1-1-1992

Videotape Dialogues on the History of Anthropology

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anthropological record: to preserve the primary data on which anthropological research is based and will be based in the future; and to insure the continued availability of the materials needed for the future historiography of anthropology. These tasks are responsibilities of the individual anthropologists who generate the records, and of the scholarly organizations that represent and advance the profession. Individuals are particularly obligated to save their field notes (in all the sub-disciplines of anthropology) for future research uses, as well as to preserve the personal and scientific papers that will document their anthropological work and its contexts. Organizations can assist in this by suggesting models and procedures, and by sponsoring or providing catalogs, indices, union lists, and other access tools. Most anthropological societies evidently also need to institute procedures to facilitate the systematic archiving of their own organizational records.

The symposium participants focussed on the archiving of United States anthropology, but it was recognized that an international effort will ultimately be required. Some attention was devoted to mechanisms for facilitating access to these materials by scholars and others abroad, especially in the countries where the research of scholars from the United States is conducted. The variety of media in which anthropological data are recorded was also discussed, along with some of the problems and opportunities for preservation and access that are presented by rapidly changing technology, especially in electronic data storage and processing. A plan was drafted for consideration by anthropological organizations, looking towards the establishment of a discipline history center for anthropology, which might serve as an information clearing house and/or coordinate the work of archival repositories and anthropological professional societies.

The resolution quoted above, and a series of suggestions for future progress, were to have been submitted to a meeting of the Council of Presidents of anthropological societies in April, 1992.

II. Videotape Dialogues on the History of Anthropology

The University of Florida Department of Anthropology and the Human Studies Film Archives of the Smithsonian Institution announces a collection of videotapes on the history of anthropology. The series is sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and is produced by Allan Burns and H. Russell Bernard.

In these videotaped dialogues, senior anthropologists review the decisions that led them to a career in anthropology. They discuss the influences of teachers and others during their undergraduate and graduate school years, reflect on the theoretical and methodological issues important during their early years in anthropology, and offer observations about the current state of the discipline. A special set of tapes focuses on the careers of four generations of Mexican anthropologists: Daniel Rubín de Borbolla, a friend of the revolutionary president, Lázaro Cárdenas; Fernando Cámara Barbachano, a Yucatecan anthropologist who was a student of de Borbolla; Andrés Medina, the director of the National School of Anthropology during the 1970s; and Manuel Gandara, an archeologist and current director of the National School of Anthropology.
The videotapes are unedited and contain rich material that reflects the humor and wisdom of each interviewee. These tapes will be useful in classes on the history of anthropology, in area courses, and in topical courses where those interviewed have had great impact. Each tape is between one and a half to two hours long. Purchasers sign a release stating that these tapes will be used only for research or education, and will not be duplicated, broadcast or used commercially. The following tapes are now available:

1. Mary Haas and Norman Markel, 9/30/84
2. Edgar Siskin and Norman Markel, 10/3/84
3. William Fenton and David Sapir, 10/1/84
4. Frederica de Laguna and Norman Markel, 9/30/84
5. Charles Wagley, 9/84
6. Walter Goldschmidt and Charles Wagley, 10/22/82
7. Charles Fairbanks and John Griffin, 9/20/82
9. George Foster and Charles Wagley, 5/25/84
10. Elizabeth Colson and Charles Wagley, 5/24/84
11. Sherwood Washburn and Charles Wagley, 5/24/84
12. John Rowe and Charles Wagley, 5/24/84
14. John Roberts and Jeremy Sabloff, 12/5/88
15. Zunia Henry and Murray Wax, 1/29/88
16. Rosalie Wax with Murray Wax and Joan Cassell, 1/30/88
17. Murray Wax and H. Russell Bernard
18. Lauriston Sharp and Paul Doughty, 4/8/89
19. Conrad Arensberg and Lambros Comitas, 5/1/89
20. Lambros Comitas and H. Russell Bernard, 5/1/89
21. Daniel Rubín de Borbolla and Fernando Cámara, 5/19/89
22. Fernando Cámara and H. Russell Bernard, 5/18/89
23. Andrés Medina Hernández and Fernando Cámara, 5/19/89
24. Manuel Gándara and Fernando Cámara, 5/19/89
25. Stetson Kennedy and George Bedell, 5/5/89
26. Stanley Gam and Otto Von Mering, 1/24/90
27. J. Clyde Mitchell and H. Russell Bernard, 7/19/90

For each interview, send a blank VHS 1/2 inch cassette to:

Human Studies Film Archives
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution Room E 307
Washington, DC 20560

Clients will be invoiced $40.00 for each cassette requested.