



## History of Anthropology Newsletter

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### Research Notes

At her death in 1948 Benedict left her papers to Vassar College (which she attended, 1905-1909) and among documents Mead did not publish I have found valuable clues to the development of Benedict's thought and personality. For example, a number of drafts, notes, revisions and experiments in her work on the three feminists Mary Wollstonecraft, Margaret Fuller, and Olive Schreiner show Benedict's early struggles with questions that later informed her anthropological writings. It is in these early pieces that she deals with the significance of upbringing and begins to work toward an understanding of how society molds the behavior of its members.

Mead discussed the doubts and despairs that plagued Benedict, and included letters, journal entries, and poems documenting the theme of a woman's search for satisfaction. Mead, however, accepted limits for her book which did not permit the tracing of intricate connections between Benedict's private writings and her anthropology. Coming from a training in literature gives me a somewhat different point of view, and I intend to make explicit connections Mead left implicit, such as those between the content of Benedict's poetry and her professional anthropological writings. In going beyond Mead I will also consider the effects of a virtually all-female early family environment, and the expectations bred within it, and my analyses of Benedict's later response to social work, teaching, and to her childless marriage will be informed by recent changes in attitudes to the compromises forced upon American women. My interpretation of Benedict's entry into anthropology in 1919 will connect in detail her own personal ambivalences with general social conceptions of male and female realms.

Although I did not know Benedict personally, I am doing extensive interviews with her students and contemporaries in order to test my own insights against the knowledge of those who knew her and the development of anthropology first hand. In general, I will also use a variety of secondary materials not relevant to An Anthropologist At Work, such as materials on women's education in the early twentieth century. Most importantly, however, I hope my interpretation will reap the unconscious and conscious benefits accruing from the current concern of both women and anthropologists for increased self-awareness.

#### RESEARCH NOTES:

Stephen Dow Beckman, Associate Professor of History at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, is completing a book-length biographical study of George Gibbs, nineteenth century ethnologist and linguist, based on his doctoral dissertation (U.C.L.A. 1969).

Ilse Bulhof, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, is studying the relationship of history and cultural anthropology in German historicism, with an emphasis on the work of Wilhelm Dilthey, Johan Huizinga, Max Weber and Karl Mannheim.

Regna Darnell, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, has just completed a book "Readings in the History of Anthropology" for Harper and Row. Its focus is on the relationship of the practitioner to the history of his discipline, including considerable material written by anthropologists and others about the history as well as an effort to define the social context within which anthropological

inquiries have developed.

J. Kirkpatrick Flack, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Maryland is revising his doctoral dissertation (Wayne State University, 1968) into a book-length study entitled "Desideratum in Washington: The Intellectual Community in the Capital City 1860-1900" (Schenkman Publishing Company, 1974). This work will include the early history of the Anthropological Society of Washington and its relationship to the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Donald Fowler, Professor of Anthropology at the Desert Research Institute of the University of Nevada is engaged in several projects in the history of American anthropology, including a book-length study of John Wesley Powell, Edward S. Curtis' photographs of North American Indians, notes on field manuals and ethnographic inquiries in anthropology, ethnographic work of Stephen Powers, and a preliminary bibliography of the history of anthropology.

Charles Franz, Professor of Anthropology, SUNY at Buffalo, is engaged in a long-range study of the organization and institutional history of American anthropology, particularly of the American Anthropological Association and its relationship to other professional associations.

Eric Hamp, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Chicago is studying the development of Balkan linguistics in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He has recently completed a paper on the Neogrammarians as fieldworkers.

Dwight Heath, Professor of Anthropology at Brown University, is preparing a critical review of studies on interethnic relations in Hispanic America, focusing on laws, archival data, ethnographic and travelers' accounts and theories.

T.M. Parssinen, Assistant Professor of History at Temple University, is working on a book about popular science movements in early Victorian Britain (ca. 1815-1860), which will include chapters on ethnology, phrenology, mesmerism, homeopathy, hydropathy, vegetarianism and social statistics.

Michael T. Ryan is working on a dissertation at New York University investigating the attitudes of European travellers and missionaries towards "savage religion" in the seventeenth century.

William W. Speth, Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Arkansas, is preparing an article on historicism as a disciplinary worldview based on his dissertation (University of Oregon, 1972) entitled "Historicist Anthropogeography," which shows how the historicism of Dilthey was introduced into American anthropology by Boas.

Michael M. Sokal, Assistant Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass., is preparing a book-length biography of James McKeen Cattell, a study growing out of his doctoral dissertation on experimental psychology in America, 1865 to 1939 (Case Western Reserve, 1972), which includes a discussion of Cattell's role in establishing anthropology at Columbia University.

Timothy Thoresen, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin, is preparing a book-length intellectual biography of A.L. Kroeber, based on his dissertation in American Civilization at the University of Iowa.

In our next number, we would like to print as full a list as possible of Doctoral Dissertations in Progress, and would appreciate receiving information from authors or supervisors, including specifically: author's full name, department, institution, supervisor, and tentative title.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICA ARCANA

(Without duplicating information elsewhere readily available, we hope to provide bibliographic leads to items that might otherwise escape your attention: recent doctoral dissertations, articles in out-of-the-way places, or perhaps short bibliographies of specific topics. As a start, we offer the following:)

#### RECENT DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS:

- Bieder, Robert (University of Minnesota, 1972),  
"The American Indian and the Development of Anthropological Thought in the United States, 1780-1851."  
Darnell, Regna (University of Pennsylvania, 1969),  
"The Development of American Anthropology 1879-1920: From the Bureau of American Ethnology to Franz Boas."  
Tax, Thomas (University of Chicago, 1973),  
"The Development of American Archaeology 1800-1879."

(See also those referred to elsewhere in this issue.)

#### WAYWARD ARTICLES:

International Social Science Journal, 25 (1973) contains autobiographical articles by a number of social scientists, including two anthropologists: A.P. Elkin (pp. 13-27) and M.N. Srinivas (pp. 129-148).

Pandey, T.N. "Anthropologists at Zuni," Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, 116 (1972):321-337 (From Cushing to Bunzel in the memories of informants alive today.)

SHORT BIOGRAPHY: Autobiographical pieces by Sir. E.E. Evans-Pritchard (1920-1973).

"Social Anthropology at Oxford," Man 5 (1970):704