



## History of Anthropology Newsletter

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# Washington Matthews Papers in the Wheelwright Museum

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## SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

### I. Washington Matthews Papers in the Wheelwright Museum

The Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe has prepared a microfilm edition of the Washington Matthews Papers, with accompanying Guide, which is being published and distributed by the University of New Mexico Press in the spring of 1985. Matthews was an army surgeon and self-taught anthropologist in the American West in the late 19th century. After initial studies in Dakota Territory and California, his major work was in New Mexico. Long recognized as the first serious student of Navajo culture, his publications on Navajo religion and mythology are among the earliest anthropological works to present native religious belief and ritual with sympathetic understanding and scholarly thoroughness. When stationed at the Army Medical Museum in Washington, D.C., he contributed to the development of anthropometric techniques and analyzed the skeletal collections of the first Hemenway Southwestern Expedition. His papers illuminate the relationships among his contemporaries and friends (such as Bandelier, Bourke, Cushing, Powell, Mooney and Stephen) and contribute to our picture of the intellectual climate in which 19th century American anthropology emerged.

The Washington Matthews Collection was transferred from the University of California at Berkeley to the Wheelwright in 1951. It consists primarily of his ethnographic and linguistic notes, notebooks, manuscripts and correspondence. Additional materials were assembled from the National Archives, the Southwest Museum, the Bancroft Library, and other sources, including military records and correspondence with colleagues and friends. The microfilm project was supported by the National Publications and Records Commission. Its staff consisted of: Susan McGreevy, Project Director; Katherine Spencer Halpern, Research Anthropologist; and Mary E. Holt, Archivist. Dr. Halpern authored the 100-page Guide which accompanies the 10-roll microfilm. The Guide contains a detailed descriptive inventory of the papers and a complete bibliography of Matthews' writings. It serves also as a summary of the sources of our knowledge of Matthews' life and work.

### II. The Arizona State Museum Archives

Elizabeth Gibson

The Arizona State Museum was created in 1893 by an act of the Territorial Legislature. Housed on the campus of the University of Arizona, it was the first anthropology museum in the United States to be located in the region that continues to be inhabited by the peoples being studied. The archives of the Museum were established in 1964, and include material resulting from research conducted by the Museum, as well as work produced through the