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The Papers of Joseph Casagrande, Oscar Lewis, and Julian Steward at the University of Illinois

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The University Archives at the University of Illinois has completed processing an addition to the papers of Oscar Lewis (1914-1970), and the complete collection of papers of Joseph B. Casagrande (1915-1982). Together with the papers of Julian Steward (1902-1972), these collections provide significant source material for the history of anthropology, especially in regard to research into Latin American and native North American cultures. The papers of Steward (Record Series 15/2/21, 1926-1977, 16.3 cubic feet), Lewis (Record Series 15/2/20, 1944-76, 59.2 cubic feet) and Casagrande (Record Series 15/2/22, 1938-82, 40.5 cubic feet) offer a unique view of a half century of professional development in anthropology.

Julian Steward’s papers have been previously described by Joseph R. Hanc (HAN VI:1&2, 1979). Much of the material deals with Steward’s research on native peoples of the Americas, including the Pueblo (1935-40), Shoshoni (1936-40), Paiutes (c. 1950-53), and the California Indians (1949-55), as well as materials relating to the Native Peoples of South America (1959) and the large scale cooperative research project on The People of Puerto Rico (1956).

The papers of Oscar Lewis, professor of anthropology at the University from 1948 to 1970, include correspondence, publications, manuscripts, reviews, typescript galley proofs, continuity notes on edited tapes, and copies of edited tape recordings of interviews used as source materials for Pedro Martínez, A Mexican Peasant and his Family (1964), as well as the manuscript and galley proofs for La Vida: A Puerto Rican Family in the Culture of Poverty--San Juan and New York (1966).

Correspondence, tapes and transcripts of interviews done in Cuba in the early 1970s have been added to the collection within the past year. The fieldwork was completed by Ruth Lewis, and two volumes were published after her husband’s death: Four Men Living the Revolution: An Oral History of Contemporary Cuba (1976) and Four Women Living the Revolution: An Oral History of Contemporary Cuba (1980). In addition to the tapes and notes of Cuban anthropology students who interviewed Cuban subjects, this addition contains tapes of Oscar Lewis interviewing the Cuban student interviewers, as well as Lewis’ correspondence with Cuban officials in order to obtain permission to do research in Cuba. Because access to the Lewis collection is restricted, researchers must obtain permission in advance to use the papers.
The papers of Joseph Casagrande span the years 1938 to 1982, during which time he was professor of anthropology at the University (1960-82), head of the newly established department (1960-67), and director of the Center for International Comparative Studies (1968-82) and Campus Research Services (1979-82). The collection is organized into three major sections: 1) personal papers and correspondence, 2) correspondence, programs and reports concerning professional anthropological associations, and 3) research and teaching.

Casagrande took an active leadership role in the American Anthropological Association, the American Ethnological Society, and the Applied Anthropology Association; his papers relating to the history of the A. A. A. from 1938-1981 include a collection of annual meeting programs and much correspondence relating to the business of the Association. The third group of papers contains manuscripts, microfilm and photocopied documents, publications, course materials, field notes and diaries, photographs, maps, tapes and transcripts of tapes relating to fieldwork, primarily among the Highland Indians of Equador, but also among the Chip-pewa and Comanche Indians of North America. There are also files on research methods and the history of anthropology, and on linguistics and psycholinguistics.

The collection contains significant holdings in microfilm and transcribed documents from the Archivo General de las Indias in Seville, the Biblioteca Ecuatoriana, and the British Museum—all of it collected for a project on "The Social Position of the Ecuadorian Indian in Colonial Times and After Independence," for which Casagrande was principal investigator. The materials, which also include information on Peru and Columbia, were indexed by project researchers, and a supplementary finding aid has been compiled by the University Archives.

For further information concerning the use of these three collections, interested researchers should contact Maynard Brichford, University Archivist, or William J. Maher, Assistant Archivist, at the University Archives, University Library Room 19, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

II. Opening of Additional Leslie White Papers

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When the papers of Leslie A. White (housed in the Michigan Historical Collections of the Bentley Library in Ann Arbor) were described in HAN X:2 (1983), I indicated that some materials were to remain sealed until ten years after White’s death. The two boxes thus restricted were opened this past March, and their contents will be of interest both to specialists in Pueblo cultures and to those interested in the development of American anthropology.