
Adam Fielding

Funding for the processing of this collection as well as for digitization of the sound recording was provided by the Arcadia Fund.

2014 August
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Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives
Title: Robert Francis Maher papers
Identifier: NAA.1997-02
Date: 1944-1987 (bulk 1954-1987)
Extent: 7 sound recordings
6.38 Linear Feet (13 boxes)
Creator: Maher, Robert F. (Robert Francis), 1922-1987
Language: English
Summary: 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.

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
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 Okayama 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>
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<th>Chronology</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>1956-1957</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Fieldwork in Okayama Prefecture, Japan</td>
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</table>
1960-1961  
Fieldwork in the Philippines

1961  
Published *New Men of Papua*

1966-1987  
Professor at Western Michigan University

1973  
Fieldwork in the Philippines  
Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea

1974  
Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea

1975  
Fieldwork in the Philippines

1976  
Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea

1978  
Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea  
Fieldwork in the Philippines

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 Contents

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 5 magnetic tape reels (3 in.) likely recorded in the Ifugao Province of the Philippines.

The photographs and slides are unprocessed.
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

Selected Bibliography


Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Ifugao (Philippine people)
Namau
Purari (Papua New Guinea people)

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
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

Box 1
- Excavation notes; Papua New Guinea census; “patrol report” notebook, 1963, circa 1957-1959

Box 1
- Field Notes: Diary, 1954 November 22 - 1955 January 13

Box 1
- Field Notes: Diary, 1955 January 14-March 22

Box 1
- Field Notes: Diary, 1955 March 23-May 28

Box 1
- Field Notes: Diary, 1955 May 29-June 29

Box 1
- Field Notes: Diary, typescript transcription (copy 1), 1954 November 22 - 1955 April 7

Box 1
- Field Notes: Diary, typescript transcription (copy 2), 1954 November 22 - 1955 April 7

Box 1
- Field Notes: Dwellings, 1954-1955

Box 1
- Field Notes, 1954-1955

Box 1
- Tommy Kabu File: Rabia Camp census, 1951

1.2: The Philippines, 1944, 1960-1985

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Banaue Town Fiesta souvenir programs, 1960, 1973</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Beyer, H. Otley: Papers and Documents Relating to the Census of the Sub-Province of Ifugao (excerpt), circa 1960s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Census Data: Ifugao, Banaue, circa 1961-circa 1982</td>
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<td>Census Data: Ifugao, Bo-Oh Village, circa 1961-circa 1982</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Census Data: Ifugao, Cababuyan, circa 1961-circa 1982</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Census Data: Ifugao, Lamagan Village, circa 1961-circa 1982</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Census Data: Ifugao, Puitan, circa 1961-circa 1982</td>
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<td>Census Data: Ifugao, 1982, 1960</td>
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<td>Census Data: Ifugao, circa 1961-circa 1982</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Census Data: Ifugao, 1973-1983</td>
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<td>Clippings, 1980s</td>
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<td>Excavation Notes: Kiyangan Village, circa 1983</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Excavation Notes, circa 1976</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
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<td>Excavation Notebook with enclosures, 1973</td>
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<td>Excavation Notebooks, undated</td>
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<td>Field Notes: Ifugao, Diary, 1960</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Field Notes: Ifugao, The Philippines; Papua New Guinea, Diary, 1973 January-May</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Field Notes: Ifugao, Diary, 1976 April-June</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Field Notes: Ifugao notebook with enclosures, 1978 May 11-June 22</td>
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| 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 |
| Map-case 1 | Maps: The Philippines, 1951, 1958, undated  
|       | 3 maps  
|       | annotated maps of Ifugao |
| Box 5 | Maps: Printing plates, circa 1960s - circa 1970s |
| 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 5 | Research Files: Pitpitunge, Ben, 1985, 1967, 1972-1980 |
| 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

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-1987

0.41 Linear Feet

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 Wilhelm 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  Alcasid, Godofredo L., 1973-1976
- Box 6  Bengzon, Gilda P., 1975-1977
- Box 6  Beyer, William, 1978-1979
- Box 6  Bodner, Connie, 1986, 1982
- 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, 1985, 1973-1975
- Box 6  Jocano, F. Landa, 1975-1978
- Box 6  Kabu, Tommy, 1953-1956
- Box 6  Longacre, William A., 1976-1979
- Box 6  Maher, Lee, 1976
- Box 6  Peralta, Jesus, 1978-1980
- Box 6  Scott, William Henry, 1976-1986
- Box 6  Shutler, Richard, 1979-1986
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<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Spoehr, Alexander, 1972-1977</td>
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<td>Box 7</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1955-1957</td>
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<td>General Correspondence, 1965-1968</td>
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<td>Box 7</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1972-1979</td>
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<td>Box 7</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1980-1987, undated</td>
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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  Review: Dozier, Edward P., The Kalinga of Northern Luzon, Philippines, 1967
Box 7  New Men of Papua, 1961

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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  Houston, Charles O., Jr.: Progress in Philippine Archaeology: 1953-1957, 1956

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

Box 8  Loofs, H.H.E.: Observations on a Little-Known Healing Ceremony Among the Ifugao, Northern Luzon, Philippines, 1973

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

*Return to Table of Contents*
Series 5: Sound Recordings, undated

This series contains 3 in. audio reels possibly recorded in the Ifugao province of the Philippines. There is no indication of sequence nor date. Information about content comes from box labels. Contents have not been verified.

Box 9, Item 1  
Banaue Social Music  
1 sound tape reel (3 inch)  
Audio: Maher SR 01 side 1  
Audio: Maher SR 01 side 2

Box 9, Item 2  
Anicano; Banaue; Social  
1 sound tape reel (3 inch)  
Audio: Maher SR 02 side 1  
Audio: Maher SR 02 side 2

Box 9, Item 3  
Lovers Harp and Children’s Song  
1 sound tape reel (3 inch)  
Audio: Maher SR 03

Box 9, Item 4  
Gongs  
1 sound tape reel (3 inch)  
Audio: Maher SR 04

Box 9, Item 5  
Miscellaneous: 2 adults and infant; radio broadcasts; gong music; speech excerpt  
1 sound tape reel (3 inch)  
Audio: Maher SR 05 side 1  
Audio: Maher SR 05 side 2

Return to Table of Contents
Series 6: Photographs
This series is unprocessed.

Return to Table of Contents