



History of Anthropology Newsletter

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Research Notes

with the vast majority of them accessible in libraries; that the largest group by far, in the files of Macmillans, his publishers for fifty-five years, was recently donated to the British Museum; that Frazer's handwriting is clear, and that--good scholar that he was--he nearly always dated his letters. So far I have collected xerox copies of about a thousand letters, of which I estimate some two-thirds will be published.

To date there aren't many "bombshells." I have, however, turned up several letters that show Frazer, contrary to received opinion, expressing doubts about the comparative method. The main body of new material is of course biographical in character--and here the edition will be an extraordinarily valuable source, not only for Frazer but for those with whom he was frequently in touch, including Hartland, Roscoe, Haddon, and Malinowski. Although Frazer's ideas are acknowledged (even by those who think little of them) to have had powerful effects on the development of modern intellectual culture, especially on the literary side, his life remains little more than a blur. There have been two brief journalistic biographies by R.A. Downie (one of Sir James's last private secretaries), and a few reminiscences by the next generation of anthropologists (most notably by Malinowski), but Frazer's shyness and modesty, the redoubtable nature of Lady Frazer, and the precipitous decline in his reputation since the thirties seem effectively to have discouraged much work in this area.

I would appreciate information on the whereabouts of any Frazer letters, especially in relatively out-of-the-way libraries or in private hands, and would be glad to receive reprints or references concerning him. In return, I should be pleased to share my knowledge of Frazer, and/or his letters, with any who care to correspond (care of the English Department, Hamilton Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027).

¹Cf. my "Some Letters of Cambridge Ritualists," Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies, 12 (1971), 113-136; "Jane Ellen Harrison: The Early Work," GRBS, 13 (1972), 209-230; "Writing about Writing about Myth" (review-article), Journal of the History of Ideas, 34 (1973), 147-155; "Verrall on Euripides' Suppliants 939ff," GRBS, 14 (1973), 103-108; "Frazer, Myth and Ritual," JHI, forthcoming; "Sir J.G. Frazer-A.E. Housman: A Relationship in Letters," GRBS, forthcoming.

RESEARCH NOTES:

(Although the initial response has been gratifying, we are sure from prior knowledge of what's going on that we have not received reports from everyone doing research in the history of anthropology. Over time we hope our coverage will become more complete. As we receive them, and as space permits, we plan to include brief reference to all research reports which indicate a clearly defined project in the history of anthropology, either here or under "Dissertations in Progress." We offer our apologies to several whose reports were postponed to this issue, and to Drs. Beckham and Frantz, whose names were misspelled in the first listing.)

Michael Banton, Professor of Sociology at the University of Bristol, England, and author of Race Relations, is working on the racial philosophy of Charles Kingsley and on doctrines of race in the mid-nineteenth century.

Lowell John Bean, Associate Professor of Anthropology at California State University, Hayward, is working (with Jack Young) on Constance Dubois, a California novelist who became concerned for the legal and social rights of native Americans.

Robert Berkhofer, Professor of History at the University of Michigan, author of Salvation and the Savage, is working on white images of Indians from 1500 to the present.

Robert E. Bieder, Associate Director of the Center for the History of the American Indian, The Newberry Library, is working on the history of American ethnology from 1780 to 1880 and the importance of the American Indian in its development.

Ralph W. Dexter, Professor of Biology at Kent State, is working on a biography of Frederick Ward Putnam, archeologist and promoter of the institutional development of anthropology at Harvard, New York, and the University of California. Dexter has published a number of papers on aspects of Putnam's work.

Elvin Hatch, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is working on the growth of ecological studies in American anthropology, and on American functionalism. Hatch's recent Theories of Man and Culture (Columbia University Press, 1973) is written from a historical viewpoint.

Stephen Holtzman, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Northern Illinois, is doing a study of Anthropologists' Initial Reactions to Darwinism (Cf. Recent Doctoral Dissertations).

Dell Hymes, Professor of Folklore and Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania, author of a number of works relating to the history of anthropology and linguistics, is working (with John Fought) on the historiography of structural linguistics in the United States.

Victor Karady, chargé de recherche, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, is doing a sociological study of the emergence of French academic anthropology (1870-1950), and editing selected anthropological essays of Henri Hubert.

N.P.F. Machin, Poplar Farmhouse, Marshside, Centerbury, Kent, U.K., is writing a biography of Capt. R.S. Rattray, Government Anthropologist among the Ashanti during the 1920s.

Joan Mark, Research Fellow, Peabody Museum, Harvard, is working on a history of late 19th century American anthropology (Cf. Recent Doctoral Dissertations).

Joseph McHugh, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Iowa, is working on the uses of comparison in Lewis Henry Morgan's works on social organization.

D.J. Mulvaney, Professor of Prehistory, Australian National University, is writing a biography of the Australian anthropologist Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer. Mulvaney contributed a chapter to M.W. Walker's recent biography of A.W. Howitt, Come Wind, Come Weather.

Peter Slater, Assistant Professor of History, Dartmouth, is doing a study of "Franz Boas and the American Physical Character: The 'Head-Form Study' of the U.S. Immigration Commission, 1908-1911".

DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS

(Our appeal for information from authors or supervisors had only limited success. We are still interested in hearing about dissertations in progress, especially at the doctoral level.)

Judy Braun, candidate in American Civilization at George Washington University, is working on a Master's thesis on "The North American Indian Exhibits at the 1876 and 1893 World Expositions."

Gerald Broce, Instructor, Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, is completing a dissertation on "Herder and the Genesis of Cultural Relativism" at the University of Colorado.

Susan Dwyer-Shick, Instructor in Anthropology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, is doing a dissertation on the concept of folklore and the American Folklore Society from its founding until the death of Franz Boas, for the Department of Folklore and Folklife, University of Pennsylvania.

Paul Erickson, Instructor in Anthropology, St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, is completing a dissertation on "The Emergence of Hominid Phylogeny and the Origins of Western Man" for the Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut.

Paul Heyer, doctoral candidate in anthropology at Rutgers University - Livingstone College, is doing a dissertation on "Marx and Darwin as a Comparative Problem in Philosophical Anthropology."

Curtis Hinsley, Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, is completing research for a dissertation on "Anthropology in Washington, 1846-1910" for the Department of History, University of Wisconsin.

Rhett S. Jones, Director of Afro-American Studies, Brown University, is completing a dissertation in History on 18th century English perspectives on non-whites in the Carribean.

James N. Ryding, Department of Sociology, Free University of West Berlin, is writing a dissertation on "The Emergence of Ethnology in Berlin from 1830-1870: A Case Study in the Sociology of Science."

Jana Sálát, student of the Institute of Ethnology of the University of Vienna, is doing a dissertation on the life and work of S.F. Nadel (1903-1956), the Viennese-British social anthropologist.

(See also Modell and Ryan listings, HAN, No. 1.)

ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS:

Several readers expressed interest in oral history projects, and we plan in a future issue to include a listing under Sources for the History of Anthropology. We would appreciate it if anyone knowing of or involved in such a project would send in descriptive material.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ARCANA

RECENT WORK BY SUBSCRIBERS:

Fowler, Don and C.S., "Anthropology of the Numa: John Wesley Powell's Manuscripts of the Numic Peoples of Western North America, 1868-1880", Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, No. 14, 1971.

Karady, Victor, "Naissance de l'ethnologie universitaire," L'Arc, 48 (1972), 33-40.

....., "Note sur les thèses de doctorat consacrées à l'Afrique dans les universités françaises de 1884 à 1961," Social Science Information (Paris), 11 (#1), 65-80.

Strug, David, "Manuel Gamio, la escuela internacional y el origen de las excavaciones estratigraficas en las Americas", America Indigena 31 (#4, 1971).

SUGGESTED BY OUR READERS:

Bernard Fontana (Arizona State Museum) notes a number of recent articles in Ethnohistory. Volume 16 (1969) includes William Fenton, "Answers to Governor Cass's Questions by Jacob Jameson, a Seneca" (113-139); R.W. Dexter, "Correspondence between Lt. R.E. Peary and Prof. F.W. Putnam on Arctic Ethnology" (177-189); Peter Corris, "Ethnohistory in Australia" (201-210). Volume 17 (1970) includes Stephen Kunitz, "Benjamin Rush on Savagism and Progress" (31-42); W. Fenton, "A Further Note on Jacob Jameson" (91-92). Volume 18 (1971) includes Peter Pratt, "Peter Du Ponceau's Contributions to Anthropology" (147-158); Florence Ellis, "Across some Decades (emphasizing the American Southwest, 295-307); Stephen Kunitz, "The Social Philosophy of John Collier" (213-229). Volume 19 (1972) includes Robert Euler, "Ethnohistory in the United States" (201-207).

Bill Sturtevant, whose knowledge of arcane bibliography should entitle him to run this department, offers (among others that may be included later) several recent titles in other languages than English: