Ethel Mary Albert Papers, 1940s-1960s

Lorain Wang

Digitization of the sound recordings was made possible by a grant from the Arcadia Fund.

2011
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Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives
Title: Ethel Mary Albert Papers
Identifier: NAA.1990-30
Date: 1940s-1960s
Extent: 8.33 Linear Feet (24 boxes)
        8 sound tape reels
Creator: Albert, Ethel Mary, 1918-1989
Language: Multiple languages
Summary: Ethel M. Albert was an ethnologist whose research focused on communication and speech, and values and ethics. She pursued these themes cross-culturally across a wide spectrum of social classes, ethnic groups and locations. She received a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1949 and taught at several institutions of higher learning before becoming a faculty member of Northwestern University in 1966. The Ethel Mary Albert papers consist of writings, photographs and sound recordings produced during the course of Albert's ethnological studies as Ford Fellow in Burundi in the late 1950s; field research among the Navaho; and materials related to a later cross cultural study of fatalism.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
These papers were bequeathed to the National Anthropological Archives by Ethel Mary Albert and were accessioned in 1990.

Processing Information
The papers of Ethel Mary Albert were received partially organized. The processing archivist maintained the original groupings and arrangement, with the exception of drafts of published articles, which were removed from Series 10 (Published Articles) and placed in Series 12 (Drafts of Published Articles). Also, a manuscript from F.G. Friedmann and Albert's Book appraisal were removed from Series 9 (Unpublished Writings) and moved to Series 13 (Miscellany). Original folder titles were retained in most cases, with titles assigned by the archivist placed within square brackets. The photographic slides were placed into archival slide folders but the original numbering and groupings have been maintained. The audio reels were isolated for appropriate storage.

Processed by Aivia Monitto on April 2007.
Preferred Citation
Ethel Mary Albert Papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions
The Ethel Mary Albert papers are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Contact the Repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Ethel M. Albert was born on March 28, 1918. She received her B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1942 and her M.A. from Columbia University in 1947. She was awarded a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1949. She taught philosophy at Brooklyn College (1946-1947) and Syracuse University (1949-1952). She later taught speech at the University of California at Berkeley (1958-1966) and anthropology and speech at Northwestern University (1966-1977). From 1958-66, she served as chair of the committee for African Studies (a part of the Institute of International Studies). She was chair of the anthropology department at Northwestern University from 1972-73.

Albert's ethnographic research focused on communication and speech, and values and ethics. She pursued these themes cross-culturally across a wide spectrum of social classes, ethnic groups and locations. She carried out work among the Navaho while serving as a research associate with the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University (1953-1955). As a Ford Foundation fellow (1955-1957), she carried out ethnographic studies of the Tutsi, Hutu and Twa peoples of Burundi, from which she produced numerous notes and writings. Albert died at the age of 71 in October of 1989, in Sarasota, Florida.

Chronology of the life of Ethel Mary Albert

1918 Born on the 28th of March in New Britain, CT.; daughter of Zundel and Dorothy (Eisenstadt) Sokolsky
1942 Receives her B.A. from Brooklyn College
1947 Receives her M.A. from Columbia University
1946-1947 Instructor of philosophy at Brooklyn College
1949 Awarded a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin
1949-1952 Instructor of philosophy at Syracuse University
1953-1955 Research associate with the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University; carries out work among the Navahos
1955-1957 Carries out an ethnographic study of the Rundi Culture in central Africa as a Ford Foundation Fellow in the Overseas African Program
1957-1958 Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California
1958-1966 Instructor of speech at the University of California at Berkeley
1960,1961 Assistant Director for ethnology, National Science Foundation Project on Educational Resources in Anthropology
1963-1965  Chairman of committee for African studies (Institute of International Studies), University of California at Berkeley

1964-1965  Appointed vice-chairman of the speech department at the University of California at Berkeley

1966-1977  Professor of anthropology and speech at Northwestern University

1973  Chairman of anthropology and speech department, Northwestern University

Scope and Contents

This collection is mainly comprised of Albert's papers produced in the course of her ethnological studies as Ford Fellow in Burundi in the late 1950s; field research among the Navaho; and materials related to a later cross cultural study of fatalism.

Among her field notes and extensive personal journals produced during her stay in Burundi are collections of Kirundi texts, including fables and stories, many of which were produced in direct cooperation with (and in a few cases authored by) some of her more literate informants. She also collected a wide spectrum of biographies. During her time in Central Africa, she interviewed many people from both major ethnic groups (Tutsi and Hutu) and accumulated photographic portraits of many of her biographical subjects.

Her collection of photographic slides number more than 300. They depict a wide range of the activities of village life (such as traditional dances, dress, children, cows, and agricultural activities) as well as portraits of the King and Queen of Urundi.

Albert also conducted ethnographic fieldwork among the Navaho. From that period, her papers include material relating to a study of values in five cultures; these appear in Vogt and Albert's People of Rimrock (1967).

Another important group of materials consists of manuscripts and notes relating to Albert's study of fatalism. In these notes and manuscripts she relates her previous 5 ethnographic studies to her philosophical knowledge in the production of a cross-cultural study of the values and life ways associated with fatalism, resignation and determinism.

This collection contains many of her completed essays and articles, both published and unpublished. Albert also produced sound recordings related to her field work in Burundi.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 14 series: (1) Rundi Projects Reports and Journals; (2) Rundi Ethnography; Rough Notes; (3) Rundi Biographies; (4) Rundi Texts; (5) Photographic Slides; (6) Study of Fatalism; (7) Study of Values in Five Cultures; (8) Miscellaneous Notes; (9) Unpublished Writings; (10) Published Articles; (11) Bibliography; (12) Unpublished Drafts of Manuscripts; (13) Miscellany; (14) Sound Recordings
Selected bibliography


Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Burundians
- Ethnologies
- Rundi language

Cultures:
- Burundians

Types of Materials:
- Slides (photographs)

Geographic Names:
- Burundi
Container Listing

Series 1: Rundi project reports and journals

5 inches.

Box 1  Ford Foundation Reports, No. 1-8. , 1955-1957
Box 1  Journal [Travel], 1955 September-1957 January 4, 1957 July 4-1957 August 4
Box 1  Journal, Mutumba [pages 1-197], 1956 May 23-November 30
Box 1  Journal, Mutumba [pages 198- 470], 1956 May 23-November 30
Box 1  Journal, Rusaka [pages 471-700], 1957 January-June
Box 1  Journal, Rusaka [pages 701-961], 1957 January-June

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Series 2: Rundi ethnography; rough notes

17 ½ inches.

Box 2


Box 2

Miscellaneous, kinship chart, village and housing diagrams, *Infor-Burundi* No.117, 120, newspaper clipping, AAA pamphlet, notes

Box 2

Ubgenge (intelligence)

Box 2

1. Preface, acknowledgements

Box 2

Maps (commercial and illustrated)

Box 2

1. Introduction

Box 2

2. Arts (music and dance; entertainment, games, hunting)

Box 3

3. Asking and giving

Box 2

4. Culture contact and change

Box 2

5. Economy I: herding and agriculture: government control

Box 2

7. Ethnoscience

Box 2

8. Family: relations and constitution

Box 3

9. Field work: methods and conditions

Box 3

10. Food and Indulgences

Box 3

11. Health and curing, beliefs

Box 3

12. History, general

Box 3

13. Husband-Wife relationships

Box 3

14. Interpersonal relations: household, other

Including personal correspondence from 1957 January 28.

Box 3

15. Kinship and genealogies

Box 3

16. Life cycle

Box 3

18. Linguistics: naming and symbolism

Box 3

19. Logic: discourse, knowledge, communication

Box 3

20. Marriage, divorce, spinsterhood, polygamy, etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4</th>
<th>21. Material culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>22. Personal appearance, Physical types, Dress, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>23. Personality and ethnopsychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>24. Physical setting and climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>25. Political system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>25. Modern structure and dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>26. Property and cows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>28. Schedules: daily, annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>29. Sex, reproduction, and childbirth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>30. Social control and law [Cow-Thieving]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>30. Cases for analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>31. Social relations: superior-inferior; Hutu, Tutsi, Twa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>32. Socialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>35. Value system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>35. Foci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>35. [Fables?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>35. Character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>35. Valued entities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>35. Texts (for analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>36. Witchcraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>37. Metaphysics- Infor. Outlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>37. Imana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>38. Variations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 3: Rundi biographies

5 inches

Box 6  39. Biographies [Letters]

Box 6  Simbabaje
Folder only contains note indicating to cross reference to folder 30. Social control and law [cow thieving].

Box 6  Ndiruhangura, Simuganira et al

Box 6  Miscellaneous short biographies

Box 6  Interesting "Atypical " Barundi

Box 6  Rukere and Gahitira

Box 6  Rukwebuka and Muyehe

Box 6  Ruvako

Box 6  Mubamba

Box 6  Matabishi

Box 6  Muhorana, Mozakari, Bujana

Box 6  Kimararungu

Box 6  Inabanguka

Box 6  Elisabetha

Box 6  Datus

Box 6  Burije

Box 6  Nziguheba & Brothers

Box 6  Mbwirahoze

Box 6  Bashirashihize & Family

Box 6  Baranyanka & Family

Box 6  Mwambutsa & Family

Box 6  Europeans

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Series 4: Rundi texts

20 inches

Box 7  Correspondence with Andre Coupez
Box 7  Rundi Tapes Language Lab Tapes
Box 7  [Kirundi Proverbs Drafts]
Box 7  [Rundi Stories-1]
Box 7  [Rundi Stories-2]
Box 7  [Rundi Stories-3]
Box 7  [Rundi Stories-4]
Box 7  [Rundi Stories-5]
Box 7  [Rundi Stories-6]
Box 8  Rundi Texts- French Translation- Uncorrected (Photocopies) Part I
Box 8  Rundi Texts- French Translation- Uncorrected (Photocopies) Part II
Box 8  Rundi Texts- English Translation- Carbon Copy- Tales, etc [1]
Box 8  Rundi Texts- English Translation- Carbon Copy- Tales, etc [2]
Box 9  Rundi Texts- English Translations Part I (Originals) [1]
Box 9  Rundi Texts- English Translations Part I (Originals) [2]
Box 9  Rundi Texts- English Translations Part II (Originals) [1]
Box 9  Rundi Texts- English Translations Part II (Originals) [2]
Box 9  Ethel M. Albert & André Coupez- Kirundi only- Photocopy II Rundi Literature
Box 10  [Collected Rundi Texts- 1]
Box 10  [Collected Rundi Texts- 2]
Box 10  [Collected Rundi Texts- 3]
Box 10  [Collected Rundi Texts- 4]
Box 10  Amazina y’Abaganwa (Munyagara)
Box 10  Notes on Rundi Texts- Papers- Translations
Box 10  Rundi Texts- General and Misc.

Box 11  Microfilm Copies of Kirundi Texts [1]
        Microfilm

Box 11  Microfilm Copies of Kirundi Texts [2]
        Microfilm


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Series 5: Photographic slides

*5 inches*

Most of the slides in this series have been digitized.

Box 12  
[List of Captions]

Box 12  
1-26 Land, settlement, and scenery

Box 12  
27-54 Special shots (maize, rainstorm, fires)

Box 12  
55-81 Agriculture and food

Box 12  
82-103 Hutu

Box 12  
104-129 Tutsi, portraits, King and Queen (see 306-307)

Box 12  
130-151 Tutsi (not portraits) Ausi, Christiana, Marie Immaculata

Box 12  
152-168 Children and nursing

Box 12  
169-191 Cows and milking

Box 12  
192-217 Structures, crafts

Box 12  
218-237 Banana beer

Box 12  
238-265 Kitega dances

Box 12  
266-290 Hutu dancers, Harroy visit, violin, Umuduli

Box 12  
291-316 Batwa, Ngozi, Nyabikara, Urundi, Usumbura, Astrida

Box 12  
317-339 Tanganyika, Astrida, Astrida dancers

Box 12  
340-368 Gite and staff

Box 12  
369-395 Congo

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Series 6: Study of fatalism

20 inches

This series comprises of notes and drafts of Albert's unpublished manuscript relating to her cross cultural study of fatalism.

Box 13  Science of western culture equation and the method of the study of man
Box 13  Criteria of credibility
Box 13  Poets and peasants as philosophers
Box 13  Consistency in cultural philosophies
Box 13  Consistency, empiricism, and pluralism--resolutions of inconsistencies
Box 13  Cultural variations and consistency
Box 13  Change
Box 13  Consistency and culture change
Box 14  Comparative cultural logics (including paradox)
Box 14  Fatalism: Outlines, Preface
Box 14  Introduction
Box 14  Definition of fatalism
Box 14  Islam
Box 14  Varieties of Fatalism (1)
Box 14  Varieties of Fatalism (2)
Box 14  Logic of Fatalism
Box 14  Manuscript
Box 15  Uncertainty and 'Changing Fate'
Box 15  Part II- Ethics and Changes
Box 15  Part III
Box 15  [Study of Fatalism-1]
Box 15  [Study of Fatalism-2]
Box 15  [Study of Fatalism-3]
Box 15  [Study of Fatalism-4]

Box 16  Outline: *Fatalism, the ethics of resignation: a case study in ethnophilosophy*

Box 16  Fatalism Preface- Correspondence & Special Notes
Includes original 9 page preface

Box 16  Fatalism: Outline [Draft]

Box 16  “Fatalism in Cultural World-Views” [pages i-100]
*pages i-100*

Box 16  “Fatalism in Cultural World-Views” [pages 101-199a]
*pages 101-199a*

Box 16  “Fatalism in Cultural World-Views” [pages 200-316]
*pages 200-316*

Box 16  “Fatalism in Cultural World-Views” [pages c1-c99]
*pages c1-c99*

Box 16  “Fatalism in Cultural World-Views” [pages c100-c129]
*pages c100-c129*

Box 16  “Fatalism in Cultural World-Views” [pages 1-153; partial bibliography, 4 pages]
*pages 1-153; partial bibliography, 4 pages*

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Series 7: Study of values in five cultures

5 inches

Box 17 Preface, Acknowledgements, and Maps

Box 17 'Val. St.'
Original copy

Box 17 Comparisons- 5 Value Studies

Box 17 Bibliography
Old-combined

Box 17 “Theory construction for the comparative study of values in five cultures: a report on the values study,” 1954 January

Box 17 MS, “Ethnography of values: five cultural value Systems.” January 1971, 1971 January

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Series 8: Miscellaneous notes

7 ½ inches

Box 18  African Committee Conference
Box 18  Ch 3-A Methodology
       oper. indices/sampling, native informants
Box 18  Ch 4B Data collection: field work methods and techniques
Box 18  Ch 4B Assumptions--General
Box 18  Assumptions--Ethnological
Box 18  Ch 3B Data--Paralingual and behavioral
Box 18  Ch 3B Words-Actions/behavior-value and conduct
Box 18  Premises as unit--contextual meaning
Box 19  Pattern, Context- Overflow
Box 19  Data: the language of values
Box 19  Ch 3 Values in language and conduct: content analysis in culture context

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Series 9: Unpublished writings

5 inches

Box 20  “Cultural universals--words or things.”  AAA. November 20, 1964, 1964
November 20

January 26

Box 20  Semeiotics and semantics bibliography

Box 20  “On the science of values: a footnote to scientific humanism.”  [Student Paper]
May, 1948, 1948 May

Box 20  48.  “A Re-examination of 'existential import' of categorical propositions.”
December 1957, 1957 December
First written as a talk delivered at Syracuse University in April, 1952.

Box 20  “The Philosophical Consequences of Modern Physical Theory.”  Ph.D.
dissertation, University of Wisconsin, 1949, 1949

Box 20  “The problem of historical causation,”
MA thesis, Columbia University

“A Comparative Study of Hutu and Tutsi Values in Urundi.”  July 4, 1957, 1957
July 4
Text of a talk given to I.R.S.A.C. staff in Belgian Congo, translated from French.

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5 inches

This series contains Albert's publications. Many publications are accompanied by earlier drafts of those articles. Some folders which contained only drafts of publication have been removed and separated into Series 13: Drafts of Published Articles.

Box 21

[01] [Miscellaneous Book Reviews for American Anthropologist]

Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


This folder also contains a Vietnamese translation.

Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


Box 21


*Return to Table of Contents*
Series 11: Bibliography

5 inches

Box 22

Bibliography- Africa, Urundi, General.
This box contains index cards comprising a bibliography related to Africa.

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Series 12: Drafts of published articles

2 ½ inches

Author’s Translation of “La Femme en Urundi” in Femmes d’Afrique Noire.

Box 23 1968 “Value Systems” in International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences,
1968

Box 23 1966 “The Unmothered Woman” in Challenge to Women., 1966

Box 23 1960 “Five Abstracts in the Philosophy of Science and the Philosophy of
Values,” 1960
Submitted to Paul W. Kurtz, editor, for Philosophical Abstracts.

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Series 13: Miscellany

2½ inches

Box 24  “The Peasant” and “La Miseria.” October, 1954. By F. G. Friedmann, 1954 October

Box 24  Book Appraisal, November 18, 1983. Appraisal of Albert's Library; Contains last known address.

1983 November 18

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Series 14: Sound recordings

Box 25  Albert SR 1, undated
        1 sound tape reel (7 in.)
        Audio: Albert SR 1 side 1
        Audio: Albert SR 1 side 2

Box 25  Albert SR 2, undated
        1 sound tape reel (7 in.)
        Audio

Box 25  Albert SR 3, undated
        1 sound tape reel (5 in.)
        Audio

Box 25  Albert SR 4, undated
        1 sound tape reel (5 in.)
        Audio

Box 25  Albert SR 5, undated
        1 sound tape reel (5 in.)
        Audio

Box 25  Albert SR 6
        1 sound tape reel (5 in.)
        Audio

Box 25  Albert SR 7, undated
        1 sound tape reel (5 in.)
        Audio

Box 25  Albert SR 8, undated
        1 sound tape reel (5 in.)
        Audio

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