Web Presences and Digital Media

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WEB PRESENCES AND DIGITAL MEDIA

INSTITUTE FOR INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

The Institute for Intercultural Studies, established by Margaret Mead in 1944, has a Web presence at interculturalstudies.org. For a list of current projects see interculturalstudies.org/current-projects.html. The Institute’s latest newsletter is available at interculturalstudies.org/newsletters/spring2007.pdf. Recent projects of note include the processing of the Don D. Jackson Archive, interculturalstudies.org/DonJackson-archive.html, which draws together documents from mid-20th-century research on systemic psychotherapy associated with the work of Gregory Bateson and the Palo Alto Group.
ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND OTHER “ANCESTORS”

Cambridge-based anthropologist Alan MacFarlane has assembled a collection of filmed interviews with anthropologists, ethnohistorians, and ethnomusicologists. The series was initiated in 1982 by Jack Goody and has continued under MacFarlane’s direction with the help of a number of people, notably Sarah Harrison and Mark Turin. Early subjects included Audrey Richards, Meyer Fortes, and M. N. Srinivas. At present there are more than forty subjects in the collection.

The older interviews have been digitized and are hosted together with the newer, digitally-recorded ones, on Alan MacFarlane’s website: alanmacfarlane.com/ancestors

A complete list of subjects is available here:
alanmacfarlane.com/ancestors/complete_list.htm
alanmacfarlane.com/ancestors/audiovisual.html

In this article, “Anthropology and other ‘ancestors’: Notes on Setting up a Visual Archive”, which appeared in truncated form in Anthropology Today (December 2004), MacFarlane gives an account of the history of the project and discusses technical details of the digital archiving process: alanmacfarlane.com/TEXTS/ancestors.pdf

CARNIVALESKIFILMS

Carnivalesque Films, carnavalesquefilms.com, is a Brooklyn, New York-based documentary production company, founded in 2004 by David Redmon and Ashley Sabin, whose films use close observation of the lives of individuals not often represented in movies as a point of entry into a critique of broad social transformations.

Their film Mardi Gras: Made in China, mardigrasmadeinchina.com, traces the beads used at Mardi Gras in New Orleans from the factory in China where they are produced. In January 2007 it won a Special Mention award at the fourth annual Nürnberger Filmfestival der Menschenrechte, humanrightsfilmfestival.org/index2.php.
THE ANTHROSOURCE CONTROVERSY

Our readers may have heard about the recent decision by the Executive Board of the American Anthropological Association to move AnthroSource, anthrosource.net, the umbrella organization for the fifteen major peer-reviewed journals published by sections of the AAA, from the University of California Press to Wiley-Blackwell. The move has generated controversy and speculation as to the integrity of AnthroSource as an experiment in open-access publishing and as to the future of fee-for-access as a model of revenue generation for scholarly publications in the social sciences.

Jason Baird Jackson has been writing about the AnthroSource move and related matters on the online blog for Museum Anthropology:
museumanthropology.blogspot.com/2007/09/on-prism.html
museumanthropology.blogspot.com/2007/09/more-on-prism.html

Inside Higher Ed has also covered the story, as has Savage Minds:
insidehighered.com/news/2007/08/22/anthro
savageminds.org/2007/08/19/anthrosource-drops-uc-press-for-wiley-blackwell

For a broader discussion of open-access publishing in anthropology, see
OpenAccessAnthropology.org
blog.openaccessanthropology.org