

Presented at the 10th DLSU Arts Congress  
De La Salle University  
Manila, Philippines February 16, 2017



**Agham at Pamana [AgaPan]**  
**Science and the Preservation of Built Cultural Heritage**  
**in the Philippines**

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**Abstract:** The Filipino word “AgaPan”, which means “to prevent something by being alert”, was a result of merging the words “Agham” or science and “Pamana” for heritage. The catchword perfectly describes the urgent need to come up with proper conservation guidelines for the Philippines’ built cultural heritage which should be rooted on solid scientific data. This paper describes the research being done at the Chemistry Department of the De La Salle University, Manila that applies chemical techniques to examine at the molecular level the chemical composition of old building materials, such as bricks and lime mortars, from different Spanish Colonial Period churches in the country. Quantification of the chemical elements present in bricks (i.e. iron, silicon, and aluminium) and mortar (i.e. calcium and silicon) samples were reported. The basic mineralogical content of the samples were found to be consistent with that of clay, sand and limestone.