



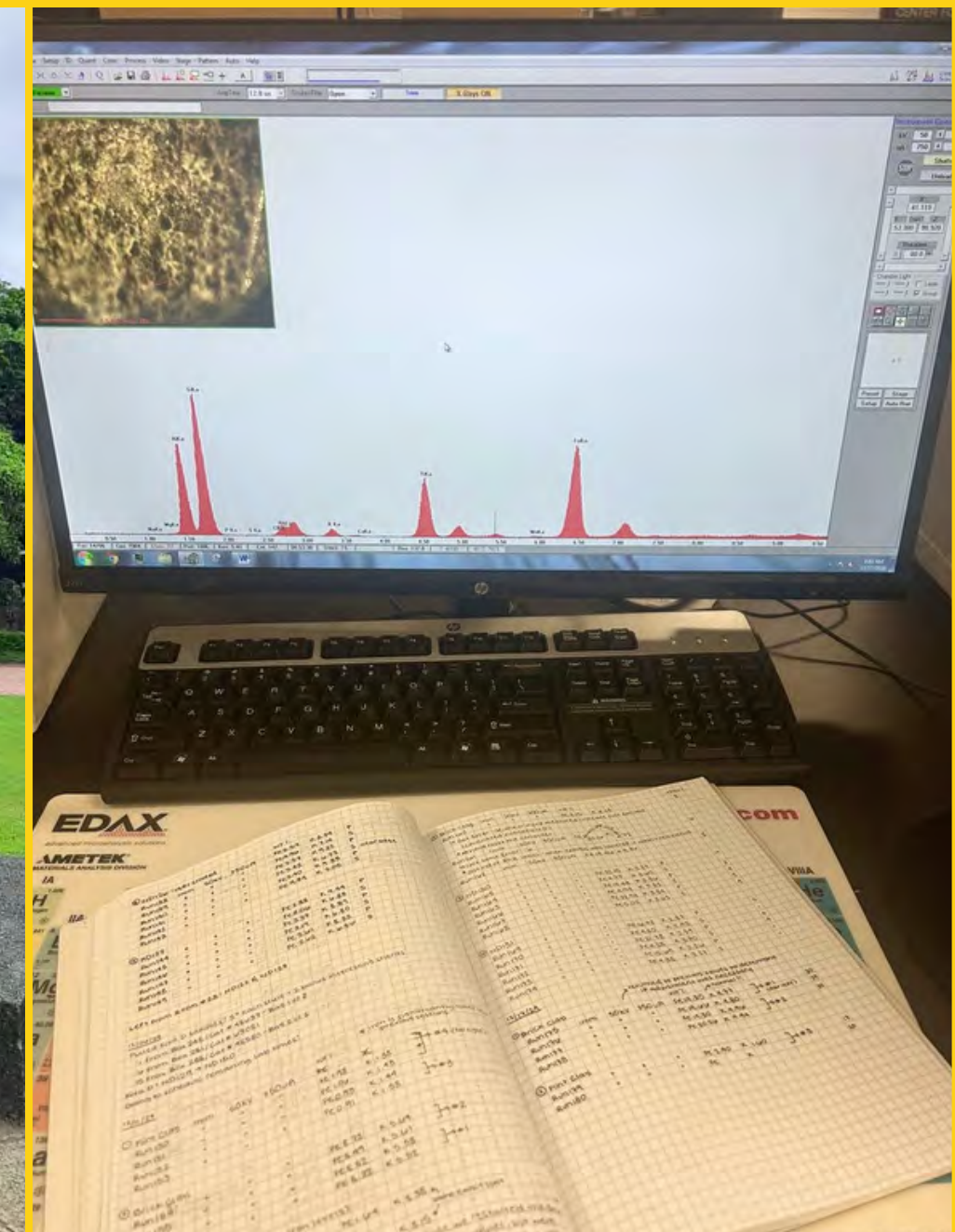
NMNH Philippine Collections

*Margaret Winter
Summer 2025*



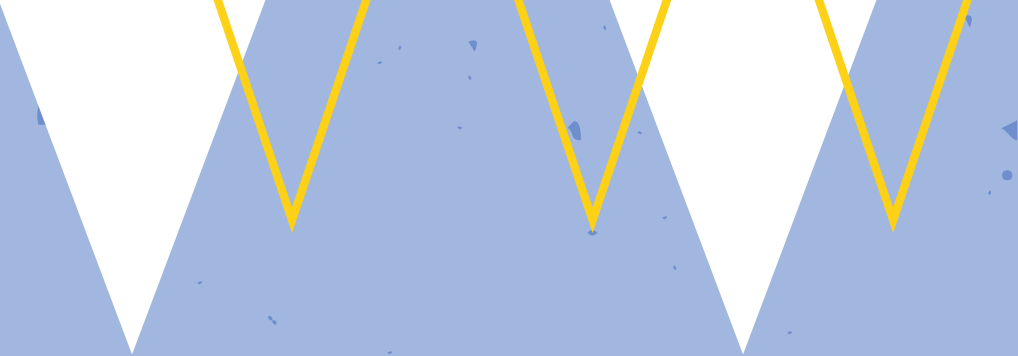
Intro

- Anthropology & Data Science
- Incoming Field Archaeologist!
- Interested in data analysis and museum collections





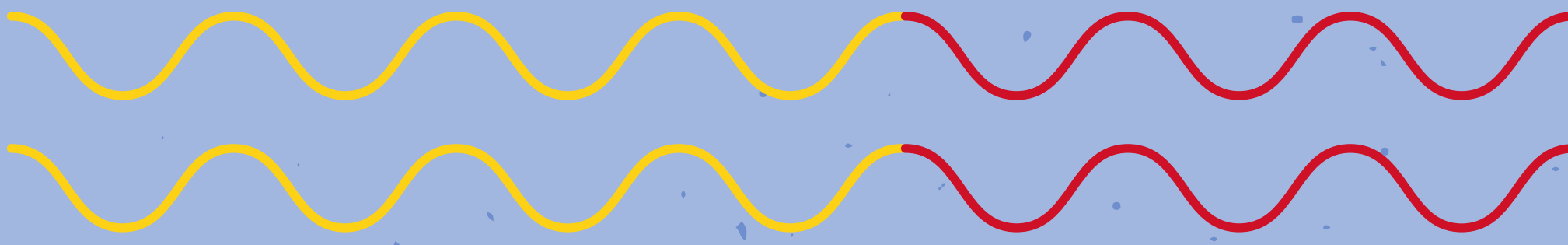
Intro



Objective

Create a catalog guide for object collections associated with United States military occupation of the Philippines.

Questions

1. Where was collecting taking place?
 2. Who was collecting objects in the Philippines during US occupation?
 3. How can museum data be effectively processed and analyzed?
- 



Background



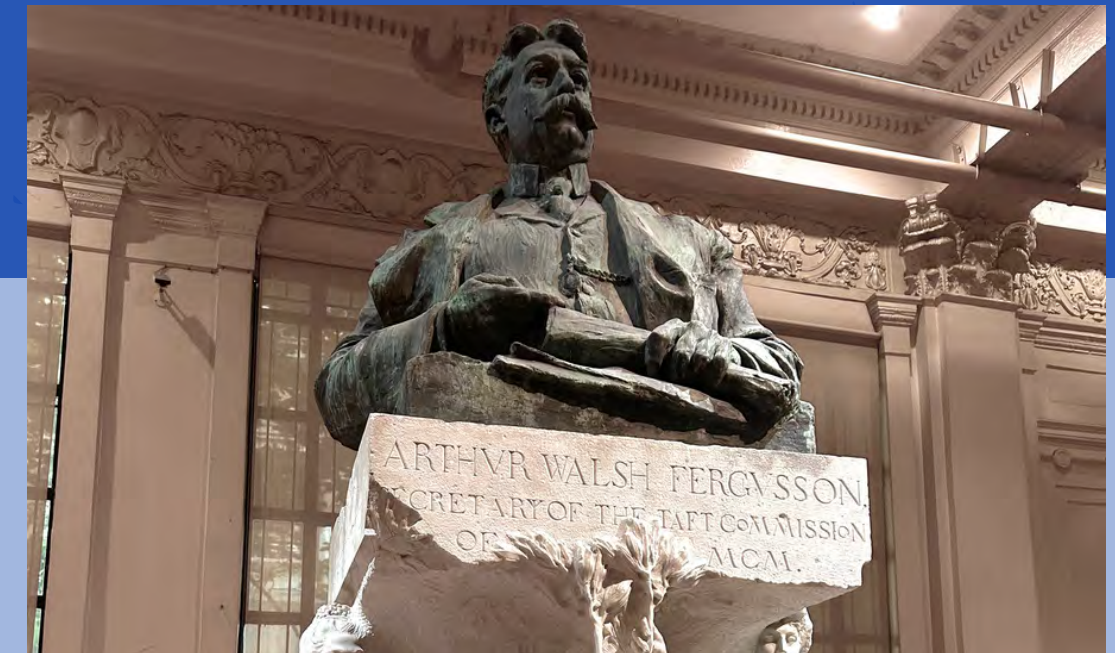
Spanish-American War

The United States intervenes in 1898 on the side of Cuba in their fight for independence from Spain. As part of the fighting, US troops occupy Spanish-controlled Manila. The relatively brief war results in the Treaty of Paris (December 1898), which cedes the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico to the United States. Ignored by this treaty is Aguinaldo's June 12 declaration of Philippine independence from Spain.



Philippine-American War

American forces were in Manila, but the Philippine Republic established by Aguinaldo controlled the rest of the archipelago. Fighting in February of 1899 forced the Aguinaldo government to move north. In 1901, Aguinaldo was captured and surrendered. The official end of the war was in early 1902, but some forces under individual generals continued resisting until 1906. Separately, Moro groups in Mindanao resisted US occupation until 1913.



Civic Structure

The Second Philippine Commission (1900) established a civil government. In 1907, it became the upper house of a bicameral legislature. The Jones Act (1916) disbanded the PHC and replaced it with a Senate. In 1935 the Tydings-McDuffie Act created the Commonwealth of the Philippines and outlined a ten-year transition to independence, granted July 4, 1946. Japan occupied the islands from 1941 to 1944 during WWII.



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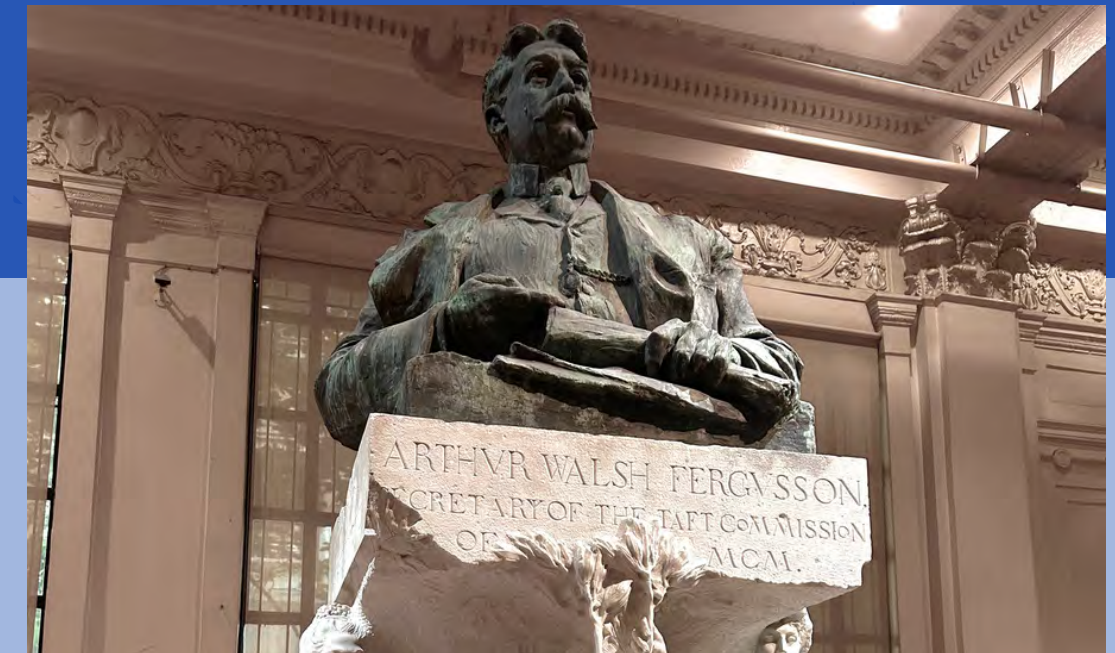
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Process

Downloading

- Anthropology Collections Search cuts off at 5000 records
- Catalog Search Center
 - Filtered by country and accession decade (1890s-2000s)
- Searched resulting collectors in Anthropology Collections Search
- Downloaded each search result and combined into one csv file in R

Cleaning

- Removed duplicate catalog numbers
- Deleted irrelevant columns
- Formatted accession and collection dates in Google Sheets and color coded by period
 - Pre-occupation (1898)
 - PA War (1899-1902)
 - Continued fighting (1902-1913)
 - Occupation (1913-1946)

Filtering

- Removed all records with:
 - an accession or latest collection date before 1898
 - an earliest collection date after 1946
 - no accession year/ listed donor
- If the accession year was after 1946, I looked at the scanned catalog cards to find a collection year. If none was found, the record was removed.

Process

Result

- **5,509** unique catalog numbers
- All collected from **1898-1946** or accessioned during that time with an unknown collection date

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Catalog Number	Division	Object Name	Index Term	Other Object Term(s)	Culture	Country	Province/State	District/County	City/Town	Accession Date	Accession Year	Earliest Collection Year
E324360-0	Ethnology	Sword, Wyang Handle	Sword			Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324361-0	Ethnology	Sword, Wyang Handle	Sword			Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324362-0	Ethnology	Sword, Wyang Handle	Sword			Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324363-0	Ethnology	Sword, Wyang Handle Set Wit Sword				Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324364-0	Ethnology	Sword, Wyang Handle Set Wit Sword				Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324365-0	Ethnology	Sword, Wyang Head	Sword			Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324366-0	Ethnology	Sword	Sword			Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324367-0	Ethnology	Sword	Sword			Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324368-0	Ethnology	Kampilan	Sword	Kampilan	Moro	Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324369-0	Ethnology	Kampilan	Sword	Kampilan	Moro	Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324370-0	Ethnology	Kampilan	Sword	Kampilan	Moro	Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324371-0	Ethnology	Shield	Shield		Igorot	Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324372-0	Ethnology	Shield	Shield		Kalinga	Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E324373-0	Ethnology	Carved Shield	Shield		Moro	Philippines				23 May 1922	1922	1900
E361152-0	Ethnology	Wooden Shield	Shield		Igorot	Philippines	Luzon Island	Abra Province		20 Mar 1931	1931	1900
E426308-0	Ethnology	Mat	Mat			Philippines				27 Oct 1994	1994	1900
EL1567-0	Ethnology	Native Bamboo Hat	Hat		Filipino (?); Bikol (?)	Philippines	Mindanao		Cagayan		1917	1900
EL1579-0	Ethnology	Cotton Skirt, Or Apron	Skirt	Apron	Filipino	Philippines	Mindanao		Cagayan		1917	1900
EL1580-0	Ethnology	Betel-Nut Outfit	Betel Set		Filipino	Philippines	Mindanao		Cagayan		1917	1900
ET11429-0	Ethnology	Mat	Mat			Philippines				1991	1991	1900
ET1884-0	Ethnology	Digging Stick	Digging Stick		Filipino (?)	Philippines (not certain)				8 Jul 1902	1902	1900
ET9314-0	Ethnology	Rod And Twine	Fiber			Philippines				1991	1991	1900
ET9319-0	Ethnology	Instrument Parts	Tools			Philippines				1991	1991	1900
E405579-0	Ethnology	Wooden Bowl	Bowl		Ifugao	Philippines	Luzon			5 Oct 1966	1966	1904
E405598-0	Ethnology	Sword "Tabas"	Sword		Moro	Philippines	Mindanao (not certain)			5 Oct 1966	1966	1904
E405601-0	Ethnology	Spear Head & Sheath	Spear/Sheath		Moro	Philippines	Mindanao (not certain)			5 Oct 1966	1966	1904
E424191-0	Ethnology	Basketry hat	Hat		Highland Luzon	Philippines	Luzon			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424192-0	Ethnology	Basketry hat	Hat		Highland Luzon	Philippines	Luzon			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424193-0	Ethnology	Basket	Basket		Highland Luzon	Philippines	Luzon			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424194-0	Ethnology	Pipe	Pipe		Highland Luzon	Philippines	Luzon			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424195-0	Ethnology	Bag	Bag		Bagobo	Philippines	Mindanao			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424196-0	Ethnology	Kris "Kalis Siko" With Sheath	Kris/Sheath		Moro	Philippines	Sulu / Mindanao			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424197-0	Ethnology	Kris "Kalis Siko" With Sheath	Kris/Sheath		Moro	Philippines	Sulu / Mindanao			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424198-0	Ethnology	Kris "Kalis Siko" With Sheath	Kris/Sheath		Moro	Philippines	Sulu / Mindanao			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424199-0	Ethnology	Small imitation Mindanao sword	Sword	Kampilan	Moro	Philippines	Sulu / Mindanao			17 May 1988	1988	1906
E424200-0	Ethnology	Small bag	Bag			Philippines				17 May 1988	1988	1906

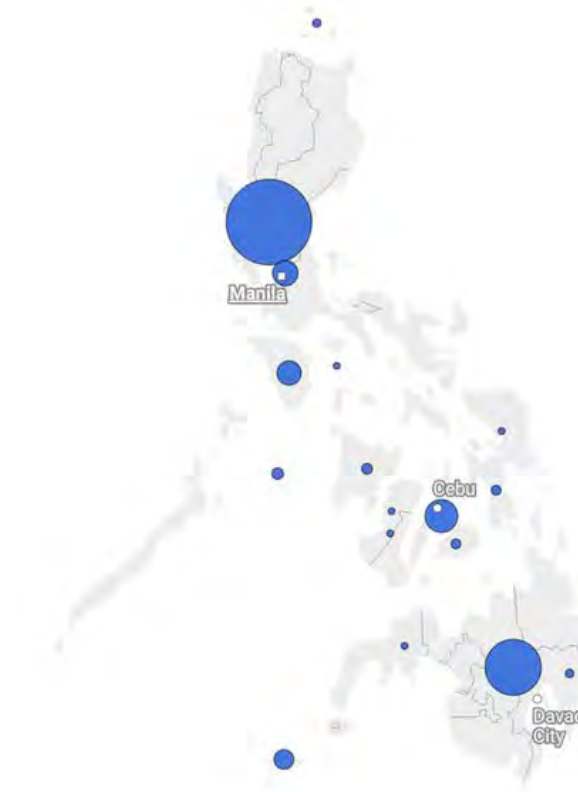


Maps

- 779 records with digital associated location
 - ~14% of records
- Geographic names required cleaning and accuracy is not guaranteed

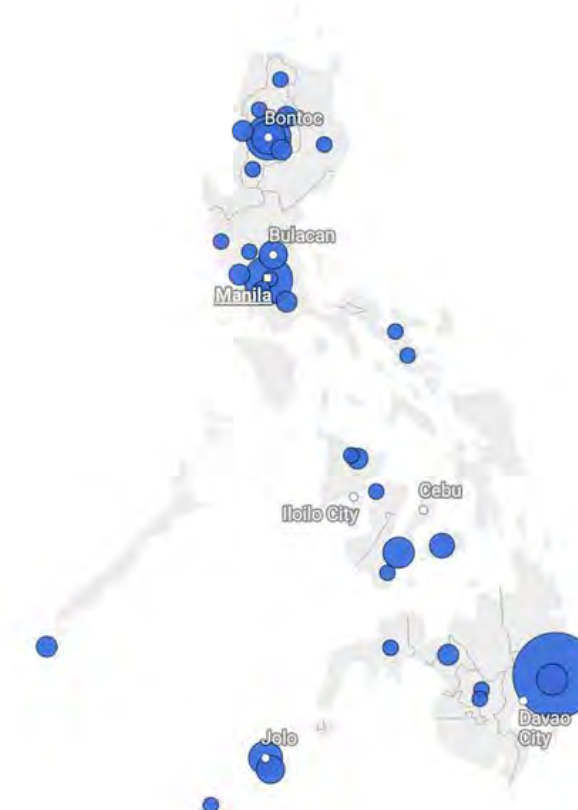
Known Provinces

Count ○ 40 ○ 150 ○ 400



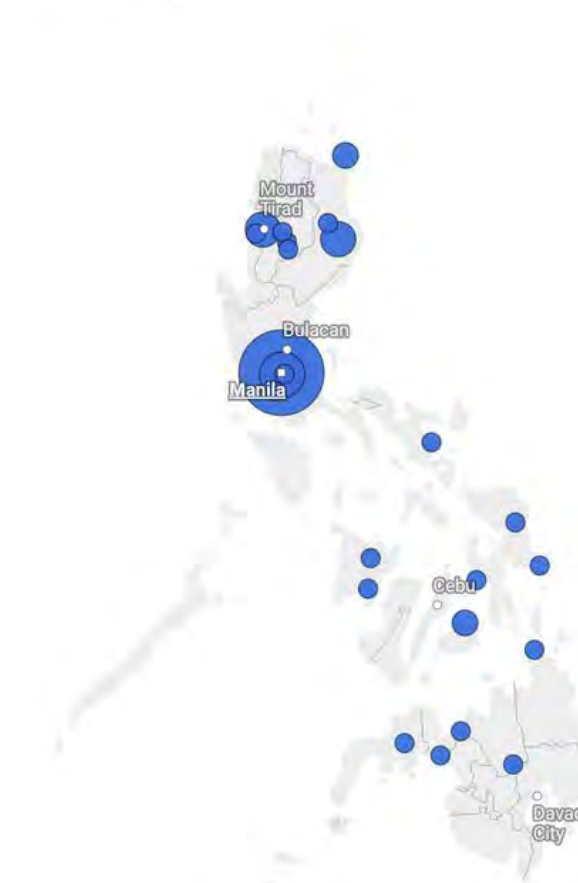
Known Districts/Counties

Count ○ 4 ○ 15 ○ 40

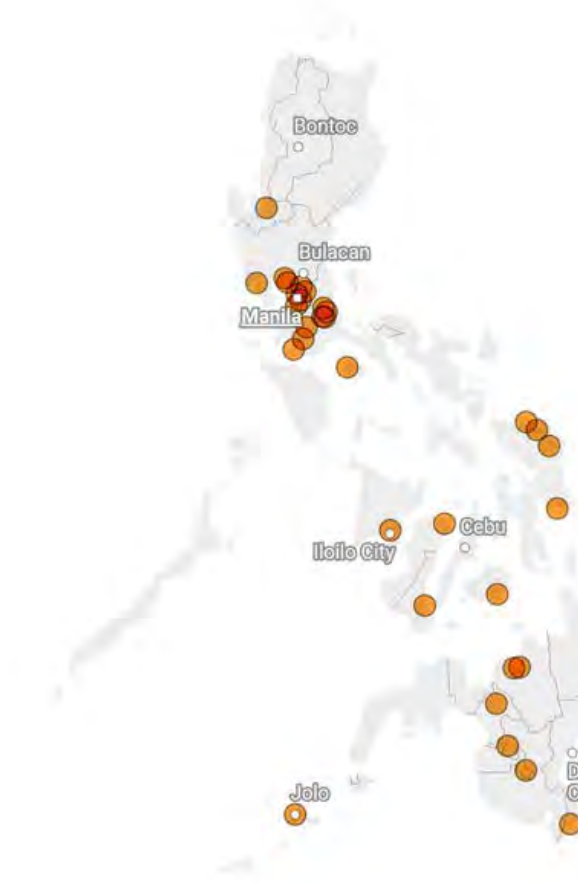


Known Cities/Towns

Count ○ 3 ○ 10 ○ 30



Key Battle Locations





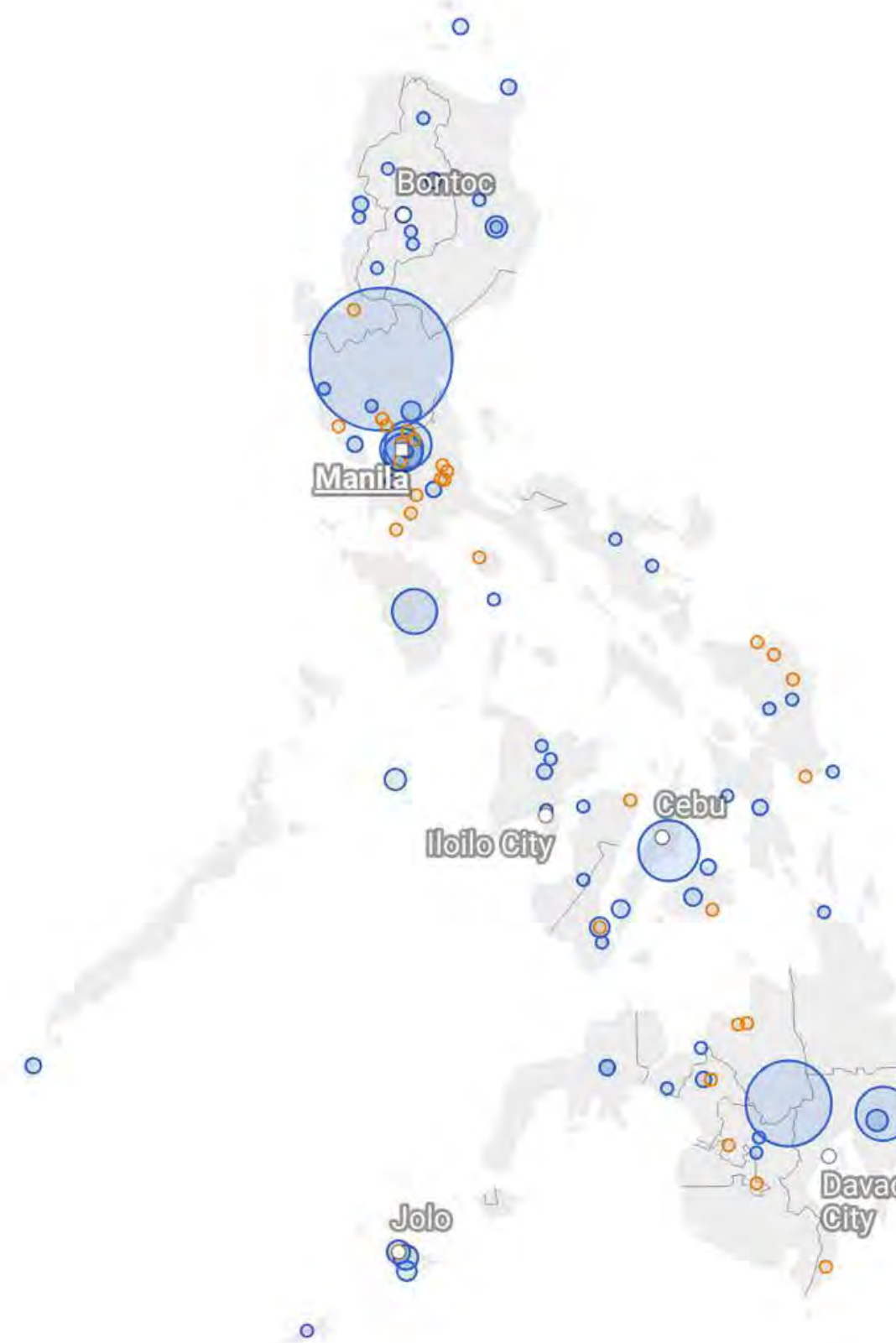
Maps

- When collection data (at most specific level) is overlaid with battle locations:
 - High-level collections patterns visible (Manila, Mindanao) that aligns with military activity
- This visualization would likely be more helpful for specific individuals or data that has been verified and cleaned

Conflict Sites with Associated Collections

■ Battle ■ Collection

Count ○ 30 ○ 100 ○ 300





Gaps in the Archive & Modes of Collecting

- SIMA lectures: complexity and nuance
 - Paul Basu: gaps in the archive
 - Exploding objects
 - Modes of collecting
- Realized pinpointing specific geographic locations without extensive research was 1) not always possible, 2) flattening the movements of objects and people, and 3) perpetuating silences
- Shifted research focus from geography and maps to the people collecting





Collectors

- Manually added the collector of each record as listed on the physical card
- Filtered 176 collectors down to the 39 who had 20+ associated catalog numbers (~89% of the records)
- Researched and wrote a brief bio where possible
- Added affiliation: military, government/ administrative, and/or research
- Only one step towards addressing gaps; doesn't accurately represent all possible modes and aspects of collecting (concomitant collecting and unnamed intermediaries, for example)

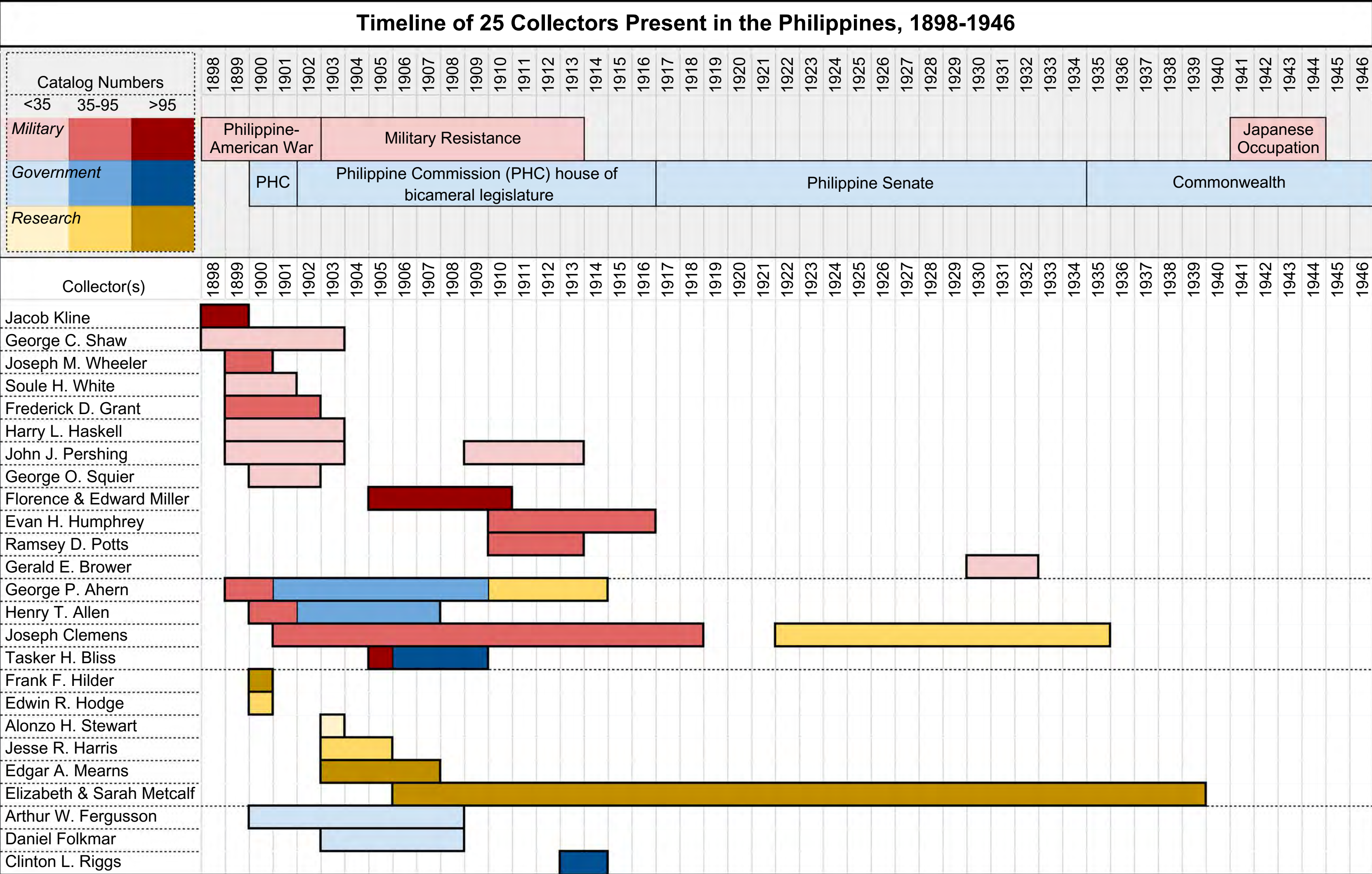
Top Collectors	Catalog Numbers	Full Name	Bio	Military	Gov't/ Admin	Research (broad)
Metcalf, S.S.; Metcalf, E.H.	985	Elizabeth Henshaw & Sarah Sprague Metcalf	Conducted anthropological fieldwork among Bagobo after talking with some people at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Also attended Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition. 1906-1939			1
P.C., L.P.X.	685	Philippine Commission, Lousiana Purchase Exposition	St. Louis "World's Fair" held in 1904 to commemorate centennial of Louisiana Purchase. Featured people on display, including 1102 Filipinos. Igorot people were displayed as an example of 'primitive' culture. Deeply problematic. Inspired Metcalf sisters.		1	1
Hilder, F.F.	502	Frank Frederick Hilder	Chief Clerk of Bureau of Ethnology. Sent to Philippines in 1900 to collect ethnologic materials for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo; died 1901.		1	1
Evans, V.J.	369	Victor Justice Evans	Patent lawyer who collected ethnographic materials and animals. Donated collections to Smithsonian upon his death.			1
Mearns, E.A.	271	Edgar Alexander Mearns	Military surgeon 1892-1899; traveled to Philippines 1903-1904 and 1905-1907; co-founded American Ornithologists' Union and was a naturalist.	1		1
Bliss, T.H.	267	Tasker Howard Bliss	General; commanded departments of Luzon and Mindanao/ governor of Moro province/ commander of Philippine Division 1905-1909. Commanded US troops in Moro Rebellion.	1	1	
Cooper, J.M.	200	John Montgomery Cooper	Chair of Catholic University of America Dept of Anthropology 1934-1939. Many (most?) of the objects in this collection were gifted to him from <u>Fr. Francis Hubert Lambrecht</u> , a priest in the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Philippines from 1924 until (likely) his death in 1978			1
Harkins, J.M.	143					
Miller, E.Y.; Miller, F.G.	117	Florence Gheer and Edward Miller	Army Captain Edward Y. Miller, who was governor of Palawan 1905-1910. Collection 1899-1904	1		
Kline, J.	103	Jacob Kline	Brigadier General; Brigadier of Volunteers in Spanish-American War 1898-1899	1		
Riggs, C.L.	99	Clinton Levering Riggs	General; Secretary of Commerce & Police of the Philippine Commission 1913-1914	1		
Clemens, J.	94	Joseph Clemens	Army chaplain in Philippines 1901-1918; he and his wife returned 1922-1935 for "botanical research [her interest] and missionary work." Allegedly baptized 16,000 people	1		1
Keyser, E.W.	71	Elhanan Winchester Keyser	Designer from DC and large private collector. Acquired in exchange with the museum			1
Gies, A.J.	68	Anthony J. Gies				
Harris, J.R.	65	Jesse Ralph Harris	Assistant Surgeon in the Army; collected for the National Museum. 1903-1905	1	1	1



Collectors

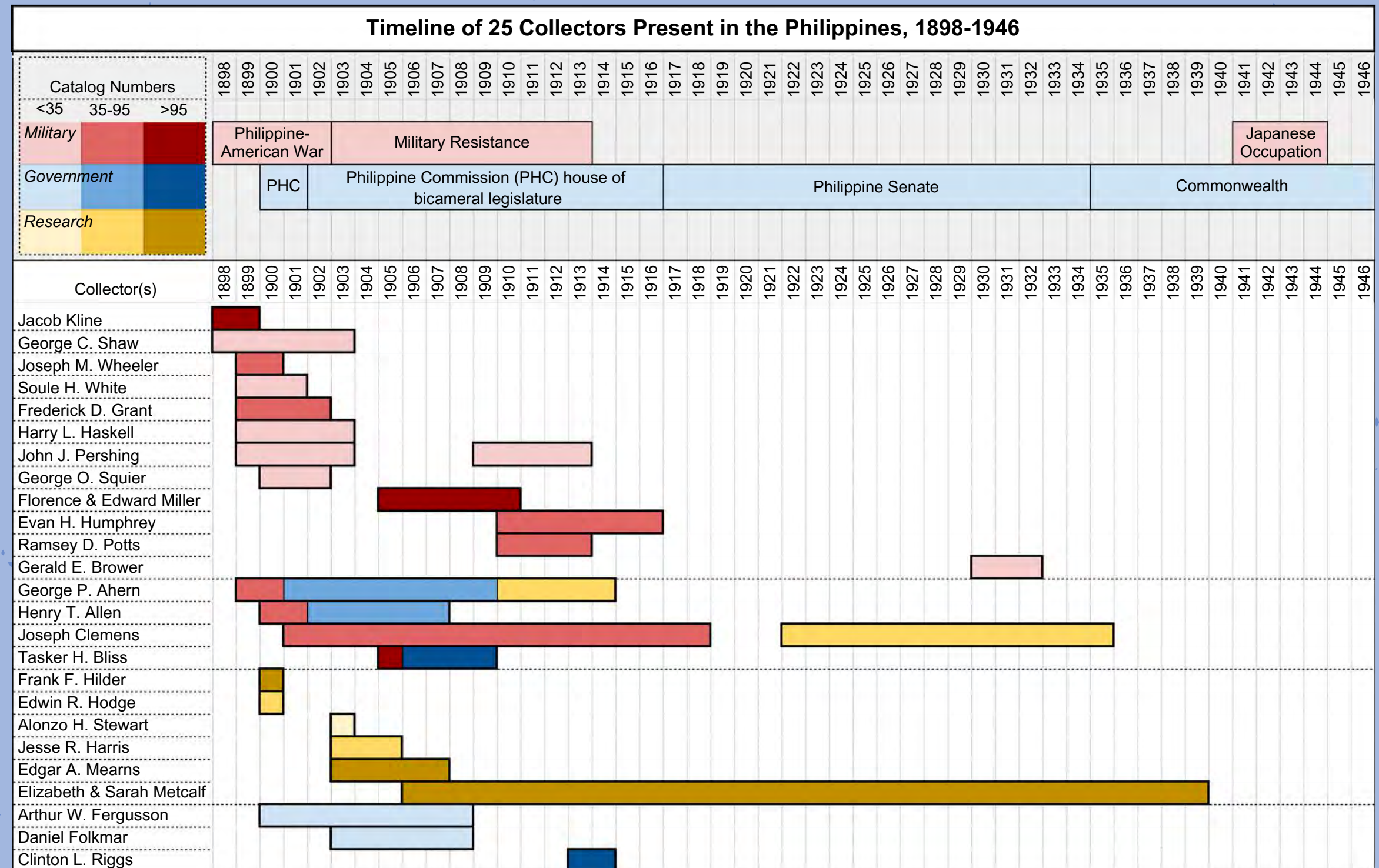
- Affiliation useful but doesn’t cover all nuances as many people had multiple or overlapping roles
 - George Ahern: fought in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, became head of the Forestry Bureau in the Philippines, and later established a forestry school
- Predominately military-associated, and those that weren’t were still operating in the context of occupation
- Timeline
 - Confirmed presence in the country
 - Reasonable confidence in dates

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Benefits

- ### Timeline of 25 Collectors Present in the Philippines, 1898-1946



Drawbacks

- Affiliation categories can gloss over nuance
- Collecting patterns were not consistent
 - More intensive research required to gain sense of individuals' timelines

[illegible]



Final Product

- Historical context overview
- Explanation of process
 - R code where applicable
- Top collector information, biographies, and timeline
- First draft and working document as a springboard for future researchers



Reflections

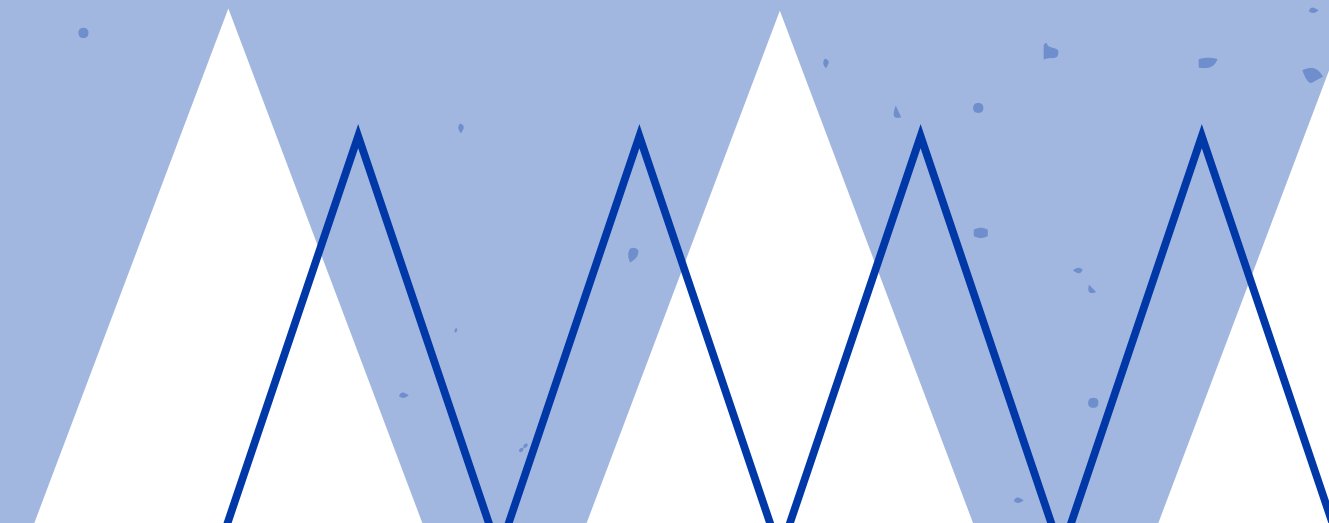
- Large-scale cleaning and visualizing of museum collections data
 - Reveal trends
 - Potential to appear authoritative; should be seen as a malleable starting point rather than objective truth
 - Requires significant labor to consolidate basic level of data for one variable (location, collector)
- Understanding the complexities of archival silences and object itineraries is an ongoing process





Future Directions

- SIMA-style projects
 - Orient researcher to overall history, both of islands and the museum's collections, to aid in study of specific objects
- Project focused on an individual
 - Provides richer background on their time in and around the Philippines
 - Connects them to others involved with the collection





Thank you!

