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News of the National Anthropological Archives

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SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

NEWS OF THE NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

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Last December the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives began a long-term project to arrange, describe, and publish on microfilm its extensive collection of papers of John P. Harrington. An ethnologist and linguist with the Bureau of American Ethnology from 1915 to 1945, Harrington amassed over two hundred cubic feet of field notes and other material relating to Indians of all parts of the United States. He is best remembered for his work among California tribes. His material is difficult to describe briefly, for it ranges from verb paradigms to copies of several versions of Boscana's Chinigchinich, and the nature and quantity of data vary considerably from tribe to tribe. Many researchers have marveled at Harrington's dedicated efforts to record as much as he could of fading cultures, but they have often been especially delighted by stray facts contained in faithfully recorded digressions of his own or his informants. Historians of anthropology may find the microfilm useful for what it contains of Harrington himself and his seemingly love-hate relationship with the Bureau of American Ethnology. There is also material on colleagues and competitors, not only in his correspondence file but also distributed widely throughout the collection. His correspondents included Franz Boas, D. I. Bushnell, John Collier, Frances Densmore, Jesse Walter Fewkes, Edgar L. Hewett, J. A. Jeancon, Alfred Kroeber, J. Alden Mason, Helen H. Roberts, Edward Sapir, Ruth Underhill, Carl Voegelin, and many others. The project, which will last around four years, is being funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. It is headed by Herman J. Viola, Director of the National Anthropological Archives. Ives Goddard, of the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology, is the chief linguist for the project; Elaine Mills is the chief processor.

During the past year, the archives has continued to expand its collections. Materials of particular interest to historians of anthropology include the records of the Central States Anthropological Society, approximately four cubic feet of correspondence, officers' reports, minutes, and financial and membership records. The earliest material is dated 1922, the year the Society was founded as the Central Section of the American Anthropological Association (it was also known as the Central States Branch of the AAA). The bulk of the material, however, is dated 1940-75. Among the Society officers and members represented in the records are many of the prominent anthropologists of the Midwest, including Leslie White, Fay-Cooper Cole, Fred Eggan, James B. Griffin, Melville Herskovits, Sol Tax, and Erminnie Wheeler Voegelin. Professor Barry Isaacs has prepared an inventory of the collection and a calendar of the correspondence.

Another major acquisition is the papers of Henry B. Collins, Smithsonian anthropologist and administrator for the past thirty-five years.

His career has included field work among the Eskimos of Alaska and Canada, appointments in both the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology and the Bureau of American Ethnology, and service with the Institution's Ethnogeographic Board, and the Arctic Institute of North America. Currently available in the archives is Collins' collection of photographs and correspondence for the years 1920-30. The latter includes letters received from G. Herman Brandt, Moreau B. Chambers, Frederica de Laguna, James A. Ford, William Geist, Alex Hrdlicka, Diamond Jenness, Neil M. Judd, Viljalmar Stefanson, T. Dale Stewart, Mathew Stirling, William Duncan Strong, and William E. Taylor.

Other accessions include a small group of miscellaneous materials of Charles Rau, the nineteenth-century curator of archeology with the United States National Museum, including a series of approximately 40 items of correspondence with Carl Herman Berendt, dated between 1869 and 1874; professional correspondence of Marcus S. Goldstein from 1941 to 1972; miscellaneous papers of Jesse Walter Fewkes that cover the years before he turned his main interests to anthropology; records of David Armour as editor for the Society for Historical Archaeology; and a file of honors, citations, and other awards of John Wesley Powell. A few photographic items of special note have also been received, including one entitled "Anthropology at Oxford, June 10," that shows dons Henry Balfour, Arthur Thompson and R. R. Marett with students Wilson D. Wallis, Diamond Jenness, and Marius Barbeau; two photographs that show the visit to Ft. Ancient, Ohio, by those attending the 1902 meeting of the International Congress of Americanists; and two photographs showing attendees of the international Congress of Criminal Anthropology at Paris in 1889 and Buenos Aires in 1910. Edward Norberg has allowed us to copy photographs showing Robert Lowie, Alfred Kroeber, Samuel A. Barrett, David Mandelbaum, Leslie White, and others at Berkeley in April, 1957.

To assist researchers in ordering reproductions of material or planning visits, the Archives has begun a policy recently of loaning copies of inventories and registers of uncatalogued materials. Many of these are only rough drafts and some are students' efforts, but they would nevertheless be useful.

FOOTNOTES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

I. CONTRADICTING THE DOCTOR: BILLY HANCOCK AND THE PROBLEM OF BALOMA

Because he regarded himself as the agent of an ethnographic revolution, Bronislaw Malinowski was little inclined to rely on evidence gained from white informants. So at least runs the mythic charter, and by and large it seems confirmed by the materials preserved in Malinowski's papers at the London School of Economics and Yale University. In contrast to Alfred Haddon's at Cambridge, which are filled with correspondence with