
by Adam Fielding

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the Arcadia Fund.

2014 August

This finding aid was generated automatically on August 28, 2014
# Table of Contents

Collection Overview......................................................................................................... 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Biographical Note............................................................................................................. 2
Scope and Content Note................................................................................................. 3
Arrangement..................................................................................................................... 4
Names and Subject Terms ............................................................................................. 4
Selected Bibliography...................................................................................................... 4
Container Listing.............................................................................................................. 6
   Series 1: Research, 1944, 1954-1985................................................................. 6
   Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-1987............................................................... 9
   Series 3: Writings, 1961-1983........................................................................... 11
   Series 4: Writings by Others, circa 1950s - circa 1980s............................. 12
   Series 5: Sound Recordings, undated................................................................. 13
   Series 6: Photographs......................................................................................... 14
Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives
Creator: Maher, Robert F. (Robert Francis), 1922-1987
Title: Robert Francis Maher papers
Dates: 1944-1987
Bulk Dates: 1954-1987
Quantity: 7 sound recordings
       6.38 linear feet, 13 boxes
Abstract: Robert Francis Maher (1922-1987) was an anthropologist with the University of Western Michigan whose work focused on Oceania. The collection documents his field research in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. His field research in Papua New Guinea focused on cultural change in the Purari Delta and the modernist Tommy Kabu Movement (1946-1968). His field research in the Philippines focused on the ethnological and archaeological history and changes in the Ifugao province. The collection consists of field notes, excavation notes, census data, genealogy charts, grant applications, research files, research proposals, maps, correspondence, manuscripts, sound recordings, and photographs.

Language: Collection is in English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Robert Maher's wife, Lee Maher, in 1988.

Processing Information
Processed by Adam Fielding, 2014.
Encoded by Adam Fielding, August 2014.

Preferred Citation
Robert Francis Maher papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions on Access
The Robert Francis Maher papers is open for research. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.
Biographical Note

Robert F. Maher was born in Eldora, Iowa in 1922. He studied anthropology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and received his B.S. in 1948, his M.A. in 1950, and his Ph.D. in 1958. He was an instructor at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in 1953-1954, and at DePauw University in 1956-1957. He joined the Department of Sociology at Western Michigan University in 1957 and became professor of anthropology there in 1966. In 1967, he became the first chairman of the UWM department of Anthropology. He remained at UWM until he died.

Most of Maher's publications concern his work in Oceania. In 1954-1955, as a Ford Foundation fellow he began research on the Namau, the people of the Purari Delta in Papua New Guinea, concentrating on culture change and, in particular, on the modernist Tommy Kabu Movement. In 1961, he published *New Men of Papua: A Study in Cultural Change* which earned him the Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for outstanding social science. He returned to Papua New Guinea in 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1982, and 1983, often only staying there for a small amount of time.


Maher also carried out ethnological and archeological work in the United States. He was a member of the University of Wisconsin Chippewa Reservation Research Project in 1951-1952, and he and his students worked with the Potowatomi of Michigan from 1959 forward. In 1952, he was an assistant director of excavations at the Black Widow site in South Dakota for the River Basin Surveys. He also carried out archeological work in Wisconsin and at Aztalan in the Southwest. Outside the United States, he carried out a survey of villages in Okyama Prefecture in Japan in 1960.

Maher died of cancer in 1987 shortly before he was due to retire after 30 years of teaching. The University of Western Michigan has established an anthropology scholarship in his name.

Sources Consulted:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Born on July 14 in Eldora, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>B.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>M.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1954</td>
<td>Instructor at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954-1955</td>
<td>Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1957</td>
<td>Instructor at DePauw University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-1960</td>
<td>Research on the Potawatomi in Michigan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1960       Fieldwork in Okayama Prefecture, Japan
1960-1961  Fieldwork in the Philippines
1961       Published *New Men of Papua*
1966-1987  Professor at Western Michigan University
1973       Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
            Fieldwork in the Philippines
1974       Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
1975       Fieldwork in the Philippines
1976       Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
1978       Fieldwork in the Philippines
            Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
1982       Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
            Fieldwork in the Philippines
1983       Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
1987       Died of cancer on March 26

---

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Robert F. Maher document his field research in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. His field research in Papua New Guinea focused on cultural change in the Purari Delta and the modernist Tommy Kabu Movement (1946-1968). His field research in the Philippines focused on the ethnological and archaeological history and changes in the Ifugao province. The collection consists of field notes, excavation notes, census data, genealogy charts, grant applications, research files, research proposals, maps, correspondence, manuscripts, sound recordings, and photographs.

The Papua New Guinea research files primarily consist of Maher's fieldwork diary from 1954-1955. Included with the diary is an annotated partial typescript transcription. Other material includes excavation notes and dwelling information. There is also census material from Tommy Kabu about a work area known as Rabia Camp. The diary describes Maher's time with Tommy Kabu at Rabia Camp and Port Moresby, as well as his time in the Purari Delta.

The Philippines research files include field notes, excavation notes, census data, genealogy charts, and research files. The field notes contain detailed reports on pottery, tools, and agricultural and social aspects of the Ifugao province. The census data chiefly contains undated questionnaires filled out by residents of different Ifugao villages. The research files contain reports along with correspondence. Some of the fieldwork reports, along with census data and genealogy charts, were probably authored by two of Maher's research assistants, Emilio Pagada and Ben Pitpitunge.

The bulk of the correspondence is professional in nature, and primarily concern his work in the Philippines. Included is correspondence with anthropologists Harold C. Conklin, William A. Longacre, Daniel J. Scheans, Richard Shutler, and Wilheim G. Solheim. Also included are letters from Tommy Kabu.

The sound recordings contain 7 magnetic tape reels (3 in.) likely recorded in the Ifugao Province of the Philippines.
Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 6 series:

Series 1: Research, 1944, 1954-1985
Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-1987
Series 3: Writings, 1961-1983
Series 4: Writings by Others, circa 1950s - circa 1980s
Series 5: Sound Recordings, undated
Series 6: Photographs

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Cultures:
- Ifugao (Philippine people)
- Namau
- Purari (Papua New Guinea people)

Types of Materials:
- Correspondence
- Field notes
- Genealogical tables
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Photographs
- Sound recordings

Geographic Names:
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines

Selected Bibliography


Container Listing

Series 1: Research, 1944, 1954-1985

2 linear feet

This series contains Maher's research files. Included here are field notes, diaries, excavation notes, census data, genealogy charts, research proposals, maps, and research files. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject title.

The Papua New Guinea files primarily consist of Maher's fieldwork diary from 1954-1955. Included with the diary is an annotated partial typescript transcription. Other material includes excavation notes and dwelling information. There is census material from Tommy Kabu about a work area known as Rabia Camp. The diary describes Maher's time with Tommy Kabu at Rabia Camp and Port Moresby, as well as his time in the Purari Delta.

The Philippines files include field notes, excavation notes, census data, genealogy charts, and research files. The field notes contain detailed reports on pottery, tools, and agricultural and social aspects of the Ifugao province. The census data chiefly contains undated questionnaires filled out by residents of different Ifugao villages. Some questionnaires contain annotated information. The genealogy charts are folded and some are multiple sheets glued together. The research files contain reports along with correspondence. Some of the fieldwork reports, along with census data and genealogy charts, were probably authored by two of Maher's research assistants, Emilio Pagada and Ben Pitpitunge.

1.1: Papua New Guinea, 1954-1955

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Excavation notes; Papua New Guinea census; “patrol report” notebook, circa 1957-1959, 1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Diary, 1954 November 22 - 1955 January 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Diary, 1955 January 14-March 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Diary, 1955 March 23-May 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Diary, 1955 May 29-June 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Diary, typescript transcription (copy 1), 1954 November 22 - 1955 April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Diary, typescript transcription (copy 2), 1954 November 22 - 1955 April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes: Dwellings, 1954-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Field Notes, 1954-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Tommy Kabu File: Rabia Camp census, 1951</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2: The Philippines, 1944, 1960-1985
Box 1  Banaue Town Fiesta souvenir programs, 1960, 1973

Box 2  Beyer, H. Otley: Papers and Documents Relating to the Census of the Sub-Province of Ifugao (excerpt), circa 1960s

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, Banaue, circa 1961-circa 1982

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, Bo-Oh Village, circa 1961-circa 1982

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, Cababuyan, circa 1961-circa 1982

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, Lamagan Village, circa 1961-circa 1982

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, Puitan, circa 1961-circa 1982

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, 1960, 1982

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, circa 1961-circa 1982
  2 folders

Box 2  Census Data: Ifugao, 1973-1983

Box 2  Clippings, 1944, 1970s

Box 2  Clippings, 1980s
  2 folders

Box 3  Excavation Notes: Kiyangan Village, circa 1983

Box 3  Excavation Notes, circa 1976

Box 3  Excavation Notes, circa 1978

Box 3  Excavation Notes, undated
  3 folders

Box 3  Excavation Notebook with enclosures, 1973

Box 3  Excavation Notebooks, undated
  2 folders

Box 3  Field Notes: Ifugao, Diary, 1960

Box 3  Field Notes: Ifugao, The Philippines; Papua New Guinea, Diary, 1973 January-May

Box 3  Field Notes: Ifugao, Diary, 1976 April-June

Box 3  Field Notes: Ifugao notebook with enclosures, 1978 May 11-June 22


Box 3  Field Notes: Ifugao, circa 1960 - circa 1985
  6 folders

Box 4  Genealogy Charts: “Ben Genealogy”, undated
  2 folders
Box 4  Genealogy Charts: Puitan, undated

Box 4-5 Genealogy Charts, undated
   6 folders

Box 5  Geochron Laboratories, 1970-1971

Box 5  Grant Application: Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, 1981

Box 5  The Great Ifugao Tribal War: Pagada, Emilio narrative; photographs, 1977

Box 5  Maps: 8 map set of Ifugao, 1972

Box 5  Maps: "Mobil Travel Map", circa 1963

Box 5  Maps: The Philippines, 1951, 1958, undated
   3 annotated maps of Ifugao are in oversize storage

Box 5  Maps: Printing plates, circa 1960s - circa 1970s

Box 5  Report on 1973 Ifugao Excavations and Preliminary Description of Materials
   Recovered, 1973, 1978

Box 5  Republic Act no. 4846 and permit forms, 1973

Box 5  Research Files: Binway, Jose, 1974-1985

Box 5  Research Files: Habawel, Martin, 1979

Box 5  Research Files: Kindipan, Conrado, 1976, 1982-1985

Box 5  Research Files: Pagada, Emilio, 1962-1985
   2 folders


Box 6  Research Proposal: The Archaeology of Ifugao, Northern Luzon, 1972

Box 6  Research Proposal: The Evolution of Ifugao Culture and Society, 1985

Box 6  Research Proposal: Thermoluminescence Analysis of Ceramics from the Boatworks
   Site, 1983

Box 6  Research proposal papers, circa 1981 - circa 1985

Box 6  Rituals: Bo-Oh, circa 1960s - circa 1980s

Box 6  Rituals, circa 1960s - circa 1980s

Box 6  Travel expenses notebook, 1976
Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-1987

This series contains the correspondence of Robert F. Maher. The bulk is professional correspondence regarding his work in the Philippines. Included is correspondence with anthropologists Harold C. Conklin, William A. Longacre, Daniel J. Scheans, Richard Shutler, and Wilheim G. Solheim. Also included are letters from Tommy Kabu of the Purari River in Papua New Guinea. Kabu was the leader of the Tommy Kabu Movement. His letters chiefly discuss a Purari cooperative and their desire to order goods from the United States. The folders are arranged alphabetically by correspondent, and general correspondence is filed chronologically at the end.

Box 6
Albert, Robert H., 1983-1984

Box 6

Box 6

Box 6
Bengzon, Gilda P., 1975-1977

Box 6
Beyer, William, 1978-1979

Box 6
Bodner, Connie, 1982, 1986

Box 6
Casino, Eric S., 1973-1976

Box 6
Cohen, Joan E., 1978-1979

Box 6
Conklin, Harold C., 1961-1985

Box 6
Eggan, Fred, 1972, 1976-1977, undated

Box 6
Evangelista, Alfredo, 1972-1982

Box 6
Howe, John, 1973-1975, 1985

Box 6
Jocano, F. Landa, 1975-1978

Box 6
Kabu, Tommy, 1953-1956

Box 6

Box 6
Longacre, William A., 1976-1979

Box 6
Maher, Lee, 1976

Box 6
Peralta, Jesus, 1978-1980

Box 6

Box 6
Scott, William Henry, 1976-1986

Box 6
Shutler, Richard, 1979-1986

Box 6

Box 6
Spoehr, Alexander, 1972-1977
Box 7  General Correspondence, 1955-1957
Box 7  General Correspondence, 1965-1968
Box 7  General Correspondence, 1972-1979
Box 7  General Correspondence, 1980-1987, undated
Series 3: Writings, 1961-1983

0.31 linear feet

This series contains writings by Maher. Included are articles that appeared in *Asian Perspectives*, as well as 1 book review and a copy of his book *New Men of Papua*. Some of the articles include printing plates and photographs. The folders are arranged alphabetically by title.

Box 7  
Archaeological Investigations in Central Ifugao, 1973  
2 folders

Box 7  
Archaeological Investigations in the Burnay District of Southeastern Ifugao, Philippines, 1981

Box 7  
Excavations in Bintacan Cave, Ifugao Province, Philippines, 1983

Box 7  
The Great Ifugao War: A Study in Archaeology and Oral History, 1975

Box 7  

Box 7  
New Men of Papua, 1961
Series 4: Writings by Others, circa 1950s - circa 1980s

0.41 linear feet

This series contains published writings primarily regarding anthropology work in the Philippines. Also included is the booklet *People's War in the Philippines* published by the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). Folders are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Unsorted material is at the end.

Box 7

Box 7
Longacre, William A.: Kalinga Pottery, An Ethnological Study, undated

Box 8

Box 8
Loofs, H.H.E.: The Use of Stone by the Ifugao, 1968

Box 8
People's War in the Philippines, 1974

Box 8
Saito, Shiro: Preliminary Bibliography of Philippine Ethnography (privately circulated for annotation and comments), 1968

Box 8
Scheans, Daniel J.: A New View of Philippines Pottery Manufacture, 1966

Box 8
Pamphlets, programs, and brochures about the Philippines, 1960-1961, circa 1970s
“New Society” calendars, 1973 are in oversize storage

Box 8
Photocopied articles, circa 1950s - circa 1980s
Series 5: Sound Recordings, undated

This series contains 7 magnetic tape reels (3 in.) likely recorded in the Ifugao province of the Philippines. There is no indication of sequence nor date. Several of the tapes have recordings on each side. Two tapes are likely blank.

- **Box 9, item 1**  
  Banaue Social Music  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*

- **Box 9, item 2**  
  Anicano; Banaue; Social  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*

- **Box 9, item 3**  
  Lovers Harp and Children's Song  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*

- **Box 9, item 4**  
  Gongs  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*

- **Box 9, item 5**  
  Miscellaneous Recordings: 2 adults and infant; radio broadcasts; gong music; speech excerpt  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*

- **Box 9, item 6**  
  Blank  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*

- **Box 9, item 7**  
  Blank  
  *1 sound tape reel; 3 inch*
Series 6: Photographs

This series is unprocessed.