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Blumenbach Correspondence

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Grenville Goodwin’s extensive 1930’s study on the Western Apache, copies of A.L. Kroeber’s work on Papago linguistics, notes by Edward Palmer (ca.1880) on the Pima and California Indians, Sara Jones Tucker’s work on the Hualapai, copies of some of Ruth Underhill’s work on the Papago, and the John and Louisa Wetherill Papers pertaining to an early trading family in northern Arizona. The Museum’s large photographic collection is housed separately.

The State Museum archives have been indexed by author and subject; most of the materials herein described may be located using this system. Incoming collections are now being arranged and described in accordance with nationally accepted archival standards. Researchers wishing to use the materials should communicate in advance with the archivist, Jeanne Armstrong, since the archive’s hours of access are limited and there may be restrictions on certain collections.

III. Manuscripts at the Bibliothèque du Musée de l’Homme

Francoise Weil (Conservateur en Chef), reports that her department has a number of manuscripts currently in the process of classification. The largest series (about 8500 letters, dating from 1901-1958), consists of the incoming correspondence of Paul Rivet, indexed so that researchers may request whether a particular individual is either author of, or cited in, letters in the series. A second, smaller series, includes letters by Rivet himself (which Weil would like to supplement by xeroxes of letters in the hands of other institutions or scholars). There are also some letters received by Marcel Mauss. A fourth series consists of the archives of the Musée de l’Homme for the period 1928 to 1950, which are in the process of reclassification, so as to separate, insofar as practicable, the private correspondence of Rivet and G.H. Riviere from official business correspondence of the museum. Finally, there are various manuscripts which have no relation to the history of the museum.

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In June of 1984, Dr. F.W.P. Dougherty, as part of his ongoing work on the manuscripts of J. F. Blumenbach, arranged an exhibition at the Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, entitled "Commercium Epistolicum J. F. Blumenbach." Dougherty has also compiled a catalogue of the exhibit, with the subtitle "Aus einem Briefwechsel des klassischen Zeitalters der Naturgeschichte." The catalogue contains the full text of some eighty letters to and from Blumenbach (some of them by English correspondents), as well as detailed information on the objects mentioned in them, and several illustrations. Catalogue copies may be obtained for 24 DM (plus postage) from the Niedersächsichen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Prinzenstr.1, 3400, Göttingen, Federal Republic of Germany.