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Inventory of Non-Archival Historical Materials

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SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

I. Inventory of Non-Archival Historical Materials

During a visit to Canada this spring, the editor had a conversation with Richard Slobodin, of McMaster University, regarding preservation of the anecdotal history of anthropology from the 1930s and 40s. Recalling that some of the people Slobodin proposed to interview had already been interviewed several or even numerous times, it suddenly seemed important for what might be called the methodological efficiency of the future history of anthropology that an inventory be compiled of existing oral historical materials--including questionnaires or check lists used in their collection. That way, oral historians might formulate questions in the light of materials already collected, informants might be spared the burden of redundant interviews, and historians whose researches might not justify oral interviews might take advantage of materials already in existence. By extension, it would seem also helpful to list other types of non-archival source materials (one thinks, for instance, of written responses to circulated questionnaires). In compiling this inventory, it would not be taken for granted that listing in the inventory implies the automatic accessibility of materials on request, since reproduction may be burdensome, and materials may have been obtained on condition that they not be circulated. But even if accessibility were in some cases limited, and in all cases a matter of negotiation--and would obviously imply reimbursement of costs--it would still be useful to have an inventory of such materials. While the listing would be reproduced piecemeal in HAN, computerization should facilitate indexing, and it might be possible to keep the up-to-date full list available. As a starter, the editor (neither by temperament or training an oral historian) offers a list of taped materials in his own possession, arranged chronologically by subject period. Any inquiry about availability should include detailed information as to the nature of the inquirer's research project.

A.L. Kroeber and others talking about Edward Sapir, recorded by David M. Schneider in Berkeley, California, May 11, 1959 (reel).

"Archeological Reminiscences of Four Old-Timers: Jesse L. Nusbaum, Kenneth M. Chapman, F.W. Hodge, Ina Cassidy" recorded September 9, 1955 (3 cassette sides, c. 90 minutes).

Fred Eggan, Reminiscences of the University of Chicago Department of Anthropology, from the 1920s on, recorded by George Stocking, December 29, 1969 (2 hours, reel).

John W. Bennett, Reminiscences of experiences as a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago during the late 1930s and early 1940s, recorded August, 1974 in response to a questionnaire prepared by Robert McMillan (4 cassette sides, c. 120 minutes).

Rosalie and Murray Wax, Reminiscences of experiences in anthropology at the University of Chicago in the post-World War II period, recorded in 1978 (2 cassette sides).

Charles Frantz, Reminiscences of experiences as a graduate student during the 1950s in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, recorded March 6, 1978 (2 cassette sides, c. 60 minutes).

David M. Schneider, Interview by Sarah Robinson regarding anthropology at Chicago in the 1960s, June 4, 1979 (2 cassette sides, c. 90 minutes).

Robert McC. Adams, Interview by Sarah Robinson regarding anthropology at Chicago in the 1960s, June 5, 1979 (2 cassette sides, c. 90 minutes).

II. Hudson's Bay Company Archives Research Centre

Professor Jennifer Brown, of the University of Winnipeg, informs us of the establishment of a Research Centre to assist scholars visiting the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. The Centre will open officially with a colloquium on May 28-29, 1984. The archives contain a wealth of information on the native peoples of Canada and on changing European views of these peoples, with many implications for the history of anthropology. Any scholar visiting the Hudson's Bay Company Archives with these interests in mind should contact Professor Brown, Department of History, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 2E9.

III. Correction

As the result of a proof reading error in the description of the papers of Leslie White in our last number, the word "culturological" was misspelled. Since the substitution of "o" for the normal anthropological "a" was in fact a matter of some conceptual significance for White, we note the correction here, and offer our apologies to Beth Dillingham.