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Nineteenth-Century Ethnology in the United States

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SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

I. NINETEENTH-CENTURY ETHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES
Robert E. Bieder

For several years I have researched the development of early nineteenth century ethnology in the United States and in particular the image of Native Americans in ethnological writings (Cf. HAN III:1). In my investigations the following archival collections proved extremely valuable, not only for their holdings on the ethnologists who receive major attention in my work (Benjamin S. Barton, Albert Gallatin, Samuel G. Norton, Ephraim G. Squier, Henry R. Schoolcraft, and Lewis H. Morgan), but also for many minor figures who, as members of scientific societies or as informants to the major ethnologists, furthered the development of the science.

For early ethnology the most important source of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century manuscript material is the American Philosophical Society, whose, A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to the American Indian in the Library of the American Philosophical Society, compiled by John E. Freeman and Murphy Smith (Philadelphia: 1966), greatly facilitates research there.

The A.P.S. collection includes the papers of B. S. Barton, much material on Benjamin Rush and William Bartram, and the only extant Indian vocabulary list of Thomas Jefferson, as well as the correspondence of the linguist Stephen S. DuPonceau which contains references to the Historical and Literary Committee set up by the A.P.S. to collect information on the Indians. The A.P.S. also houses the papers of that curious investigator of Natural History, Constantine S. Rafinesque (225 items), and those of the more important ethnologist S. G. Morton (485 items) for the years 1819-50. Additional Morton papers (6 boxes) covering the years 1799-1851 are located at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The papers of A. Gallatin, one of the founders of the American Ethnological Society, are deposited at the New York Historical Society. However, a more extensive and accessible collection is the microfilm edition completed under the sponsorship of New York University and the National Historical Publications Commission. A useful work to consult when ordering this microfilm is Carl Prince, Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Papers of Albert Gallatin (Philadelphia: Rhistoric Publications, 1970).

Other important members of the A.E.S. during this period were E.S. Squier and H. R. Schoolcraft. The papers of both men are scattered across the country. The Huntington Library houses the papers (489 items) relating to Squier's work in Central America from 1852-58 with the Honduras Inter-oceanic Railroad and to his archaeological adventures there. The Squier collection (11 vols., 5 boxes) in the Library of Congress pertains to Squier's archaeological and ethnological studies in Central and South American covering the years 1840-70. The Squier family papers (7 vols., 500 items), covering the years 1816-88 and including many letters from E. G. Squier, are in the New York Historical Society.

The largest collection of Schoolcraft papers (50 vols., 61 boxes, 2 portfolios) are at the Library of Congress and are also available on microfilm. Manuscript materials on Schoolcraft's years as Indian agent and then superintendent in Michigan (1822-41) are in the National Archives and can be obtained on microfilm (Records of the Superintendencies and Agencies of the Office of Indian Affairs. Michigan: 1814-51. M 1, National Archives Microfilm). Two other sources for Schoolcraft material are the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library (2 vols., 2,000 items) covering the years 1805-69, and the Huntington Library (129 items) for the years 1815-74. Two key individuals in Schoolcraft's development as an ethnologist are Lewis Cass, whose papers are at the William Clements Library (University of Michigan), and George Johnston, Schoolcraft's part-Ojibwa brother-in-law, whose papers (27 vols.) for the years 1813-62 are at the Burton Historical Collection.

While not a major figure in ethnology, John Russell Bartlett is significant because of his role as one of the founders and officers of the A.E.S. and also as the author of The Progress of Ethnology. His papers (20 vols.) which cover the years 1846-86, are in the John Carter Brown Library (Brown University).

The last major figure in nineteenth-century ethnology with whom I deal is L. H. Morgan. His papers (19,000 pages), including many manuscripts,

are at the University of Rochester. Further Morgan letters can be found in various collections in the State Library of New York, the A.P.S., and in the Smithsonian Archives. Instrumental to Morton's early development as an ethnologist was his contact with the Seneca, Ely S. Parker. Many of Parker's papers can be found in the papers (13 boxes) of his nephew Arthur C. Parker, at the University of Rochester. Other Parker papers (300 items), again donated by A. C. Parker, can be found at the A.P.S. for the years 1794-1946, the Huntington Library (125 items) for 1802-94, and at the State of New York, Albany.

Useful in any study of Morgan and Squier are the papers of Joseph Henry, first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, who maintained an extensive correspondence with both men in regard to their publications with the Smithsonian Institution. Currently, Henry's papers are being published by the Smithsonian under the editorship of Nathan Reingold.

This is not, of course, an exhaustive list of depositories holding materials for the history of early nineteenth-century ethnology. Other vital materials (letters, vocabulary lists, archaeological drawings, etc.) can be found in the American Antiquarian Society, the Boston Public Library, the Newberry Library, and in various state historical society libraries, especially those of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

II. MELVILLE JACOBS PAPERS

The papers of Melville Jacobs (1902-1971), who studied anthropology under Franz Boas and went on to teach anthropology at the University of Washington from 1928 until his death, are in the University of Washington Library. Permission to consult them must be given by a committee of six trustees. Inquiries should be directed by Mr. Richard Berner, Head, University Records and Archives, University of Washington Library, 39th Street and 12th Avenue, N.E., Seattle, Washington, 98195.

III. SOL TAX ENDOWMENT FUND

The holdings in the history of anthropology in the Department of Special Collections of the University of Chicago Library (CF. HAN II:1) have been recently enriched by a \$30,000 gift from Sol Tax, Professor Emeritus-- whose papers are in the process of transfer to the Library. The money will be placed in the Gertrude and Sol Tax Endowment Fund to help pay for archivists and facilitate publication of materials from the archives. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first endowment specifically directed toward the development of the history of anthropology.