



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Peace Corps Volunteers collection, 1920-1984

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Peace Corps Volunteers collection
Date:	1920-1984
Identifier:	NAA.1975-43
Extent:	25 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Peace Corps Volunteers collection, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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Historical

In 1975, Herman Joseph Viola, the director of the National Anthropological Archives; Saul Herbert Riesenbergs, the curator for Oceania Ethnology in the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology; and Dirk Ballendorf, assistant chief of programs and training for Peace Corps operations in North Africa, the Near East, Asia, and the Pacific, worked out a program whereby the archives would collect materials of former Peace Corps volunteers. In addition to photographic and other materials of potential use to many researchers, the collection was intended to document the impact of the volunteers on host countries and the experiences of the volunteers in working in foreign cultures.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes contributions from 101 former volunteers or administrators who served in such countries and regions as Afghanistan, Antigua, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Upper Volta.

The volunteers were involved in diverse assignments such as education, community development, agriculture, health work, and service through such special skills as art, surveying, mechanics, and photography. Two additional collections are including materials of missionaries that were offered to the archives as the result of the program to collect Peace Corps materials. Included are diaries, correspondence, writings, printed and processed material, sound recordings, and administrative materials. There are also photographic materials that show such subjects as traditional and modern agriculture, architecture, body

scarification, ceremonies, dance, dress, fishing, food preparation and other domestic activities, industry, medicine, and transportation.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

Arranged numerically, with indexes based upon creator names and subject of materials.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Body scarification
- Cookery
- Dance
- Dress
- Fishing
- Industry
- Medicine
- Rites and ceremonies
- Transportation

Types of Materials:

- Administrative records
- Audiotapes
- Diaries
- Letters
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Printed material
- Processed materials

Names:

- Ballendorf, Dirk
- Peace Corps (U.S.)
- Riesenberg, Saul H.
- Viola, Herman J. (1938-)

Places:

- Afghanistan
- Antigua
- Bolivia
- Botswana

Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Ceylon
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dahomey
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Kenya
Korea
Liberia
Malawi
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Morocco
Nepal
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
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Somalia
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