

PHILIPPINE NUMISMATIC MONOGRAPH Number 24 July 1988



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In Memoriam
Aldo P. Basso
Numismatist
Par Excellance

That "7" Mania

By Felipe Y. Liao and Gabriel Formoso, Jr.

Notes on Philippine
Prehistoric Jewelny
and
Related Items

By. F. William L. Villareal

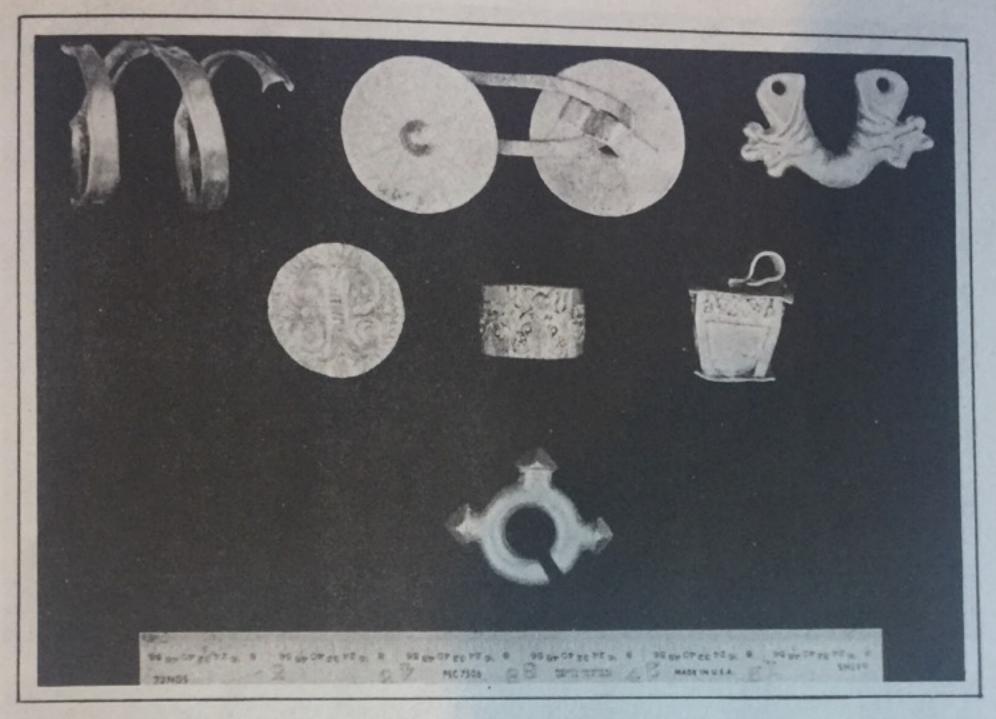


PLATE I: LAGUNA

Top to bottom, left to right: coil of unknown use; large buttons(?), garment clasp(?); pendant and ring with moth motif, hollow pendant(?); ear ornament. All items are made of gold and recovered in the province of Laguna, island of Luzon.

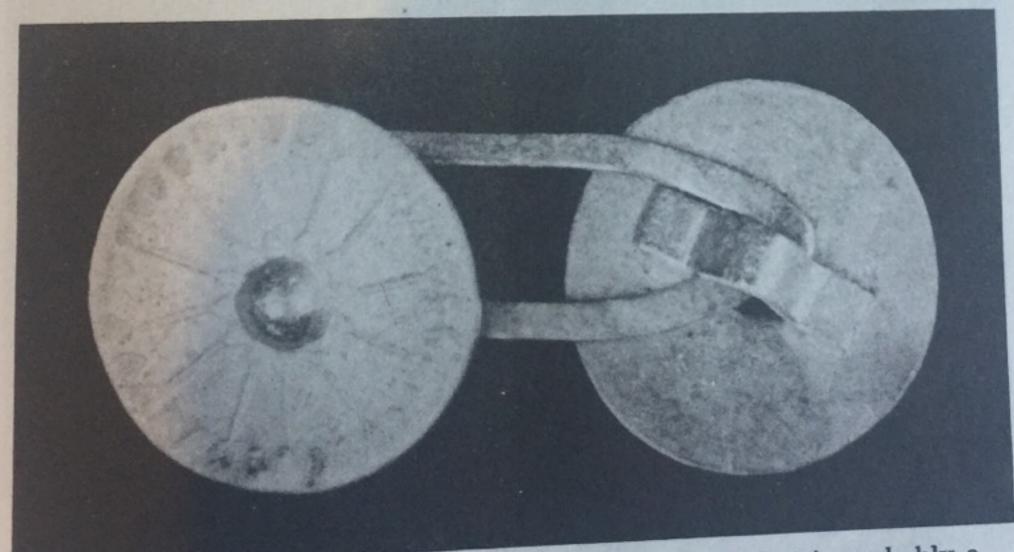


FIG. 1: Detail showing front and rear views of what is probably a gold garment clasp with centers embossed and impressed with geometric symmetrical design.



FIG. 2: Detail showing what is probably part of a gold pendant or breast piece. The object appears to be cast and carries the same design on both sides. Animal-like motifs on left and right suggest links not only to Hellenistic, Celtic, Etruscan, Roman, Mesolinks not only to Hellenistic, Celtic, Japanese and Indonesian American but also Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian forms.





FIG. 3 & 4: Top and side views of a gold ring with moth (bee(?), hornet(?)) motif similar to the pendant on its left. Note the similarity of these items to earplugs from Northeastern Mindanao which grace the cover of Villegas' book. The recurring use of the moth (bee(?), hornet(?), butterfly(?)) motif in Asian and European pre-historic jewelry would seem to suggest some widespread mystical significance attached to the form.

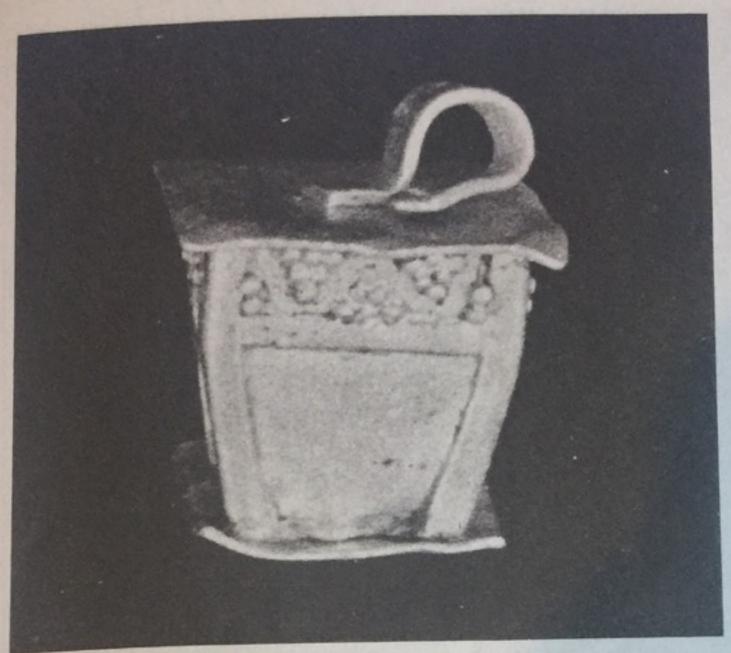


FIG. 5:
Detail showing
features of a hollow (hole at
bottom) gold pendant or ear ornament. Note familiar triangular granulation design
that pervades
much of the
jewelry from the
Visayas and Mindanao.

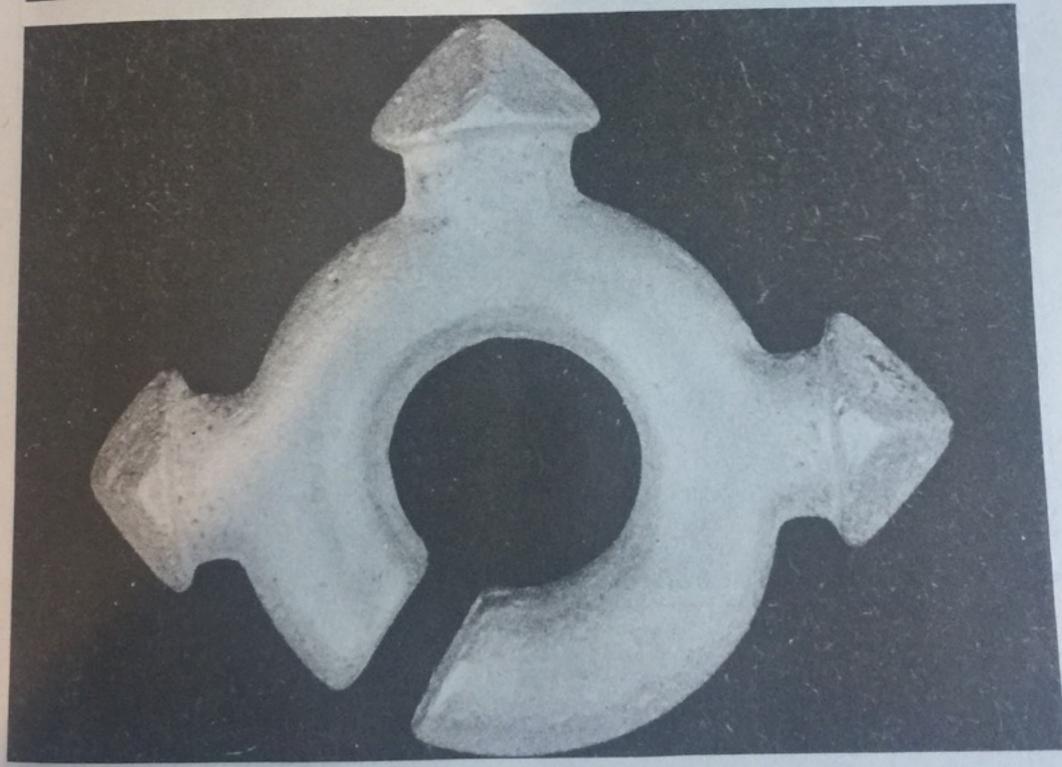


FIG. 6: Detail showing one of a possible pair of solid gold ear ornaments similar in form to nephrite, steatite and soapstone artifacts unearthed in the Tabon Cave diggings and in the island of Panay as reported by Villegas and Lourdes Dellota of Iloilo City. This is the first of such items found in gold.

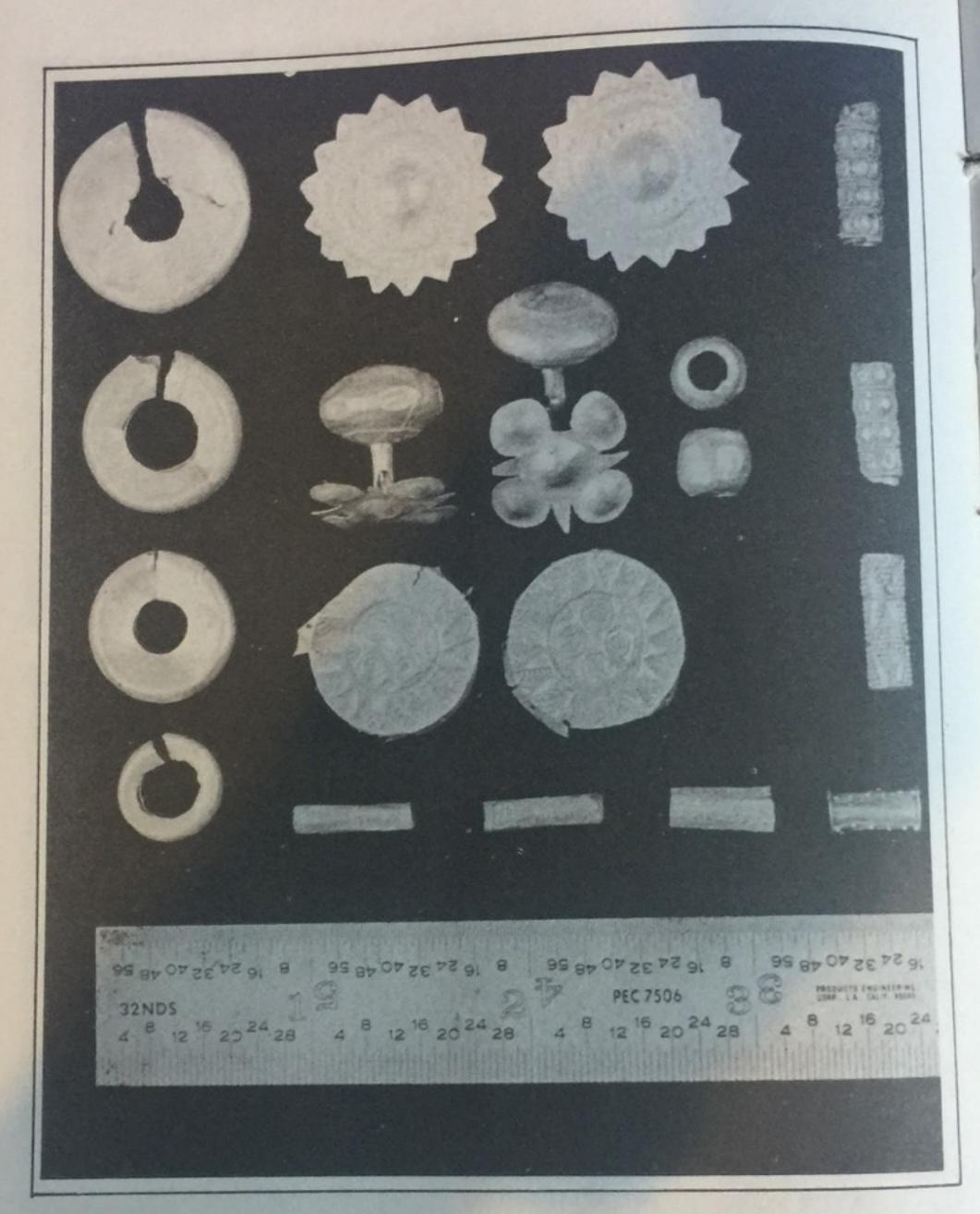
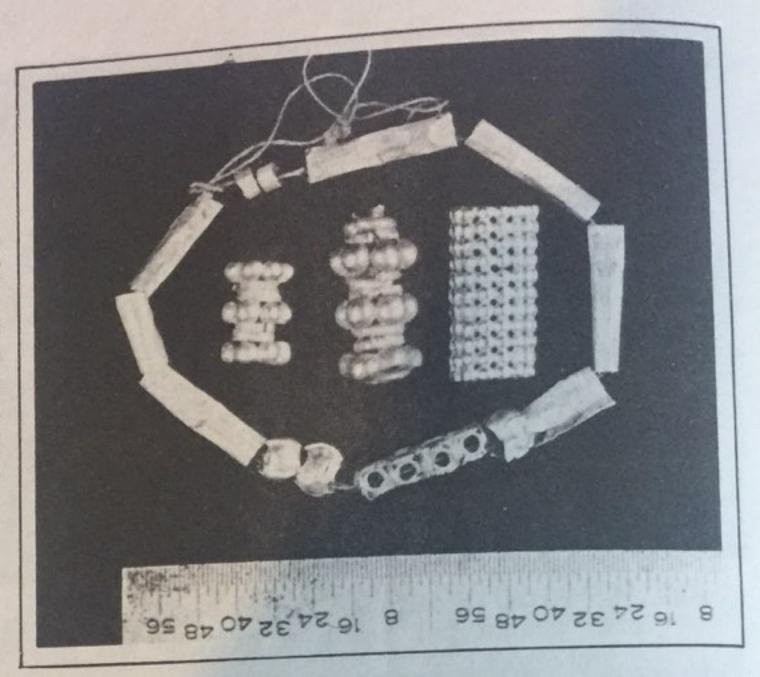


PLATE II: AKLAN

Star-shaped and circular repousse discs (possibly used as garment accessories or as grave furniture) with ball-and-flower buttons(?) surrounded by barter beads of graduated sizes and weights as well as round and tabular beads of different designs. All items are made of gold and recovered in the provice of Aklan, island of Panay in the West Visayas.

PLATE IV:
NEGROS
Different kinds of
gold beads recovered in the
island of Negros
in the West Visayas showing delicate filigree and
granulation technique.



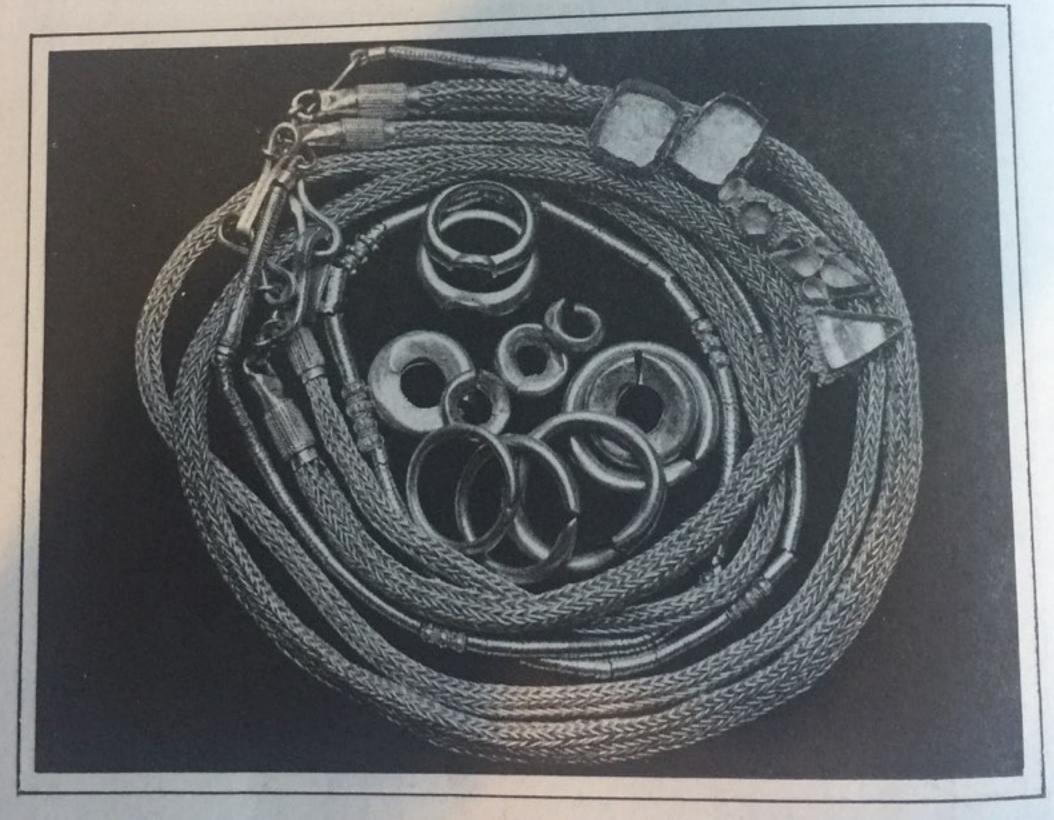
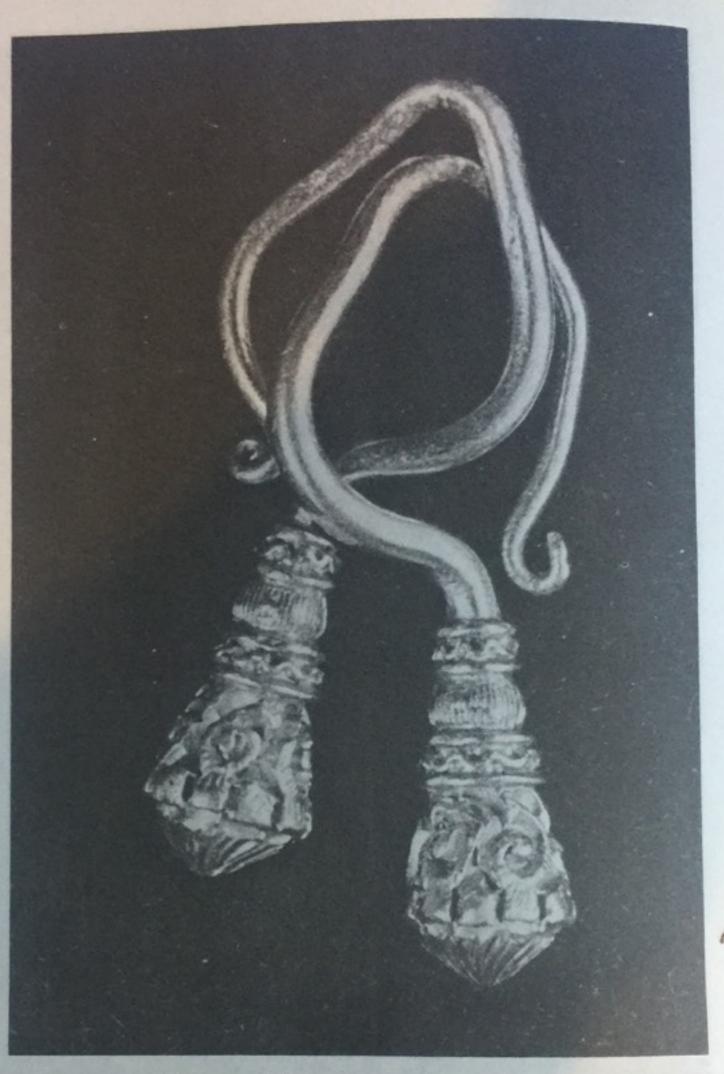


PLATE V: VISAYAS

A grouping of three chains, two rings, assorted buttons(?) and barter rings, all made of gold from the Visayas.



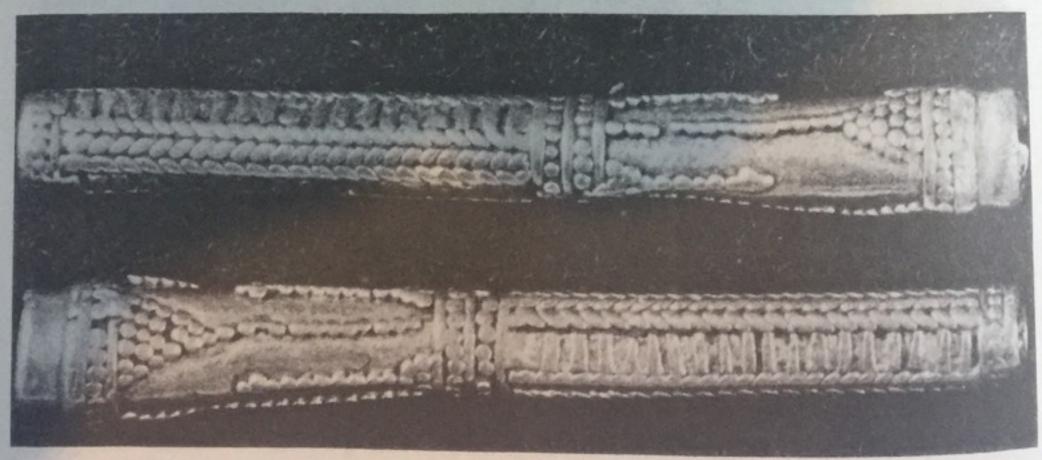


FIG. 19 & 20: Elaborate detail on earings and paired finials.

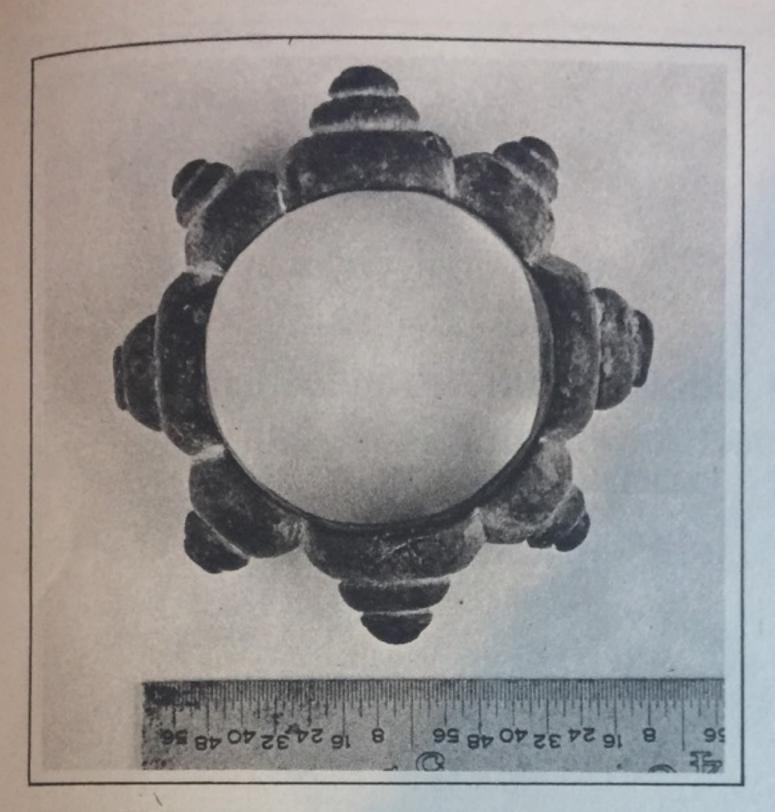


PLATE X: ILOILO

A large eight-studded ring of a metal of as yet undetermined character unearthed in the town of Dumangas, province of Iloilo, island of Panay in the West Visayas and acquired through the kindness of Lourdes Dellota of Iloilo City.

FIG. 24:
Shows two holes on either side presumably used to hold a traversing metal pin which was unfortunately not recovered with the item.

