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SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

I. FOUR IMPORTANT SOURCES FOR THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY  
HISTORY OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Aleš Hrdlička Papers

During the first four decades of this century, Aleš Hrdlička (1869-1943), most of whose professional career as an anthropologist was spent at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., was a major formative influence on the intellectual and institutional development of physical anthropology in the United States. The Hrdlička papers, housed in the National Anthropological Archives (Smithsonian Institution), which consist of fifty-one boxes of letters, ninety-one boxes of photographic prints, and nine boxes of miscellaneous materials (manuscripts, lecture notes, speeches, diaries, osteometric data, etc.) clearly testify to his prodigious and inexhaustible effort to develop an American physical anthropology.

Besides providing considerable insight into the development of his thoughts (and researches) on human origins and variation, the Hrdlička papers are also a rich and invaluable source to those interested in the institutional growth and development of American science between the two World Wars. Among the various institutions, professional organizations, and learned societies with which Hrdlička was intimately connected are the American Anthropological Association (1921-1940), Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1904-1939), American Association of Anatomists (1910-1940), American Association of Physical Anthropologists (1932-1942), American Philosophical Society (1920-1943), American School in France for Prehistoric Studies (later renamed the American School for Prehistoric Studies [1922-1932]), Anthropological Society of Washington (1910-1923), International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (1924-1939), and the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council (1918-1930).

A partial list of Hrdlička's vast network of correspondents has been compiled by Dr. Lucille Hoyme, and is available to users of the collection. Although in many cases these exchanges are of a specialist nature, they occasionally involve political issues, such as the incident in the early 1920s when a number of workers, led principally by Franz Boas in America, endeavored to reorganize the then existing international scientific congresses. The correspondence (involving among others: Boas, Adele Breton, A. H. Fallaize, William Gates, H. P. Joyce, and R. R. Marett) pertaining to this movement contains much useful information for reconstructing the socio-political ethos of the Euro-American scientific community after the First World War.

Although most of the correspondence in this enormous collection postdates Hrdlička's arrival at the National Museum in 1903, there are four boxes of letters covering the period in which he made the gradual transition from medicine to anthropology (1893-1902). This period is particularly well-documented by his correspondence with Marie Strickler, whom he married in 1896. Through these letters one can trace his shifting intellectual interests,

his anxieties, and his professional aspirations as he progressed from being a junior physician at the Middletown [New York] State Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane (1893-1895), through his short and troubled affiliation with the controversial Pathological Institute in New York City (1896-1898), to his attachment to the Hyde Expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History as an "unsalaried field worker" (1899-1902). The letters from this latter period, which provide an informative account of his anthropological apprenticeship in the American southwest, contains also numerous observations of prominent figures in American anthropology at the turn of the century (e.g. Frederic Ward Putnam, the Duke of Loubat, Carl Lumholtz, and Washington Matthews).

For further details on this collection contact Dr. Herman Viola, Director, National Anthropological Archives, U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Papers of Henry Fairfield Osborn (1857-1935) and William King Gregory (1876-1970)

Although still uncatalogued when I examined them in the spring of 1976, these collections have recently been transferred to the library of the American Museum of Natural History, where they are currently being catalogued.

Henry Fairfield Osborn's association with the American Museum began in 1891 with his appointment as curator of the department of vertebrate paleontology; from 1910 until 1933 he was president of the Museum. From my brief survey of the Osborn papers (consisting of some dozen or more file-cabinet drawers filled with letters), they seem to cover the period from 1912 to his death in 1935. Because at the time of my visit I was interested in Osborn's particular views on race and eugenics, I did not delve very deeply into his prolific correspondence with vertebrate paleontologists. However, there is no question that these papers will be of immense interest to historians concerned with the development of American vertebrate paleontology at the turn of the century. Osborn was also actively involved in a number of xenophobic and racist organizations such as the Immigration Restriction League, the Galton Society, and the American Eugenics Society, and there are interesting and enlightening letters to and from such individuals as Charles B. Davenport, Madison Grant, Albert Johnson (author of the Immigration Act of 1924), Harry H. Laughlin, and Lothrop Stoddard.

The career of William K. Gregory is intimately bound up with that of Osborn. Their relationship seems to date from Gregory's student years at Columbia University (1900-1910); where Osborn served also as professor of zoology. On receiving his doctorate, Gregory moved to the American Museum where he remained for the duration of his professional career.

Though closely associated with Osborn, Gregory did not share his mentor's zeal for the eugenics creed. He became increasingly embarrassed by his position as secretary of the Galton Society (founded in 1918 by Osborn, Madison Grant, and Charles B. Davenport), and resigned in the early 1930s. Of perhaps greater importance is the documentation of Gregory's intellectual growth as a scientist at the American Museum, where he was for many years chairman of the department of comparative anatomy.

Again, because I was primarily interested in material relevant to Hrdlička, my survey of the Gregory papers focused on the period from the early 1920s to the beginning of the Second World War and then current issues in paleoanthropology. In this regard, the Gregory papers contain a number of informative exchanges with Davidson Black, Raymond Dart, Earnest A. Hooten, Aleš Hrdlička, Frederick Wood Jones, Arthur Keith, Grafton Elliot Smith, T. Wingate Todd, and Arthur Smith Woodward as well as the South African paleontologist, Robert Broom--without question the most interesting feature of the collection.

For further details on the above collections contact Ms. Pamela Haas, The Library, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.

#### Sir Arthur Keith (1866-1955) Papers

This collection (at the Royal College of Surgeons, London) consists of several volumes of bound letters, and three large cardboard boxes containing an assortment of uncatalogued letters, several diaries, notes, manuscripts (a number unpublished), and miscellaneous materials. At the time of my visit in 1975, the Keith papers were stored in an attic above the College library, and plans for their further conservation were contingent upon the future availability of funds.

Though fragmented, the collection covers the entire period of Keith's career. His three year stint in Siam as a medical officer is documented in a series of notebooks and a diary (August 3, 1889 to the middle of 1891), which records Keith's developing interest in field and anatomical studies of the local monkeys and gibbons--the beginning of his attention to physical anthropology and the question of human evolution.

Following his return to Britain, Keith was appointed (1895) senior demonstrator in anatomy at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, London. His growing anthropological interest is exemplified by an unpublished manuscript entitled: "On a Pygmy Child," a detailed account of an autopsy performed by Keith on a stillborn Ituri pygmy in London in 1906. Shortly thereafter Keith was elected to the conservatorship of the Royal College of Surgeons, and under his direction the Hunterian Museum of the College came to be recognized as a major reference collection. Keith remained at the College until 1933, when after a severe illness, he retired to live at the Buckston Browne Research Institute in Downe, Kent, where he remained until his death in 1955. During this period Keith elaborated a notion first developed in his 1930 rectorial address at Aberdeen University: that the spirit of nationalism is an intrinsic factor in the evolutionary differentiation of human races. Unpublished essays dealing with this theme include: "Race and Propaganda" (eight typewritten pages), read at the Orpington (Kent) Rotary Club on July 15, 1941. This collection contains also the original manuscript (including drawings, graphs, tables, and measurements--not all published) of The Stone Age of Mount Camel, coauthored with Theodore D. McCown.

Among the bound correspondence (1905-1951) is an interesting collection of letters from Frederick Wood Jones, which provide illuminating

observations on the Anglo-American anthropological community between the two World Wars. Also of interest are diaries for the year 1915, which essentially deals with Keith's own American tour, and for the period from 1921 to 1932.

The several hundred unbound letters in this collection include exchanges with such notable figures as Davidson Black, V. Gordon Childe, Eugene Dubois, W. K. Gregory, Earnest A. Hooten, Aleš Hrdlička, L. S. B. Leakey, Henry Fairfield Osborn, and H. G. Wells. There is also a large collection of letters written between 1935 to 1954 by a woman who identifies herself as "M," a lifelong friend of Keith and his deceased wife. These letters provide an intimate picture of Keith's private life after the death of his wife, Celia, in 1934.

Further information on the Keith papers can be obtained from Mr. E. H. Cornelius, Librarian, The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, England.

## II. NAVAJO RESEARCH MATERIALS OF ALEXANDER AND DOROTHEA LEIGHTON

Alexander H. and Dorothea C. Leighton have agreed to give to the Special Collections of Northern Arizona University their important Navajo research materials. Over a period of time NAU will become the repository of various manuscripts, journals, field notes, letters, still photographs and materials, including a number of Navajo autobiographies (NAU Anthropology, V:4-VI:1 [February 1982]).

## III. MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND RELATED AREAS

Michael M. Sokol and Patrice A. Rafail have compiled A Guide to Manuscript Collections in the History of Psychology and Related Areas which is being published by Kraus International Publications (Millwood, N.Y.). Materials on anthropology are included as they relate to psychology. The Guide is divided into two main sections: one describing more than 500 North American manuscript collections (arranged alphabetically according to the names of persons, families and institutions), and a second describing the major manuscript repositories in North America and Europe.

### RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Stephen J. Cross (doctoral candidate in the history of science, Johns Hopkins) is doing research on the organization of interdisciplinary, problem-oriented research in America after World War I, using the Rockefeller, NRC and SSRC records, and focusing on local university enterprises, including the Institute of Human Relations at Yale and the Harvard Business School Group (Mayo, Warner, etc.).

Ralph Dexter (Biological Sciences, Kent State U.) is revising his manuscript on "The Putnam-Metz Correspondence on Mound Explorations in Ohio" for publication.

May Ebihara (Anthropology, Graduate School, CUNY) is doing research on the social organization of American ethnology, ca. 1925-55, focusing on relationships between social networks and the development/dissemination of