shown there as Los Bajos de Paragua. The superb artistic creations through drawings of the twelve vignettes that depict a high quality, advanced and inclusive way of life of people in the archipelago: showing Filipino men and women working in the farm that represents self-reliance, family unity and sustainable livelihood; showing Armenian, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Moguls freely interacting with the indios; men and women from various economic classes, from top to bottom, engaging with each other in public sites, with freedom, mutual trust and peace; the modern urban planning and design shown in the cities Manila and Zamboanga, that identified the public sites, the church location, the fountains of fresh water flowing through the community, the house of the governor, etcetera, etcetera— all showing elements of facilities and comforts similar to the best urbanized cities in Spain and other parts of Europe; A new route for the Spanish ships, suggested by Fr. Murillo Velarde, sailing northward from Palawan to the tip of Luzon and turning eastward to reach Mexico, an alternative route to the usual winding cruise through the Visayan seas where said ships were vulnerable to pirate attacks.



There are almost 900 cities and towns identified in the map, which Filipinos of today [can recognize], since most of the [towns'] names have remained the same, and their locations are surprisingly accurate, including the markers for mountains, seas, lakes, trees, etc.



Between the islands of Palawan and Mindanao, a large medallion is drawn on the map and inside it is an enumeration of the major resources such as animals and plants, fruits and minerals, and all other nature's bounties—each identified in particular—all intended to highlight the richness and diversity of the resources in the archipelago. I call this the wealth medallion that is on the map.

I can go on and on, and we will never finish!

ESQ: Despite having won the Hague ruling, the Philippines is no closer to taking back our islands. Perhaps we should send a copy of the map to the Chinese embassy?

MV: That's one. But seriously, it took more than eighty years before China took those islands from us. As early as in the mid 1930s, Chinese naval teams started planting fake markers bearing dates as early as 1900. Post-World War II Chinese children were indoctrinated and brainwashed to believe that these islands belong to them; so much so that when these kids grew old and took control of their government they launched the offensive and occupied these lands. Because of years of indoctrination, they felt that they were doing these based on moral grounds.

So how do we fight a super power whose present leadership and its followers committed these belligerent acts based on moral grounds? Well, the answer is: only through moral grounds.

We too, therefore, must be willing to carefully craft our moves for the next eighty to one hundred years in order to get these islands back. We must engage with the new generation of Chinese youth in authentic ways and manners that would summon their self-respecting values, appealing to them not by subservience or capitulation, but by moral reason.

The present minds of this generation, yours and mine, cannot fully comprehend the full measure and power of the UNCLOS decision to future generations. Yet, together with [the book *The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in The West Philippine Sea*] of Justice Carpio, that UNCLOS decision provides ammunition to the real and more defining battles of tomorrow: battles that can only be won on stronger and more authentic moral grounds.

ESQ: Is there significance to having an actual, physical map in an era of post-truth, fake news and Facebook manipulation?

MV: Enormous significance. In [this era], authenticity becomes the rarest of assets, the most powerful tool of social influence. We have in our hands a most authentic map that can debunk post-truths, fake news and any Facebook manipulation.



LINK:

<https://upd.edu.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/UPDate-Vol1-2-No1.pdf>

### Map Rights Wrongs: The 1734 Murillo Velarde Map

October-December 2018



**IN FOCUS**

BY Mariamme D. Jadloc



## MAP RIGHTS WRONGS: The 1734 Murillo Velarde map

IMAGES BY Leonardo A. Reyes



<sup>20</sup> UPDATE DILIMAN • October-December 2018



## China never controlled the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) at any time in history, as proven by the 1734 Murillo Velarde map.

**A**ccording to Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the map invalidates China's Nine-Dashed Line and claims of ownership of the South China Sea for over "2,000 years."

Carpio delivered the keynote address at the opening of the 16<sup>th</sup> Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Conference on Oct. 4 at the auditorium of the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (NISMED). The 2-day conference had the theme "Mapping Spaces and Identities in Spanish Colonial Philippines."

**OFFICIAL.** Printed in Manila, the 1734 Murillo Velarde map by the Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde, was the Spanish government's official map of its territories (both terrestrial and aquatic) in the Philippines. Called the mother of all Philippine maps and widely copied by Filipino and European cartographers, the map showed the maritime routes from Manila to Spain and Mexico and other Spanish territories to the New World, something very vital to the Galleon Trade, the first global trade by sea. According to the National Library of Spain, the map was drawn by Filipino Francisco Suarez and engraved by another Filipino, Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay.

"The map is so detailed that when a magnifying glass is used, one can see all the towns and pueblos of the Philippines in 1734," Carpio said. He was part of the team that argued before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague in the Netherlands on the Philippines' claim on the Sea.

Included in the 1734 Murillo Velarde map are the Panacot shoal (Scarborough Shoal) and the Los Bajos de Paragua (Spratly Islands or Spratlys). It was one of the 270 ancient maps presented at the PCA hearings contesting China's claim over the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) that began in July 2015. Among the other maps presented were ancient maps of China throughout the Chinese dynasties, Philippine ancient

maps and maps of Southeast Asia and European maps of Asia.

China's historical claim that it owned the South China Sea since 2,000 years ago (ed: roughly around the time of the Han Dynasty which began from 206 BC - 220AD) was refuted by Carpio and the Philippine team of experts. He said none of the ancient maps showed that China owned the contentious waters nor the Spratly islands and the Scarborough Shoal. The ancient Chinese maps' southernmost territory was Hainan.

"China in its earliest dynasty, from the Song and fast forward to their last dynasty, the Qing dynasty, and all their maps uniformly show that their southernmost territory is Hainan. So we presented this to the Tribunal. If you superimpose all the maps from the Song to the Qing dynasty, to over almost a thousand years, the southernmost territory of China was Hainan," he said.

**NO HISTORICAL CLAIM.** The Nine-Dashed Line is the demarcation line China used to claim the major part of the South China Sea. China maintains it owns any land or territory contained within the line. Among the territories claimed are the Spratlys and Scarborough shoal.

The demarcation line was formerly 11 dashes. In his book "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," Carpio explained that in December 1947, the "Kuomintang Government of China adopted the Nine-Dashed Line claim" that was embodied in a map "Location Map of the South Sea Islands" released within China in February 1948, with 11 dashes forming a broken U-shaped line covering almost the entire South China Sea."

Carpio further explained the map indicates a claim to the islands and not the sea. In addition, there was no basis how the 11 dashes came about nor what its coordinates were. China claimed the islands enclosed in the 11 dashes, among them the Nansha Islands (Spratlys). Scarborough Shoal which is called Huangyan Island or its previous name, Min'zhu was not included.

"China was silent on any claim to the surrounding waters," Carpio said.

In 1950, China under communist rule removed two dashes in the Gulf of Tonkin without any explanation. This was the beginning of the Nine-Dashed Line.

On July 12, 2016, PCA tribunal ruled China had no evidence that historically it had exclusive control over the waters or resources of the South China Sea.





*Carpio and Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Jorge Moragas Sanchez (second and third from left) with Velarde (right) and other international guests at the UP-NISMED Auditorium.*

**HISTORY WILL CORRECT THEM.** Carpio aims to right this false claim of ownership, almost making it his personal crusade, reasoning that any person believing thus will know the truth because “History will correct them.”

The associate justice conducts lectures here and abroad to let everybody know about the historical demarcation lines concerning the South China Sea and of the Scarborough Shoal and Spratlys as Philippine territories.

Some members of the international community, even other Filipinos, are currently inclined to believe otherwise, particularly when Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivered a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the United States think tank in Washington, on Feb. 25, 2016. In his speech, he said the Treaty of Paris of 1898 proves the Scarborough Shoal and the Spratlys are not Philippine territories because they are all outside the Treaty Lines.

The Treaty of Paris of 1898 was an agreement between Spain and the United States which included among others, the United States’ payment of US\$20 million to Spain to cede the Philippines to them. In the Treaty, there were areas in the 1734 map of Murillo Velarde that Spain failed to cede to the United States, including Scarborough Shoal and the Spratlys.

Nevertheless, Carpio argued the existence of the Treaty of Washington of 1900.

“After signing the Treaty of Paris of 1898, the Americans came here and they discovered there were many islands outside the Treaty lines. So they went back to the Spaniards and asked the Spaniards to sign a Treaty clarifying the Treaty of Paris and that would include all these other islands outside of Treaty Lines. The Spaniards refused to sign,” Carpio said. He continued, “So the Americans told them, ‘On top of the US\$20 million that we paid you, we will pay you an additional US\$100,000 to sign a second Treaty to make the clarification.’ The Spaniards said, ‘Yes, we will sign!’”

According to The Treaty of Washington of 1900, “Spain relinquishes to the United States all title and claim of title, which she may have had at the time of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace of Paris, to any and all islands belonging to the Philippine Archipelago lying outside the lines described in Article III of that Treaty and particularly to the islands of Cagayan Sulu and Sibutu and their dependencies, and agrees that all such islands shall be comprehended in the cession of the Archipelago as fully as if they had been expressly included within those lines.”



Therefore, Carpio said, with the Treaty of Washington of 1900 amending the Treaty of Paris of 1898, the Philippines can claim the Spratlys and Scarborough Shoal.

**COSMOPOLITAN MANILA.** Not only did the Murillo Velarde map debunk China's historical narrative of South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) ownership, it also showed an 18th century Manila that was a rich cosmopolitan city, inhabited not only by the locals but foreigners from different parts of the globe and was a key city of the Galleon Trade.

The associate justice said Father Pedro Murillo Velarde once wrote that if one stands on a bridge in Manila, one can see people from all parts of the globe, from Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

The Murillo Velarde map was originally engraved in eight copper plates and had on its sides a total 12 vignettes on the people and landscape of 18th century Philippines.

The whole 1734 Murillo Velarde map is engraved on eight copper plates. The map itself is divided into four copper plates. It is between four other copper plates, two on each side. Each of these copper plates bear three vignettes. Eight vignettes depict people of varied ethnicities living in the country, and of flora and fauna found in the country. There is also a map of Samboagan (a city in Mindanao), a map of the port of Cavite — for the port was vital in building galleons at the time; a map of the island of Guajan (Guam) and a map of Manila. The vignettes clearly depicted how important 18th century Philippines was in the Galleon Trade, and largely, to the Spanish empire.

The crucial role of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map in the Philippines' case against China's claim over the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) is but one example of the importance of ancient maps in understanding history and present-day claims and situations.

"Ancient maps are not merely decorative items far removed from present day reality. Ancient maps can come alive to help settle contentious present-day disputes among states. Individually, ancient maps contain errors and omissions because they do not have a satellite to get the correct configuration, but taken collectively over a period of time... ancient maps point to basic historical truth and expose greater than historical bias," Carpio said.

**UPD'S OWN COPY.** At the conference, UP Diliman (UPD) received a facsimile of the mother of all Philippine maps. Its donor was information

technology entrepreneur Mel Velarde, chair of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.

"I'm here with a simple mission to give you a gift of the official replica of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map. My mission was to buy the map at an auction in London for you (the youth) because Justice Carpio wanted the youth to be able to see it and understand how blessed and rich our country is," he said.

Along with the official replica, Velarde brought the original map at the UPD conference for public viewing. He purchased the map for P12 million in an auction at London Sotheby's in 2014. In 2017, Velarde donated the map to the National Museum.

The original map once belonged to the Duke of Northumberland. It was one of a number of maps the University of Cambridge produced as fresh prints from the copper plates of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map. The Duke of Northumberland of the late 18th century bought a copy of the map and brought it to his residence at Alnwick Castle. The Castle has been used as a setting to many films and television series, and may be familiar to Potterheads for this was the interior and exterior of Hogwarts of "Harry Potter" films.

There at Alnwick Castle the map remained at its basement for over 200 years. In 2014, the current Duke of Northumberland announced the sale of family heirlooms that included the celebrated map.

The official replica is currently at the UPD Department of History and its public viewing is yet to be set.









**I**n 2014, an information technology entrepreneur was on the phone bidding in an auction in London, England, more than 10,700 km. away from Manila. Eventually, he won the bid for the 1734 Murillo Velarde map or the Carta Hydrographica y Chronographica de las Islas Filipinas, an heirloom of the 12th Duke of Northumberland, Ralph Percy.

After winning the map at the London Sotheby's, Velarde sent a copy to the team that would argue before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague in the Netherlands on the Philippines' claim on the South China Sea. The team included Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio.

The 1734 Murillo Velarde map played a crucial role in winning the Philippines' case against China's claim over the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea). This was on July 12, 2016. (see Map rights wrongs: the 1734 Murillo Velarde map).

The Philippines now has in its public collections the country's first and most important scientific map, thanks to the benevolence of Mel Velarde, who donated to the National Museum the map he bought at London Sotheby's for US\$273,000 (P12 million).

How did the Murillo Velarde map of 1734 end up in the United Kingdom?

An official map of the Spanish empire, it was commissioned by Philippine Governor General Fernando Valdes y Tamon (1729-1739) and was designed by Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde, drawn by Francisco Suarez and engraved by Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay in eight copper plates. Made in Manila, the map shows the maritime routes from Manila to Spain and to New Spain (Mexico and other Spanish territories in the New World), an important route for the Galleon Trade.

In the conflict between England and France from 1756 to 1763 (known as the Seven Years War), the Philippines found itself embroiled in the battle when Spain allied itself with France. As a territory of Spain, Manila was vital to the Spanish empire and was very much on the British' radar.

Appearing in Manila Bay and taking the Spanish forces by surprise on Sept. 23, 1762, the British fleets finally captured Manila on Oct. 6, 1762 after 12 days of fighting. In less than two days, Manila's wall was breached, its citizens raped, tortured and killed, and its treasures looted.

Among the looted artifacts was the set of eight copper plates of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map.

Brigadier General William Draper, the commander of the British fleets, brought these copper plates to London and donated them

to Cambridge University, his alma mater. The University then ran several new prints of the map.

One of these maps was acquired by the then Duke of Northumberland who brought it home at Alnwick Castle. There, it stayed for more than 200 years.

Sadly, the copper plates were later melted by the British to print their admiralty charts.

**LOT #183.** In May 2012, a huge portion of the properties of the present day Duke of Northumberland was damaged by a severe flood. Repairing the damage entailed millions of pounds. By 2014, the Duke announced the sale of family heirlooms to raise funds to cover the cost of repairs. Among those to be auctioned off at Sotheby's was the 1734 Murillo Velarde map estimated between US\$32,000 to US\$48,000.

The map, Lot #183, was put up for bid at the auction house and was eventually won by Mel Velarde at the price of US\$273,000.

Almost three years after the auction, the celebrated map came home on Apr. 29, 2017. It was formally turned over to the Philippine government on June 12, 2017, the country's 119<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence from Spain.



Velarde

**CURRICULUM VITAE OF MEL VELASCO VELARDE****Chairman of the Board of Directors, NOW Corporation**

NOW Corporation is a publicly listed firm in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE Ticker: NOW). It has investments in the Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) industries and engages in providing broadband connectivity via its premiere brand NOW Fiber Air, a CIR-based Internet service catering primarily to enterprises and high-rise buildings. NOW Corp also delivers high-value information technology products and services including cybersecurity, I.T. Manpower Resource Augmentation, and systems integrator services.

**Chairman and CEO, NOW Telecom Company Inc.**

NOW Telecom Company, Inc. ("NOW Telecom"), formerly Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. (NCPI), is a telecommunications service license holder in the Philippines, with nationwide congressional franchise (RA 10972), valid until 2043. Mel, with his multinational team, negotiated with Nextel International Inc. (NII), based in Virginia, USA, and engineered the buy-out of Nextel Communications Philippines, Inc., a USD250M investment of NII.

NOW Telecom is one of the four Mobile Telephony System License holders apart from SMART-PLDT, Globe Telecom, and Dito Telecommunity. The Company has the license to construct, establish, operate, and maintain Mobile Telecommunications System, Fixed Wireless Telecommunications System, International and Domestic Gateway, Fiber Optic Systems, Satellite System, Electronic Communications Network, Electronic Communications Services.

In a significant development in November 2022, the U.S. Government recognized NOW Telecom, an affiliate of NOW Corp, as its partner in deploying 5G technologies and establishing a secure nationwide broadband network across the Philippines.

It is the prime mover of the Trusted Network Alliance for the Indo-Pacific region.

**Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC)**

Established in 1980, AIJC offers graduate programs in communication and journalism, conducts professional training in communication and leadership, and implements advocacy-driven projects. The AIJC Graduate School, utilizing technology and industry partnerships, offers master's degrees in Communication and Journalism, including a new master's program in Public Relations and Corporate Communication in collaboration with the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP). The Professional Development Program delivers short-term, non-degree courses for journalists, communicators, and development managers, focusing on interactive training methods. The AIJC Research, Policy, and Advocacy (RPA) Unit works with institutions, government agencies, and civil society to promote freedom of expression, journalist safety, labor migration rights, inclusive education, media literacy, and other key national issues.



**Chairman, Velarde Inc.**

In 1999, he established his own holdings company, Velarde Inc. VI, which engaged in acquiring, transforming and expanding Telecom, Media and Technology businesses. Its investment in Altimax turned the company into high-value potential asset for Broadband Internet Business, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) and Multi-point Microwave Distribution Service (MMDS). In 2008, 86% of Altimax was acquired by Globe Telecom, with the remaining 14% acquired in 2021.

**Founder, NowPlanet.TV and Chairman, News and Entertainment Network Corporation**

In 2012, Mel launched a new digital brand under NOW named NowPlanet.TV, a new media service platform that delivers digitized content in the enterprise, education, and entertainment, across all devices and around the world to vast and targeted audiences.

**News Director, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company (1988)**

Early in his career, he headed and reorganized the News and Public Affairs Department of ABS-CBN, the Philippines' largest broadcasting network, and had also worked as News Director – Trainee at KTLA Channel 5 News in Los Angeles, California.

**Co-Founder, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Sky Cable**

From 1991 to 1997, he co-founded Sky Cable and led the day-to-day business execution and operations of Sky Cable, which became the largest cable TV company in the Philippines. He co-founded Sky News (which became ANC), Sky Movies, Sky Sports, Sky iChannel, Sky Knowledge Channel, and expanded Sky Cable nationwide. He also co-founded and launched Sky Internet in the early 90s a pioneer of broadband internet in the Philippines.

**Philippine Commissioner to UNESCO (2003-2010), Chairman of the UNESCO Philippine Science and Technology Committee**

In 2003, the President of the Philippines appointed him as Philippine Commissioner to the UNESCO, where he served as Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee. UNESCO, which stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialized agency of the United Nations. Established in 1945, its primary objective is to promote international collaboration in education, science, culture, and communication to contribute to peace and security. UNESCO's work is guided by the belief that peace and prosperity can only be achieved through the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.

**Top Taxpayer Award (2009) from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)**

In 2009, he received the Top Taxpayer Award from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) after Velarde Inc. was recognized by the BIR as Top ONETT Taxpayer for Revenue Region No. 8, having made the highest tax payment for 2009. The Top ONETT Taxpayer Award is given to an entity that paid the highest amount of tax for a "one-time transaction." BIR Revenue Region 8 covers the Philippine cities of includes Pasay, Muntinlupa, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Taguig, Pateros, and Makati, the country's financial capital.

## **Bidder, Winner and Donor of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map**

In 2014, Mel acquired the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map from a Sotheby's auction in London. Referred to as the "Mother of all Philippine Maps," the first scientific map of the country, it was prepared by Spanish Jesuit Friar Pedro Murillo Velarde together with two Filipinos—Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who engraved it. The map was a crucial piece of evidence in the Philippines' landmark victory at the South China Sea Arbitration in 2016. The map affirms the Philippines' historical rights over the contested areas.

The journey of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to the Philippines is a story of dedication and cultural pride. The map was discovered to be among the 80 heirlooms owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, which were scheduled to be auctioned by Sotheby's London on November 4, 2014. Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Tirol Carpio shared this information with various public and private museums and individuals, including Mel Velasco Velarde, a Filipino technology entrepreneur and educator who sits as Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the NOW Group.

Recognizing the historical value of the map—which also notably shared his last name—Velarde outbid other contenders with a winning offer of £170,500.00 (approximately PHP12 million at the time). Velarde convinced the British government that the map was not part of British patrimony, allowing him to bring it home in 2016. On April 21, 2017, Velarde donated the map as a gift to the Filipino people through a deed of donation signed with the Office of the Solicitor General of the Philippine Government, represented by Hon. Jose C. Calida. The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map has found its home in the Permanent Gallery of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), which was inaugurated on August 9, 2024.

## **Educational Background**

Mel's educational journey is extensive and diverse, reflecting his dedication to interdisciplinary learning and professional development.

He studied at the Ateneo de Manila University, the University of the Philippines, and the University of San Francisco, and graduated from Boston University, Massachusetts, USA, with a degree in Liberal Studies, majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies (Summa Cum Laude). He also holds a master's degree in Business Economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Mel's commitment to continuous learning led him to complete an Owner/President Management (OPM-Executive MBA) Program at Harvard Business School, Harvard University, Cambridge. Additionally, he pursued International Human Rights Law (Summer Course) at Oxford University, Oxford, England, and completed courses in Digital Cinematography, Film Editing, and Film/Television Production at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also completed 17 units of Theology, leading to a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies at Columbia International University (South Carolina, USA), which included a course in Ancient Near East Literature from Jerusalem College University.

In addition to his formal education, Mel has participated in numerous Executive Education Programs and Professional Certified Training Programs at prestigious institutions, including:

- Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Business Strategy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management
- Internet of Things: Business Implications and Opportunities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management
- Social Media Strategy: Creating Engagement, Insight, and Action, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management



- Digital Learning Strategy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management
- Wealth Management at Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania
- Strategic Finance at the University of Michigan
- Corporate Restructuring and Business Transformation at Harvard Business School
- Digital Marketing at Harvard Business School
- Managing Businesses in China at Tsinghua University and Harvard Business School
- Directing Documentaries at the London School of Film and Television
- Broadcasting and Cable Television, Satellite Communications, Data, and Internet Communications at the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI)
- Cybersecurity: Planning, Implementing, and Auditing of Critical Security Controls at SANS, Washington D.C.
- Cinematography Master Class Program at the American Society of Cinematographers (Los Angeles, CA)
- Advanced and Competitive Sailing Certifications at the Swain Sailing School in Tortola, the British Virgin Islands, Caribbean

Mel's comprehensive education and training underscore his commitment to excelling across various fields, demonstrating a blend of academic rigor and practical expertise.

Meet him on Facebook and LinkedIn:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mel.velarde>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/melvelarde/>

## The Story of Mel Velarde, the Man Behind NOW

...something with a camera. At eight, he earned pay, an accredited lensman covering the 1971 Constitutional Convention, a privileged holder of Press ID Card No. 049 issued by the Convention's Committee on external affairs.

The eldest of three children of Meliton Velarde, founder and president of the Manila Photographers Association, Mel readily learned the ropes of the trade and in his first professional stint at the Con-Con, proved to be a better hand than many of his elders.

This was how Panorama saw the white kid in 1972: "Unassuming and friendly, young Velarde mixes freely with the delegates and has become their 'darling' and favorite photographer. He takes their pictures in action or even at 'unguarded' moments..."

"Photography, Mel learned as early as when he was four, is not only a hobby. To him, it is not just taking pictures. He has assumed a self-imposed mission for a noble cause. He is actually in the midst of a project to take pictures of war and beggars who go around the streets and sleep wherever they wish—on pavements of public or private buildings in Manila."

Today, at 13, Mel has put to good use his experience in and dedication to photography. He may be the youngest lens alive. But then, he is comparatively old professionally. He has been in photography for nine years.



4-year-old Mel starts tinkering with a camera

published in the magazine of the Professional Photographers Association of the Philippines on Nov. 26, 1977, edited by Mr. Rother Batajes, Photo-Journalist of the year



Mel Velasco Velarde started working at the age of eight, when he was appointed assistant press photographer for the 1971-1972 Philippine Constitutional Convention. He assisted his ailing father, Meliton R. Velarde, who suffered a debilitating nerve atrophy that started around the time Mel was born and caused blindness, first on the left eye then the right.



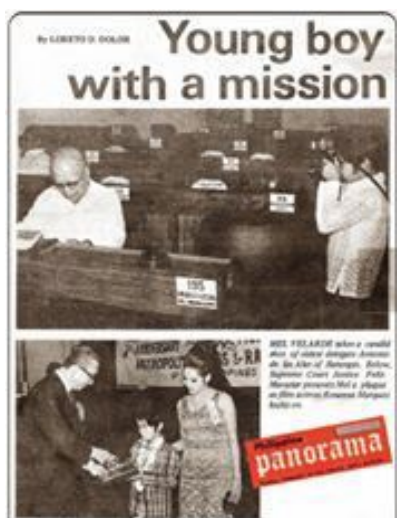
Receiving the award as "The World's Youngest Professional Photographer at age 8" handed to him by Philippine Supreme Court Justice Felix Makasiar



The elder Velarde was the official press photographer of the Constitutional Convention headed by Diosdado Macapagal, a former Philippine President.



*Mel's father Meliton and mother Amparo standing in front of the first Velarde studio in 1959*



A former amateur boxer in the 1950s, Meliton shifted his craft to photography and put up the Velarde Studio in 1959, a husband and wife enterprise of both Meliton and Amparo. When Mel was born in 1963, he taught his son to take pictures starting with tinkering on cameras as baby toys, while his mother assisted in training him to print pictures at the darkroom. At age 4, Mel could take and print pictures. Mel at age 8 was awarded a plaque of recognition as "The World's Youngest Professional Photographer," handed to him by Supreme Court Justice Felix Makasiar. While in grade school and high school, Mel helped run the Velarde Studio at Enrico

Hotel, taught photography during weekends, opened another studio at Malate Manila, and was elected Secretary-General of the Professional Photographers' Association of the Philippines (PPAP) at the age of 15. At age 11, he was a national Chess and Games of the General finalist, and national Siege game champion. During summers, he studied guitar, piano and fine art drawing.





*Teaching photography during weekends while helping run the Velarde Studio in Ermita, Manila and, on weekdays, attending elementary and high school at St. Anthony School, Singalong, Manila*

*In this photo, Mel had just graduated from high school. He was a consistent honor and working student in elementary and high school. Mel sent himself to colleges and universities and later completed Bachelor of Liberal Studies from Boston University, where he was awarded with the highest Latin Honor of Summa Cum Laude with near perfect GPA of 3.9.*



*Televised nationwide, 14-year-old Mel won as national quiz bee champion and brought home the grand prize, a brand-new Toyota Corolla, 1978 model.*



Young Mel would read magazines and newspapers for his father daily and became an avid reader of books of all sorts. A consistent honor student, Mel's academic excellence was put to test in a quiz bee show on national television, the Spin-A-Win, on Channel 9 in 1978. This live TV competition was participated weekly by bright high school students who were tested in science, current events and other academic subjects. Mel won as national champion and brought home the grand prize, a brand-new Toyota Corolla, 1978 model. He drove it around school for a day, then sold it at P45,000 pesos, giving P40,000 to his parents for medical bills and rent for the house and the studio business. With the remaining P5,000 pesos, he bought a secondhand Volkswagen beetle.

Later on, Mel at 19 was chosen to represent his country as Chair of the Philippine delegation to the 1983 International Youth Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Not having enough money to pay for his travel ticket to the US, Mel found a way to convince Mr. Leslie Espino, Executive Vice President of Philippine Airlines, to pay for his trip on a promise that he will come back and serve his country. Mr. Espino gave him 50% discount on a two-way ticket to the U.S. With enough personal savings and funds from friends and family, Mel flew to America.

At the United Nations conference, Mel became the leader of 110 youth leaders who represented their respective countries and pushed for greater youth participation in the affairs of the United Nations. After his UN stint, Mel was accepted as a SERVAS exchange student at Princeton, New Jersey and went to live in the house of Dr. Earl Simon, a top American eye doctor. This was most opportune time for Mel's ailing father; it was Dr. Simon who directed Mel to send his father to a Los Angeles-based expert on low vision ophthalmology. Mel aimed to attain financial success early to afford the needed medical solution for his father's eyes and send money back home for his family's survival.



***19-year-old Mel at the Rockefeller Center, New York, USA***

While studying and working in the US, he joined the political exile movement, Movement for a Free Philippines, headed by former Senator Raul Manglapus and became head of the youth group of the movement and later on, the National Union of Christian Democrats. After Martial Law ended in the Philippines and People Power ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, Mel returned to his homeland, became campaign manager of Raul Manglapus for the Senate in the 1987 elections, and became President of the Filipino Youth Party.

Photography was the starting point from where Mel's competencies evolved into the field of technology, media, and telecommunications in the next 20 years. His enterprise enabled him to support his family of five as breadwinner and provide for the education of his siblings.

In Asia, Mel is known for a number of accomplishments:

1. He led the day-to-day business development and operations of Sky Cable, which became the largest cable TV company in the Philippines from 1991 to 1997. For his achievements in Sky Cable, he was recognized in the Annual "The Best of the Philippines" Publication as one



of eight Filipinos considered "the Best of the Philippines in the Field of Corporate Leadership and Entrepreneurship" in 1993. At the end of 1997, Mel monetized his shares in Sky; other minority shareholders such as Sun Hung Kai of Hongkong and Tesoro family also sold their shares in Sky Cable and earned 5.3 times their investment over a five-year investment horizon. His sterling performance in organizing and operating Sky Cable earned him the recognition as one of the top corporate entrepreneurs in the Philippines. Then President Fidel Ramos tapped Mel as his personal Technology adviser.



*26-year-old Mel was appointed to head Sky Cable. Messages of Eugenio Lopez Jr., Chairman of Sky Cable, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Co., Benpres and Lopez, Inc.: "You are the best in the industry... it was you, with the team you led, who are the most responsible for the success of Sky. I assure the best is yet to come" (delivered in a video tape message in the occasion of Mel's 33rd*

*birthday in 1996); "During your ten years or so with the company, you have never gotten involved in any situation that could have tainted your integrity. I wish you well. Best personal regards" (sent to Mel in a letter before Mr. Lopez passed on).*

2. In 1999, Mel established his own holdings firm Velarde Inc. (VI), which he utilized as his investment vehicle in most of his undertakings. Through VI, he acquired Altimax Broadcasting in 1999 and transformed it into a Broadband Internet business by operating Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) two-way service and Multi-point Microwave Distribution Service (MMDS).

Altimax was the first to establish in 1999 a two-way satellite broadband Internet in the Philippines by delivering Internet signal from the US Mainland to the Philippine Islands via a satellite hub in Napa Valley and Hawaii using Pacific satellites as transmission vehicles. As part of his grand plan, he chose the MMDS frequencies to re-transmit the satellite signals via terrestrial microwave to and from Philippine homes, schools, government, and private customers. However, his vision was ahead of its time since the corresponding MMDS equipment was yet to be commercialized. His plan was always subject to expensive customization.



***36-year-old Mel: Co-locating at a Satellite Farm in Napa Valley, California***

Mel, however, found ways to partner with US tech firms such as Remec, AML, and Intel which were determined to act as first movers in developing wireless equipment. From 2003 to 2005, a new global wireless technology revolution called WIMAX was emerging. The global technology community, through the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and led by US firm INTEL, decided to adopt the MMDS band as the standard WIMAX frequency, later on became LTE. Giant Intel surprised the international community when it launched the most revolutionary wireless broadband service all over the world; Mel and his company were Intel's partner in the Philippines.

Intel would develop, manufacture and embed computer chips, the core engine of computers and mobile phones that will operate on the MMDS band. In December 2008, Altimax was acquired by Globe Telecom, a leading cellular and full service telecom company. VI still owns a 14% equity stake in Altimax while the rest is owned by the Ayala family and Singtel of Singapore.

3. In 2002, Mel, aged 38, engineered the management buy-out of Nextel Communications Philippines, Inc. (NCPI), a US\$200 M dollar investment of US Nextel International, Inc. (NII). This was about six months before NII filed for Chapter 11 in the U.S. NCPI was later named Next Mobile. Restructuring the company while focusing on mission-critical communications of targeted industries such as logistics, transportation, government, and other highly mobile enterprises, Mel transformed this ailing company: from negative P11 Billion in equity to



positive P3 Billion, and for the first time generate a net income of P20M. Josie Lichauco, former ITU President and Secretary of Communications wrote an article about Mel entitled "Re-engineering a Failure into a Success."



**40-year-old Mel in an article written by the Honorable Josefina Lichauco, former Secretary of Transportation and Communications**

4. Mel acquired in 2005 a Philippine listed company named Cashrounds, which was renamed "Information Capital Technology Ventures" (ICTV). In December 2008 and June 2009, the Philippine Stock Exchange officially approved the listing of 1.3 Billion ICTV shares at the par price of P1 peso. ICTV is now named NOW Corporation.

5. In 2009, Mel received the Top Taxpayer Award for 2009 from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) after his company, Velarde Inc., was recognized by the BIR as Top ONETT Taxpayer for Revenue Region No. 8, having made the highest tax payment for 2009. The Top ONETT Taxpayer Award is given to an entity that paid the highest amount of tax for a 'one time transaction.' BIR Revenue Region 8 covers the Philippine cities of includes Pasay, Muntinlupa, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Taguig, Pateros and Makati, the country's financial capital.



*After receiving the Top Taxpayer Award, 45-year-old Mel hands over the plague to his beloved father Meliton, seen here shaking hands with the BIR Commissioner. Mel must have made his father very happy. Five years later, on May 22, 2014, Mel's father succumbed to his 5th stroke and joined our Beloved Creator. "Papa and I were like both father and son to the other. Lovingly, he took care of me so well and I took care of him so willingly."*

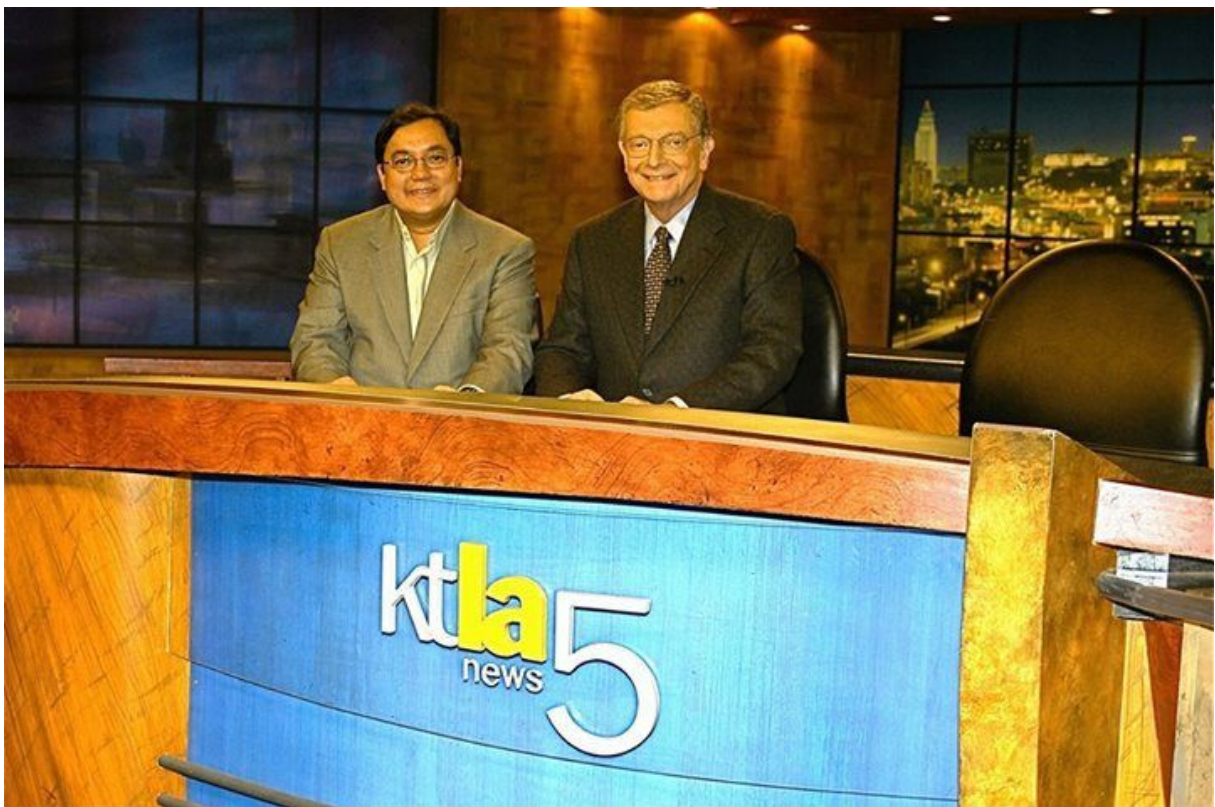
In sum, Mel emerged as one of the most successful Filipino entrepreneurs in less than ten years, counting the years since he established Velarde, Inc. in 1999. VI focused on founding, buying, transforming, and selling or operating companies in the TMT (technology, media and telecommunications) space.

He did not start from scratch—in fact, from enormous negatives. Mel shares: "Burdensome social and political inequalities were suffered by my parents and their parents' parents, who collectively have been denied of access to equitable opportunities that are requisite to social



and financial mobility." Mel captured these realities early on and they stuck deep in his psyche and had pledged to spend a whole lifetime reversing them for himself, his family and others. Indeed, though born to a family that carried enormous social, physical, and financial disabilities, he found ways to rise above them and used them as motivations to help his family survive and succeed. But the accomplishment he is proudest to share has something to do with his father's ailment.

At 24, while working at KTLA Channel 5 News as News Director-trainee under Jeff Wald and celebrated TV anchorman Hal Fishman, Mel brought his family to the US and gave his father the medical rehabilitation he needed. After one year of daily exercises using thick glasses for low vision patients, his father began to walk on his own with a "silhouette" vision.



***Mel visited KTLA 5 in the mid-90s. In this photo, Hal and Mel had their last photo opportunity.***

For the term 2003-2010, the Philippine government appointed Mel Philippine Commissioner to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and his peers elected him Chairman of the UNESCO Committee on Science and Technology, taking the place of Father Bienvenido Nebres, who offered Mel the position.

In November 2014, upon the suggestion of Mel's friend, the Honorable Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio of the Philippine Supreme Court, Mel acquired through an auction at Sotheby's London the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, the holy grail of Philippine cartography. Costing about P12 million pesos as final hammer price from the auction, this map shows the islands and rocks of the Spratly Islands as Bajo de Paragua and Scarborough Shoal as Bajo de Masinloc - the latter is the subject of a maritime arbitration case at the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This map is evidence of the country's historical rights over the islands and rocks in the West Philippine Sea. Mel decided to donate the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to the National Museum so that the Filipino youth would be able to trace their roots and feel proud to be a Filipino. The map arrived from London, UK in April 2017.



*The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map*



In late 2015, Mel launched NOW Cable Broadband and NOWplanet.TV, the Telecom, Media and Technology (TMT) products and services of his company, NOW Corporation, a listed company in the Philippine Stock Exchange (ticker name:NOW). NOW has a current market capitalization of P 3.3 Billion pesos.

As for Mel's education, his studies after high school were always interrupted by family concerns, financial challenges and frequent relocations. He practically sent himself to college, or rather, colleges and universities. Despite these issues, he managed to pursue various academic interests and completed the programs he was most passionate about and, up to now, still continues his adventures for higher learning as much as for technology businesses. While completing his bachelor and master's degrees, he took various executive education courses related to earning and enhancing his living -- using empirical knowledge as his weapon for continuous success. Like his whole life, Mel's education is varied, intense and colorful -- but always in pursuit of excellence.

He attended college at the Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines Diliman, University of San Francisco and completed his Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree, Major in Interdisciplinary Studies (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences), graduating with a near perfect GPA of 3.9 which earned him the highest Latin Honor of Summa Cum Laude, from Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. His other collegiate studies include Digital Cinematography, Film Production and Film Editing (12 college semestral units) at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Film School, Los Angeles, California, and Contemporary Art (4 college semestral units) at Brandeis University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

He took the following postgraduate and master's level programs: Masters in Business Economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific; eMBA (Owners Presidents Management program) at Harvard Business School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and International Human Rights Law (Summer Course) at Oxford University, Oxford, England.

He also took the following executive education courses and professional certified training programs: Wealth Management at Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania; Strategic Finance, University of Michigan; Corporate Restructuring and Business Transformation at Harvard Business School; Digital Marketing at Harvard Business School; Managing Businesses in China, Tsinghua University and Harvard Business School; and Directing Documentaries at the London School of Film and Television; Broadcasting and Cable Television, Satellite Communications, Data and Internet

Communications at the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), Washington D.C. USA; Data and Satellite Communications (Tel Aviv, Israel); Packet Data and Mobile Technology (Amman, Jordan); Multimedia Authoring (Des Moines, Iowa); CDi Development and Technology (Eindhoven, Netherlands); Cybersecurity: Planning, Implementing and Auditing of Critical Security Controls (SANS, Washington D.C.); Advanced and Competitive Sailing Certifications at the Swain Sailing School at Tortola, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Caribbean.





Mel is also Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the Christian Social Democratic Union (CSDU), a coalition of educators, professionals and entrepreneurs dedicated to propagating Christian Social Democratic ideals as core ideology for the Philippines to aspiring and incumbent public servants.



***Bellavista, Punta Fuego***

Mel is 59 years old. He is an avid sailor, a renaissance man and a world traveler who relishes taking courses around the globe, nurtures relationships with diverse communities and explores the world's many wonders. He works in Manila and spends weekends at his home at Bellavista, Peninsula de Punta Fuego, Nasugbu, Batangas.







**LINK:** <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/124287/mother-of-all-ph-maps-coming-home>

**Mother of All PH Maps Coming Home**

By: Pennie Azarcon dela Cruz - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 03:29 AM June 07, 2015



***MEL VELARDE points to Bajo de Masinloc, now known as Panatag or Scarborough Shoal, as incontrovertible proof that it has always been part of the Philippines. RICHARD A. REYES***

For a man who relies on favorable odds to remain in business, the fact that the “Mother of all Philippine maps” was auctioned off at Sotheby’s London on his mother’s birthday sounded propitious enough.

And so it was, although the P5 million businessman Mel Velasco Velarde had been prepared to cough up for the 1734 Murillo Velarde map soared to the final hammer price of P12 million after some furious bidding at that Nov. 4, 2014 auction.

For the chief executive officer of the international digital technology company Now Corp. and chair of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) who prides himself on

being the top taxpayer in 2009, “it was still a lot of money,” but a paltry sum considering the map’s historical, aesthetic and cartographic value.

Published in Manila in 1734, “Carta hydrographica y chorographica de las Islas Filipinas” was prepared by the Jesuit friar Pedro Murillo Velarde, and drawn and engraved by indios Francisco Suarez and Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay, respectively. When it came out, the map was universally hailed for its faithfulness to detail at a time when drones, GPS and satellites were yet unheard of.

Before Google Earth

“It became a sensation in Europe because it was very detailed,” said Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio during a recent AIJC forum on the maritime dispute in the South China Sea.

“It was the advance party for Google Earth,” Carpio added.

#### ***Justice Carpio debunks China’s historical claim***

Former Education and Culture Minister Jaime Laya described the 1.2-x-1.5-meter map as “the Holy Grail of Philippine cartography,” as it did not only trace the maritime routes from Manila to Spain and Mexico, but also had 12 panels, six on each side, that showed the ethnic groups in the Philippines in the 18th century, the country’s fauna and flora, as well as the interior topography of colonial Manila. Its most valuable and relevant feature, however, lies on the map’s upper left section, west of the coastline of Luzon: the cluster of land mass called “Bajo de Masinloc” and “Panacot,” what is now known as Panatag or Scarborough Shoal, which is irrefutable proof that as early as the 1700s, the disputed shoal has been part of the Philippine territory, Velarde said.

#### ***When Scarborough was ‘Panacot’***

Concocted nine-dash line

“As Justice Carpio said in his lecture, none of the islands drawn in this Murrillo-Velarde map ever appeared on China’s maps since centuries ago—only in recent history when China concocted the nine-dash line,” the businessman said in an e-mail interview with the Inquirer.



That was why the jacked-up price was worth every cent, Velarde said. “If you have the money ... what loss of value could haunt you forever, if the other party, say a Chinese businessman, won it for China?”

He added: “Ninety-five percent of my money comes from this nation. I wanted to contribute something back (beyond) cash.”

The map is also a collectible relic to the man who describes himself as a collector, “not of art pieces but of books: I have a library of more than 10,000 titles. You see, in the early ’80s, I worked for a bookstore in Glendale, where I got paid half in cash, half in books.”

Velarde, who named math and history as favorite subjects in his younger days; business and economics, “in (his) hungry days” now considers neuroscience his latest interest.

“I enjoy new sciences that debunk all forms of dogmas and falsehoods sprinkled in history, religion, morality, politics, philosophy, etc.,” he said, citing one of the “hundreds of compelling epiphanies embedded in the Murillo Velarde map.”

The cartouches on the map showed realities of an (advanced) civilization even prior to Spanish times .... Ours was a civilization that possessed and manifested universal, non-culture specific values, showing that our ancestors had knowledge of right and wrong.”

## VERA FILES

**LINK:** <http://verafiles.org/articles/ph-submit-300-year-old-map-un-case-vs-china>

### **PH to submit 300-year-old map to UN in case vs China**

*AUTHOR: ELLEN TORDESILLAS*

*DATE: JUNE 07, 2015*



The Philippine government will be submitting to the Permanent Court for Arbitration in The Hague this week an almost 300-year-old map of the Philippines showing the disputed Scarborough Shoal being part of Philippine territory as far back as three centuries ago.

The map debunks the so-called nine-dash-line China has been using as proof of its claim over the South China Sea. It also locates Scarborough shoal, then known as "Panacot," also called "Panatag" by Filipinos, off the shores of Luzon, then known as Nueva Castilla. Scarborough shoal has been a source of conflict between the Philippines and China.

The Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde had the map published in Manila in 1734. It surfaced in 2012 among the possessions of a British lord, who put it up for auction at Sotheby's in London, where Filipino businessman Mel Velarde bid and got it for £170,500 (\$266,869.46 or P12,014,463.09).

The first certified true copy of the map has been reserved for Malacañang. Velarde will personally present it to President Aquino on June 12, the anniversary of Philippine independence.



**Sotheby's**

TRAVEL, ATLASES, MAPS AND NATURAL HISTORY

183

**PHILIPPINES—MURILLO VELARDE, PEDRO**  
**CARTA HYDROGRAPHICA Y CHOROGRAPHICA DE LA YSLAS FILIPINAS. MANILA, 1734**  
 Estimate 20,000 — 30,000 **GBP** **LOT SOLD 170,500 GBP** (Hammer Price with Buyer's Premium)  
 \* UNITED STATES DOLLARS : \$269,669.48  
 \* PHILIPPINE PESOS : ₱12,014,463.00

**PHILIPPINES—MURILLO VELARDE, PEDRO**  
**CARTA HYDROGRAPHICA Y CHOROGRAPHICA DE LA YSLAS FILIPINAS. MANILA, 1734**  
 1220 x 1205mm, large engraved wall-map, dissected and mounted on the original linen, linen splitting; some panel detached, light brownish

**CATALOGUE NOTE**  
**M**urillo Velarde's map of the Philippines is a landmark in the depiction of the islands, and the first scientific map of the Philippines. It is framed by two packed-on side panels with twelve engravings, eight depicting native costumes, a map of Luzon (Isla Luzon) and three city or harbour maps, notably Manila.  
 So important is Pedro Murillo Velarde's map to Philippine cartography, so real is the engraving and so beautiful are the illustrations, that in all likelihood it will continue to be reproduced periodically in the years to come. (Quoted)

*Sotheby Murillo map*

How Velarde, president and chief executive officer of Information Technology-based Now Velarde has yet to find out if he is related to the Jesuit priest, although a possible connection was one of the motives for his pursuit of the artifact.

Corporation, acquired the map that had lain among the treasures of one of England's most prominent families for more than 200 years is like something out of the movies. In fact, the wizard Harry Potter even makes a cameo appearance in the story.

Velarde said Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, a long time friend, suggested to him sometime in October last year to bid for the Murillo Velarde map. Velarde said Carpio's convincing line was: "You know, Mel, you're a Velarde."

Carpio, who has been conducting lectures debunking China's claim of almost the entire South China Sea, calls the Murillo Velarde map the "Mother of all Philippine maps."



*Full shot of Murillo Velarde Map*

Local public and private museums declined to take part in the Sotheby's bid. The National Museum was interested but didn't have the money, so the plan was for Velarde to buy the map and sell it later to the National Museum.

The Murillo Velarde map measures 1,120 by 1,200 mm. The Sotheby's catalog carried a description of the map by Filipino historian and biographer Carlos Quirino: "Murillo Velarde's map of the Philippines is a landmark in the depiction of the islands, and the first scientific map of the Philippines. It is flanked by two pasted-on side-panels with twelve engravings, eight depicting native costumed figures, a map of Guajam (Guam) and three city or harbour maps, notably Manila."

History accounts say the Murillo Velarde map was taken out of the Philippines as part of the loot by British forces who invaded the country in 1762.



Historian Renato Perdon said Brigadier General William Draper, commander of British land forces, “brought to London some Spanish flags and eight copper plates which printed the celebrated Murillo Velarde Map of 1743. He donated the Spanish flags to his alma mater, Cambridge University. The copper-plates were used for some time to print copies of the Murillo Velarde Map which were sold to public libraries and cartographic collectors. One such copy was purchased by the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.”

The map was among 80 heirlooms that the current Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, decided to auction off after a devastating flood hit Northumberland County in April 2012.



*The Duke of Northumberland in Alnwick Castle. Photo from ChronicleLive.*

Newspaper reports said heavy rains had “caused a culvert on the Duke of Northumberland’s land to collapse. Many residents were evacuated and some homes demolished after the foundations were damaged.”

Although the Duke’s estate did not own all the affected homes, he provided urgent help for his neighbors. The flood left him with a £12 million bill for repairs, hence the need to auction off his family’s collection.

As a bit of trivia, the Duke owns the vast Alnwick Castle, which has been featured as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the first two Harry Potter films. Sotheby held the first auction on July 9, 2014 and the second on Nov. 4, 2014, both in London.

It was in the November auction that the Murillo Velarde map, called Carta Hydrographia y chorographica de las Ylas Filipinas, Manila 1734, was included under Lot 183.

The Murillo Velarde map names two Filipinos as responsible for the map—Francisco Suarez who drew it and Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay who engraved it.

Historian Ambeth Ocampo wrote in his column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, “The Murillo Velarde map of 1734 is quite rare, with less than 50 known copies to exist in the entire universe.”

Velarde registered to participate in the auction through an agent. He had participated in auctions in person before but his acquisition of the map last November was his first bid by phone.

The Sotheby's auction took place at 9 p.m, Manila time while Velarde was in a Resorts World steakhouse for his mother's 78th birthday dinner.

Velarde described the bidding, which lasted only for three to four minutes, as “furious.” He was on the phone before Sotheby's put Lot 183 on the auction block, and noted that in other lots, it was over after two to three bids.

Bidding for the map started at £30,000. He started to bid through his agent, thinking that he could go as high as £80,000.

Velarde said he could hear “30,000 pounds,... 40,000 pounds... 50,000 pounds. Fifty-five, sixty.” He said, “It seemed like so many were bidding.”

When the bidding reached £80,000, Velarde said he paused for a few seconds to decide whether or not to stop. The exchange rate was P68 to £1. He knew that the National Museum could allot only P5 million to buy rare items.

Then images of the Chinese occupying the contested islands in the Spratlys came to mind, he said, and he decided to proceed.

“Pansariling away na, nagiging personal na sa akin (It became a personal crusade),” he said. He eventually paid more than double the amount he thought he was willing to part with: £170,500





*Sotheby's bidding from the collection of the Duke of Northumberland. Photos from The Journal, U.K.*

When you buy a car, Velarde said, you have something to compare it with. Not in the case of an old map. But Velarde also thought of the possible implications later, knowing that there is a pending case before the U.N. International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea against China. "You need some evidence," he said.

Velarde said he is thankful the auction was not held in Shanghai or Macau, where the map could have attracted Chinese bidders and the price would have been much higher.

Now that Velarde owns the map, the National Museum has informed him it has no funds to decided to donate the map instead.  
Why is he doing it?

buy the map this year, and that there was some uncertainty about funds next year. Velarde



“In a true-to-life movie, there’s a part for everybody. There’s a bully in the neighborhood. He already took over our land. We have soldiers in the Spratlys. Naka-standby lang sila (They’re just on standby there),” Velarde said.

“Then, this map is owned by a Duke in a Harry Potter castle. It’s like you wanting to play your part in the movie,” he added.

Velarde said he hopes to meet with the Duke of Northumberland someday. His nieces want to come along, not really for the Duke, who comes from a 700-year-old English aristocracy and is the fourth largest landowner in the United Kingdom. They are excited to see the room where Harry Potter had his first flying lessons.



# The Telegraph

LINK:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/philippines/11662302/Philippines-uses-18th-century-English-aristocrats-map-to-claim-disputed-islands.html>

## Philippines uses 18th-century English aristocrat's map to claim disputed islands

*By Julian Ryall, Tokyo*

2:32PM BST 09 Jun 2015

Philippines government to take 1734 document to UN tribunal to support its demand that China leaves the Scarborough Shoal

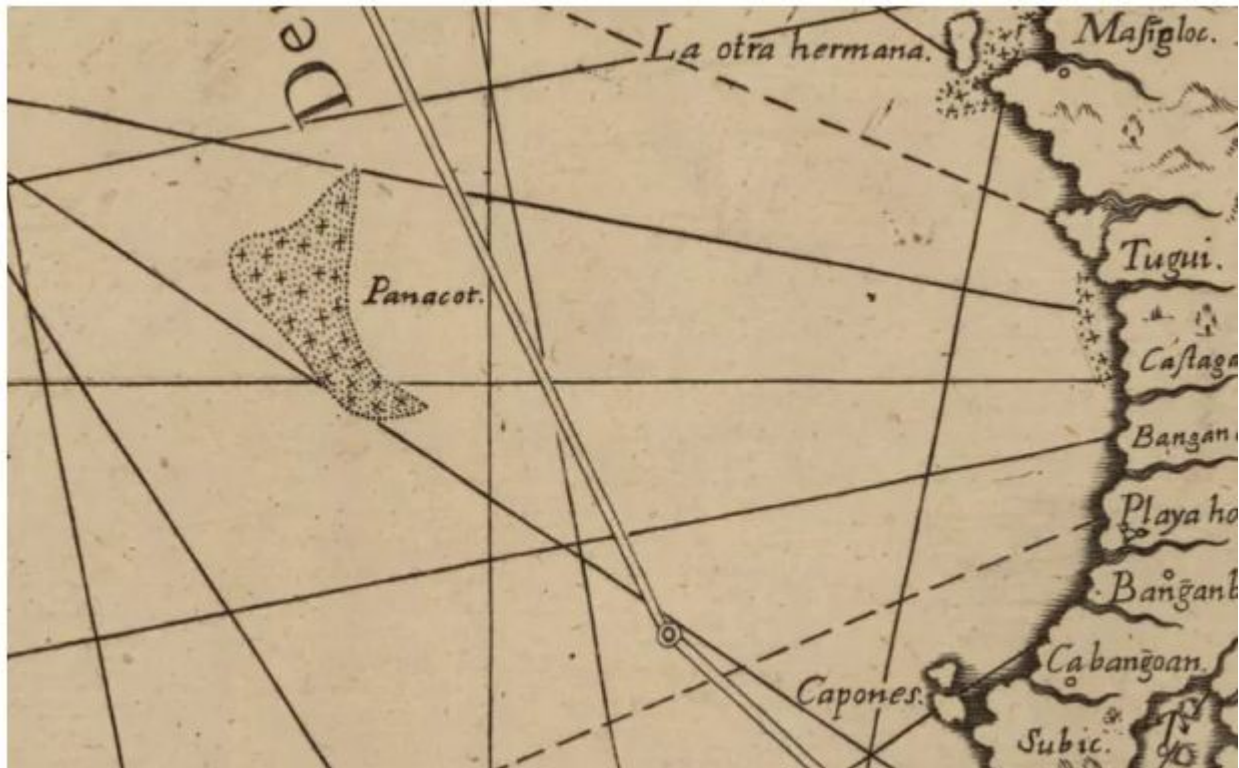


Panacot, circled, in the Murillo map Photo: Library of Congress

A 281-year-old map from the collection of an English duke is to be put forward by the government of the Philippines to support its claim to islands in the South China Sea that are presently being fortified by China.

The Philippines government has said it will submit the map, drawn up in Manila in 1734 by Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit priest, to the United Nations Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in The Hague as soon as this week, [according to the Vera Files website](#).

The map shows islands that are now known as Scarborough Shoals, marked as Panacot, as part of Philippines territory. They are shown around 120 miles off the west coast of the main Philippine island of Luzon.



The map shows islands that are now known as Scarborough Shoals, marked as Panacot, as part of Philippines territory (Library of Congress)

The Philippine government is calling on the UN to recognise its claim to sovereignty over the islands and to call on Beijing to withdraw.

The map was sold at Sotheby's auction house in London in November at the request of the Duke of Northumberland.

The duke sold the map, along with around 80 other family heirlooms, after serious flooding affected his properties in April 2012. Media reports suggested that the duke faced a repair bill for £12 million after the waters subsided.

The map was put up for auction on November 4, with the Sotheby's catalogue describing the 44-inch by 47-inch engraved map as being "the first scientific map of the Philippines" of its time.

With light browning along the creases, the map is flanked by a series of 12 engravings depicting people



in native costumes, a map of the island that is today known as Guam and smaller maps of cities and harbours in the Pacific.

Sotheby's estimated that the item would sell for between £20,000 and £30,000, but it quickly outstripped those predictions and was eventually sold for £170,500 to a Filipino businessman.



Panacot, circled, in the Murillo map (Library of Congress)

Mel Velarde, president of an information technology company called Now Corporation, said he first became interested in the map because he shared a family name with the priest who had first published it.

He told the Vera Files that his interest increased when he realised that it "proved" the Philippines' claim to the islands.

The bidding quickly reached the £80,000 limit that Mr Velarde had initially set himself. But after a "vision" of Chinese soldiers occupying the islands, Mr Velarde said it "became a personal crusade" to buy the map because the Philippines' claim needs to be backed up by evidence.

Asked why he had paid so much for the map, Mr Velarde said, "There's a bully in the neighbourhood. He already took over our land."



The Philippines accused China of seizing the islands in 2012

Mr Velarde has decided to donate the original map to the National Museum but has had a number of copies printed. He will present one of those copies to Benigno Aquino, the president of the Philippines, on June 12, the anniversary of the nation's independence.

Another copy will be delivered to the UN as Manila seeks arbitration in the territorial dispute. The Philippines accuses China of seizing the islands in 2012, when ships of the two nations were involved in a stand-off. When the smaller Philippine force had to withdraw, the Chinese occupied the islands.

In January 2013, the Philippines requested international arbitration in the case and, the following year, submitted a 4,000-page dossier to support its claim of sovereignty. Beijing has ignored requests to take part in arbitration procedures.



**LINK:**

<http://asianjournal.com/news/philippines-to-submit-300-year-old-map-to-strengthen-claim-in-sea-dispute-with-china/>

## **Philippines to Submit 300-Year-Old Map to Strengthen Claim in Sea Dispute with China**

*By Agnes Constante*

*Published: June 9, 2015*

THE Philippines is scheduled this week to submit a 300-year-old map to the international tribunal, which will bolster its case against China's territorial claim of the South China Sea, the Malacanang said Monday, June 8.

"China's claim is about historical title," said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda in a press briefing. "This old map would certainly present the side of the Philippines when it comes to any historical basis."

Known as the Murillo Velarde map and originally called "Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Islas Filipinas" was first published in 1734 in Manila by Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit priest.

Lacierda said the map will strengthen the Philippines' arbitration case and debunk China's so-called nine-dash-line claim, which it has been using to help prove its claim. At the time the map came out, it was praised for its detail.

"It became a sensation in Europe because it was very detailed," said Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Caprio at a recent Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication forum regarding the dispute, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported.

"It was the advance party for Google Earth," Caprio added.

Filipino businessman Mel Velarde, who purchased the map at a Sotheby's auction for P12 million, will present a certified true copy of it to Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on Friday, June 12.

The map will be submitted to the United Nations Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in The Hague in the Netherlands this week.

Velarde said the map's most valuable and relevant feature is found on the upper left section where a cluster of land mass called "Bajo de Masinloc" and "Panacot" – now known as Panatag or Scarborough Shoal – located west of the Luzon coastline. The cluster is irrefutable proof that the disputed shoal has been part of Philippine territory, Velarde added, according to *Inquirer*.

"As Justice Carpio said in his lecture, none of the islands drawn in this Murrillo-Velarde map ever appeared on China's maps since centuries ago – only in recent history when China concocted the nine-dash line," Velarde said in an email to *Inquirer*.

Despite the tensions resulting from the dispute, Lacierda said the Philippines and China remain friends.

"Just to be clear, we have no conflict with the Chinese people. Our conflict, for instance, our differences are with the approach of the leadership in dealing with the South China Sea. But on whole, with respect to the Chinese people, we continue to establish good relations with them. And we certainly look forward to a better relations with China," Lacierda said, according to ABS-CBN News.

He added that the relationship of the two countries is not wholly based on the territorial conflict, and that people should consider more than just the issue when examining their relations.

"If you are going to limit yourself only to the South China [Sea] issue, certainly, it will color your perspective. But if you look at it from a broader perspective where we have established good relations with China and we are friends – the Chinese people are here, Filipinos are there," Lacierda said. *(With reports from ABS-CBN News, CNN, Inquirer and Philstar)*





Link: <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2015/06/08/Philippines-fortifies-sea-claim-with-300-year-old-map.html>

## Philippines fortifies sea claim with 300-year-old map

By Louie U. Navarro, CNN Philippines Updated

06:20 AM PHT Tue, June 9, 2015



*Known as the Murillo Velarde map, the centuries-old document originally called "Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Islas Filipinas" was first published in 1734 in Manila by Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde.*

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) – The Philippines is set to submit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in The Hague this week an almost 300-year-old map showing Scarborough Shoal or Panatag Shoal as part of Philippine territory for three centuries now.

Known as the Murillo Velarde map, the centuries-old document originally called "Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Islas Filipinas" was first published in 1734 in Manila by Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit priest.

A certified true copy of the map, described as the "Mother of all Philippine maps" and the "Holy Grail of Philippine cartography," will be presented to President Benigno Aquino III on June 12, which coincides with the Philippines' celebration of Independence Day, by Filipino businessman Mel Velarde, who bought the map at a Sotheby's auction for P12 million.

According to Secretary Edwin Lacierda, presidential spokesperson, the map will help strengthen the country's arbitration case as it debunks the so-called nine-dash-line China has been using as proof of its claim.

### **PH, China still friends**

Lacierda, meanwhile, assured on Monday (June 8) that the Philippines and China remain friends amid the increasing tensions in disputed parts of the Spratly Islands.

He said the Philippines has no conflict with China as the two countries' relationship is not solely dependent on the territorial dispute and that one should look beyond the West Philippine Sea issue in viewing their relations.

Aquino, in fact, is set to attend the anniversary of the Philippines-China Diplomatic Relations and the 14th Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day on Monday night – proof that the country continues to establish good relations with the Asian giant.

"If you are going to limit yourself only to the South China [Sea] issue, certainly, it will color your perspective. But if you look at it from a broader perspective where we have established good relations with China and we are friends – the Chinese people are here, Filipinos are there," Lacierda said.

*CNN Philippines' Anjo Alimario and JC Gotinga contributed to this report.*

LINK:

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/photo/136666/1734-phl-map-to-help-in-claim-over-west-philippine-sea/photo/>

*Uploaded on Jun 09, 2015 11:13 pm*



### **1734 PHL map to help in claim over West Philippine Sea**

Businessman and educator Mel Velarde on Tuesday, June 9, points to Panacot, the present-day Scarborough or Panatag Shoal, on the replica of the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map. The map will be submitted to the Arbitral Tribunal in The Hague to support the claim of the Philippines on the disputed territories in the South China Sea. Velarde won the November 2014 Sotheby's auction of the nearly 300-year-old map for £170,500 or more than P12 million. The original map is being kept in London.

Ian Cruz/GMA News



## **Malaya** **Business Insight**

**LINK:** <http://www.malaya.com.ph/business-news/opinion/wealth-stories-murillo-velarde-map>

### **A wealth of stories from the Murillo-Velarde map**

*By Ellen Tordesillas*

*June 10, 2015*

LOOKING at the 300- year-old Philippine map by Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde which businessman Mel Velarde acquired for P12 million in an auction in London last year, one can see that he is a great storyteller.

The 1734 Murillo map shows more than just locations of places. It has two panels on both sides engraved with images depicting lifestyles and special features of places. One panel shows a farmer plowing the field not far from a river with crocodiles. It's noted that in Zamboanga, there's "Pozo de Agua Dulce." In general it showed a high level of civilization.

But the most significant feature of the Murillo map a tiny spot off the shores of Nueva Castilla, which was then the name of Luzon labeled as "Panacot."

It's actually a coral reef known now as Scarborough shoal, after the tea-carrying British tea clipper Scarborough sank in the vicinity in 1784.

It is also known as Bajo de Masinloc and Panatag, 124 nautical miles off Zambales. The Chinese which also claims the shoal, which is 467 nautical miles from its mainland calls it Huangyan Island.

I'm intrigued by Fr. Murillo's identification of the coral reef a "Panacot", which means fear in contrast to how the fishermen refer to it as "Panatag" which means calm.

Could it be that it was called "Panacot" because any one who ventured into the shoal would have to go through rough seas? Masinloc fishermen, on the other hand, say that they called the rock formations Panatag because it provides them a solid refuge during bad weather.

Mel Velarde, president and CEO of the Information Technology based- One Corp and chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, has decided to donate the map to the National Museum since the government has no funds to buy it from him.

The map is still being stored in the vault of the auction house Sotheby's in London. It will be used as one of the evidence to debunk the claim of China that they own a large part of the South China Sea, including Scarborough shoal, with its nine-dash line map.

How the map by a Jesuit priest in Manila got to London and became part of the collection of the Duke of Northumberland who owns the magnificent Alnwick Castle could be another great story.

It could be that it was during what historians refer to as "The First Rape of Manila" that the Murillo map was taken out of the country as part of the British loot when they invaded the Philippines.

History accounts relate: On 24 September 1762, a British fleet of eight ships of the line, three frigates, and four store ships with a force of 6,839 regulars, sailors and marines, sailed into Manila Bay from Madras...Once Manila fell to British troops, the churches and government offices were ransacked, valuables were taken and historical documents such as Augustinian records, government documents and even the copper plates for the grand 18th-century Murillo Velarde map of the Philippines were taken. The naval stores at the Cavite Naval Yard, the paintings in the Governor General's Palace, the contents of Intramuros churches and the possessions of wealthy houses were also not spared."

The Murillo map had lain together with hundreds of heirlooms collected by the Duke of Northumberland for more than 200 years in Alnwick Castle, a favorite location for period films. In the first two Harry Potter films, the castle was the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

It happened that two years ago the Northumberland Country was hit by heavy rains that destroyed a culvert of the Alnwick Castle and caused severe flooding not only to the Dukes property but also the surrounding community.

To recoup the millions that he spent for the repair of the property, the current Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, decided to auction off 80 family heirlooms which included the Murillo map.

That's how the Murillo map got back to the Philippines.

Velarde has bought a large format printer to reproduce the map. The first copy will be presented to President Aquino on Friday as the nation celebrates Independence Day.

He would like to distribute copies of the maps to schools and in the provinces through local government units to rekindle the sense of patriotism among the young people.

"I'm also proposing a stone etch of the map in front of the Jose Rizal monument (in Rizal Park)," he said.

Blog:[www.ellentordesillas.com](http://www.ellentordesillas.com); E-mail:[ellentordesillas@gmail.com](mailto:ellentordesillas@gmail.com)



LINK:

<http://newamericamedia.org/2015/06/philippines-to-submit-300-year-old-map-to-strengthen-claim-in-sea-dispute-with-china.php>

### **Philippines To Submit 300-Year-Old Map in Sea Dispute With China**

*Asian Journal, News Report, Posted: Jun 11, 2015*



The Philippines is scheduled this week to submit a 300-year-old map to the international tribunal, which will bolster its case against China's territorial claim of the South China Sea, the Malacanang said Monday, June 8.

"China's claim is about historical title," said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda in a press briefing. "This old map would certainly present the side of the Philippines when it comes to any historical basis."

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*(With reports from ABS-CBN News, CNN, Inquirer and Philstar)*

LINK:

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Weekender&title=the-murillo-velarde-map-a-relic-from-1734-amid-the-rough-seas-of-2015&id=109520>

### **The Murillo Velarde map: A relic from 1734 amid the rough seas of 2015**

*By Jorge R. Mojarro*

*Posted on June 12, 2015*

I HONESTLY do not understand all the noise behind the recent acquisition of Pedro Murillo Velarde's map by Filipino businessman Mel Velarde, who still deserves to be cited for his efforts to retrieve an important document of Philippine history and a real masterpiece of 18<sup>th</sup>-century printing. It is hoped this map will soon be exhibited in a public museum (presumably the National Museum) for the enjoyment of the Filipino public.



Nevertheless, this map, which can be downloaded online, has been well known among historians, map collectors, and aficionados of Filipiniana in general. Was the purchase really necessary to defend Filipino claims about its sovereignty over Bajo de Masinloc (or Scarborough Shoal) before the United Nations? Different versions of the map were already displayed at the Metropolitan Museum in July 2012, at an exhibition titled *Three Hundred*

*Years of Philippine Maps, 1598-1898*. On that occasion, the historian and economist Benito J. Legarda, Jr. gave a speech on the life and times of the Jesuit priest Velarde. T-shirts printed with the Velarde map were even sold in that gathering. So why so much noise about this now when a version of the map is even available in the Wikipedia entry on Scarborough Shoal?

Pedro Murillo Velarde was not only a priest. Like many in his order and in the Catholic clergy as a whole, during his time, he was as man of erudition, a polygraph and an expert on law, among other things. During his stay in the Philippines, he served as a reference person to consult on almost any matter. On his watch as well as censorship were printed several books. Among his remarkable works is the second Jesuit history of the Philippines, *Historia de la Provincia de Philipinas de la Compañía de Jesús: Segunda Parte* (Manila, 1749), recounting Philippine events between 1616 and 1716. This narrative actually includes a copy of the map in question, *Carta hydrographica y chorographica de las Islas Filipinas*. Another is the 10-volume *Geographia Historica* (Madrid, 1752), of which the eighth volume devotes almost a hundred pages to the nature, geography, and people of the Philippines.

Nicolás de la Cruz Bagay was the Tagalog engraver to whom must be credited the map's masterful engraving. He was at the service of the Jesuits until his death, and almost any printed Jesuit book was carried out by him.

## **HUMAN DIVERSITY**

The *Carta* was printed upon the request of then governor-general Fernando Valdés y Tamón (1729-1739), to please a direct order from Philip V, who wanted to have a detailed map of the archipelago. It took them only one year to carry out the work. Many maps of the Philippines had been already printed, but none matched the *Carta* in terms of comprehensiveness and accuracy, despite some understandable mistakes. Needless to say, the Jesuit priest did not have to visit all the islands to carry out this work, but he carefully compiled all the maps, charts, and geographical knowledge available in his time in order to design the map.

There has not been enough discussion on the beautiful drawings accompanying the map: they show the human diversity of Manila, at that time a commercial hub and an early entrepot of globalization, thanks to the Manila Galleon; it shows the urban planning of Manila, some of the Filipino fauna -- crocodiles used to be abundant -- the particular way people, including the indigenous tribes, used to dress, and their varied way of life. The *ilustrado* Trinidad Pardo de Tavera devoted to this map a thorough monograph printed in 1894, as he was fortunate to see the original copper plate of the book editions of the map.

Perhaps attesting to the map's popularity was its being reprinted time and again: in Manila (1744), in Vienna (1748) by Kaliwoda, in Nüremberg (1760) by Lowitz, in the first volume of Juan de la Concepción's *Historia General de Philipinas* (1788), and as the basis of other Philippine maps (e.g. Paris, 1752) until cartography developed more precise methods.

Scarborough Shoal is an easy geographical accident to dismiss because of its small size, but it is too close to the Philippine shore, too close to Manila, and, even more importantly,



this has always been the fishing base of Filipino fishermen who are now deprived of a rich source of livelihood. I believe the Spratly Islands further down southwest are also indicated in the map even with its limited space, namely, by Bajos de Paragua.

The current geopolitical situation threatening the integrity of Filipino territory shows how vital history is as a reference for national interests -- no matter that history can also be contradicted by contemporary realities. More money should be invested in the rich Philippine National Library, in the National Archives, and in any library containing valuable historical material. More emphasis should be given also in schools to the country's history before 1898 and also to the archipelago's overall background before 1521. The Murillo Velarde map should be only the first proof before the United Nations. More inquiries and research into old documents and forgotten maps should shed more light on the Philippine jurisdiction over a handful of islands that always belongs to its territory. Malacañan Palace itself holds a rich collection of Filipino maps that could be useful in this case.

There is a perennial race among powerful nations to assert control over territories whose sovereignty is under challenge -- from the Islas Malvinas/Falklands to Western Sahara to the Kuril Islands. Even the melting North Pole is subject to territorial dispute. The problem confronting the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal, with its promise of natural wealth in its surrounding waters, can be better understood in the context of greed by some powerful nations that is akin to big business but raised to an international level. This issue gives rise to patriotic feelings that are otherwise an abstraction to a citizenry dealing with more urgent, palpable concerns. But there are serious implications to the Philippines, with its weak military, as a perfect victim of China's attempt to extend its area of influence. There are no other weapons for the Philippines but the voice of reason and undeniable evidence, which can be ignored but which remain a steadfast consideration in the international community.

*Jorge R. Mojarro is a Spanish scholar and a doctoral candidate doing research on Filipiniana. He has been living in the Philippines since 2009, going around the country, walking Manila's streets, and taking the train. He also writes for [interaksyon.com](http://interaksyon.com).*



LINK:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/china-and-philippines-diplomatic-row-ignited-after-old-map-found-washed-up-under-newcastle-housing-10317024.html>

**How a map unearthed under a Newcastle housing estate may hold crucial evidence to land dispute between China and the Philippines**

Sotheby's auctioned the item as 'the first scientific map of the Philippines'

By: Chris Green

Friday 12 June 2015 16:37 BST



*The Velarde map put up for auction at Sotherby's. The disputed area is shown in the white square Library of Congress*

When an ageing Victorian culvert collapsed on land owned by the Duke of Northumberland in May 2012, the effects were immediate and serious: landslips and flooding which resulted in the residents of nearby blocks of flats being evacuated and some of the properties demolished.

But nobody could have predicted that the decay of an underground drainage system in a housing estate in the west of Newcastle would result in the unearthing of a crucial piece of evidence in a bitter land dispute between the Philippines and China.

The story, involving a hard-up English aristocrat, a wealthy Filipino businessman and a 281-year-old map, has yet to reach a conclusion but already reads like the script of a Hollywood film. Alnwick Castle, which is owned by the Duke of Northumberland and where scenes from *Harry Potter* were filmed, could even act as a ready-made backdrop to the drama.

After the culvert collapsed three years ago, the Duke was left facing a repair bill of up to £12 million to fix the damage. To finance the project, he agreed to sell around 80 family heirlooms at an auction in Sotheby's in London.

Lot #183 was a map drawn up in Manila in 1734 by Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit priest, which the auction house's catalogue described as "the first scientific map of the Philippines".

Specialists at Sotheby's set a price of between £20,000 and £30,000 for the 44 by 47-inch document, but it eventually sold for £170,500.

The buyer was Filipino businessman Mel Velarde, the president of an IT firm, who lodged the winning bid over the phone from a steakhouse where he was celebrating his 78-year-old mother's birthday. Although he was initially interested in the map because he shared a name with the cartographer, he said winning the auction became a "personal crusade" when he realised that it may prove his country's claim to the Scarborough Shoals.





*Filipino military chief General Gregorio Catapang points to aerial photos of Chinese construction over reefs and shoals in the Spratly archipelago during a press briefing in Manila on April 20, 2015*

The Shoals, a group of rocks and reefs 120 miles west of the main Philippine island of Luzon, are labelled as “Panacot” on the map, which also shows them as forming part of Philippines territory. The ownership of the rocky islands has long been disputed, with both China and the Philippines laying claim.

Asked why he was so keen to secure the map, Mr Velarde said: “In a true-to-life movie, there’s a part for everybody. There’s a bully in the neighbourhood. He already took over our land. Then, this map is owned by a Duke in a Harry Potter castle. It’s like you wanting to play your part in the movie.”

The businessman has now given a copy of the map to the Philippine government, where it will be put to use by officials during legal debate at the UN’s Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague. A final judgement on the row is not expected until March next year.

The Philippine government are hopeful that the map may tip the balance in their favour. “China’s claim is about historical title. This old map would certainly present the side of the Philippines when it comes to any historical basis,” said Edwin Lacierda, a spokesman for the country’s president Benigno Aquino III.

The Philippines accused China of seizing the Shoal in 2012, when ships of the two nations were involved in a stand-off. When the smaller Philippine force had to withdraw, the Chinese occupied the islands.

In 2013, the Philippines requested international arbitration in the case, and last year submitted a 4,000-page dossier to support its claim of sovereignty. China has so far ignored requests to take part in the legal process.

The “Murillo Map”, as it is now known, also contains a series of 12 engravings, depicting the various different ethnic groups which lived on the islands at the time. A Filipino supreme court judge has described it as the “mother of all Philippine maps”, as it also appears to cast doubt on the so-called “nine-dash-line”, which marks out China’s claim to 90 per cent of the South China Sea.

A spokeswoman for the Duke of Northumberland told *The Independent* that he did not want to comment on the affair. “He’s a very private person and it all happened after the map was sold anyway,” she added.



## The Map

The “Murillo Map”, as it is now known, was drawn up by the Jesuit priest and cartographer Pedro Murillo Velarde in 1734 and published in Manila. According to some historical accounts, it was removed from the Philippines in 1762 by invading British troops.

The map eventually ended up in the possession of the 12th Duke of Northumberland, Ralph Percy, who sold it off alongside around 80 other heirlooms to pay for the damage caused when a Victorian culvert collapsed on his land, causing flooding and landslips.

As might be expected the sizeable wall map, which measures 112cm by 120cm, it is not in the best condition. Notes accompanying the lot when it was auctioned at Sotheby’s in November 2014 warned potential buyers: “linen splitting, one panel detached, light browning”.

However, the auction house also described it as “a landmark in the depiction of the islands” and “the first scientific map of the Philippines”. Two side panels contain 12 engravings, portraying a series of native costumed figures, a map of Guam and three city and harbour maps, including Manila.

LINK:

<http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/196703/mother-of-philippine-maps-settles-sea-dispute-with-china/#ixzz3d6PA265p>

### **“Mother of Philippine maps” settles sea dispute with China**

Murillo Velarde’s 1734 map shows that culture and the arts build self-esteem, heritage, identity—and territorial integrity

By: [Leovino Ma. Garcia \(Contributor\)](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:05 AM June 15, 2015



VARIOUS inhabitants of the islands as drawn by Francisco Suarez

IT WILL come as a big surprise for many that, in 1991, the 1734 Murillo Velarde map, now making front-page news, was offered with a starting bid of 10,000 German marks (P186,000) at an auction in Frankfurt!

Alerted by friends in Europe, I immediately sought out a dozen alumni willing to contribute P50,000 each to place a bid for the map. Unfortunately Mt. Pinatubo had erupted at the time and its lahar kept flooding Central Luzon. So I incurred the ire of an historian who scolded me for initiating such a project.



His tirade dwelt on the vanity of collectors and their apathy to the suffering of their fellow human beings during a national disaster.

His simplistic argument sounded like that of Judas who questioned Mary Magdalene's "frivolous" act of pouring on Christ's head the perfume which could have been sold and its proceeds given to the poor. The presupposition here seems that for as long as the poor and hungry are around, one should not indulge in the "guilty pleasure" of buying artworks and cultural artifacts.

But then, do human beings live by bread alone? Beyond material needs like food and housing, human beings desire meaning. Culture and art are not "luxuries" but are essential to being human, for they bestow us with meaning and a sense of self-esteem.

Culture, taken here in the broadest sense, refers to any human experience insofar as it leaves traces. It covers human works on the technical, social, economic, political, intellectual, moral and artistic levels.

These human achievements are expressed in the forms of tools, documents, monuments, actions like rituals, and works of art. To quote Hegel, these constitute "the very substance of the life of a people." These reveal that layer of images and symbols comprising the basic ideals of a people.

It will also come as a bigger surprise that for 30 years now, a copy of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map has been in Malacañan Palace, according to a reliable source! It is strange then that no one in the national government took notice of this until Velasco Velarde's heroic act of winning the bid and generous gesture of donating the coveted map to the National Museum.

The "truth dissemination" planned by this Ateneo alumnus could have started earlier. To quote him: "[E]very Chinese child since 1935 was taught in school that these contested islands were owned by China for centuries... We must match the indoctrination, propaganda and brainwashing of their youth with our own truth seeking and truth dissemination among our youth. A P12-million map without the accompanying follow-through programs would make that map a mere wallpaper!"

Collecting is noble

Velasco Velarde may have imparted an important lesson to collectors—that one never collects for oneself alone but for generations to come. He reminds them that artworks and cultural artifacts are not only viable as economic investments for self-gain. They are also powerful vessels for promoting esteem of one's heritage, pride of one's country and dedication to one's people.

A "noble-minded" collector differs from a "hoarder," The true collector is ever mindful that he lives in time and in the world with and for others. She is constantly aware of the intimate intertwining of the spiritual and the material—that matter is the necessary slope of the spirit. To care for the material is to assure the growth of the spiritual.

To go back to the 1734 Murillo Velarde map. It may be time to call it the Murillo Velarde-Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay-Francisco Suarez map. For not only Fr. Murillo Velarde the cartographer but also Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay the engraver-printer and Francisco Suarez the artist give us a sense of self-esteem. They deserve our gratitude.

In 1733, King Philip V of Spain ordered Governor General Fernando Valdés Tamón to prepare a map of the Philippines. Governor General Valdés immediately entrusted the task to Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit professor of canon law at the Colegio de San Ignacio in Manila. According to Carlos Quirino's book "Philippine Cartography," Fr. Murillo Velarde was acknowledged as "the authority on maps and the best chronicles that had appeared in the archipelago."

Considered by the Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid as the "first and most important scientific map of the Philippines," the 1734 Murillo Velarde is also a large map measuring 27 inches x 42 inches. In the first volume of his "Chronicas," published in Manila from 1738 to 1744, the Franciscan Juan de San Antonio credited Murillo Velarde as having "placed all the towns, points, coves, ports, shoals, reefs, routes, courses, rivers, forts and distances, as was possible in so difficult a matter and within the scale. And in a description of a few lines ... related the most memorable [events] therein, the most extensive possible under such a minimum of words and figures."

Murillo Velarde's map is regarded by former Education and Culture Minister Jaime C. Laya as "the culmination of two centuries of mapmaking" and as "the Holy Grail of Philippine cartography." For the Jesuit historian José S. Arcilla, the map also served as a sea chart aimed at guiding ship captains to "navigate the narrow inter-island seas of the Philippines, for which waterways and harbors were clearly marked." That is why the map includes compass roses from which radiates a network of lines on which sea pilots plotted their courses. This also explains the drawings of Moro sailboats (vintas), Chinese junks (champan), Spanish galleons and other types of sailing craft.

At the top right-hand corner of Murillo Velarde's map, there is a magnificent cartouche with the Spanish royal coat of arms, heralded by two cherubs. Below this, two female allegories hold a curtain with the map's title: "Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas Dedicada al Rey Nuestro Señor por el Mariscal d[el] Campo D[on]. Fernando Valdés Tamón ... Hecha por el P[adre] Pedro Murillo Velarde d[e]la. Compa[ñia] de Jesus."

On the medallion in the southwestern part of the map, there is a capsule history of the Philippines: Magellan's arrival in Cebu, his being slain (by Lapu-Lapu) in Mactan, the founding of Manila by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi on June 24, 1571, the products cultivated, the flora and fauna, and the missionary work undertaken by the different religious orders.



Fig. 10 – Rural scenes and plans of Cavite, Zamboanga and Manila, engraved by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay in 1778.

RURAL scenes and plans of Cavite, Zamboanga, Manila and Guam as drawn by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay— among 12 panels that complement the Murillo Velarde map, making the map a product of Filipino artistry. “Filipinos are extremely capable in any handicraft,” writes Fr. Murillo Velarde in 1752. “I have seen paintings, drawings and maps from (native Filipino) pens more beautiful, neater and handsomer than those taken from Paris.”

Excellent painters, engravers having a high regard for the talent of the Indios (Filipinos) in the arts and crafts, Murillo Velarde asked the artist Francisco Suarez and the engraver-printer Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay to collaborate on 12 panels showing scenes from daily life in early 18th-century Philippines, and the local flora, fauna and landscape.

Murillo Velarde expressed his admiration in his “Geographia historica de las Islas Philipinas,” published in Madrid in 1752: “The Filipinos are extremely capable in any handicraft— there are excellent embroiderers, painters, silversmiths and engravers whose work has no equal in all the Indies, and could be considered elegant in Paris and Rome. I have seen paintings, drawings and maps from pens more beautiful, neater and handsomer than those taken from Paris.”

The 12 panels consist of four separate parts which are pasted at the sides. Each part is made of three frames (9 in wide and 7 in high). An interesting aspect to note is the cosmopolitan population of early 18th-century Philippines. Father Murillo recounts in his “Historia de la provincia de Philipinas de la compaña de Jesus” that by standing on the bridge across the Pasig River, one could see representatives of “all the nations of Europe, Asia, America and Africa passing by.”



In a first frame on the left side of the map, there are sangleyes or Chinese residents (a long-haired and bearded Christian convert, a trader with a fan, a fisherman (pescador) wearing a raincoat of palm leaves and a laborer with his carrying pole (cargador con pinga); the last three with their hair in pigtailed. Below this, a frame shows a group of four half-naked kaffirs (cafres) from Africa. Three of them, with a string of small bells around their ankles, dance while a Canarin (a native of Canara, an ancient kingdom near Mangalore) and a lascar or Indian sailor look on. In a third frame, there is a family of mestizos (of mixed Spanish and Filipino blood); the man dons a hat and long cape over bloomers; the woman wears a saya (a long wide skirt) and a tambourine necklace.

In the same frame, there is a Mardican (or native of Ternate in the Moluccas) with a sword, spear and shield. After the Spanish forces withdrew from the Moluccas in 1662, the Christian Mardicans in the Moluccas migrated to a town in Cavite which they also named "Ternate." A Japanese with a shaved head and a sword stands beside the Mardican.

#### Rural scene

In the first frame on the right side of the map, there is a Spanish official, dressed in the Louis XV style, a flared coat, lace cuffs and wig. He is protected from the heat of the tropical sun by his servant who holds a high parasol behind him. A negro criollo (Philippine-born Spaniard described as dark-skinned but not as dark as the Indios) is respectfully listening to the Spanish official. Behind them, two Indios indulge in the favorite local sport of cockfighting.

Farther behind them are two Aetas, with bow and arrow. In the next frame, a seated Armenian (or Persian) smokes a water pipe in front of a Mogol (with a beard and a turban) and a native of Malabar (with turban and earrings) from Goa and India's west coast.

In a third frame, there is a street scene with a couple—a barefoot Indio, with a black cloth (lambon) on his arm, and a veiled India or native woman, with a scapular around her neck—on their way to church.

Facing them are a female vendor selling a basket of guavas held on top of her head; and two boys, one in a loincloth and holding a crab, the other naked, carrying a piece of bamboo containing either vinegar or milk. Besides the two boys, a Bisaya stands with a balarao (a regional knife). In the distance, a couple is going through the movements of the comintang, an ancient Filipino dance, to the music of a man playing a mandolin.

There is also a frame with a rural scene: a man on a ladder cutting some bamboo from a grove (with the observation that bamboo is used in building houses), a farmer riding on a carabao, a boy holding a huge bat with a head resembling that of a dog, a man being transported in a hammock and an albino monkey. In the same frame, monkeys climb a coconut tree whose sap is made into a drink (tuba). In the background, we see papaya and jackfruit (nangka) trees; also an areca nut palm tree (bonga), from which betel nut (buyo) is derived and which is chewed by the locals.

There is still another frame with a rural scene: a farmer urging his carabao to help him plow a field, another farmer with a wooden sled pulled by a carabao, a woman pounding with a pestle rice in a wooden mortar (lusong) before a nipa hut (bahay kubo). For fauna, there is a crocodile, baring its sharp teeth, a boa constrictor with its tail strangling a pig and a white crow (puting uwak) in the sky. Four frames are devoted to Intramuros, the fort of Zamboanga, the fort of Cavite and the island of Guam (Guajan).

'Panacot'



JAIME C. Laya calls the Murillo Velarde map "the Holy Grail of Philippine cartography."

"Panacot" or "Scarborough Shoal" does not appear in any of the ancient Chinese maps.

The 1734, 1744 and 1760 Murillo Velarde maps clearly show Panacot, the island disputed by China, even before it became known as "Scarborough Shoal."

In fact, as Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio wrote in his monograph "Historical Facts, Historical Lies and Historical Rights in the West Philippine Sea" and has repeatedly stressed in his lectures on the territorial dispute between the Philippines and China, Panacot has been "consistently depicted in ancient Philippine maps from 1636 to 1940."

Only after Sept. 12, 1784, when an East India Co. tea-clipper was wrecked on one of its rocks did the shoal become “Scarborough Shoal.” For Carpio Panacot or Scarborough Shoal “does not appear in any of the ancient Chinese maps.”

*Leovino Ma. Garcia is former dean of the humanities of Ateneo de Manila University. He teaches philosophy at the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School.*



**LINK:**

<http://news.abs-cbn.com/focus/06/06/16/look-1734-map-shows-scarborough-shoal-part-of-philippines>

**LOOK: 1734 map shows Scarborough Shoal part of Philippines**

**Jay Ruiz, ABS-CBN News**

*Posted at Jun 06 2016 07:42 PM*

*Businessman Mel Velarde donated the framed replica of the 1734 Murillo map of the Philippine archipelago to Lt. General Romeo Tanalgo, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command. Jay Ruiz, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - A Filipino businessman has donated a framed replica of a scientific map of the Philippines created nearly three centuries ago that shows the Scarborough Shoal or Bajo de Masinloc as part of Philippine territory.

Mel Velarde, president and CEO of New Corporation and chairman of the board of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, donated the framed replica of the 1734 Murillo map of the Philippine archipelago to Lt. General Romeo Tanalgo, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

Originally called the Carta Hydrographica y Chrographica de las Filipinas and published in 1734, the Murillo Velarde map was drawn by the Jesuit priest Father Pedro Murillo Velarde. It is the first recognized internationally scientific map of the Philippines and shows Scarborough Shoal, then called Panacot Shoal or Panatag Shoal, as part of Philippine territory.

READ: [PH to submit 300-year-old map to UN in case vs China](#)

Velarde also donated copies of the replica to other Nolcom field units.

The Philippine government has been using the map as proof of its claim over parts of South China Sea in the International Arbitral Tribunal against China.

Velarde said he was able to recover the map in an auction in London.

Business Mel Velarde and AFP Nolcom chief Lt. General Romeo Tanalgo point at the 1734 Murillo map. Jay Ruiz, ABS-CBN News

The businessman said the donation of the map replicas is meant to honor Filipino soldiers who are fighting to protect Philippines territory. He said he hopes to rekindle a sense of

patriotism among Filipinos to promote sovereignty and to remind the public of the country's indisputable claim over the shoal.

Velarde also hopes to donate replicas of the map to the Department of Education and push for its inclusion in public school textbooks.

Tanalgo said the map reminds Filipinos, including the country's Armed Forces, about the important of the Philippines' claim to the disputed shoal.

He said Nolcom is always ready to protect and defend Philippine territory despite the lack of modern equipment.

Based on latest reports, Chinese Coast Guard ships and fishermen are continuously present in the Scarborough Shoal, blocking access of Filipino fishermen to their traditional fishing grounds.

READ: [PNoy, Del Rosario responsible for PH losing control of Scarborough](#)



Businessman Mel Velardo looks at the reproduction of the 1734 Murillo map he now owns. Photo by Yvonne Chua



Link:

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/135541-murillo-map-scarborough-shoal-nolcom-afp-donation-velarde>

### **Soldiers get replica of 1734 map debunking China's claims**

*Paterno Esmaguél II*

*Published 7:10 PM, June 06, 2016*



*'SCARBOROUGH IS OURS.' The Northern Luzon Command on June 6, 2016, receives a framed replica of the 1734 Murillo Map that shows the disputed Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) as part of the Philippines. Photo courtesy of Northern Luzon Command*



MANILA, Philippine – Soldiers in the northern part of the Philippines received on Monday, June 6, a framed replica of a 280-year-old map often used to debunk China's claims over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

The replica of the 1734 Murillo Map of the Philippines was donated by businessman Mel Velarde, president of Now Corporation and chairperson of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.

Velarde gave the replica to the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The 1734 Murillo Map shows that the disputed Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), also known as Bajo de Masinloc, has been part of the Philippines from as far back as nearly 3 centuries ago.

Panatag Shoal is found in the contested West Philippine Sea. (READ: Duterte: We will never surrender Scarborough)

A standoff between the Philippines and China in Panatag Shoal in April 2012 prompted Manila to file a historic case against Beijing.

The case is pending before an arbitral tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands. The tribunal is expected to issue a ruling any time soon. (READ: PH urged to build 'int'l consensus' amid China defiance)

### **'Scarborough Shoal is ours'**

Velarde said on Monday: "Why is the replica of the Murillo Map being donated to the Northern Luzon Command? The Northern Luzon Command is the protector, watcher, caretaker, defender of Bajo de Masinloc under Northern Luzon Command's direct jurisdiction."

The map was drawn by a Spanish Jesuit priest, Father Pedro Murillo Velarde. Published in Manila, it is the first "internationally recognized scientific map of the Philippines," Nolcom said in a statement.

Nolcom commander Lieutenant General Romeo Tanalgo, for his part, praised Velarde for donating a replica of the map to them.

Tanalgo said it is a "unique and unmatched" act of patriotism to make sure that the map "landed in the hands of Filipino people."

Nolcom said the 1734 Murillo Map will always remind them "that Scarborough Shoal is ours."

In his lectures, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio of the Philippine Supreme Court has used ancient maps to debunk China's claim over the West Philippine Sea.

Carpio has said even China's ancient maps dating back to 960 AD show that its territory "never included" the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea. – Rappler.com



**LINK:**

<http://northboundasia.com/2016/06/08/businessman-donates-spanish-vintage-murillo-map/>

*by: Northbound Philippines News Online | 08/06/2016*

**Businessman Donates Spanish Vintage Murillo Map**



TARLAC CITY – Manila businessman Mel Velarde has donated the replica of the 1734 Murillo Map of the Philippines to the Northern Luzon Command based at Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino here.

In a simple ceremony inside the Nolcom Conference Room, Velarde turned over the 6 x 8 ft glass-covered framed Murillo Map to the Nolcom top brass led Lt. Gen. Romeo T. Tanalgo. "I speak highly of our soldiers. I thank you for your heroism. So, I am here to personally hand over the Murillo Map so that you may have a background of what we stand for over our islands at the West Philippine Sea," Velarde said.

He told the officers and men of Nolcom that they were the very first recipients of the official replica of the 1734 Murillo Map made by then Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde of Spain. Velarde said that the map was made during the time of Diego Silang revolt and other Muslim in the South against the Spaniards. “Filipinos are freedom- loving people and do not want to be subservient to any foreign rulers,” he said.

Velarde claimed that all maps and all territory lines of the world are drawn, not with ink but by blood, and it is the same, he said, with our forefathers who defended the country from foreign aggressors.

He related how he acquired the Murillo Map. He said he was given a little wealth from his earnings as a businessman. So, when he learned that there was a Sotheby’s Auction in England for the 1734 Murillo Map, he made a bidding and got it for P12- million.

“Ano ba naman ang 12 million kung makakatulong ito sa laban natin para sa ating bansa?” Velarde said in Pilipino. “This is our own little way of helping you, helping the nation and to recognized the proud members of Nolcom.”

He lauded the Armed Forces of the Philippines because they are true soldiers of the Filipino people unlike China, He said that the People’s Liberation Army is the army of the Communist Party, not of the Chinese people.

Tanalgo expressed gratitude for Velarde’s gesture in donating the Murillo Map.” Malaking tulong sa aming pangkat sa Northern Luzon Command kasama na ang aming Army, Air Force, Navy at pati na ang ating mamamayan, sa aming layunin na paghibayuhin pa ang pagiging makabansa,” Nolcom’s commanding general said.

He narrated that time and time again the Filipino soldiers have displayed unusual bravery like what the late Gen. Boni Serrano did during the Korean War, when he and his 200 men repelled the more than 2,000 Chinese communists who wanted to overrun their post. He said that although the AFP lacks in modern equipment, its personnel compliment with their bravery and fighting spirit.

Velarde said when the original copy of the 1734 Murillo Map would be arriving next month, it will be kept at the National Museum but he said, he will also distribute replicas to the Department of Education, He said he would also make a separate literature on the history of the Murillo Map.

The map, in sepia color, has black ink markings indicating the names of places in the country at the time it was made. At the side of the map are drawings of people in different livelihoods and trades.

A unit of the AFP, Nolcom has jurisdiction over the West Philippine Sea, some islands of which like the Scarborough Shoals, have been occupied by China. The Philippines has challenged the Chinese claims in an international court. Homer Teodoro/ [www.northboundasia.com](http://www.northboundasia.com)





**LINK:** <http://balita.net.ph/2016/06/07/replica-ng-murillo-map-ipinagkaloob-sa-nolcom/>

### **Replica ng Murillo Map, ipinagkaloob sa NOLCOM**

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*June 7, 2016*

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City — Tinanggap kahapon ni NOLCOM Chief Lt. General Romeo T. Tanalgo ang framed replica ng 1734 Murillo Map na tumutukoy sa Panacot Island o Scarborough Shoal bilang sakop ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas.

Ang 300-taong mapa ay nagmula kay Mel Velarde, presidente at CEO ng New Corporation and Chairman of the Board, Asian Institute of Journalism & Corporation.

Binigyan din ng mga kopya ng mapa ang Field Units at iba pang opisyal ng Northern Luzon Command sa handover ceremony sa Camp Sevillano Aquino, Tarlac City.

Ang Murillo Velarde Map, orihinal na tinawag na “Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Islas Filipinas,” na iginuhit ng paring Jesuit na si Pedro Murillo Velarde (1696-1753), ang una at kinilalang internationally scientific map ng Pilipinas na nailathala sa Manila noong 1734. Ipinakikita rito na ang Scarborough Shoal na kilala bilang Bajo de Masinloc ay bahagi ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas sa nakalipas na tatlong siglo.

Iprinisinta ng Gobyerno ng Pilipinas ang Murillo Map sa United Nations Tribunal on the Law of the Sea sa The Hague bilang katibayan na tunay na pag-aari ng Pilipinas Scarborough Shoal, na tinawag na Panacot noon at Panatag ngayon.

Sinabi ni Velarde na ang Murillo Map ay magsisilbing paalaala sa NOLCOM na ang Scarborough Shoal ay pag-aari ng Pilipinas. (Leandro Alborote)

## BusinessMirror

**LINK:** <http://businessmirror.com.ph/1734-phl-map-turned-over-to-nolcom/>

### **1734 PHL map turned over to Nolcom**

*By BusinessMirror*

*June 28, 2016*

*In Photo: Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication Chairman and Now Corp. CEO Mel V. Velarde (right) presents the first official life-size replica of the famed 1734 Fr. Pedro Murillo-Velarde Map, known as the Carta Hydrograpica y Chorograpica de las Filipinas, to Northern Luzon Command Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo.*

Camp Aquino, Tarlac City—Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication Chairman and NOW Corp. CEO Mel V. Velarde has turned over the first official life-size replica of the famed 1734 Fr. Pedro Murillo-Velarde Map to Northern Luzon Command's (Nolcom) Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo.

The map's official name is "Carta Hydrograpica y Chorograpica de las Filipinas." One of its unique features, aside from its accuracy in the topography of the Philippine islands, is it shows the disputed Scarborough Shoal, also known as Bajo de Masinloc, as a part of the Philippine territory.

"Little did we know that almost 300 years later, those rocks that were drawn on this to specifically guide Spanish ships from sinking, will now be significant and crucial to the destiny of this nation," Velarde emphasizes on the map's role it played as an evidence to the Philippines's claim on the islands at the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). "From the utterances of the United States and G7 [Group-of-Seven] nations, and from the utterances of China, itself, it seems that the result would be, most likely, favorable to us."

Velarde further explained the importance of giving a replica of the map to Nolcom: "The Northern Luzon Command is the protector, watcher, caretaker and defender of our northern territory, where Bajo de Masinloc is under its jurisdiction. This is our own way of helping you, helping the nation and to recognize the proud members of Nolcom—sometimes we sleep without really knowing who are the people always ready to die for us."

"Why are we fighting for those rocks? Those rocks represent what this nation is all about," Velarde passionately expressed his thoughts to the members of Nolcom, "that we, as one nation are indivisible, that our territory is sacred to us, that when our patriarchs were fighting

for this country, they were not just fighting for one territory alone. They fought for a nation, which was still a seed in their minds that blossomed into a nation that is today called Filipinas.”

“If that rock falls in someone else’s hands permanently, then we would be in proximity to something antithetical to our beliefs as a people,” Velarde explains further, “that our freedom is universal and we cannot accept the loss of freedom—something our forefathers so bloodily fought for, and we are still willing to fight for. Like with Tibet and Mongolia, getting closer to us is a hungry giant, which is why we need to defend our state of being. Unlike this giant neighbor, we Filipinos “believe in freedom and liberty, where the acts of governments must be subject to the consent of the governed—always!”

“Patriotism can take many forms,” Tanalgo said, “In the case of Mr. Velarde, the exhibited act of patriotism is unique and unmatched. Ensuring that the map landed on the hands of the Filipino people, he shelled out his personal wealth and simply bought it. He bought it for our country to rekindle the sense of patriotism among our people—to promote our sovereignty and support national interest in the West Philippine Sea.”

“I pray that this map serves as a point of existential value for all Filipinos, regardless of provincial descent, tribe, belief, religion and social stature. Sir, you spent wealth for this map,” Tanalgo told Velarde. “You pay our soldiers with your taxes, and we will repay you with our blood and commitment.”





LINK:

<http://conceptnewscentral.com/index.php/2017/02/22/alvarez-receives-replica-1734-philippine-map/>

### Alvarez receives replica of 1734 Philippine map

By *Concept Central* - February 22, 2017 10:33 AM



*House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez (right) with Mel V. Velarde and the Murillo Velarde Map (left).*

House Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez was the first official to receive a replica of a Spanish-era map of the Philippines islands that was donated to the National Museum.

Mel V. Velarde, chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and donor of the map he bought in a London auction in 2014, presented the Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734, otherwise known as the Murillo-Velarde Map, to Alvarez as head of one of the four institutions that will get a copy of the map.

“This historic map is part of every Filipino’s birthright,” Velarde said at the simple turnover rite held at the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Alvarez promised to proudly display the piece in the House premises and to encourage his colleagues to support efforts that will instill intense love of country, especially among schoolchildren.

Velarde is also donating a replica of the oldest Philippine map drawn by Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde to other government offices, including the Senate, Supreme Court and Executive Departments.

**SunStar MANILA**

**LINK:**

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/05/05/online-book-chinas-sea-claims-lau-nched-540177>

### **Online Book on China's Sea Claims Launched**

*Friday, May 5, 2017*



*MANILA. From left, Philippine Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, Mel Velasco Velarde and former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario unveil the original copy of the 1734 Murillo-Velarde Map which shows the disputed Spratlys group of islands and the Scarborough Shoal during the launching of his e-book titled "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea" in Makati City, Thursday, May 4, 2017. (AP)*

MANILA -- A Philippine Supreme Court justice launched a book on Thursday that questions China's historic claims to most of the South China Sea and said he will distribute it online to try to overcome China's censorship and reach its people. Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said his e-book can be downloaded for free in English now and will



be made available later in Mandarin, Vietnamese, Bahasa, Japanese and Spanish to help more people understand the basis of the Philippines' stand against China's territorial claims. Carpio said public opinion, including in China, can help pressure Beijing to comply with an arbitration ruling last year that invalidated China's historic claims based on a 1982 maritime treaty. Carpio helped prepare the arbitration case, which the Philippines largely won. China has dismissed the ruling and continued to develop seven artificial islands in the South China Sea's Spratly archipelago. China's construction of the islands on disputed reefs has alarmed rival claimants and the United States. "This book in its printed form can never be distributed in China. It will be banned," Carpio said at the launch of his book in Manila. "The only way this e-book can reach the Chinese people is in electronic format through the internet." "I believe that like all other people of the world, the Chinese people are inherently good, but their government has drilled into their minds that they own the South China Sea since 2,000 years ago. This is, of course, utterly false and the world will never accept this," he said. Chinese Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment. In the book, titled "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," Carpio uses old maps, photographs, excerpts from the arbitration ruling, Chinese government statements and documents to question the validity of China's claims. Former Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, who spearheaded the filing of the arbitration case against China in 2013, praised Carpio for promoting the rule of law and how that worked well for a small country standing up to a superpower, saying "international law is the great equalizer." He gave a speech at the launch of Carpio's book and said they stood together with most Filipinos in agreement that international rule of law applied to all. Carpio's studies on the South China Sea disputes are not part of his work on the Supreme Court. He said he asked the court's permission in 2015 to give lectures in 17 countries to explain the territorial conflicts, which many fear could become Asia's next flashpoint. Carpio warns in the book that China may be planning to build more island outposts at Luconia Shoal off Malaysia and Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines. If it constructs an island base at Scarborough, China would have enough radar coverage of the South China Sea to be able to impose an air defense identification zone similar to what it did a few years ago in the East Sea in a region where it has territorial rifts with Japan, he said. China and the Philippines, along with Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan have overlapping claims to parts or all of the South China Sea that straddle busy sea lanes and are believed to be atop undersea deposits of oil and gas. (AP)

Read more:

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/05/05/online-book-chinas-sea-claims-lau-nched-540177>

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## INSTITUTE FOR MARITIME AND CEAN AFFAIRS

LINK:

<http://www.imoa.ph/common-heritage-profound-legacies-pedro-murillo-velarde-antonio-tirol-carpio/>

### **A Common Heritage of Profound Legacies: Pedro Murillo Velarde and Antonio Tirol Carpio**

**To be delivered at the Book Launching of Justice Antonio Carpio's e-book, Manila Polo Club, May 4, 2017, 5pm**

**Mr. Mel V. Velarde**

I am truly honored to be part of this launching event of an important e-book, authored by Honorable Antonio Tirol Carpio, Senior Associate Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court.

Yes, this book is about the West Philippine Seas, the Law of Sea, and the UNCLOS decision. But it is more than that. It is a literary and visual masterpiece, offering new and simple ways of viewing oceans and lands, peoples and nations, and the Law of the Sea that rule them. This book offers an intellectual and multi-sensorial journey from confusion to clarity, separating errors from truths, about the Law of the Sea.

It offers an abundance of historical, legal, socio-cultural and geo-political ideas and insights. Equipped with this book, this generation and the next generations would be able to formulate new algorithms for inter-racial and inter-regional cooperation. Lucidly written, every page is embellished with high-definition graphics, using visual artistry at its best, and availing of the most advanced cloud computing technology of its time. Download the e-book from anywhere, anytime, 24 by 7.

Most especially, it is free of charge.

It is one of Justice Carpio's legacies, the object of his intense diligence and devotion, with which he dedicates so zealously and patriotically to the Filipino people.

The 1734 Murillo-Velarde Map is also officially exhibited here this afternoon. Known as the 1734 Hydrographical and Chorographical Chart of the Philippines and regarded by historians as the "mother of all Philippine maps," it is the first scientific map that shows the entire Philippine archipelago. Produced by Spanish Jesuit Priest, Pedro Murillo Velarde (born in 1696, died 1754), together with two early Filipinos—Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who engraved it.

From a geographic point of view, this large-format map is top of its class, given its accuracy at a time when there were no airplanes, GPS or Google earth. But there already was “call a friend”; Father Murillo Velarde had many Indios as friends. They joined him and his fellow priests in producing this map. They wandered all over our lands and used their eyes by day, and stars by night, to explore and document the sizes and shapes, location and relation, of our seas, rocks, islands, mountains and many other points of interest.

The map is also a magnificent ethnographic document, as it depicts on twelve engravings, the life of the Indios, the Spanish settlers and other ethnic groups living in the archipelago. Most especially, the islands and rocks in Scarborough and Spratlys, identified respectively as Panacot and Los Bajos de Paragua, are drawn in this map, showing that they have been part of our archipelago since centuries ago, when our land was under Spanish rule. The map of Murillo Velarde had set the standard of map-making in the 17th century and beyond.

In 2014, Justice Carpio discovered that this map was scheduled to be auctioned off by Sotheby’s London in November of that year. He shared this information to various public and private museums, and individuals including myself.

I was the lucky bidder who won in that auction. So last April 21, 2017, we signed a deed of donation with the Office of the Solicitor General of the Philippine government, represented by the Honorable Secretary Jose Calangan Calida, officially making this map a gift to the Filipino people.

Pedro Murillo Velarde was also a lawyer, a graduate of law at the University of Salamanca. He learned to speak Tagalog to immerse into the lives and circumstances of the Indios. In 1745, numerous revolts took place around Manila against the religious haciendas that had grown at the expense of indigenous and communal lands. The Indio rebels were caught and arrested, and this Spanish Friar, Pedro Murillo Velarde, defended them as their lawyer when they were prosecuted. In fact, he wrote a manifesto entitled: “The Manifesto in defense of the Indios of Gilan and San Mateo.”

The Spanish hierarchy questioned Murillo Velarde why he was defending the Indios. His answer was: “the only way to conquer them is to conquer their hearts thru the rule of law.”

This is exactly what Justice Carpio is achieving thru his works behind the scenes of the UNCLOS case, and thru his speeches and personal interactions with people around the country and the world.

This personal civic duty he imposes upon himself has blossomed into a visual cum literary compilation, a patriarchal narrative in the making, in the form of an e-book as his tribute to all nations and generations, now and in the future.

There is a plaque of honor installed at a government office at Laujar de Andarax, Andalucia, Spain, with the name Pedro Murillo Velarde bearing the title: “Defender of the Indigenous Rights of the Filipinos.”

I hear the same honorific recognition in the words of former Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Albert del Rosario, when he wrote in the foreword in the ebook and I quote: “Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio is a dedicated public servant, an eminent jurist, an outstanding scholar, and an ardent patriot in promoting and defending our nation’s



rights as enshrined in the Law of the Sea. ... our staunchest defender of our country's position in the disputes over the South China Sea. He used his vision, wisdom and expertise towards helping our country forge our legal strategy for the South China Sea." I end this set of quotations using the first sentence in the foreword Sec del Rosario wrote: "Our country owes an incalculable debt of gratitude to Justice Antonio Carpio."

The works, advocacies and principles of Pedro Murillo Velarde and Antonio Tirol Carpio, that mirror each other, constitute the very essence of who they are, making the absence of one as potent as the presence of the other.

Both exemplified a rare kind of conviction deeply ingrained like codes in their souls. Faced with moral crises, they showed to the world what performance beyond the call of duty truly required. It is not what one can do, but what he ought to do, for the greater ends of humanity.

## VERA FILES

LINK: <http://verafiles.org/articles/1734-murillo-velarde-map-back-manila>

### 1734 Murillo Velarde map is back in Manila

*AUTHOR: ELLEN TORDESILLAS DATE:  
MAY 06, 2017*

Sharing the spotlight at the launching of Senior Justice Antonio T. Carpio's E-Book, "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea" at the Manila Polo Club Thursday was a glass- encased 1734 Murillo-Velarde map.



*Mel Velarde explains to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III the Murillo-Velarde map he bought in Sotheby auction in London for P12 million.*

This was the map IT businessman Mel Velarde bought in a Sotheby auction on Nov. 4, 2014 for P12 million. A copy of the map was one of the documents used in the case filed by the Philippines against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in 2013. The Arbitral Court upheld the Philippine position in most of the issues raised in the case.

Velarde said his feeling was of “Jubilation and relief” when he personally collected the map from Sotheby’s London last April 28.

He handcarried the historic map during the 13-hour flight from London arriving in Manila last April 29.

“The signing of the deed of donation with the Solicitor General Jose Calida last April 21, 2017, and the subsequent collection of the map from Sotheby’s London, handed to me personally and to the Assistant Solicitor General Usec. Henry Angeles last April 28, 2017, marked the culmination of a journey that started on Nov 4, 2014 when I participated in the auction of this map,” Velarde said.

History accounts say the Murillo Velarde map was taken out of the Philippines as part of the loot by British forces who invaded the country in 1762. It was acquired by Duke of Northumberland.

The map was among 80 heirlooms that the current Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, decided to auction off after a devastating flood hit Northumberland County in April 2012. One of the Duke’s properties is the vast Alnwick Castle, which has been featured as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the first two Harry Potter films.

Velarde is donating the map to the Philippine government as his “gift to the Filipino people.” “The ownership of the map is every Filipino’s birth right,” he said.

Replicas of the map will be donated to several government institutions and public schools. The map will be exhibited at the National Museum. There will also be scheduled exhibition in capital cities nationwide.

Velarde said the plan is to formally turn over the map to President Duterte during the Independence Day celebration next month.

*Two years ago, VERA Files ran the story on the purchase of the map. For background, read the story here: [PH to submit 300-year-old map to UN in case vs China](#)*



## VERA FILES

LINK:

<http://verafiles.org/articles/justice-carpio-wants-speak-chinese-people-through-his-ebook>

### **Justice Carpio wants to speak to the Chinese people through his eBook**

*AUTHOR: ELLEN T. TORDESILLAS*

*DATE: MAY 08, 2017*

**Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's hope springs eternal.**

At the launch of his eBook, "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," Carpio said the reason why it will soon have a Mandarin version is because, he wants to reach out to the Chinese people to convince them that the nine-dashed line that puts 80 percent of the vast South China Sea under China's jurisdiction has no legal or historical basis.

"I believe that, like all other peoples of the world, the Chinese people are inherently good, but their government has drilled into their minds that they owned the South Chinese Sea since 2,000 years ago. This is, of course, utterly false and the world will never accept this. Once the Chinese people realize the falsity of the nine-dashed line, they themselves will be too ashamed to press the nine-dashed line claim before the world. That will be the time when the Chinese government can comply with the ruling of the arbitral tribunal," Carpio said.



Why an eBook and not a physical book?

Carpio expects the book, in its printed form, to be banned in China.

“The only way this book can reach the Chinese people is in electronic format through the Internet, and through multiple download sources. So, this eBook is downloadable for free at the website of the Institute for Maritime and Ocean Affairs, the website of the murillovelardemap, other download sites for free books, as well as the websites of several educational institutions in the Philippines,” he said.

The primary audience for the 264-page eBook, a collation of over 140 of his lectures and speeches of on the South China Sea dispute which he delivered in various fora in the Philippines and abroad, is the Filipino people.

Carpio said,” This eBook is intended to inform the Filipino people about the vast maritime areas and rich natural resources that they own in the West Philippine Sea under international law. “

“Once the Filipino people realize that these maritime areas and resources belong to them and to future generations of Filipinos, as affirmed with finality by an UNCLOS arbitral tribunal, then the Filipino people will never allow any government administration, any government agency, or any government official to give away or compromise these maritime areas or resources in favor of a foreign state in violation of the Constitution,” hesaid.

There was no guessing who was the government official who would give away or compromise Philippine maritime areas or resources in favor of a foreign state. The audience composed of members of the legislature, the executive department the military, retired military officials, retired members of the Supreme Court, from the academe and media, knew who fit the description.



*Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio. Photo by Daniel Abunales.*

Carpio said Vietnamese, Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese and Spanish versions of this eBook will also be released later to “inform other coastal states of the world that it is in their national interest to help the Philippines protect Philippine maritime entitlements. For if China can grab for itself the maritime entitlements of the Philippines in violation of international law, then other coastal states may also lose their maritime entitlements to their more powerful neighboring states. This would end the rule of law in the oceans and seas of our planet.”

Carpio made special mention of IT entrepreneur Mel Velasco who acquired the 1734 Murillo Velarde map for P12 million in a Sotheby’s auction in London on Nov. 4, 2014.

The map, which showed Panatag Shoal or Scarborough shoal as part of the Philippines, shared the spotlight in last Thursday’s eBook launch.

Seeing the map, which he hand carried from London last April 28 being viewed by his fellow Filipinos, Velarde said, “I have jubilation in my heart, and triumph in my mind.”

He said” the signing of the deed of donation with the Solicitor General Jose Calida last April 21, 2017, and the subsequent collection of the map from Sotheby’s London, handed to me personally and to the Assistant Solicitor General Henry Angeles last April 28, 2017, marked the culmination of a journey that started on Nov 4, 2014. On that day of the auction I had a mission: to participate in the auction of this map by Sotheby’s London, to win the auction and bring that map back to the Philippines. “

Did you know that the Murillo-Velarde map had lain for many, many years at Alnwick Castle, Castle, which has been featured as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the first two Harry Potter films?

History accounts say the Murillo Velarde map was taken out of the Philippines as part of the loot by British forces who invaded the country in 1762.





*IT Entrepreneur Mel Velarde shows Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III the 1734 Murillo Velarde map he acquired in a London auction.*

Historian Renato Perdon said Brigadier General William Draper, commander of British land forces, “brought to London some Spanish flags and eight copper plates which printed the celebrated Murillo Velarde Map of 1743. He donated the Spanish flags to his alma mater, Cambridge University. The copper-plates were used for some time to print copies of the Murillo Velarde Map which were sold to public libraries and cartographic collectors. One such copy was purchased by the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.”

A copy of the map was acquired by Duke of Northumberland, an avid collector. One of the Duke’s properties is the vast Alnwick Castle.

The map was among 80 heirlooms that the current Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, decided to auction off after a devastating flood hit Northumberland County in April 2012.

The Filipino people is fortunate that there was one patriot in the person of Velarde who did not hesitate to spend P12 million to re-acquire the antique map, which was one of the documents submitted to the Arbitral Court in the case files by the Philippines against China to dispute the latter’s nine-dashed line.

Velarde is donating the map to the Philippine government as his “gift to the Filipino people.” It will be exhibited at the National Museum. There will also be scheduled exhibition in capital cities nationwide.

Velarde said the plan is to formally turn over the map to President Duterte during the Independence Day celebration next month. Replicas of the map will be donated to several government institutions and public schools.



**Link:**

<https://www.abante.com.ph/prangkahan-1734-murillo-velarde-map-matagal-nakatago-sa-harry-potter-na-kastilyo.htm>

### **PRANGKAHAN: 1734 Murillo Velarde map matagal nakatago sa Harry Potter na kastilyo**

*By Ellen Tordesillas*

*May 8, 2017 at 12:00:19 am*

Alam nyo ba na ang halos 300 taong Murillo Velarde map kung saan pinapakita na ang Panatag Shoal o Scarborough Shoal ay parte ng Pilipinas ay maraming taon ng nakatago sa isang kastilyo sa England na ginawang Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry sa dalawang pelikula ni Harry Potter?

Ganito yun.

Noong 1734, nai-publish ng Jesuit na pari na si Pedro Murillo Velarde ang isang mapa ng Pilipinas na ginawa sa tulong ng dalawang Filipino: ang nagdrawing ay si Francisco Suarez at ang engraver ay si Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay.

Doon sa mapa makikita ang isang isla bandang Zambales at ang nakalagay na pangalan ay “Panacot.”

Bakit kaya Panacot ang tawag? Dahil kaya sa malalakas na alon sa lugar na yun? Ang tawag naman kasi ngayon ng mga mangingisda sa batong yan ay “Panatag” dahil doon sila banda nagtatago, bilang proteksyon sa malalakas na hangin at alon.

Ang mahalaga dito ay noon pa, tatlong siglo na nang nakakaraan, parte na ng Pilipinas ang Scarborough Shoal na ina-angkin ng China ngayon.

Noong 1762, pinasok ng mga pwersa ng Great Britain sa pamumuno ni Brigadier General William Draper ang Pilipinas at nang umalis sila ay dala nila ang kanilang mga kinuhang mahahalagang bagay sa mga simbahan at kumbento. Isa na dito ang mapa ni Murillo Velarde at ang mga copper plates na ginamit sa paggawa noon.

Pagbalik sa London, nakapag-imprinta ng ilang kopya si Draper ng Murillo Velarde map bago tinunaw ang mga copper plates dahil kailangan para gamitin sa paggawa ng armas sa

giyera. Ang isang kopya nang mapa ay napunta sa Duke ng Northumberland, na isang kolektor ng mga antiques.

Ang kastilyo ng Duke ng Northumberland ay ang Alnwick Castle, na ginamit sa dalawang pelikula ni Harry Potter na Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Noong Abril 2012, nagkaroon ng baha sa Northumberland county at maraming nasira hindi lamang ang kastilyo kung di ang maraming bahay sa paligid.

Pinaayos ito lahat ng Duke ng Northumberland at gumastos siya ng sobra 12 million pounds. Naisip niyang ibenta sa auction ang ilan sa mga koleksyon ng kanyang ninuno na nakatago sa kastilyo at ang isa na doon ay ang Murillo Velarde map.

Nabalitaan ni Senior Justice Antonio Carpio at ni Velarde ang tungkol sa auction ng Sotheby's noong November 4, 2012. Nagdesisyon si Velarde na sumali sa bidding para sa mamamayang Filipino at nakuha niya ang mapa sa halagang P12 million.

Isinumite ng pamahalaang Aquino sa kasong isinampa ng Pilipinas laban China sa Arbitral Court ang isang kopya ng Murillo Velarde map.

Noong Abril 28 lang nakuha ni Velarde ang mapa sa Sotheby's sa London. Masayang-masaya siya na makikita na ito ng mamamayang Filipino. Idu-donate niya ito sa National Museum. Sa June 12, Independence Day, balak nilang i-turnover ito kay Pangulong Duterte.

Magbibigay din si Velarde ng kopya ng mapa sa mga paaralan sa buong bansa para malaman ng mga kabataan kung ano ang sa Pilipinas. "Para malaman nila ang kanilang birthright," sabi ni Velarde.

*Blog:* [www.ellentordesillas.com](http://www.ellentordesillas.com)

*E-mail:* [ellentordesillas@gmail.com](mailto:ellentordesillas@gmail.com)





LINK:

<https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-releases/12846-special-exhibit-of-the-1734-murillo-velarde-map>

### Special Exhibit of the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map



07 June 2017 - Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano received an official replica of the priceless *Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de la Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734*, also known as the Murillo-Velarde map, which is regarded as the “mother of all Philippine maps.” Philanthropist Mr. Mel Velarde Velasco turned over to the Secretary the official replica in a simple ceremony at the Office of the Secretary, DFA Building on May 30.

Considered as the “holy grail” of Philippine cartography, the 1734 Murillo-Velarde map shows the entire Philippine archipelago in such detail that it is regarded as the first ever scientific map of the Philippines. The map was named after the Spanish Jesuit friar Pedro Murillo Velarde who prepared it with the help of two Filipinos. Mr. Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Mr. Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who engraved it.



The original Murillo-Velarde Map was unveiled at the Carlos P. Romulo Library of the DFA on May 30. Undersecretary Enrique A. Manalo, Undersecretary Linglingay F. Lacanlale, Assistant Secretary Lourdes O. Yparraguirre, other officers and staff of the DFA, members of the Diplomatic Corps and representatives of other Government agencies joined the opening of this special exhibit of the 1734 Murillo-Velarde Map. END





# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Philippine Daily Inquirer Newspaper

June 12, 2017



## 'MOTHER OF ALL PHILIPPINE MAPS' RETURNS HOME AFTER SPENDING 300 YEARS IN ENGLAND

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

The Murillo Velarde Map is home.

As the country's first scientific map, it's an important artifact, an evidence of the country's historic rights, and a source of narrative for the youth to love the country. In many ways, it's an embodiment of the Filipinos' material being as a nation.

Designed by Fr. Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit priest, in 1734, it was the most comprehensive map of the archipelago at the time.

But for close to 300 years, the map was in possession of an English aristocrat. Until this year—when a private citizen

won it at an auction and decided it was time to bring back this treasure to Philippine shores.

"It gives me eternal pleasure knowing that this generation and the next are armed with the mother of all Philippine maps to which is embedded our rights to 100 percent of our exclusive economic zones. It gives me hope that one day soon, no Filipino will ever be hungry or poor again, but we all have to fight for it," said Mel Velarde, the man who bought the centuries-old item for P13 million (plus two years of storage fees, insurance and travels).

The map is of utmost value, primarily because it shows that Panacot (Scarborough Shoal) and Spratlys (named there as Los Bajos de Paragua) are shown

to be part of the Philippines. With many nations staking claim to the aforementioned islands, the Velarde Map is a significant weapon.

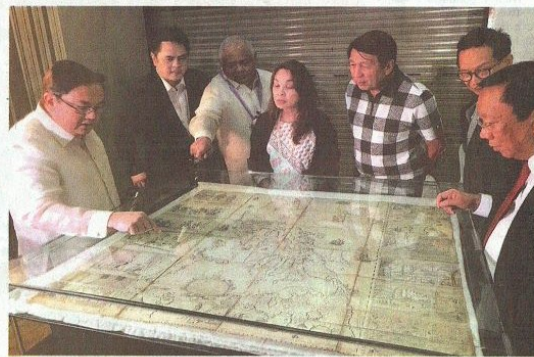
The 1734 Velarde Map was, in fact, cited in the Philippine complaint against China at UNCLOS.

Officially called the Carta hydrographica y chorographica de las Islas Filipinas, the map depicts a "high-quality, advanced and inclusive way of life of people in the archipelago—Filipino men and women working in the farm that represents self-reliance, family unity and sustainable livelihood; showing Armenian, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Moguls freely interacting with the Indians."

Many of the names of the 900 cities and towns identified in the map remain the same. Markers for mountains, seas, and lakes are surprisingly accurate.

As the country celebrates its Independence Day this year, Velarde (who apparently has no relation to the Jesuit priest) made a ceremonial turn over of the Velarde Map to top government officials, led by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea last June 8, through a deed of donation signed with the Office of the Solicitor General, as Velarde's gift to the Filipino people.

"Though I acquired the map, its incalculable value now depends on the youth who will



The Velarde Map was one of the heirlooms put on the auction block by the Duke of Northumberland, which gave Mel Velarde the chance to bring home the prized treasure back home. Here, Velarde (leftmost) shows off the map to (from left) Sec. Martin Andanan, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Senator Loren Legarda, House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Rodolfo Farinas, Sec. Salvador Panela, Sec. Jose Calida during the 116th Anniversary of the Office of the Solicitor General earlier this month.

continue our fight for the ownership of the rocks and islands drawn on this map. This map is your proof of ownership of this God-blessed Philippine islands, that my generation is leaving you," said Velarde, who graduated Summa Cum Laude at the Boston University. A hobbyist and a serious student of history, geography, and Biblical archaeology, Velarde was the top tax

payer in the country in 2009.

As a private citizen (and CEO of NOW Corp., a publicly listed company that includes NOW Cable Broadband and NOW-planet TV), Velarde knew his role was but a footnote in this whole journey.

Velarde said: "I felt there was a larger consideration in this whole exercise. I was reminded of our soldiers

ready to die for the country. It's quite a stretch of the imagination, to think that a map could prevent them from dying or getting into war [due to land claims], but I'd take that shot any day. However trivial, I feel my role to bring her home is cast in metal and carved in stone, in the collective hearts of the people especially the youth!"



Velarde at the Hogwarts School of Wizardry where the Murillo Velarde Map was kept for almost 300 years.





LINK:

<http://ateneo.edu/news/%E2%80%98mother-all-philippine-map%E2%80%99-finds-new-home-at-ateneo>

### **‘MOTHER OF ALL PHILIPPINE MAP’ FINDS NEW HOME AT THE ATENEO**

*June 13, 2017*

An official replica of *Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de la Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734*—considered by historians as the ‘mother of all Philippine maps’—can now be seen at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Filipino technology entrepreneur and educator Mel Velarde gave the map to the university on June 9, 2017.

“We are bequeathing to you—the next generation—a national treasure,” Velarde said at the forum and special exhibit of the original map held at Faber Hall.



*Dr. Francis Navarro (third from left), a faculty member of the Department of History, receives the official replica of the Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de la Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734 from Mr. Mel Velarde. Also in photo: Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio (left) and Mr. Brian Giron (Department of History).*

The philanthropist bought the map (also known as the Murillo-Velarde 1734 map) in a 2014 auction by Sotheby's London. Regarded as the first scientific map of the Philippines, it was prepared by a Spanish Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde with the help of 2 Filipinos: Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who did the engraving.

The large format map (1120 mm x 1200 mm) illustrates the Philippine archipelago. As written on its Catalogue Note: "It is flanked by 2 pasted-on-side-panels with 12 engravings, 8 depicting costumed figures, a map of Guajam (Guam) and 3 city or harbor maps, notably Manila."

The map shows a tiny island labeled "Panacot" later renamed Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal. It also features the rocks and islands of Los Bajos de Paragua," now known as Spratlys. The Murillo-Velarde 1734 map was one of the documents submitted by the Philippine government in its case against China's nine-dash line.

"At this simple ceremony, we celebrate 3 treasures: an exquisite map, a generous donation of the map, and the use of the map in the understanding and interrogation of contemporary issues," said Fr. Joey M. Cruz, S.J., Vice President for University and Global Relations. The map, he added, is "stunningly beautiful."

Also present at the event was Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio. Carpio learned that the map — part of the 80 heirlooms owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy — was to be auctioned. Justice Carpio shared this information with various public and private museums and individuals, including Velarde.

The map, he said, "debunks once and for all, the Chinese historical narrative that China has owned the South China Sea for 200 years. Now, the world knows better. Thanks to the definitive ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal, China's historical narrative has been exposed as fake news. The map proves, beyond any shadow of doubt, that Spratlys and Scarborough Shoal were part of Philippine territory as early as 1734."

Added Velarde, "You will see in the map who you are, who your ancestors are. I knew this map was not mine to keep. My role is just a footnote in the history: get the map and bring it back. I am donating it here because the map belongs here; Fr. Murillo Velarde belongs here. All this work together constitutes our continuing dedication to the truth, to the rule of the law, and the same ideals for which our nation was born, the same ideals that run in your blood."

The official replica of the Murillo-Velarde 1734 map is currently in the upkeep of the School of Social Sciences.



LINK: [http://www.hau.edu.ph/news\\_and\\_events/index.php?id=1320](http://www.hau.edu.ph/news_and_events/index.php?id=1320)

*August 1, 2017*

#### **Replica of the Mother of Philippine Maps Donated to HAU**



A replica of the Murillo Velarde Map of 1734 was donated by Mr. Mel Velarde, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) at Holy Angel University through the University President Dr. Luis Maria R. Calingo.

The Murillo Velarde map was one of the documents used in the case filed by the Philippines against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in 2013. The Arbitral Court upheld the Philippine position in most of the issues raised in the case.

The map was created by the Jesuit cartographer Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde in 1734, is being hailed as the “first scientific map of the Philippines.” Velarde purchased the 280-year-old map from an auction in the United Kingdom. The original map was donated by Velarde to the Philippine government last April.

Velarde stated that the shared mission of HAU and AIJC in the quest for truth as the main reason for the donation. Further, he emphasized that the map represents God’s blessings he bestowed to the Filipinos.

The donation of the map simultaneously took place with the ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement Signing between HAU and AIJC in offering MA in Communication last August 1, 2017.





Link: <http://www.paf.mil.ph/press/2017/mapsreplica.html>

## **Mother Of All Philippine Maps Replica Donated To The PAF**

25 August 2017

The airmen and women of the Philippine Air Force witnessed on Friday morning, August 25, the ceremonial turnover of the 1734 Murillo-Velarde Map of the Philippines (Carta Hydrographica Y Chorographica De La Yslas Filipinas, Manila, 1734) which is regarded by historians as the “mother of all Philippine maps.” This first scientific map of the Philippines was prepared by Spanish Jesuit Friar Pedro Murillo Velarde together with two Filipinos – Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz, who engraved it. Represented by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Velarde Inc and AIJC, Mr Mel Velasco Velarde donated the large-format map replica to the PAF through the Office of Historical and Cultural Activities. This donation serves as Mr Velarde’s gift to every Filipino people. He believes that the “ownership of the map is every Filipino’s birth right.” This initiative is also part of a public awareness campaign on the map and its significance to the country’s cultural and historical heritage. The replica map will be displayed in the PAF Aerospace Museum and will be open for public viewing.



**LINK:**

<http://www.canadianinquirer.net/2017/08/31/pa-gets-replica-of-mother-of-all-philippine-maps/>

**Philippine Army Gets Replica of ‘Mother of All Philippine Maps’**

*By Philippine News Agency on August 31, 2017*



The Philippine Army (PA) formally received an official replica of the so-called “Mother of All Philippine Maps” or the first-ever scientific map of the country Tuesday.  
(Photo By: Philippine Army, Public Domain)

MANILA — The Philippine Army (PA) formally received an official replica of the so-called “Mother of All Philippine Maps” or the first-ever scientific map of the country Tuesday.

The replica was handed by Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) chair Mel V. Velarde to PA commanding general, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, during simple ceremonies at the Army Museum in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

“The importance of this map cannot be denied. This will form part of our heritage right. We are going to take care of it and sooner or later the future generation would know who we really are,” the PA chief said.

“It is not only a donation, it is a reawakening item telling us who we really are.”

The “Mother of All Philippine Maps” otherwise known as the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map was procured by Velarde through an auction by Sotheby’s in the United Kingdom in 2014.

The Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands are visible in the map. It serves as a reminder of the country’s sovereignty and territorial rights which the PA has pledged to protect.

“This contribution is nothing compared to the contribution you are doing. One day your contribution will be more than enough and what you individually can do, collectively you will be triumphant and we are sure of that,” the AIJC chief stressed.

Velarde donated the original copy of the map to the national government through the Office of the Solicitor General.





MANILA, Philippines — Two replicas of the oldest Philippine map showing clearly the territorial boundaries of the country and disputing China's claims over the West Philippine Sea are now on display in two military museums.

The Mother of All Philippine Maps replicas were donated to the Philippine Army in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City by Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication chairman Mel Velarde.

"These are old maps that historically indicate our rightful ownership of these areas, particularly Bajo de Masinloc," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

The first replica of the 1734 Murillo-Velarde map of the Philippines was turned over to the Air Force last week.

Yesterday, the Army announced that a second replica has been given to them also by the same donor.

Velarde, who donated the large-format map replica to the PAF through the Office of Historical and Cultural Activities, said it serves as his gift to every Filipino as he believes that "ownership of the map is every Filipino's birthright."

The PAF said such initiative is also part of a public awareness campaign on the map and its significance to the country's cultural and historical heritage.

The replica maps are now on display at the Army Museum and the PAF Aerospace Museum and will be open for public viewing.

Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde had the map published in Manila in 1734. It surfaced in 2012 among the possessions of a British lord, who put it up for auction at Sotheby's in London, where Velarde, a businessman, bid and got it for £170,500 (\$266,869.46 or P12,014,463.09).

LINK:

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/625435/carpio-murillo-velarde-map-to-correct-false-history-amid-china-s-claims-on-phl-territory/story/>

### **Murillo Velarde Map refutes 'false history', China's claims – Carpio**

*Published September 11, 2017 10:11pm*

It would be 18th century references, like the 1734 Murillo Velarde map, that would debunk the "false history" China was spreading in its effort to claim Philippine territories, Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said on Monday.

"We have to correct that because that's the false history. And the way to do that is to present old maps, ancient maps, because they don't lie," Carpio said on GMA 7 news program "24 Oras".





"We should be proud that we have the oldest map showing the Spratlys and the Scarborough shoal as part of Philippine territory," he added.

The 17th century map played a significant role in the Philippines' victory in its arbitral tribunal case against China.

It features the Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal that was labelled as "Panacot", as well as the "Los Bajos de Paragua" later known as the Spratlys islands.

"This map is very persuasive to support our claim on these territories, for the simple reason that when this map was made, there was no issue yet on who owned these islands," added Atty. Felipe L. Gozon, Chairman and CEO of GMA Network Inc. - the first and only media company to receive an official replica of the artifact.

It was purchased for P12 million by businessman and educator Mel Velarde, who also chairs the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.

"What they produce is, it's really the Google Earth of the 17th century. Plus, there are vignettes here that show you pictures of the life of the Indios and the Europeans and the Asians here in the Philippine islands during that time," so each part of this map really has a story to tell," Velarde said.

Velarde donated the 300-year-old map to the government. It will soon be on public display at the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Museum in Pasay City.

Velarde, together with Carpio, turned the official replica over to GMA Network. — **Margaret Claire Layug/DVM, GMA News**

**LINK:**

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/artandculture/625366/gma-network-receives-replica-of-historic-murillo-velarde-1734-map/story/>

**GMA Network receives replica of historic Murillo Velarde 1734 map**

*Published September 11, 2017 3:04pm*

GMA Network on Monday received a replica of the historic Murillo Velarde 1734 map that bolstered the Philippines' claim in a maritime dispute with China.

In a ceremony at GMA Network Center, Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and businessman Mel Velarde turned over the replica to the network officials led by chairman and chief executive officer Felipe L. Gozon.

"The map was brought here last April. I was here two years ago interviewed by Howie (Severino) and I promised to him that we will bring an official replica here. And you are the only — first And only — media company that will get the official replica, considering that this institution has deep interest and desire to push and inject and imbibe a sense of history and love of country to our fellow Filipinos," said Velarde.

The map is significant for its role in the Philippines' case against China, as it featured a tiny island labeled "Panacot" that was later named Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal, as well as rocks and islands of Spratlys named "Los Bajos de Paragua" in the map.

Carpio discovered the map among the heirlooms of an English duke to be auctioned by Sotheby's London in November 2014. This prompted Velarde to bid for the artifact, ending up purchasing it for P12 million.

Velarde later donated the original to the Philippine government.

Carpio noted that the map served to debunk the "fake history" being spread by China over its massive claims over the South China Sea, as it showed that the disputed islands have been documented to be part of Philippine territory.

Gozon said the map will be displayed prominently at GMA Network Center.

"Of course we're very thankful and we're going to really put this piece of valuable treasure at the lobby so that students who come here to visit, they stay at the lobby, right? And the employees, they all pass through the lobby. So that would be the best," said Gozon. —**JST, GMA News**

**LINK:**

<https://murillovelardemap.com/el-centro-hispano-filipino-de-laujar-de-andarax-hispanic-filipino-cultural-center-laujar-de-andrax/>

**El centro Hispano Filipino de Laujar de Andarax (Hispanic-Filipino cultural center in Laujar De Andarax)**

**REAL Revista de Estudios Almerienses (Journal of Almerian Studies)**

**2021**

This article by Carlos Villoria Prieto and Valeriano Sánchez Ramos features the Hispanic-Filipino Cultural Center in Laujar de Andarax. The Center pays tribute to the work of Laujar Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde, who prepared the first scientific map of the Philippines, the Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de la Yslas Filipinas Manila or the Murillo Velarde Map, together with two Filipinos: Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who did the engraving.

Here is the abstract of the article:

The Spanish Philippine Centre of Laujar de Andarax is the result of two factors that will be the driving force behind its development, on the one hand the international interest in the Laujarean Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde and that of the Laujar town council for the recovery of one of its most significant civil buildings that was in a ruinous state and on the verge of being lost. The headquarters of the Centro Hispano Filipino is an exceptional example of a manor house of the small Alpujarran nobility. Built in the first half of the 18th century, it is an example of the economic development of 18th century Laujar. The Centre is dedicated to the Laujar Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde, the most prominent intellectual in the Philippines in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Nowadays, Pedro Murillo's cartographic work has gained unusual relevance due to the territorial dispute between China and the Philippines over the control of the South China Sea.



## EL CENTRO HISPANO FILIPINO DE LAUJAR DE ANDARAX

/ Carlos Villoria Prieto

/ Valeriano Sánchez Ramos

Instituto de Estudios Almerienses. Departamento de Historia.



Alzado del Centro Hispano Filipino. Dibujo de Estudio Goya 2018.

**RESUMEN:** El Centro Hispano Filipino de Laujar de Andarax es fruto de dos factores que serán los que impulsen su desarrollo, por un lado, el interés internacional por el jesuita laujareño Pedro Murillo Velarde y, de otro, el del ayuntamiento de Laujar muy concienciado por la recuperación de uno de sus edificios civiles más significativos que estaba en un estado ruinoso y a punto de perderse. La sede del centro Hispano Filipino es un ejemplo excepcional de casa solariega de la pequeña nobleza alpujarreña construida en la primera mitad del siglo XVIII, muestra del desarrollo económico del Laujar del siglo XVIII. El Centro está dedicado al jesuita laujareño Pedro Murillo Velarde, el intelectual más destacado de Filipinas en el siglo XVIII. En la actualidad la obra cartográfica de Pedro Murillo ha cobrado una inusitada vigencia a causa de la disputa territorial entre China y Filipinas por el control del Mar de la China Meridional.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Centro Hispano Filipino, Laujar de Andarax, Pedro Murillo Velarde, Filipinas.

**ABSTRACT:** The Spanish Philippine Centre of Laujar de Andarax is the result of two factors that will be the driving force behind its development, on the one hand the international interest in the Laujarean Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde and that of the Laujar town council for the recovery of one of its most significant civil buildings that was in a ruinous state and on the verge of being lost. The headquarters of the Centro Hispano Filipino is an exceptional example of a manor house of the small Alpujarran nobility. Built in the first half of the 18th century, it is an example of the economic development of 18th century Laujar. The Centre is dedicated to the Laujar Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde, the most prominent intellectual in the Philippines in the 18th century. Nowadays, Pedro Murillo's cartographic work has gained unusual relevance due to the territorial dispute between China and the Philippines over the control of the South China Sea.

**KEYWORDS:** Spanish-Philippine Centre, Laujar de Andarax, Pedro Murillo Velarde, Philippines.



Hoja postal: Murillo Velarde 1734 map, Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas, Manila 1734. Reprinted with permission from Mel Velarde and family. El pliego está formado por 13 sellos, siendo el central el de mayor tamaño publicado hasta la fecha en Filipinas.

arrecife, la República Popular China ha restringido el acceso y ha construido instalaciones militares. El gobierno filipino presentó, y posteriormente ganó, una demanda ante el tribunal internacional de La Haya, alegando que forma parte de su territorio, y pidiendo que China abandonase estos islotes. China no reconoce esta sentencia, ya que estos islotes son de gran importancia, ya que les permite controlar parte del tráfico marítimo del Mar Meridional de China, por donde circula casi la mitad del comercio marítimo mundial. En la actualidad este es uno de los asuntos candentes de la geopolítica internacional. La principal prueba con la que los filipinos demostraron la filipinidad de este territorio es *La Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas*. La importancia de Pedro Murillo y su mapa radica en que en su mapa señaló como territorios españoles, y por tanto filipinos, en 1734, el bajo de Scarborough y las islas Spratlys. Esta obra ha hecho que hoy en día Pedro Murillo Velarde sea considerado como un héroe en Filipinas.

El duque de Northumberland en 2014 vendió un ejemplar de *La Carta Hydrographica*, al filántropo filipino, Mel Velarde, que lo ha donado al Museo Nacional de Filipinas, transformando el mapa de Murillo Velarde en un auténtico icono para el nacionalismo filipino. Este documento geográfico cada vez se está revalorizando más, en 2019 se vendió una copia en Manila por cerca de un millón de dólares.

Mel Velarde ha mostrado gran interés por la figura del jesuita y su tierra de nacimiento, visitando Laujar en diferentes ocasiones, y organizando junto al Instituto



Despacho original del poeta laujareño Francisco Villaspesa.



Congreso International Conference on Cartography in Philippine History, celebrado en Manila en 2018. De izquierda a derecha, Valeriano Sánchez Ramos, historiador y miembro de la familia Murillo Velarde; Antonio Carpio, presidente del Tribunal Supremo de Filipinas; Carlos Villoria Prieto, historiador y miembro del Departamento de historia del Instituto de Estudios Almerienses; Almudena Morales Asensio, Alcaldesa de Laujar de Andarax; Tom Harper, Conservador de mapas de la British Library; Agustín Cabrera Hueso, Teniente de alcalde del ayuntamiento de Laujar de Andarax; Y Mel Velarde, empresario y filántropo filipino.

Cervantes en Manila en 2018 el congreso internacional, *Conference on Cartography in Philippine History*, centrado en la figura del laujareño. A este evento se invitó a Almudena Morales Asensio, como alcaldesa de Laujar, al historiador Valeriano Sánchez Ramos, como miembro de la familia Murillo Velarde, y a Carlos Villoria Prieto como historiador especializado en la figura del jesuita. La comitiva almeriense participó en diferentes actos como la entrega de las llaves de la ciudad de Manila por parte de su alcalde a la alcaldesa de Laujar. También se celebró el hermanamiento de Laujar de Andarax con la ciudad de Antipolo, donde Murillo Velarde fue rector de su basilica, además de fomentar tanto en Asia como en Europa el culto a la Virgen de La Paz y del Buen Viaje, que se venera en esta ciudad filipina.

Durante este año de 2021 se está celebrando la llegada de los españoles a Filipinas, el 16 de marzo de 1521. Justo el 16 de marzo de 2021 la república de Filipinas para conmemorar esta efeméride presentó una hoja postal con el mapa de Pedro Murillo Velarde, actos en los que participaría el presidente filipino Rodrigo Duterte, lo que nos da una idea de la importancia del laujareño en aquel país.

**LINK:**

<https://journal.com.ph/navotas-receives-1734-murillo-velarde-map-replica/>

## **Navotas receives 1734 Murillo Velarde map replica**

**February 19, 2021**

The City Government of Navotas Wednesday received an official replica of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map from Mel Velarde, President and CEO of Velarde Inc. and Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. The Murillo Velarde map is the first scientific map of the entire archipelago, and has been regarded as the “Mother of all Philippine maps.” Velarde donated replicas of the map to government agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations as part of a public awareness campaign on its significance to Philippine history and culture. Mayor Toby Tiangco thanked and lauded Velarde, noting that his endeavors are a “strong manifestation of love of country.”

“This map helped us establish in the international court that Scarborough Shoal is ours. The shoal has been a traditional fishing ground of Filipinos, including my family, and we should not allow other countries to claim otherwise,” he said. The Murillo Velarde map served a crucial role in the Philippines’ case against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands. It showed that Scarborough Shoal – referred to back then as Panacot – has been part of the Philippine territory even centuries ago. Meanwhile, Cong. John Reynald Tiangco also expressed gratitude to Velarde for his donation.

“I was pleasantly surprised to know that an artist from Navotas-Malabon engraved and printed the map. We are very proud that a Navoteño played a significant role in the creation of this historical document,” he said.



Navotas Congressman John Rey Tiangco and Mel Velarde of Velarde Inc. doing a fist bump after the city government received a replica of the 1732 Murillo Velarde map. Photo by EDD REYES



**LINK:**

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/02/19/malabon-navotas-awarded-with-1734-murillo-velarde-map-replica/>

**Malabon, Navotas awarded with 1734 Murillo Velarde Map replica****February 19, 2021**

The city governments of Malabon and Navotas received the replica of the Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734, which is better known as the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map on Thursday. Malabon City Mayor Len Len Oreta and Councilor Enzo Oreta received the map, which is also dubbed “Ina ng mga Mapa ng Pilipinas” which came from philanthropist Mel Velarde. The map was made by the Spanish priest Pedro Murillo Velarde in 1734, together with two Filipinos identified as Francisco Suarez and Nicolas Dela Cruz Bagay.

A well-known carver during the Spanish period, Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay was born in the town of Tambobong, which is now known as City of Malabon. The map also played a crucial role in the Philippines’ case against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, The Netherlands. It showed that Scarborough Shoal — which was referred back then as Panacot — has been part of the country’s territory even centuries ago. The replica of the map is currently on display at the Malabon Heritage Center in Barangay Hulong Duhat. Meanwhile, the local government of Navotas likewise received an official replica of the map from Velarde, who is also the president and CEO of Velarde Inc. and Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. In his message, city mayor Toby Tiangco thanked and lauded Velarde, noting that his endeavors illustrate a “strong manifestation of love of country.”

“This map helped us establish in the international court that Scarborough Shoal is ours. The shoal has been a traditional fishing ground of Filipinos, including my family, and we should not allow other countries to claim otherwise,” he said. “We hope that through this map, young generations of Filipinos will continue the fight to our rightful claim over Scarborough Shoal, as well as the West Philippine Sea,” he added. Lawmaker John Reynald Tiangco also expressed his gratitude to Velarde for his donation.



**LINK:**

<https://manilastandard.net/gallery/news-in-photos/347706/murillo-map.html>

### **Murillo map**

**February 22, 2021**

Navotas Rep. John Rey Tiangco (right) receives an official replica of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map from Mel Velarde, President and CEO of Velarde Inc. and Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. The Murillo Velarde map is the first scientific map of the entire archipelago, and has been regarded as the 'mother of all Philippine maps.' Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco thanked and lauded Velarde, noting that his endeavors are a 'strong manifestation of love of country.' The Murillo Velarde map served a crucial role in the Philippines' case against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands.



**LINK:**

<https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2021/03/10/187301/sb19s-new-music-video-features-historical-map-that-helped-west-philippine-sea-claim/>

**SB19's new music video features historical map that helped West Philippine Sea claim****March 10, 2021**

(Updated March 11, 2021; 4:05 p.m.) The new music video of Filipino group SB19 featured an old map that was previously used to strengthen the Philippines' claim over the West Philippine Sea.

SB19 released their new single called "What" last night, March 9. Its music video had gained more than a million views in less than 24 hours since it was released.

The hashtag ##SB19WhatMVOutNow used to promote the song also dominated the trending list of Twitter Philippines last night with more than half a million tweets or 684,000 tweets under its belt.

Amid the overwhelming support from their fans called A'Tin, one Reddit user noticed that a copy of a 300-year-old Philippine map was featured in the music video, just a few minutes after the song ended.

Called the Murillo-Velarde map, it was one of the pieces of evidence that the Philippines submitted to the United Nations Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in The Hague proceedings in 2015.

In 2016, the UN Tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines and rejected China's "nine-dash line" claim, which covers 90% of South China Sea.

The old map was commissioned by Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Jesuit priest, to a native cartographer Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay in 1734.

John Silva, an author and collector of historical artifacts, described the map in an article as "a large, sumptuous, sharp and detailed image of the whole Las Yslas Filipinas."

"It was bordered by 12 intricate vignettes covering flora and fauna, various peoples, foreigners, map insets, outlying islands—a most extensive compendium of Spain's most distant colony," wrote Silva in 2019.

The map was acquired by Filipino businessman Mel Velarde in an auction at the Sotheby's London in 2012 for P12 million. He donated the map to the National Museum of the Philippines in 2017 as "a gift for the Filipino people."



Under the Reddit post, most users pointed out that no evidence or proof can be used if the national government itself does not support it.

“No matter what maps we show up. Without backings from our very own f\*\*\*ed up government. Every evidence we came up will be weak,” one user said.

“We got in a bad spot since we broke off with the US and sided with the Chinese,” another said.

One Reddit user, meanwhile, commended the five-member group for their efforts in raising awareness.

“In all seriousness though, a good effort to raise awareness on the significance of the Murillo-Velarde Map,” the user said.

SB19, who falls under the Pinoy pop or P-pop genre of Filipino music, explained in a statement that their latest track is about self-love and empowerment.

“‘What?’ is about self-love and empowerment. Each of us has our own flag. We should be proud of it and raise it as much as we can. As SB19 and as individuals, we know that we’re not the best at everything, but that shouldn’t stop us from what we want to achieve,” said lead vocalist Pablo.

The music video was directed by member Justin De Dios and the dance moves were choreographed by SB19 and Tank Bautista.

New SB19 music video on "raising our flag" features the Murillo-Velarde map which strengthened the Philippines' claim over the West Philippine Sea.



r/Philippines • bluegerry • 1y ago  
129 points • 16 comments

**LINK:**

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/03/16/21/philpost-launches-1734-murillo-velarde-map-stamp>

**PhilPost launches “1734 Murillo Velarde map” stamp****March 16, 2021**

A Philippine Postal Corporation employee shows a 200mm x 220mm stamp of the 1734 Murillo Velarde map – the first scientific map of the Philippine archipelago - at the PhilPost office in Lawton, Manila City on Tuesday. The 300-year old map was used in the Hague proceedings to establish the territorial integrity of the West Philippine Sea. The stamp, titled "Murillo Velarde 1734 map-Carta Hydrographica de las Yslas Filipinas, Manila 1734," is available at P150 each.



**manilastandard.net**

**LINK:**

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/349670/murillo-velarde-map-exalted-via-stamps>

**Murillo Velarde map exalted via stamps**

**March 17, 2021**

One does not need to be a stamp collector to appreciate the new postage stamp unveiled by the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost), which features the “Mother of All Philippine Maps.”

The first scientific map of the Philippines, the “Carta Hydro graphica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734,” also known as the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, was prepared by Spanish Jesuit cartographer Father Pedro Murillo Velarde together with two Filipinos, engraver Francisco Suarez and artist Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay. It was acquired by Mel Velasco Velarde, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the NOW Group, through a Sotheby’s auction in London in 2014. Velarde donated the map to the Philippine government through a deed of donation.

Now, citizens can get their hands on this significant artifact in the form of a stamp.

On March 16, PHLPost honored Philippine history and heritage through the launch of the stamp featuring the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map. It was held at the Philippine Postal Corporation Building in Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Norman N. Fulgencio, Postmaster General and CEO of PHLPost, expressed his appreciation to the Velarde family. “We are honored to be given by the Velarde family the opportunity to issue this souvenir sheet,” he said, as the launch of the stamp was organized in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Philippines’ role in the first circumnavigation of the world.

In his message during the ceremony, Velarde thanked PHLPost for bringing the map closer to the Filipino people. He added, “Today, PHLPost is telling the world that we are one nation deserving of our self-worth and respect, for we are evolving as cultural leaders of this blossoming single global humanity of man.” The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map stamp was presented to the Velarde family during the ceremony. Accepting the plaque were Mel, Vivian, and their 3-month-old baby, Victor Chiscien S. Velarde. The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map shows the entire Philippine archipelago.

It is flanked by two pasted-on side-panels with 12 engravings—intricate illustrations of the early Filipino people and their way of life during the 18th century. The map was cited as evidence in the maritime case at the UN Arbitral Tribunal under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It may be used as a visual representation of the country’s sovereign territorial rights.



**SunStar / TACLOBAN****LINK:**

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1889406/tacloban/local-news/phlpost-launches-murillo-velarde-1734-map-postage-stamps>

**PHLPost launches 'Murillo Velarde 1734 Map' Postage stamps****March 20, 2021**

THE Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) launched the "Murillo Velarde circa 1734 Map," regarded as the "Mother of All Philippine Maps," in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Philippines and its role on the first circumnavigation of the world by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and the victory of Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan.

"The launching of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map postage stamps is symbolic and historic for the country," newly appointed Postmaster General Norman Fulgencio said. Believed to be the "holy grail" of Philippine cartography, the 1734 Murillo Velarde map shows the entire Philippine archipelago in such detail that it is regarded as the first ever scientific map of the Philippines.

The map was named after the Spanish Jesuit friar Pedro Murillo Velarde who vividly described the detailed territory of our country nearly 300 years ago.

"The postage stamp hopes to rekindle the sense of patriotism among our young people, develop their geographic awareness leading to a better understanding of our history and culture," PHLPost said in a statement. The stamps released is in support of Republic Act 10086, otherwise known as the "Strengthening People's Nationalism through Philippine History Act," and pursuant to Executive Order 55 signed by Duterte in 2018 creating the National Quincentennial Commission (NQC), which is in charge of all the events and activities celebrating the "500 years of Victory and Humanity of the Filipinos."

Special limited copies of the Souvenir Sheet featuring the "Murillo Velarde 1734 Map" were also launched. Each stamps feature the images depicting a capsule of history of the Philippines during the later part of the 17th century.

The stamp is the largest souvenir sheet, produced so far by the Philippine Postal Corporation. The size of the material is: 200 mm x 220 mm. with 12 stamps on both sides, each stamp with a corresponding denomination. It is printed using offset lithography, with special perforation and Intaglio as embellishments.

The commemorative stamps are now available at the Philatelic Counter, Manila Central Post Office, all Mega Manila Post Offices, Postal Area 2, San Fernando, La Union, Postal Area 4, San Pablo, Postal Area 5, Mandaue, Postal Area 6, Iloilo, Postal Area 7, Davao, and Postal Area 8, Cagayan De Oro.



MANILA. President Rodrigo Duterte is being presented with a commemorative frame of the historic “Murillo Velarde Map Circa 1734” Commemorative Stamps by Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) Postmaster General Norman Fulgencio during the 500th Anniversary of the Philippine Part in the First Circumnavigation of the World held at the Veterans Park Calicoan Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. (PR)



**Basic human right**

March 21, 2021

**Mother of Phil maps**

The Philippine Postal Corp. (PHLPost) has unveiled a new stamp featuring the "Mother of all Philippine Maps."

The first scientific map of the Philippines, the Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas Manila 1734, also known as the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map was prepared by Spanish Jesuit cartographer Father Pedro Murillo Velarde, together with two Filipinos, engraver Francisco Suarez and artist Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay.

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PHLPost postmaster general and CEO Norman Fulgencio thanked the Velarde family for the opportunity to issue the souvenir sheet. He said the launch of the stamp was organized in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Philippines' role in the first circumnavigation of the world.

In his message during the ceremony, Velarde thanked PHLPost for bringing the map closer to the Filipino people and said that PHLPost is telling the world that "we are one nation deserving of our self-worth and respect, for we are evolving as cultural leaders of this blossoming single global community of man."

The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map stamp was presented to the Velarde family during the ceremony. Accepting the plaque were Velarde, Vivian Salinas, and their three-month-old baby, Victor Chrisdien Velarde.



**Basic human right**

Progress is needed to adequate and decent housing. In fact, the right to adequate housing is one of the rights that every person has under international human rights law, which specifically the International Human Rights. It is considered one of the most basic human needs. The basic right to the highest human right is the right to adequate housing. The world has not yet achieved the goal of providing adequate housing for all 100 million people living in conditions classified as homelessness.

The UNHCR stated that housing is a complex issue which poses legal challenges that are not only the right to environmental hygiene and the right to the highest standards of mental and physical health.

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSU) Secretary Ricardo del Rosario had previously stated that the housing need in 2017 is about 8 million units, and if nothing is done by 2040, it will be about 22 million units. To close the gap of 8.5 million units from 2017 to 2040, the government needs to build 296,000 houses per year. Unfortunately, the housing sector can only build 211,000 to 230,000 units annually between 2016 and 2018.

Meanwhile, Build Change country director for the Philippines Justin Bantaoang said that in the Philippines, 30 million people live in substandard housing and this is projected to grow to 43 million people by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again brought the spotlight to the importance of adequate housing. As pointed out by Bantaoang, if you are one of the 12 million people who live in substandard housing, you are at a high risk of becoming infected with COVID-19. A daily wage income threatened by changing economic due to the pandemic, how will this impact your capacity to shelter safely in your home?

It is good that our House Development Minister Ferdinand Piñoy (Pug-2012 Party) has made it a goal for his proposed version of society to work of itself under its housing program. Unfortunately, members have been complaining that their local applications are being accepted by various requirements, especially, the need to submit a certificate of employment (COE) and pay slip issued by their respective employers.

Secretary Del Rosario and Piñoy's third president Arnold Buisson, who recently stated that the proposed COE for substandard housing being applicable could be solved in terms of a proof of income and credit from financial institutions or banks as a condition of the borrower's capacity to pay.

More housing investments and construction, more credit and loans for substandard housing in the urban sector. According to his estimate, every P10-billion worth of housing credit contributes around P10 billion of economic activity for the country.

**Mother of Phil maps**  
The Philippine Postal Corp. (PHLPost) has unveiled a new stamp featuring the "Mother of all Philippine Maps."

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Last March 16, PHLPost honored Philippine history and heritage through the launch of the stamp featuring the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map.

PHLPost postmaster general and CEO Norman Fulgencio thanked the Velarde family for the opportunity to issue the souvenir sheet. He said the launch of the stamp was organized in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Philippines' role in the first circumnavigation of the world.

In his message during the ceremony, Velarde thanked PHLPost for bringing the map closer to the Filipino people and said that PHLPost is telling the world that "we are one nation deserving of our self-worth and respect, for we are evolving as cultural leaders of this blossoming single global community of man."

The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map stamp was presented to the Velarde family during the ceremony. Accepting the plaque were Velarde, Vivian Salinas, and their three-month-old baby, Victor Chrisdien Velarde.





# BusinessMirror

**LINK:**

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/21/phlpost-launches-murillo-velarde-1734-map-postage-stamps/>

**PHLPost launches 'Murillo Velarde 1734 Map' postage stamps**

**March 21, 2021**

Newly appointed Postmaster General a.k.a. "Postman" Norman N. Fulgencio and businessman Mel Velarde formally launched the "Murillo Velarde 1734 Map", regarded as the "Mother of All Philippine Maps" which was held at the historic Manila Central Post Office Building in Liwasang Bonifacio.

The launching of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map postage stamps is symbolic and historic for the country. The commemorative stamp event is included in the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Philippines' and its role on the first circumnavigation of the world by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and the victory of Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan", Postman Norman Fulgencio said.

Believed to be the "holy grail" of Philippine cartography, the 1734 Murillo Velarde map shows the entire Philippine archipelago in such detail that it is regarded as the first ever scientific map of the Philippines. The map was named after the Spanish Jesuit friar Pedro Murillo Velarde who vividly described the detailed territory of our country nearly 300 years ago.

"The postage stamp hopes to rekindle the sense of patriotism among our young people, develop their geographic awareness leading to a better understanding of our history and culture", PHLPost said in a statement.

The stamps released is in support of Republic Act no. 10086, otherwise known as the "Strengthening People's Nationalism through Philippine History Act", and pursuant to Executive Order no. 55 signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in 2018 creating the National Quincentennial Commission (NQC) in charge of all the events and activities celebrating the "500 years of Victory and Humanity of the Filipinos".

A special limited copies of the Souvenir Sheet featuring the "Murillo Velarde 1734 Map" was also launched.

Each stamps feature the images depicting a capsule of history of the Philippines during the later part of the 17th century.

According to PHLPost, the stamps have become an integral part in recording the history and rich culture of our country.



The stamp is the largest souvenir sheet, produced so far by the Philippine Postal Corporation. The size of the material is: 200 mm x 220 mm. with 12 stamps on both sides, each stamp with a corresponding denomination. It is printed using offset lithography, with special perforation and Intaglio as embellishments.

The commemorative stamps are now available at the Philatelic Counter, Manila Central Post Office, all Mega Manila Post Offices, Postal Area 2, San Fernando, La Union, Postal Area 4, San Pablo, Postal Area 5, Mandaue, Postal Area 6, Iloilo, Postal Area 7, Davao, and Postal Area 8, Cagayan De Oro.



# The Manila Times®

LINK:

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/29/public-square/phlpost-launches-murillo-velarde-1734-map-postage-stamps/856720>

## PHLPost launches 'Murillo Velarde 1734 Map' postage stamps

March 29, 2021

The Philippine Postal Corporation has launched the "Murillo Velarde 1734 Map," regarded as the "Mother of All Philippine Maps" in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christianization of the Philippines and its role on the first circumnavigation of the world by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and the victory of Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is presented with a commemorative frame of the historic 'Murillo Velarde Map 1734' commemorative stamps by Philippine Postal Corp. Postmaster General Norman Fulgencio during the 500th anniversary of the Philippine Part in the First Circumnavigation of the World held at the Veterans Park Calicoan Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. Witnessing the historic event is Sen. Christopher Lawrence 'Bong' Go.

**LINK:**

<https://uap.asia/news/replica-of-1734-murillo-velarde-map-donated-to-uap>

**Replica of 1734 Murillo Velarde map donated to UA&P**

**April 25, 2021**

The University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) received a copy of what historians regard as “mother of all Philippine maps.”

Mr. Mel Velasco Velarde, President and CEO of NOW Corporation and alumnus of the Master in Business Economics Program of UA&P, turned over a replica of the wall map to UA&P President Dr. Winston Conrad Padojinog on April 25.

Carta Hydrographica Y Chorographica De Las Yslas Filipinas, first published in Manila in 1734, was made by the Spanish Jesuit Friar Pedro Murillo Velarde together with two Filipinos – Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who engraved it.

This large-format map (1120mm x 1200mm) is the first scientific map of the entire Philippine archipelago. It shows the archipelago flanked by two pasted-on-side panels, each containing six vignettes depicting scenes of people and places in the country. Among the features in the archipelago is a tiny island labeled “Panacot,” which was later named Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal. Also shown as part of the Philippines are the rocks and islands of Spratlys, labeled on the map as “Los Bajos de Paragua.” The map was one of the 80 heirlooms owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, that were auctioned by Sotheby’s London on November 4, 2014. Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio got wind of the auction of the map and shared this information to various public and private museums and individuals, including Velarde, who is also an educator and a technology entrepreneur. Velarde participated in the bid and won.

The 1734 Murillo Velarde map was one of the 270 ancient maps cited at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) hearings in The Hague in the Netherlands when the Philippines contested China’s claims over the West Philippine Sea. In 2016, the PCA tribunal declared that China’s claims were invalid.

Velarde believes that the ownership of the map is every Filipino’s birth right. He donated the map to the Philippine government. He now raises public awareness on the map and its significance to our cultural and historical heritage by donating replicas of the map to government agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations.

**LINK:**

<https://usa.inquirer.net/70298/crucial-in-any-west-ph-sea-debate-is-the-1734-murillo-velarde-map>

**Crucial in any West PH Sea debate is the 1734 Murillo Velarde map****May 7, 2021**

“Formal debate!” That’s the President’s positive response after retired Supreme Court associate justice Antonio Carpio accepted his daring challenge to a legal examination and deliberation of the West Philippine Sea issues. (UPDATE: Duterte has backed out of his debate challenge.) Earlier, Duterte, in his usual self, called Carpio stupid, “ugok” (daft) for advocating a ruling from the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague in the Netherlands, which Duterte said was “just paper.”

One inescapable, even essential, material to consider in any debate is the Velarde Map, particularly when the question is asked: What is the scope of Philippine territory? To answer, there’s no other way but to go back to an ancient map, which is often mentioned among cartographers as the “Mother of all Philippine Maps.” For international historians, the 1734 Murillo-Velarde map is the “holy grail” of Philippine cartography for it is the “first ever and the most important scientific map of the Philippines” (World Digital Library).

To go back in time, in 1732, Felipe V of Spain sent his royal instruction to Governor-General Fernando Valdes Tamon to construct a workable map of the territory of Las Islas Filipinas, then under the Spanish crown. Gov-Gen. Tamon commissioned, of all people, the Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde, with two artists assisting him: Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay the engraver and Francisco Suarez the illustrator. At the end, they completed in 1743 the Murillo Velarde map, originally engraved in eight copper plates and had on its sides a total 12 vignettes depicting the Philippine territory and the people of varied ethnicities, the flora, and fauna found in the country during that period.

Why commission a Jesuit to accomplish the royal instruction? Because Murillo Velarde was a renowned historian and cartographer in his time. Moreover, Jesuits have been known since the foundation of the Society of Jesus in 1540 as foremost scientists who bent the arch of knowledge towards human progress.

Jesuit Georg Joseph Kamel (1661-1706) the botanist established a pharmacy in Manila, the first one in the Philippines, which supplied poor people with herbal remedies for free. His efforts were recognized by UNESCO in 2006, some 300 years after his death. Many lunar craters are named after a hundred Jesuit astronomers, such as Jacques de Billy, SJ (1602–1679), Paolo Casati, SJ (1617–1707), Laurent Cassegrain, SJ (1629–1693), Albert Curtz, SJ (1600–1671), et cetera.



Not only the Jesuits, but also other intellectual giants in Europe of olden times, university founders in the Americas, and an ensemble of scientists were ordained Catholic clergy, who blazed new trails for humanity and contributed so much to universal advancement in the fields of arts, science, and technology in addition to their usual tasks of mission and evangelization.

So why is the Jesuit's map important in any debate over the conflicting maritime claims, if ever? First, Duterte would have had to face Carpio, who was part of the team that successfully argued before the PCA at The Hague the Philippines' claim on the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea). Second, Carpio used the 1734 Murillo Velarde map in his masterful presentation of historical and legal arguments, which invalidates China's Nine-Dash Line and unfounded claims of ownership of the South China Sea for over "2,000 years."

The Jesuit's map implicates two significant truths: One, China never controlled the West Philippine Sea at any time in history. And two, included in the ancient Murillo Velarde map are the Panacot shoal (Scarborough Shoal), Bajo de Masinloc, and the Los Bajos de Paragua or the Spratlys, vital inclusions that fortified the Philippine position against China's claim.

Finally, on July 12, 2016, the PCA at the Hague issued an award, a historic award, in the West Philippine Sea case (PH vs. China), unanimously rejecting China's sovereignty and historic rights within the so-called imaginary Nine-Dash Line over the disputed sea. It also upheld the Philippines' exclusive rights over the Scarborough Shoal and Bajo de Masinloc, which are found within the Philippines' 330-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the source of livelihood of our fishermen in the region.

Naturally, China rejected such an award.

Unnaturally, the Filipino president called the award "just paper" and, on nearly all occasions, has capitulated to China's aggressive incursions into our sovereign territory since 2016, saying "I cannot do anything; I am inutile."

Jose Mario Bautista Maximiano ([facebook.com/josemario.maximiano](https://facebook.com/josemario.maximiano)) is the author of *THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES* and the *Social Doctrine of the Church: An Epistemology* (Salesiana, 1991) and *MCMLXXII: 500-Taong Kristiyano. Volume Two* (Claretian, 2021)



1734 Map of the Philippines

**LINK:**

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/141037/the-1734-murillo-velarde-map>

**The 1734 Murillo Velarde Map****June 10, 2021**

Although China refused to participate in the South China Sea Arbitration at The Hague, China submitted to the arbitral tribunal a Position Paper. China stated in its Position Paper that Philippine territory is governed by three international treaties, one of which is the little known 1900 Treaty of Washington.

In recognizing and accepting that three treaties define and delineate Philippine territory, China's Position Paper quoted verbatim Article 1 of the 1935 Philippine Constitution: "The Philippines comprises all the territory ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris concluded between the United States and Spain on the tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, the limits which are set forth in Article III of said treaty, together with all the islands embraced in the treaty concluded at Washington between the United States and Spain on the seventh day of November, nineteen hundred, and the treaty concluded between the United States and Great Britain on the second day of January, nineteen hundred and thirty, and all territory over which the present Government of the Philippine Islands exercises jurisdiction."

The purpose of China's Position Paper was to show that Philippine territory is limited to the islands enclosed by the polygonal lines drawn in the 1898 Treaty of Paris. The Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal are clearly outside the western side of the polygonal lines of the Treaty of Paris. China's Position Paper concludes, "[T]he territory of the Philippines was confined to the Philippine Islands, having nothing to do with any of China's maritime features in the South China Sea." Under its nine-dash line, China claims as its territory the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal. The Chinese, however, failed to read carefully the text of the Treaty of Washington.

When the Americans surveyed the Philippine Islands after signing the Treaty of Paris, they found out that there were many islands belonging to the Philippine archipelago lying outside the polygonal lines of the Treaty of Paris. Some islands in the Batanes, Scarborough Shoal, "Los Bajos de Paragua" or the Spratly Islands, and other islands were outside the lines of the Treaty of Paris. The Americans asked the Spaniards to sign another treaty clarifying that the cession in the Treaty of Paris included all other islands belonging to the Philippine archipelago even if lying outside the lines of the Treaty of Paris. The Spaniards refused to sign a clarificatory treaty.

The Spaniards, however, relented after the Americans offered to pay an additional US\$100,000 on top of the US\$20 million that the Americans paid the Spaniards for the Treaty of Paris. Thus, the Treaty of Washington was signed, wherein Spain clarified: “Spain relinquishes to the United States all title and claim of title, which she may have had at the time of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace of Paris, to any and all islands belonging to the Philippine Archipelago, lying outside the lines described in Article III of that Treaty xxx and agrees that all such islands shall be comprehended in the cession of the Archipelago as fully as if they had been expressly included within those lines.”

Clearly, under the Treaty of Washington, Spain ceded to the US “all title and claim of title xxx to any and all islands belonging to the Philippine Archipelago, lying outside the lines” of the Treaty of Paris. What are those islands belonging to the Philippine archipelago lying outside the lines of the Treaty of Paris? The frame of reference could only be the 1734 Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Islas Filipinas map made by Father Pedro Murillo Velarde, which was the only official map of Philippine territory during the Spanish colonial regime. The 1734 map clearly shows that the Spratly Islands, named Los Bajos de Paragua in the map, as well as Scarborough Shoal, named Panacot in the map, were part of “las Islas Filipinas” constituting the Philippine archipelago during the Spanish regime.

Having recognized and accepted the Treaty of Washington, China is legally bound by its provision that Spain ceded to the US “all islands belonging to the Philippine Archipelago, lying outside the lines” of the Treaty of Paris. And the best evidence of what those outlying islands are is the 1734 map of Father Pedro Murillo Velarde.





LINK:

<https://www.panaynews.net/the-1734-murillo-velarde-map/>

### **The 1734 Murillo Velarde Map**

**June 14, 2021**

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Having recognized and accepted the Treaty of Washington, China is legally bound by its provision that Spain ceded to the US “all islands belonging to the Philippine Archipelago, lying outside the lines” of the Treaty of Paris. And the best evidence of what those outlying islands are is the 1734 map of Father Pedro Murillo Velarde. (©Philippine Daily Inquirer 2021)

LINK:

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/content/809530/how-did-the-1734-murillo-velarde-map-the-oldest-one-in-the-philippines-get-its-name/story/>

**How did the 1734 Murillo Velarde map, the oldest one in the Philippines, get its name?**

**November 3, 2021**

The 1734 Murillo Velarde map is known as the oldest map in the Philippines, but do you know how it got its name?

On Wednesday's "24 Oras," Kuya Kim said the map was named after Jesuit friar Padre Pedro Murillo Velarde. As reported on #KuyaKimAnoNa, the 1734 Murillo Velarde map was also called the Carta Hydrographica Y Chorographica De Las Yslas Filipinas Manila.

It was the first scientific map that showed the Philippines' territory as well as the Filipinos' way of living then.

In 2016, the map proved to be instrumental in the Philippines' win against China in the arbitration court over the territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea.

The map showed that Panatag Shoal or Scarborough Shoal was part of the Philippines.

It was donated to the government after it was bought by businessman Mel Velarde for P12 million.

Meanwhile, the biggest map of the Philippines can be found at the New Luneta Park.

Measuring 5,900 square feet, the 3D relief map was built in 1967 by the National Parks and Development Committee and took nine months to finish. – **Franchesca Viernes/RC, GMA News**





**LINK:**

[https://www.xs.edu.ph/index.php/murillo-velarde-1734-map-replica-turnover-ceremony/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=murillo-velarde-1734-map-replica-turnover-ceremony](https://www.xs.edu.ph/index.php/murillo-velarde-1734-map-replica-turnover-ceremony/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=murillo-velarde-1734-map-replica-turnover-ceremony)

**Murillo-Velarde 1734 Map Replica Turnover Ceremony****November 25, 2021**

On November 18, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., the Murillo-Velarde 1734 Map Replica Turnover Ceremony was held at the Angelo King Multi-Purpose Center, attended by Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) representatives and Xavier School administrators. This is the first formal onsite event for the two institutions after the second lockdown.

The turnover event was made possible through the generosity of Mr. Mel V. Velarde, a true Patriot, Chairman of Now Corporation, CEO of NOW Telecom Company Inc., and Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication and Velarde Inc.

According to the AIJP website, the map is what historians regard as the “mother of all Philippine maps.”

The map was one of the 80 heirlooms owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, that were auctioned by Sotheby’s London on November 4, 2014. Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio got wind of the auction of the map and shared this information to various public and private museums and individuals, including Velarde, who is also an educator and a technology entrepreneur. Velarde participated in the bid and won.

The 1734 Murillo Velarde map was one of the 270 ancient maps cited at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) hearings in The Hague in the Netherlands when the Philippines contested China’s claims over the West Philippine Sea. In 2016, the PCA tribunal declared that China’s claims were invalid.

Velarde believes that the ownership of the map is every Filipino’s birth right. He donated the map to the Philippine government. He now raises public awareness on the map and its significance to our cultural and historical heritage by donating replicas of the map to government agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations.

More information about the map may be seen on the Murillo Velarde Map website.

Fr. Aristotle C. Dy, SJ, School President, delivered his message of gratitude to Mr. Mel Velarde and his

team, emphasizing the relevance of the map to Xavier School's context as a Chinese-Filipino educational institution.

The map replica is currently displayed in the High School Learning Resource Center of the Xavier School San Juan campus.



LINK: <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/10089/>

### A Hydrographical and Chorographical Chart of the Philippine Islands

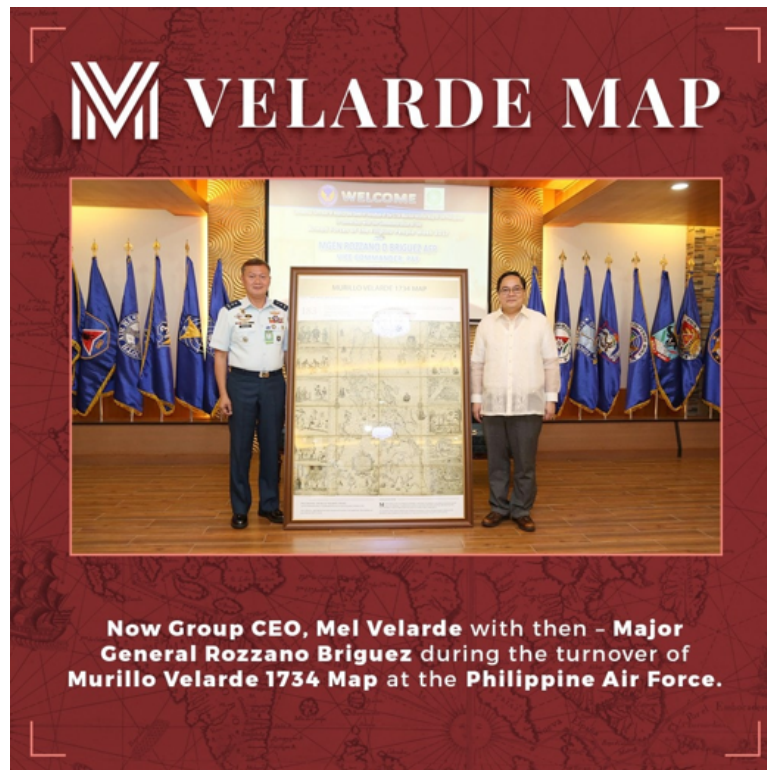


This magnificent map of the Philippine archipelago, drawn by the Jesuit Father Pedro Murillo Velarde (1696–1753) and published in Manila in 1734, is the first and most important scientific map of the Philippines. The Philippines were at that time a vital part of the Spanish Empire, and the map shows the maritime routes from Manila to Spain and to New Spain (Mexico and other Spanish territory in the New World), with captions. In the upper margin stands a great cartouche with the title of the map, crowned by the Spanish royal coat of arms flanked each side by an angel with a trumpet, from which an inscription unfurls. The map is not only of great interest from the geographic point of view, but also as an ethnographic document. It is flanked by twelve engravings, six on each side, eight of which depict different ethnic groups living in the archipelago and four of which are cartographic descriptions of particular cities or islands.

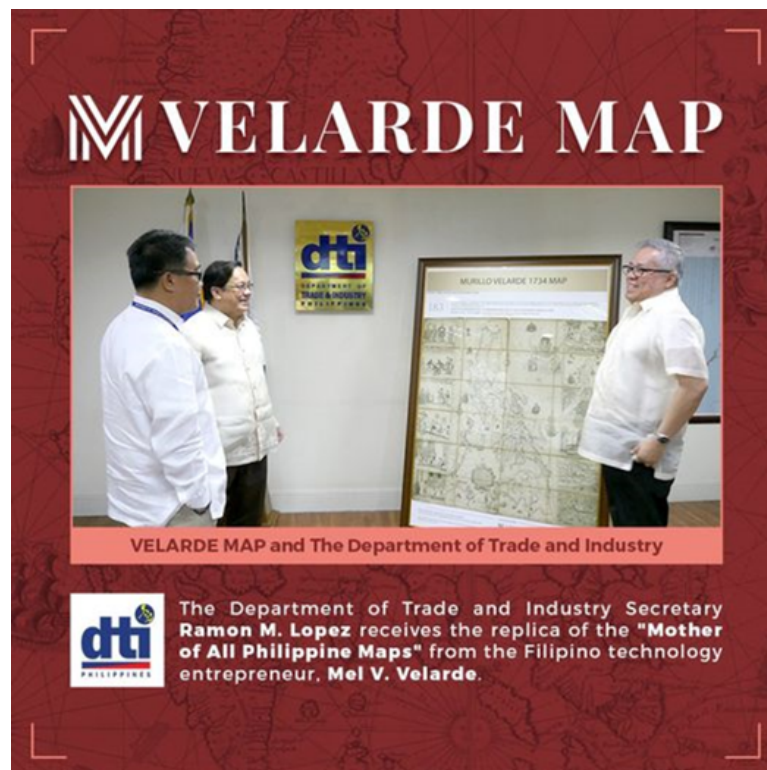
According to the labels, the engravings on the left show: Sangleyes (Chinese Philipinos) or Chinese; Kaffirs (a derogatory term for non-Muslims), a Camarin (from the Manila area), and a Lascar (from the Indian subcontinent, a British Raj term); mestizos, a Mardica (of Portuguese extraction), and a Japanese; and two local maps—one of Samboagan (a city on Mindanao), and the other of the port of Cavite. On the right side are: various people in typical dress; three men seated, an Armenian, a Mughal, and a Malabar (from an Indian textile city); an urban scene with various peoples; a rural scene with representations of domestic and wild animals; a map of the island of Guajan (meaning Guam); and a map of Manila.



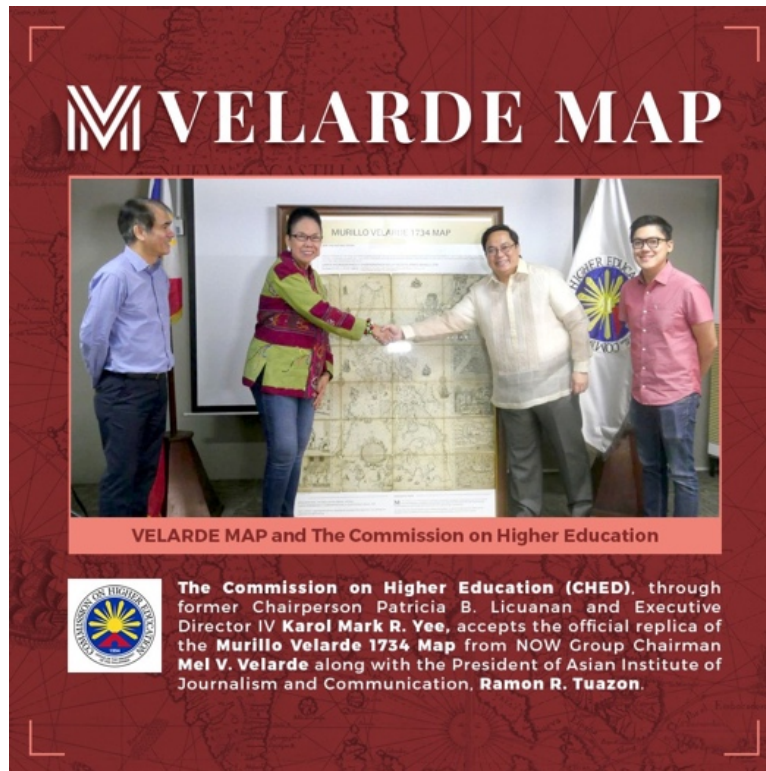
Snapshots from Murillo Velarde 1734 Map Replica Turnover Activities



Philippine Air Force  
Date of turnover: August 25, 2017



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)  
Date of turnover: December 20, 2017



Commission on Higher Education (CHED)  
Date of turnover: December 22, 2017

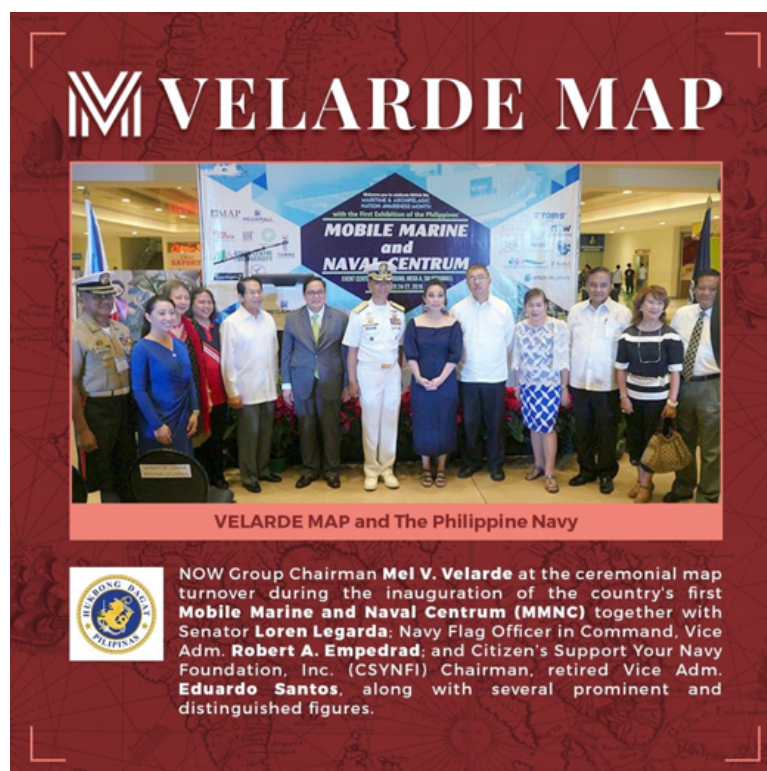


British Embassy Manila  
Date of turnover: February 22, 2018





Embassy of India-Manila  
Date of turnover: May 9, 2018



Mobile Marine and Naval Centrum (MMNC)  
Date of turnover: September 25, 2018



Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)  
Date of turnover: January 23, 2019



Philippine Stock Exchange  
Date of turnover: January 31, 2019





The Consulate of Spain-Manila  
Date of turnover: February 21, 2019



UnionBank of the Philippines  
Date of turnover: May 11, 2019

**VELARDE MAP**




**National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) Map Turnover**




NOW Group Chairman and technology entrepreneur **Mel V. Velarde** awarded an official replica of "The Mother of All Philippine Maps" to NAMRIA through **Usec. Peter N. Tiangco, PhD** together with NAMRIA Deputy Administrators **Jose C. Cabanayan Jr.** and **Efren P. Carandang**, Chief of Staff **Rowena E. Bongalos**, Branch Director **Ruel DM. Belen** of the Mapping and Geodesy Branch (MGB), and other NAMRIA officials and employees.

National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)  
Date of turnover: October 3, 2019

**VELARDE MAP**



**VELARDE MAP and National Defense College of the Philippines**



Filipino businessman and NOW Group Chairman **Mel V. Velarde** with the President of National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), retired Brigadier General **Archimedes H. Viaje** during the signing of **Deed of Donation** at the **Ceremonial Turnover of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map** to the NDCP.

National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP)  
Date of turnover: January 20, 2020





Australian Embassy Manila  
Date of turnover: December 29, 2020



Embassy of Canada in the Philippines  
Date of turnover: August 9, 2022

## VELARDE MAP



THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND THE MURILLO VELARDE 1734 MAP

**Mel Velasco Velarde**, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the NOW Group, donated two replicas of the **Murillo Velarde 1734 Map** to the **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)** on February 13, 2023. The maps will be housed at the Office of the Commandant, **Adm. Artemio M. Abu**, and the Coast Guard Strategic Studies and International Affairs Center (CGSSIAC), headed by **RAdm. Rudyard M. Somera, CESE**.

The turnover of the map replicas was held at an opportune time, after a Philippine Coast Guard vessel's mission was reportedly disrupted by a Chinese Coast Guard vessel using a "military-grade laser light" on February 6. At the ceremony, **Mr. Velarde led the Pledge to Protect the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map and Its Ideals**, emphasizing the map's significance as proof of the country's sovereign territorial rights and as an "instrument for global peace that ensures freedom of navigation and human rights for food and marine security."

**In the photo (from L to R):**

**RAdm. Somera, Adm. Abu, Chairman Velarde, and Dr. Corazon PB. Claudio**, Member of the AIJC Board of Directors and Board of Trustees

Philippine Coast Guard  
Date of turnover: February 13, 2023

## VELARDE MAP



An official replica of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, the "Mother of All Philippine Maps," finds a home in Bahay Tsinoy, the museum of the Chinese in Philippine life.

AIJC and NOW Group Chairman Mel V. Velarde donated the replica through Kaisa Heritage Foundation, Inc. (KHF).

In the photo (L to R): Mr. Philip Huang, guest of Mr. Velarde; Mr. Reynard Hing, Executive Vice President, KPSK; Mr. Velarde; Ms. Teresita Ang See, Executive Trustee, KHF; Ambassador Jose Ma. Cariño; and Mr. Michael Guzman, President, KPSK

Bahay Tsinoy/Kaisa Heritage Foundation, Inc.  
Date of turnover: June 13, 2023



## VELARDE MAP



The Philippine Embassy in Santiago, Chile, received an official replica of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, the “Mother of All Philippine Maps,” on July 12, 2023—the seventh anniversary of the Philippines’ victory at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The Embassy notes that the map serves as a reminder of the shared Hispanic heritage between the Philippines and its South American counterparts.

AJJC and NOW Group Chairman Mel V. Velarde turned over the map replica to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Celeste Vinzon-Balatbat. Mr. Velarde expressed his gratitude to those who stand in solidarity with the country in upholding the landmark ruling.

**Philippine Embassy in Santiago, Chile**  
Date of turnover: July 12, 2023

## VELARDE MAP



To commemorate the seventh year since the Philippines won its arbitration case over the West Philippine Sea, the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon will be displaying a replica of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, the “Mother of All Philippine Maps,” in its showroom at the Embassy’s new Chancery in Beirut. This is one of the pieces of evidence the country presented at The Hague.

AJJC and NOW Group Chairman Mel V. Velarde turned over the map replica to Vice Consul Glaiza M. Quarteros in Mandaluyong City on August 11, 2023.

**Philippine Embassy in Lebanon**  
Date of turnover: August 11, 2023

## VELARDE MAP



An official replica of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map was donated to the Austrian Embassy Manila by Chairman Mel Velasco Velarde of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the NOW Group.

The Austrian Embassy is among the Embassies of the EU Member States to the Philippines that expressed its support for the peaceful resolution of disputes and the upholding of international law in the 2023 "Local EU Statement on the Anniversary of the Award rendered in the Arbitration between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China on the South China Sea."

Chairman Velarde and Ambassador Johann Brieger signed the Deed of Donation and Acceptance at the map turnover ceremony, which took place at the Austrian Embassy in the City of Taguig on July 15, 2024.

**Austrian Embassy Manila**  
**Date of turnover: July 15, 2024**



**Chairman Mel V. Velarde at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum  
Tokyo, Japan  
January 12, 2023**



At the 5th Annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Tokyo, Japan, on January 12, 2023, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) Director Enoch T. Ebong and NOW Telecom Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mel Velasco Velarde signed a Letter of Intent to memorialize the Parties' intent to work together in support of NOW Telecom's deployment of a nationwide stand-alone 5G mobile and fixed wireless network in the Philippines. Present during the signing were Gaurav Korde, Regional Partner, Bell Labs Consulting APJ; Guillaume Mascot, Head of Government Affairs APJ Nokia; Verinda Fike, USTDA Regional Director, Indo-Pacific; Atty. Ferdinand Michael Marcos Manotoc, NOW Legal Counsel and Managing Partner of Marcos Law; Francis Xavier L. Manglapus, NOW Corp Vice-Chairman; Engr. Rene L. Rosales, NOW Telecom President and COO; and Kristian Noel A. Pura, NOW Telecom Director.



Chairman Velarde presented USTDA Director Ebong a commemorative stamp of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map and "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," a book by Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio.



During the Indo-Pacific Business Forum, Chairman Velarde and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) Chairman of the Board Tadashi Maeda discussed JBIC's cooperation in the Philippine telecommunications sector.

**AIJC Chairman Mel V. Velarde presents Ambassador MaryKay Carlson with the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map Commemorative Stamp during the U.S.-PH Strategic Bilateral Dialogue, January 21, 2023**



The 1734 Murillo Velarde Map holds significant historical and geopolitical importance for both the Philippines and the United States. As a close ally in the Indo-Pacific region, the Philippines plays a crucial role in maintaining regional stability and security. The map, created by the Filipino scholar and cartographer Pedro Murillo Velarde, showcases the rich cultural heritage and maritime history of the Philippines.

For the United States, the map serves as a reminder of the historical ties that bind the two nations together. The Philippines and the US have shared a long-standing alliance marked by mutual cooperation, military partnership, and cultural exchange. This commemorative stamp not only honors the historical significance of the Murillo Velarde Map but also highlights the shared values and strategic cooperation between the two nations.

As the Ambassador of the US to the Philippines, Her Excellency MaryKay Carlson receives the stamp, symbolizing the enduring friendship between the two countries and their joint commitment to promoting peace, prosperity, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.



**Bell Labs Consulting and NOW Telecom join forces in the presence of DICT Undersecretary for Connectivity and Free Wifi Angelo N. Nuestro, Connectivity and Assistant State Secretary for East Asian Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink, as they sign the Grant Agreement**



USTDA's support paves the way for NOW Telecom's trusted network to deploy advanced 5G technology, ensuring secure online experiences for Filipinos.

Assistant Secretary Daniel Kritenbrink emphasizes the significance, stating, 'Filipinos can and should be secure online. Securing against malicious cyber activities is difficult even in the best of times, but it is infinitely more difficult when the risk comes from the entity that built and may maintain access to a telecommunications network.'



**Celebrating Heritage and Partnership: AIJC and NOW Chairman present official replica of the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map to Undersecretary Marisa Lagos at Select USA Investment Summit, May 1-4, 2023**



NOW Group, led by Chairman Mel Velarde and Managing Director Kristian Pura, underscores the significance of a free and open Indo Pacific as a catalyst for fostering economic growth and stability in the region.

The presentation symbolizes the strong partnership between AIJC, NOW Group, and the government, highlighting shared commitment to heritage preservation, international trade, and collaborative opportunities.



**Turnover of the Official Replica of the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map to USAID Headquarters in Washington D.C. USAID is represented by its Assistant Administrator Michael Schiffer**



USAID plays a crucial role in promoting connectivity and advancing the OPEN Ran (Radio Access Network) project in the Philippines. As part of its efforts to support the country's digital transformation, USAID actively collaborates with the government and private sector to enhance connectivity and bridge the digital divide.



## US Vice President Kamala Harris on Partnership with NOW Telecom

In a fact sheet released by the White House in November 2022, United States Vice President Kamala Harris announced the United States' intention to partner with NOW Telecom in the Philippines through the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).

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### FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches New Initiatives to Strengthen U.S.-Philippines Alliance

November 20, 2022

#### Excerpt

##### UPSKILLING AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

**Expanding Access to Reliable and Secure 5G Networks:** The United States, through USTDA, intends to partner with Philippine telecom operator **NOW Telecom** for the deployment of 5G technologies in the Philippines. These efforts will provide faster and more reliable digital services and increased broadband internet access for Filipinos countrywide.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/20/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-new-initiatives-to-strengthen-u-s-philippines-alliance/>

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In December 2022, NOW Telecom announced that it secured grant funding from USTDA for technical assistance (TA) in developing “wireless telephony network for the Philippines using 5G technology.”

The TA includes three main components: the design of a national 5G wireless network, the design and planning of a nationwide broadband network, and the design and implementation of a pilot 5G network in Metro Manila.

The TA will be undertaken by Bell Labs Consulting, represented by Nokia of America Corporation as the prime contractor—a US-registered company engaged in research and scientific development in telecommunications.



**Message of Vice President and Secretary of the Department of Education Sara Z. Duterte  
on the Agreement Signing Ceremony Between the United States Trade and  
Development Agency (USTDA), Nokia Bell Labs, and NOW Telecom**




Assalamualaikum.

My warmest greetings to **Now Group Together and the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)** for the successful Signing of Agreement Ceremony between USTDA, Nokia Bell Labs, and NOW Telecom.

As part of the 10th U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialogue, let me thank you for collaborating with us in endeavors that foster the development of our communities and the improvement of public service delivery throughout the country.

I congratulate all the parties and stakeholders who have contributed to the success of this occasion. The signing of agreement on the grant of stand-alone 5G mobile and fixed wireless networks to our various local government units is a testament to our mutual cooperation and shared interests on strategic initiatives that promote our people's welfare.

**SARA Z. DUTERTE**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES  
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 20, 2023

f @Inday Sara Duterte    t @Indaysara    i @Indaysaraduterte




It is my hope that this ceremony will not only ensure affordable and improved digital connectivity but will also allow the effective implementation of programs in line with digitalization, particularly within our education institutions. I am confident that by enhancing broadband internet in our localities, especially in the remote areas, we can foster increased accessibility and affordability of relevant digital information and resources for the benefit of Filipinos living in rural areas.

Together, let us build more common avenues toward undertakings that champion innovation and sustainable growth.

Lahat – para sa Diyos, bayan, at pamilyang Pilipino.

Shukran.

**SARA Z. DUTERTE**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES  
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 20, 2023

f @Inday Sara Duterte    t @Indaysara    i @Indaysaraduterte



## Mapa Natin, Kwento Natin: SB19 Puts the Spotlight on Mother of All Philippine Maps

Honoring our roots and championing freedom and national pride are among the messages SB19 expresses through their art and music.

The locally and internationally acclaimed P-pop group received official replicas of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map in recognition of their advocacy for Philippine culture and heritage as National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Youth and Sentro Rizal Ambassadors, and for their contribution to raising awareness about the map.

Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and NOW Group Chairman Mel V. Velarde, who donated to the Philippine government the original Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, presented the map replicas to Pablo, Josh, Stell, Ken, and Justin in a historic turnover ceremony today, October 29, at the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), where the original map is now permanently displayed.

"SB19, you are more than just artists; you are modern-day navigators, charting a path for the future of P-pop," Velarde said in his speech. "This commemorative map, a testament to our history, symbolizes the courage to embark [on] new journeys—where Filipino pride, resilience, and ingenuity shine brightly for the world to see."

"Ang karangalang ito, ang paalaalang ito, at ang tungkuling ito ay hindi lang para po sa amin. Para ito sa bawat Pilipino, dito man sa Pilipinas o sa iba't iba pang panig ng mundo," said SB19 leader Pablo. "We promise to honor this responsibility, serving as a bridge between our rich history and the modern Filipino spirit."



Since the NLP's Permanent Gallery opened to the public in September 2024, the Velarde family and AIJC have been boosting initiatives under the national awareness and educational campaign on the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map while promoting NLP's Permanent Gallery.

The key message, "Mapa Natin, Kwento Natin" (Our Map, Our Story), emphasizes the importance of understanding our history and cultural heritage in shaping our national identity and protecting our rights and our territory. Through various events as well as training programs for teachers, AIJC aims to engage the public in appreciating the map's significance as a vital resource for education and cultural preservation.

In 2021, SB19 introduced the map to pop culture by featuring it in their music video for the song "What?" By accepting the official replicas of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, they allow the "Mother of All Philippine Maps" to share the spotlight with them and enhance awareness of its significance among A'TIN (fans of SB19), the entire Philippines, and the rest of their global audience.

"Mapa Natin, Kwento Natin" is more than a campaign; it is a call to every Filipino to embrace and celebrate the story of the nation—one that spans generations.



## Malacañan Palace: Turnover of the Original Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to the Republic of the Philippines



December 6, 2024 marked a momentous time in the nation's history with the official turnover of the original Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to the Republic of the Philippines by Mel Velasco Velarde, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the NOW Group of Companies.

He was joined by former Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio in the ceremony titled "The Sacred Rite: A Covenant of Repatriation and Custody of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map."

The original Murillo Velarde 1734 Map was received by His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and First Lady Marie Louise Araneta-Marcos at the Malacañan Palace.







Scan the QR code to view this YouTube video:



## A Covenant of Repatriation and Custody of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map

### MURILLO VELARDE 1734 MAP

**The Sacred Rite:  
A Covenant of Repatriation and Custody of the  
Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, officially known as  
"Carta Hydrographica y Chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas"**

In the name of our shared history and the indomitable spirit of the Filipino people,

**I, Mel Velasco Velarde, Ordinary Citizen and Loyal Servant of the Republic, humbly return to the Republic of the Philippines, a treasure of immeasurable significance—the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map.**

Commissioned by **King Philip V** in 1734, this map was created by Jesuit priest **Pedro Murillo Velarde** and brought to life through the unparalleled artistry of early Filipino artisans **Francisco Suarez** and **Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay**. More than a cartographic artifact, this map is a living testament to our identity, resilience, and determination to remain united as a nation.

Stolen in 1898 during the chaos of war, the map was lost to foreign hands for centuries—a silent witness to the long and arduous journey of Filipinos in our fight for independence and dignity. But history, though often delayed, finds its justice. In 2024, destiny called on the auction floor of Sotheby's in London, where I fought—not for myself, but for the Republic and its people—to reclaim this sacred relic.

Today, after nearly three centuries of exile, the **Velarde 1734 Map** comes home. It returns not merely as an artifact of the past but as a moral compass for our future—reminding us that we are a people who refuse to forget, who transform what once oppressed us into symbols of liberation and unity.

**Moral Truths Affirmed**

**I** am a spirit of solemn duty. I present to His Excellency, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the **Velarde 1734 Map** in its exceptional physical condition. This map is accompanied by a manifest born from the collective will, sacrifice, and triumphs of the Filipino people, affirming the following enduring, inseparable, and unshakable moral truths:

- 1. The Velarde 1734 Map, once a symbol of 300 years of colonization and a trophy of the First Global War, has been reclaimed and repatriated by the Filipino people. Through their unwavering love of country, this map has been transformed into a timeless emblem of Filipino resilience, sovereignty, and unity.**
- 2. The return of the Velarde 1734 Map restores not merely a relic of antiquity but a sacred fragment of the Filipino soul—an enduring symbol of our shared identity, a radiant beacon of moral courage, and a sublime testament to the indomitable spirit and resilience of our people.**
- 3. The Velarde 1734 Map now stands as a living legacy of liberty, inspiring generations of Filipinos and encouraging nations around the world to view their history not as burdens to bear but as moral foundations upon which to build their liberation and their future.**

**I** hereby consecrate this map to the care of the Republic and our people, entrusting it to the nation's guardianship as a perpetual symbol of our history and destiny. Let it inspire generations to honor our shared heritage and strive for a future rooted in justice and freedom.

*By this act, I entrust this map to the Republic and our people, under your guardianship, Mr. President, with a solemn plea: to preserve the shining example of the Filipino people to the world. In transforming this colonial map into a moral weapon, we exemplify that the shackles of colonization can be broken—not just for ourselves but as a beacon of hope for the hundreds of millions still trapped in its lingering legacy. Under your leadership, in this era of your presidency, may the Filipino people step onto the global stage to inspire others to rise, reclaim their histories, and craft their dignity—drawing strength from the Velarde 1734 Map as a living legacy of universal liberation.*

**Mel Velasco Velarde**  
Ordinary Citizen and Loyal Servant of the Republic  
Signed in loyalty to the Filipino people,  
this 6th day of December, 2024.

## **AIJC congratulates P-Pop group 1st One for bringing historic Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to the global stage**



Photos courtesy of Black Star Entertainment/1st One

The Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) congratulates P-Pop group 1st One on their new song, MYV or Map Your Vibe, which they debuted on the global stage at 2025 ROUND, the ASEAN-Korea Music Festival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on June 21.

The song deeply resonates with Filipinos' identity as a people. As the song goes, "Walang paroroonan nang hindi alam sa'n nagmula. So don't be scared. Map your vibe." 1st One delivers a powerful anthem that reminds Filipinos that no matter how far they go globally, their roots remain an essential part of who they are.

This song was inspired by the historic Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, the country's first scientific map known as the "Mother of all Philippine Maps."

Mr. Mel V. Velarde, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), donated an original Murillo Velarde 1734 Map to the Philippine government upon acquiring it from a Sotheby's auction in London. The map played an important role in the country's legal victory in the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling on the West Philippine Sea. It serves as a tool for understanding the nation's maritime rights.

This month, 1st One was named cultural partner and bearer of the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map, as part of the campaign titled, "Mapa Natin, Kwento Natin."

As part of their new role, 1st One members Ace, Max, Alpha, J, Joker, and Jason turned over a commemorative map to Sentro Rizal Kuala Lumpur at the Philippine Embassy in Malaysia where Consul General Roussel Reyes formally received the map on June 21.

Produced by Spanish Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde with two Filipinos, Francisco Suarez and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map is currently on display at the Permanent Gallery of the National Library of the Philippines.

## TCS Partners with Now Corporation to Power Philippines' Sovereign Data Cloud and Financial Inclusivity

**LINK:** <https://www.tcs.com/who-we-are/newsroom/press-release/tcs-partners-with-now-corporation-power-philippines-sovereign-data-cloud-financial-inclusivity>

**MUMBAI, August 11, 2025:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions, has partnered with NOW Corporation's telecom arm – Now Telecom, a public sector telecommunications company, to bolster national digital sovereignty, enable financial inclusivity, and build a clean network for the Philippines. Through this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), TCS commits itself to support the company with capabilities to expand trusted networks, provide sovereign cloud technology and a cyber-defense suite, along with creating robust citizen-centric services.

As the technology partner of choice for the telecommunications, media, and technology company, TCS will help in strengthening the national digital infrastructure of Philippines and establishing new avenues for economic growth and citizen empowerment. TCS and NOW Telecom are both members of the Trusted Network Alliance under the Trusted Network Initiative (TNI) which is a global initiative to promote the development and deployment of secure and reliable telecommunications networks. With this partnership, TCS is reaffirming its commitment to advancing cyber-digital cooperation across the Indo-Pacific in adherence to the framework laid down by the TNI. TCS will contribute its expertise and the proven success of its partnerships—especially with the Indian government—to this regional framework.

**Mel Velarde, Chairman of the NOW Group,** said, *"The NOW Group warmly welcomes the partnership with TCS in building the Sovereign Data Cloud Infrastructure for both the public and private sectors in the Indo-Pacific region. This partnership with TCS, a global market giant, marks a significant step towards enhancing our national digital sovereignty and reducing reliance on foreign technologies. NOW's and TCS' expertise and innovative services will contribute to our nation's data sovereignty by defending against risks and threats while creating a scalable, secure, and robust data infrastructure. The partnership between NOW and TCS exemplifies the technological aspirations of both India and the Philippines, heralding a new dawn of critical digital transformation for the Philippines."*

**As part of the partnership TCS will deliver services to enhance technology initiatives for:**

- **Data Sovereignty:** Safeguard national data from external threats
- **Operational Interoperability:** Enable cross-agency collaboration during complex scenarios
- **Resilience:** Build robust infrastructure against evolving cyber threats
- **Reduced Foreign Dependency:** Ensure sovereign control over critical systems during crises

**Shiju Varghese, Country Head, TCS Philippines,** said, *"We are thrilled to partner with NOW Group to advance the digital infrastructure of the Philippines. This collaboration underscores our commitment to enhancing national digital sovereignty and cybersecurity. By leveraging our expertise and innovative services, we aim to support the Philippines in building a resilient and secure digital ecosystem. We look*



*forward to contributing to the country's digital transformation journey.”*

NOW Corp and TCS will collaborate to co-design, develop, and deploy scalable and secure digital infrastructure that is aligned with the country's Department of Information and Communications Technology and clean network principles. TCS SovereignSecure Cloud™ will be deployed to develop a cloud infrastructure that will ensure local data control, AI infrastructure development, and enable operational continuity and local capability-building. As part of protecting the country's networks against cyber threats, TCS will help in developing advanced security protocols to protect critical infrastructure and leverage the TCS Cyber Defense Suite offering cyber intelligence, resilience, vendor risk management, and identity security. The citizen-centric services will include services in areas such as digital private infrastructure, healthcare, and digital banking promoting financial inclusivity.

This strategic partnership highlights TCS' growing presence in the Philippines, where it has been operational since 2008. It supports customers across diverse sectors including, telecom, banking and finance, real estate, and airlines, driving their growth and transformation from the Philippines. Its longstanding focus on innovation, sustainability, and workforce development aligns with the Philippines' push toward a future-ready digital economy.



*A delegation from the Philippines Government led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos including Mel Velarde - Chairman, Now Group met with leaders from Tata Consultancy Services led by Shiju Varghese, Country Head, TCS Philippines to sign the MoU.*

### **NOW Corporation**

NOW Corporation is a publicly listed company on the Philippine Stock Exchange (Ticker: NOW) specializing in the Telecommunications, Media, and Technology (TMT) sector. The company operates across three main business segments: software licenses and services, IT manpower and resource augmentation, and broadband and wireless cable TV services.

NOW Corp also offers fixed wireless broadband services targeted at underserved large enterprises such as banks, hospitals, and business process outsourcing locators in the Philippines. NOW Group is a diversified IT conglomerate focused on delivering innovative digital transformation solutions, to Philippine businesses and individuals. The US government identified NOW Telecom as its Cyber Digital

partner in the Philippines and provides funding via USTDA to develop the economic and technical master plan to secure 5G network infrastructure and national broadband network through the countryside. NOW leads the Trusted Network Alliance in the Indo Pacific region. NOW Corporation's headquarters is located in Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

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### **Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS)**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS) is a digital transformation and technology partner of choice for industry-leading organizations worldwide. Since its inception in 1968, TCS has upheld the highest standards of innovation, engineering excellence and customer service.

Rooted in the heritage of the Tata Group, TCS is focused on creating long term value for its clients, its investors, its employees, and the community at large. With a highly skilled workforce of over 600,000 consultants in 55 countries and 202 service delivery centers across the world, the company has been recognized as a top employer in six continents. With the ability to rapidly apply and scale new technologies, the company has built long term partnerships with its clients – helping them emerge as perpetually adaptive enterprises. Many of these relationships have endured into decades and navigated every technology cycle, from mainframes in the 1970s to Artificial Intelligence today.

TCS sponsors 14 of the world's most prestigious marathons and endurance events, including the TCS New York City Marathon, TCS London Marathon and TCS Sydney Marathon with a focus on promoting health, sustainability, and community empowerment.

TCS generated consolidated revenues of over US \$30 billion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. For more information, visit [www.tcs.com](http://www.tcs.com).



# MURILLO VELARDE 1734 MAP

Sotheby's TRAVEL, ATLASES, MAPS AND NATURAL HISTORY

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SOLD BY ORDER OF THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND THE TRUSTEE OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND ESTATES ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 TO MEL VELASCO VELARDE, FILIPINO, CHAIRMAN, VELARDE INC., CEO, NOW CORPORATION (PSE:NOW), AND UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES COMMISSIONER (2003-2010).

**CARTA HYDROGRAPHICA Y CHOROGRAPHICA DE LAS YSLAS FILIPINAS. MANILA, 1734**

Estimate 20,000 — 30,000 **GBP** ▼ **LOT SOLD. 170,500 GBP (Hammer Price with Buyer's Premium)**  
= PHILIPPINE PESOS : ₱12,014,463.09



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## CATALOGUE NOTE

### PHILIPPINES--MURILLO VELARDE, PEDRO

*CARTA HYDROGRAPHICA Y CHOROGRAPHICA DE LAS YSLAS FILIPINAS, MANILA, 1734*

1120 x 1200mm., large engraved wall-map, dissection mounted on the original linen, linen splitting, one panel detached, light browning

*Carta Hydrographica Y Chorographica De Las Yslas Filipinas, first published in Manila in 1734, is regarded by historians as the "Mother of All Philippine Maps." It was made by the Spanish Jesuit Friar Pedro Murillo Velarde together with two Filipinos—Francisco Suarez, who drew the map, and Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay, who engraved it.*

This is the first scientific map of the entire Philippine archipelago. It is flanked by two side panels, with each panel containing six vignettes depicting scenes of people and places in the country. The shoal "Panacot," now known as Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal, and the islands of the Spratlys, which are referred to as "Los Bajos de Paragua," are shown in the map as part of the Philippines.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio learned that the map was among the 80 heirlooms owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, which were scheduled for auction by Sotheby's London on November 4, 2014. Justice Carpio recommended to Filipino technology entrepreneur and educator Mel Velasco Velarde to bid for the map so that it could be displayed in a public museum in the Philippines. Mr. Velarde joined the bid and won.

The Murillo Velarde 1734 Map played a crucial and integral role in the Philippines' July 2016 landmark victory at The Hague, where the country lodged its case against China before the Permanent Court of Arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for claiming Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands in the West Philippine Sea.

Mr. Velarde believes that ownership of the map is every Filipino's birthright, hence his donation of the map to the government as a gift to the Filipino people.

Replicas of the map are now being donated by Mr. Velarde to various government agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations as part of a national public awareness campaign on the map and its significance to Philippine cultural heritage.

[www.murillovelardemap.com](http://www.murillovelardemap.com)



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