



History of Anthropology Newsletter

Volume 11
Issue 2 *December 1984*

Article 4

1-1-1984

The Arizona State Museum Archives

Elizabeth Gibson

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

University's Department of Anthropology. In addition to materials relating to Arizona and the greater Southwest, the archives contain a small quantity of material relating to Meso-America and the Philippines. Reflecting all facets of anthropological inquiry, these materials include official business correspondence, minutes of meetings, memoranda on policy, and annual reports and financial records of the Arizona State Museum and related units of the University of Arizona. Manuscript materials include correspondence, field notes, diaries, proposals, drafts of published reports and unpublished reports of the faculty, staff, students and research associates of the Museum and Department of Anthropology, as well as other scholars doing research on the Southwest.

Archeological materials include work done by Gordon C. Baldwin, Byron Cummings, Paul Ezell, Emil W. Haury, Alfred E. Johnson, Mary Elizabeth King, Donald J. Lehmer, Edwin B. Sayles, Arnold Withers and Richard B. Woodbury. Information generated by contract archeology conducted in Arizona is also housed in the archives, as well as records resulting from the W.P.A. Statewide Archaeological Project and the complete records of the Gila Pueblo Foundation, a private research foundation that operated between 1928 and 1948. There is also material produced by archeologists associated with other institutions, including J.O. Brew of the Peabody Museum, Edward B. Danson of the Museum of Northern Arizona, Malcolm F. Farmer of the San Diego Museum of Man, Isabel Kelly, Paul S. Martin of the Field Museum of Natural History, Earl Morris of the American Museum of Natural History and James W. Simmons.

Ethnographic and linguistic material on native groups of the region includes a small quantity of field notes by William Y. Adams, N. Ross Crumrine's 1961 field notes on the Mayo, Henry Dobyns' 1948-1950 field notes on Papago dance, the 1967 oral history project completed by Robert and Elizabeth Euler on the Yavapai, Thomas Hinton's field notes on the Yavapai and Apache (1953) and the Opata (1955), William R. Holland's work (ca. 1950) on the Tzotil of Chiapas, and Muriel T. Painter's field notes on the Yaqui, plus the work of Edward N. and Rosamond Spicer, compiled largely during the 1930's, containing extensive notes on the cultures and languages of the Papago, Yaqui, and Seri Indians. There are also transcriptions of taped interviews collected in conjunction with the Doris Duke Oral History Project, directed by Bernard L. Fontana, as well as material compiled by the Bureau of Ethnic Research, including such items as a 1950's Papago census and correspondence with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Edward P. Dozier collection contains his early observations on the Pueblo groups--although the bulk of his collection, including his later work, is as yet largely unprocessed.

Work completed by people outside the department includes Barbara Aitken's 1910-1913 field notes on Santa Clara Pueblo, copies of E.F. Castetter and W.H. Bell's 1938-1939 field notes on Papago botany and agriculture, a collection resulting from

Grenville Goodwin's extensive 1930's study on the Western Apache, copies of A.L. Kroeber's work on Papago linguistics, notes by Edward Palmer (ca.1880) on the Pima and California Indians, Sara Jones Tucker's work on the Hualapai, copies of some of Ruth Underhill's work on the Papago, and the John and Louisa Wetherill Papers pertaining to an early trading family in northern Arizona. The Museum's large photographic collection is housed separately.

The State Museum archives have been indexed by author and subject; most of the materials herein described may be located using this system. Incoming collections are now being arranged and described in accordance with nationally accepted archival standards. Researchers wishing to use the materials should communicate in advance with the archivist, Jeanne Armstrong, since the archive's hours of access are limited and there may be restrictions on certain collections.

III. Manuscripts at the Bibliotheque du Musée de l'Homme

Francoise Weil (Conservateur en Chef), reports that her department has a number of manuscripts currently in the process of classification. The largest series (about 8500 letters, dating from 1901-1958), consists of the incoming correspondence of Paul Rivet, indexed so that researchers may request whether a particular individual is either author of, or cited in, letters in the series. A second, smaller series, includes letters by Rivet himself (which Weil would like to supplement by xeroxes of letters in the hands of other institutions or scholars). There are also some letters received by Marcel Mauss. A fourth series consists of the archives of the Musée de l'Homme for the period 1928 to 1950, which are in the process of reclassification, so as to separate, insofar as practicable, the private correspondence of Rivet and G.H. Riviere from official business correspondence of the museum. Finally, there are various manuscripts which have no relation to the history of the museum.

IV. Blumenbach Correspondence

In June of 1984, Dr. F.W.P. Dougherty, as part of his ongoing work on the manuscripts of J. F. Blumenbach, arranged an exhibition at the Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, entitled "Commercium Epistolicum J. F. Blumenbach." Dougherty has also compiled a catalogue of the exhibit, with the subtitle "Aus einem Briefwechsel des klassischen Zeitalters der Naturgeschichte." The catalogue contains the full text of some eighty letters to and from Blumenbach (some of them by English correspondents), as well as detailed information on the objects mentioned in them, and several illustrations. Catalogue copies may be obtained for 24 DM (plus postage) from the Niedersächsischen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Prinzenstr.1, 3400, Göttingen, Federal Republic of Germany.