

# Robert B. Fox 1918–1985

---

WILHELM G. SOLHEIM II

ROBERT BRADFORD FOX (Bob) was a well-rounded anthropologist with training in physical anthropology, archaeology, and his Ph.D. in cultural anthropology, from the University of Chicago. At one time or another he made use, professionally, of all three of these areas of anthropological training. Working in the field and in the National Museum of the Philippines he alternated between ethnography and archaeology. For several years before he went to Chicago to study for his Ph.D. he worked as a civilian for the United States Army in charge of a laboratory identifying remains of American personnel who died during the Second World War. When Bob left for Chicago to study for his Ph.D., Charles Warren took over this job.

Bob was well known for his ethnographic research on the Tagbanuwa in Palawan, the Pinatubo Negritos of Luzon, and most recently the Tasaday of Mindanao. You may rest assured that the Tasaday were a truly, though not totally, isolated ethnic group, using stone tools and living in caves. In no way had the Tasaday been totally isolated from any other ethnic group for thousands of years, but, to my knowledge, it was the communications industry, in its many forms, that came up with the idea that this is what made the Tasaday exciting to the rest of the world. Bob would have had no part in developing such a false story.

In the academic world Bob was better known for his archaeological work. Of the three subfields of anthropology, he had the least training in archaeology. As a field worker he was very good but, unfortunately, he had little background in the analysis of collected archaeological data. He was making up for this lack, over five or more years before he had his stroke, in the analysis he was making of the flaked stone artifacts from the Tabon Caves. At first he was very frustrated for he realized after several years of work on this material that he had gotten nowhere beyond simple description. It was difficult to find the needed technical books in the Philippines, but he managed. The last time I had a visit with him before his stroke he showed me what he was doing with this material and I became convinced that he finally was on the right track and that soon he would produce a very valuable final report. His stroke brought this, and many other unfinished projects, to an end. It is fortunate that at least a few of these projects were close enough to completion that, with some editing, final publications appeared in the last few years.

Bob was no angel. In the field he was first class but he had difficulty coping with the big city. After coming back to Manila he would at times disappear for weeks at a time. He would eventually be found in one of the unsavory bars of Harrison St. in Pasay City. He knew how to take care of himself in a street fight, and on some occasions had to do so. His life story would make a very powerful and exciting movie. I am sure that his experiences with the U.S. Navy during the Second World War were exciting as well. If my memory serves me, he was with a PT boat squadron around Sulawesi towards the end of the war and took his discharge in the Philippines. He served the Philippines well.

I owe the following bibliography of Bob's publications having to do with archaeology to an article by Harold Conklin titled "A Bibliography of the Works of Robert B. Fox," which appeared in *Pilipinas: A Journal of Philippine Studies* (No. 7, Fall 1986:75-85). Conklin's article presents a more complete listing of Bob's writings as I have left out items which were not of direct interest to archaeology and prehistory and have included articles and books that could be considered ethnoarchaeological in nature.



Plate I. Bob Fox in Tabon Cave, Palawan, Philippines; photo by Joseph J. Scherschel (© National Geographic Society. I would like to thank the National Geographic Society for permission to use this photo).

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS BY ROBERT FOX  
OF VALUE TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN PREHISTORY

- 1950 Notes on the orchids and people of northeast Polillo Island, Quezon Province. *Philippine Orchid Review* 3 (1): 3-7.
- 1952 *The Pinatubo Negritos: Their Useful Plants and Material Culture*. PJS 81 (3-4): 173-414.
- 1953 With FRED EGGAN and WILLIS E. SIBLEY. The application of glottochronology to the Mountain Province: its implications for culture history, in *Eighth Pacific Science Congress of the Pacific Science Association and the Fourth Far-Eastern Prehistory Congress: Abstracts of Papers: 518-519*. Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press.
- 1954 Note on the Negros-Bisayan syllabary recorded by Povedano, in *The Robertson Text and Translation of the Povedano Manuscript of 1572: 55-58*, ed. E. D. Hester. Chicago: Transcript No. 2, Philippine Studies Program, University of Chicago.
- 1954 With FRED EGGAN and WILLIS E. SIBLEY. A preliminary glottochronology for Northern Luzon. Chicago: University of Chicago Philippine Studies Program. Mimeographed.
- 1955 A consideration of theories concerning possible affiliations of Mindanao cultures with Borneo, the Celebes, and other regions of the Philippines. Chicago: Philippine Studies Program, Mindanao Conference, University of Chicago. Mimeographed.
- 1956 Culture history. Chapter IV in *Area Handbook on the Philippines*, vol. 1: 1-10, eds. Fred Eggan, Evett D. Hester and Norton S. Ginsburg. Chicago and New Haven: The University of Chicago for the Human Relations Area Files, Inc.
- 1956 Aeta. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*: 273, 14th Edition.
- 1957 A consideration of theories concerning possible affiliations of Mindanao cultures with Borneo, the Celebes, and other regions of the Philippines. *Philippine Sociological Review* 5 (1): 2-12.
- 1957 With ALFREDO E. EVANGELISTA. The Bato Caves, Sorsogon Province, Philippines: a preliminary report of a jar burial-stone tool assemblage. *University of Manila Journal of East Asiatic Studies* 6 (1): 49-55.
- 1957 With ALFREDO E. EVANGELISTA. The cave archaeology of Cagraray Island, Albay Province, Philippines: a preliminary report of explorations and excavations. *University of Manila Journal of East Asian Studies* 6 (1): 57-68.
- 1957 With ALFREDO E. EVANGELISTA. Three preliminary reports of Philippine jar burial sites. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1958 Pre-historic foundations of contemporary Filipino culture and society. *Comment* 5:31-45. Manila: Alberto D. Benipayo.
- 1958 Pre-Spanish influences in Filipino culture. *Philippine Educator* 12 (10): 14-20, 22. Manila: Philippine Public School Teachers Association.
- 1958 Pre-Spanish influences in Filipino culture. *The Sunday Times Magazine Special: The Foundations of Filipino Culture*, Feb. 2: 2-5.
- 1958 With ALFREDO E. EVANGELISTA. The Bato Caves, Sorsogon Province, Philippines: a preliminary site report. Quezon City: *National Research Council of the Philippines Bulletin* No. 42: 116-125 (Appendix E).
- 1959 Excavations at Calatagan. *The Insurance Line* 8 (3): 9-14. Manila: Insular Life-FGU Insurance Group.
- 1959 The Calatagan excavations: Two 15th century burial sites in Batangas, Philippines. *Philippine Studies* 7 (3): 321-390. (Second printing 1959.)
- 1959 *The Philippines in Pre-Historic Times: A Handbook for the First National Exhibition of Filipino Pre-History and Culture*. Foreword by Geronima T. Pecson. Manila: The UNESCO National Commission on the Philippines.

- 1960 The pre-historic Filipino village, in *Progress*: 162-166. Manila: *Times-Mirror* annual report.
- 1961 *The National Museum Special Exhibition of the Calatagan Excavations*. Manila: National Museum.
- 1961 *The Special Exhibition of the Calatagan Excavations*. Manila: National Science Development Board.
- 1962 Ancient Filipino communities, in *Proceedings of the Symposium on the Impact of Man on Humid Tropics Vegetation*. Canberra: Commonwealth Government Printer.
- 1962 Chinese pottery in the Philippines. *The Fookien Times Yearbook*: 40-41, 248-258.
- 1962 First progress report of excavations in the Alfonso XIII Caves, Palawan. Manila: Prepared for the National Science Development Board, National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1962 The Philippines in prehistoric times. *Science Review* 3 (9): 1-16.
- 1963 Ancient man in Palawan: a progress report on excavations in Palawan by the National Museum, during 1962-63. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1963 Contacts with the Great Traditions. Part III of "The Philippines since the Beginning of Time." Manila: *The Sunday Times Magazine* 18 (30): 11-23.
- 1963 Philippine prehistory and carbon-14 dating. *Science Review* 4 (10): 4-8.
- 1963 Philippine prehistory and radio-carbon 14 dating. *Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science Quarterly* 6 (1-2).
- 1963 Recent archaeological excavations in Palawan. *University of the Philippines Anthropology Bulletin* (1): 6-7.
- 1963 The Philippines since the beginning of time. Part I of "The Philippines since the beginning of time." Manila: *The Sunday Times Magazine* 18 (23): 18-31, 18 (24): 34-44, 18 (25): 10-23.
- 1963 The first man appears. Part II of "The Philippines since the beginning of time." Manila: *The Sunday Times Magazine* 18 (29): 34-43.
- 1963 The Philippines in prehistoric times. *The Journal of History* 11 (1-4): 283-317.
- 1964 Chinese pottery in the Philippines, in *Chinese Participation in Philippine Culture and Economy*: 96-113, ed. Shubert S. C. Liao. Manila: Bookman, Inc. (Reprint of 1962.)
- 1964 The Philippines in prehistoric times, in *The Philippines of Yesteryears*: 283-317, ed. Eufroonia M. Alip. Manila: Alip & Sons, Inc. (Alip vol. is reprint of *The Journal of History* 11 [1-4], 1963.)
- 1964 The Philippines since the beginning of time, in *Glimpses of Philippine Culture*: 15-44, ed. Pedro F. Abella. Manila: UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines.
- 1965 Cave treasures of ancient Asia. *The Asia Magazine* (Hong Kong) 5 (23): 4-9.
- 1965 Excavations unfold the story of man in Asia. *Sarawak Gazette* 91 (1291): 266-271.
- 1965 *The Calatagan Excavations: Two Fifteenth Century Burial Sites in Batangas, Philippines*. Manila: Society of Jesus in the Philippine Islands. [Cf. 1959]
- 1965 With WILLIS E. SIBLEY and FRED EGGAN. A preliminary glottochronology for northern Luzon. *Asian Studies* 3 (1): 103-113. [Cf. 1954]
- 1966 Ancient Filipino communities. Filipino Cultural Heritage Lecture Series No. 1. Manila: Philippine Women's University.
- 1966 First progress report to the National Geographic Society on the explorations and excavations of cave sites of ancient man on Palawan Island, Philippines (September 24 to December 4, 1965), Part 1. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1966 Pre-Spanish Manila through archaeology: progress report on the Sta. Ana and Lamayan excavations. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.

- 1966 Second progress report to the National Geographic Society on the explorations and excavations of cave sites of ancient man on Palawan Island, Philippines, Part 2. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1966 Some researches in Philippine anthropology and archaeology partly supported by the Research Foundation in Philippine Anthropology and Archaeology, Inc., 1965-1966. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1967 Foreword, in *Oriental Ceramics Discovered in the Philippines*: xiii-xiv, by Leandro and Cecilia Locsin. Rutland, Vermont and Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle Company.
- 1967 Excavations in the Tabon Caves and some problems in Philippine chronology, in *Studies in Philippine Anthropology (in honor of H. Otley Beyer)*: 88-116, ed. Mario D. Zamora. Quezon City: Phoenix Press, Inc.
- 1967 Pre-history of the Philippines, in *Aspects of Philippine Culture*, No. 1. Manila: National Museum.
- 1967 The archaeological record of Chinese influences in the Philippines. *Philippine Studies* 15 (1): 41-62.
- 1967 With AVELINO M. LEGASPI. Progress report: Phases I and II, excavations at Santa Ana Parish Church and along old Lamayan Road. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1968 Archaeology & the Philippines. *Esso Silangan* 13 (3): 2-5.
- 1968 With MANUEL SANTIAGO. 50,000 years of Philippine prehistory. *Esso Silangan* 13 (3): 12-13.
- 1968 With AVELINO M. LEGASPI. Pottery treasures of the National Museum. *Esso Silangan* 13 (3): 14-17.
- 1968 Philippine archaeology: its present status and the future. Paper presented at the lecture series sponsored by the Foundation of Philippine Anthropology and Archaeology. Makati, Rizal. Mimeographed.
- 1968 Pre-historic foundations of Filipino culture. *Solidarity* 3 (2): 69-93.
- 1968 The prehistory of the Philippines. *Hemisphere: an Asian-Australian Magazine* 12 (10): 10-16.
- 1968 With AVELINO M. LEGASPI. Excavations at Santa Ana, Manila. Manila: Manila Trade Pottery Seminar, Philippines. Mimeographed.
- 1970 Prehistoric foundations of contemporary Filipino culture and society, in *Readings on Philippine Culture and Social Life*: 31-43, ed. Amparo S. Lardizabal and Felicitas Tensuan-Leogardo.
- 1970 *The Tabon Caves: Archaeological Explorations and Excavations on Palawan Island, Philippines*. Manila: Monographs of the National Museum, No. 1.
- 1971 Explorations and excavations of cave sites of ancient man on Palawan Island, Philippines. *National Geographic Society Research Reports 1965 Projects*: 75-85.
- 1971 In collaboration with JESUS T. PERALTA, INOCENTES P. PANIZA, ISRAEL CABANILLA, NED EWART, YOGI AOYAGI, SILVIO LOPEZ, and REY FLORES. Ancient man and Pleistocene fauna in Cagayan Valley, Northern Luzon, Philippines: a progress report. Manila: National Museum. Mimeographed.
- 1971 ELIZALDE, MANUEL, JR., in collaboration with ROBERT B. FOX. The Tasaday Forest People: a data paper on a newly discovered food gathering and stone tool-using Manubo Group in the mountains of South Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, Center for Short-Lived Phenomena. Mimeographed.
- 1972 With MANUEL ELIZALDE, JR. The Tasaday Forest People of Mindanao: a preliminary data paper on a newly discovered food-gathering and stone-tool using Manubo group in the mountains of South Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines. Rochester, New York: BEE Cross Media Inc.

- 1973 With WILLIS E. SIBLEY and FRED EGGAN. A preliminary glottochronology for northern Luzon, in *Philippine Linguistics*: 668–677b, eds. Andrew B. Gonzales, Teodoro Llamzon, and Fe Otanes. Manila: Linguistics Society of the Philippines. [Cf 1954]
- 1973 With FRANK LYNCH, TEODORO LLAMZON, and CARLOS FERNANDEZ. The Tasaday: Stone Age tribe of Mindanao, in *1973 Britannica Yearbook of Science and the Future*: 50–65. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.
- 1974 With JESUS T. PERALTA. Preliminary report on the Palaeolithic archaeology of Cagayan Valley, Philippines, and the Cabalwanian Industry, in *Proceedings of the First Regional Seminar on Southeast Asian Prehistory and Archaeology*: 100–147, ed. Rosario B. Tantoco. Manila: National Museum of the Philippines.
- 1976 Notes on the stone tools of the Tasaday, gathering economies in the Philippines, and the archaeological record, in *Further Studies on the Tasaday*: 3–12, eds. D. E. Yen and J. Nance. Makati, Philippines: Panamin Foundation Research Series No. 2.
- 1977 Who came first? Recapturing life when man first set foot on our land, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 57–59. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 The search for early man in Cagayan: Filipino scientists are closing in on the counterpart of the Java Man, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 60–64. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Tabon Cave: a fossil skull cap places man 22,000 years back in the Philippine map, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 91–97. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Guri Cave: an expert analysis of this set of prehistoric artifacts, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 135–137. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Guri diary: Guri Man was a gourmet who preferred pork, venison, and sea food to vegetable salads; he was a good tool-maker but a poor housekeeper, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 138–140. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Manunggul Cave, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 169–173. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Leta-Leta Cave: the science and art of cave archaeology, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 1 The Stone Age in the Philippines: The Search for Early Man*: 228–234. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 The jade mystique: some evidence of Philippine prehistoric jade, in *Filipino Heritage: The making of a Nation, vol. 2 The Metal Age in the Philippines: The Foundations of the Society*: 303–308. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Looking at the prehistoric community: the structure of prehistoric Filipino communities, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 2 The Metal Age in the Philippines: The Foundations of the Society*: 352–358. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Tagbanwa heaven: persisting tradition in Tagbanwa religion and society, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 2 The Metal Age in the Philippines: The Foundations of the Society*: 380–388. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Ancient beads: unstringing the history of old beads, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 3 The Age of Trade and Contacts: Visitors from Across Many Seas*: 757–766. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1977 Finding lost chapters of protohistory through . . . jars, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 3 The Age of Trade and Contacts: Visitors from Across Many Seas*: 790–797. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.

- 1977 Porcelain door: a Ming in the humblest of huts, in *Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation, vol. 3 The Age of Trade and Contacts: Visitors from across Many Seas*: 804-808. Manila: Lahing Pilipino Publishing, Inc.
- 1978 The Philippine Paleolithic, in *Early Paleolithic in South and East Asia*: 59-85, ed. Fumiko Ikawa-Smith. The Hague: Mouton Publishers
- 1979 The Philippines during the first millennium B.C., in *Early South East Asia: Essays in Archaeology, History and Historical Geography*: 227-241, eds. R. B. Smith and W. Watson. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 1981 Philippine prehistory, in *Studies in History and Development: Baguio Religious Acculturation Conference, 1973, 1974, and 1975*: 7-18, ed. Aristón Estrada. [Fox chapter transcribed from a tape-recorded extemporaneous talk and edited by Delbert Rice and Alfredo Evangelista.] Baguio City.
- 1982 *Religion and Society among the Tagbanuwa of Palawan Island, Philippines*. Manila: National Museum Monograph No. 9.
- 1982 With DOROTHY MAIN. *The Calatagan Earthenwares: A Description of Pottery Complexes Excavated in Batangas Province, Philippines*. Manila: National Museum Monograph No. 5.
- 1985 With RAY A. SANTIAGO. Ancient beads from Philippine archaeological sites. *SPAFD Digest* 6 (1): 4-13, 23. Bangkok: SEAMO Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts.