



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Robert Francis Maher papers, 1944-1987

Adam Fielding

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Robert Francis Maher papers
Date:	1944-1987 (bulk 1954-1987)
Identifier:	NAA.1997-02
Creator:	Maher, Robert F. (Robert Francis), 1922-1987
Extent:	7 Sound recordings 6.38 Linear feet (13 boxes)
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 are open for research. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Access to the Robert Francis Maher papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

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.

In 1960-1961, Maher began a Senior Fulbright Research Grant funded study of the ethnological and archeological history of the Ifugao region of the Philippines. He returned to that area in 1973, 1975, 1978, and 1982. While in Ifugao, Maher conducted cultural studies and excavations in eleven villages and over four agricultural districts including the Banaue, Burnay, and Kiangan districts.

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 Potawatomi 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:

Solheim, Wilhelm G. 1967 Robert F. Maher 1922-1987. *Asian Perspectives* 27(1).

Chronology

1922	Born on July 14 in Eldora, Iowa
1948	B.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison
1950	M.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison
1953-1954	Instructor at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
1954-1955	Fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
1956-1957	Instructor at DePauw University
1958	Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison
1959-1960	Research on the Potawatomi in Michigan
1960	Fieldwork in Okayama Prefecture, Japan
1960-1961	Fieldwork in the Philippines
1961	Published <i>New Men of Papua</i>
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 Wilhelm 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

1958. Tommy Kabu Movement of the Purari Delta. *Oceana* 29(2):75-90.

1960. Social Structure and Cultural Change in Papua. *American Anthropologist* 62:593-602.

1961a. Varieties of Change in Koriki Culture. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 17:26-39.

1961b. *New Men of Papua*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

1967. From Cannibal Raid to Copra Kompani: Changing Patterns of Koriki Politics. *Ethnology* 6(1):309-331.

1973. Archaeological Investigations in Central Ifugao. *Asian Perspectives* 16(1):39-70.

1974. Koriki Chieftainship: Hereditary Status and Mana in Papua. *Ethnology* 13(3):239-246.

1975. The Great Ifugao War: A Study in Archaeology and Oral History. *Asian Perspectives* 18(1):64-74.

1978. Ifugao. *In* *Studies in Philippines Prehistory*. F. Landa Jocano, ed. Pp. 270-305. Quezon City: Institute for Advanced Study, University of the Philippines.

1981. Archaeological Investigations in the Burnay District of Southeastern Ifugao, Philippines. *Asian Perspectives* 24(2):223-236.

1984a. Kiyangan Village of Ifugao Province, Philippines. *Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society* 12(2):116-127.

1984b. The Purari River Delta Societies, Papua New Guinea, after the Tom Kabu Movement. *Ethnology* 23(3):217-227.

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

Places:

Papua New Guinea
Philippines

Container Listing

Series 1: Research, 1944, 1954-1985

2 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: 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.

Subseries 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

Subseries 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, 1982, 1960

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

Box 2 Census Data: Ifugao, 1973-1983

Box 2 Clippings, 1970s, 1944

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, 1977-1978, 1960-1961, 1973
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 Notes: annotated maps of Ifugao
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 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

Scope and Contents: 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	Angawa, Casilda, 1978, 1982, 1973
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	Lomax, Alan, 1981, 1968-1969
Box 6	Longacre, William A., 1976-1979
Box 6	Maher, Lee, 1976
Box 6	Peralta, Jesus, 1978-1980

Box 6	Scheans, Daniel J., 1976-1977, 1972, 1981
Box 6	Scott, William Henry, 1976-1986
Box 6	Shutler, Richard, 1979-1986
Box 6	Solheim, Wilhelm G., 1962, 1972-1985
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

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Series 3: Writings, 1961-1983

0.31 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: 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

Scope and Contents: 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 Notes: "New Society" calendars, 1973 are in oversize storage
Box 8	Photocopied articles, circa 1950s - circa 1980s

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Series 5: Sound Recordings, undated

Scope and Contents: 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 2](#)
[Audio: Maher SR 01 side 1](#)

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

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 2](#)
[Audio: Maher SR 05 side 1](#)

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Series 6: Photographs

Scope and Contents: This series is unprocessed.

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