

# Second Preliminary Report on the Archaeological Excavation in the Kulaman Plateau (Cotabato), Island of Mindanao, Philippines

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## 1. Introductory Remarks

The following short description is a preliminary report of further partial results of a systematic excavation of one of the two burial-caves found in Menteng in the Kulaman Plateau<sup>1</sup>. This was a continuation of the work mentioned in a previous report<sup>2</sup>.

Unlike on previous field trips, not many difficulties were encountered by the team during this third one<sup>3</sup>. This time (February to April 1964) the weather was favourable. Hence, the terrain was considerably drier. Furthermore, the water problem, a major headache during the first two trips, was solved upon the discovery of a spring some fifteen to twenty minutes hike from the base camp of the expedition. Water in this area is difficult to obtain due to the Karst Topography.

Originally the intention was to finish the excavation of the two caves, Kan-feneffe and Kan-nitong. Due, however, to some technical difficulties and the time element involved, only one, the larger cave, was studied systematically. The study of the second cave will be undertaken shortly.

<sup>1</sup> This field work which is not only archaeological but also socio-anthropological is supported by grants from the following agencies: National Science Development Board of the Philippines; Commission on National Integration of the Philippines; German Research Association; and the University of San Carlos.

<sup>2</sup> A report of the first two exploratory trips has been published in *Anthropos* 59, 1964, pp. 75-82.

<sup>3</sup> The members of the anthropological team were: Mr. Rogelio Lopez, Mr. Alfredo Evangelista, and the writer. Thanks are also due to Sgt. M. Matalines, PFC F. Gulle, Rogelio Resurreccion, and Antonio Delgado who were our constant companions and helpers, to Capt. M. Patron, to Mr. Gabriel Resurreccion, Mr. Ernesto Alcala, and to our Manobo friends who extended their help unselfishly for the completion of the first phase of the project.