



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Esther Schiff Goldfrank papers

Anna Z. Thompson

1998

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Esther Schiff Goldfrank papers
Date:	1920-1980
Identifier:	NAA.1982-24
Creator:	Goldfrank, Esther Schiff (Creator)
Extent:	7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The Esther Schiff Goldfrank papers, 1920-1980, document her professional life in anthropology. Much of the field material and reading notes relate to Goldfrank's work on the Pueblos, Navahos, Blood, and Teton Dakota. There is also considerable material of colleagues. Some of this seems to have been given to her directly. Other material, particularly that of Ruth Benedict's Blackfoot project, was acquired by Margaret Mead and then sent to Goldfrank. Included are field notes or manuscript articles concerning the Blackfoot Indians by Benedict, Harry D. Biele, Marjorie Lismar, Jane Richardson, and George D. Spindler. Most of the photographs in the collection concern Goldfrank's early travels with Franz Boas or Harvey Biele's work with the Bloods. Copies of illustrations used in her autobiography are also included.</p>

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Esther Schiff Goldfrank in 1982. A small addition was made in 1984.

Processing Note

Processed by Anna Z. Thompson, 1998

Encoded by Jocelyn Baltz, July 2012

Preferred Citation

Esther Schiff Goldfrank papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions on Access

The Esther Schiff Goldfrank papers are open for research.

Restrictions on Use

Restrictions on the use of the material specify that living informants are not to be mentioned in publications; no material is to be used to defame any individual; and, transparencies of the Isleta Paintings and copies of Joe B. Lente's letters cannot be reproduced (copies should be obtained from the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia).

Biographical Note

Esther Schiff Goldfrank took an undergraduate course under Franz Boas when she was a student at Barnard College. This led to her becoming his secretary between 1919 and 1922 and, at the same time, taking graduate courses in anthropology at Columbia University. With the financial and intellectual assistance of Elsie Clews Parsons, she also traveled with Boas and his wife in the Southwest and carried out anthropological field work at Laguna and Cochiti Pueblos between 1920 and 1922. Out of this work came her Social and Ceremonial Organization of Chochiti, *Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association*, number 23, 1927.

Although she married Walter Goldfrank in 1922 and became a homemaker, her interest in Pueblo life continued. In 1924, she carried out field work at Isleta for the Southwest Society under arrangements made by Parsons.

After her husband's death in 1935, Goldfrank worked for Caroline Zachry's Study of Adolescents for the Commission on Secondary School Curriculum of the Progressive Education Association and, later, became a nondegree graduate student in anthropology, again at Columbia University. In 1939, she took part in a program of field studies of four Blackfoot tribes that was directed Ruth Fulton Benedict. The purpose of the program was to determine differences in the effects of American and Canadian policies on similar cultures.

Goldfrank's work was among the Blood Indians of Canada, and she reported it in her *Changing Configurations in the Social Organization of a Blackfoot Tribe during the Reserve Period*, J. J. Austin, 1945.

In 1940, Goldfrank married Karl A. Wittfogel and, in 1943, became staff anthropologist for the Chinese History Project, which her husband directed. Shortly after her marriage, she undertook work on historical aspects of Teton Dakota culture through library studies. Her interest in Pueblo cultures continued, however, and she contributed two major publications concerning them. In 1962, under her editorship, Elsie Clews Parsons' *Isleta Paintings* was published as *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin* 181. In 1967, her own *The Artist of "Isleta Paintings"* in *Pueblo Society* was issued as *Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology*, volume 3.

Under the influence of her husband, she also became interested in the implications for southwestern cultures of the need to control water.

Goldfrank was active with several anthropological organizations but especially with the American Ethnological Society. She served as its secretary-treasurer in 1945-1947 and its president in 1948. In the latter position, she was particularly concerned with the constitution of the society and, especially, its anomalous relationship with the American Anthropological Association. She was also the society's editor from 1952 to 1956.

Chronology

1896	Born
1918	Bachelor of Arts, Barnard College
1919-1922	Took graduate courses in anthropology at Columbia University Became secretary to Franz Boas Conducted field work with Franz Boas among the Indians at Laguna and Cochiti
1922	Married Walter S. Goldfrank
1924	Pursued field work at Isleta for the Southwest Society
1927	Published Monograph, "The Social and Ceremonial Organization of Cochiti," <i>Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association</i> , number 23, 1927
1935	Death of Walter S. Goldfrank

1939	Took part in a study of four Blackfoot tribes directed by Ruth F. Benedict
1940	Married Karl A. Wittfogel
1943	Became staff anthropologist for Wittfogel's Chinese History Project
1944	Published Monograph, "Changing Configurations in the Social Organization of a Blackfoot Tribe During the Reserve Period," J. J. Austin, 1945
1945-1947	Served as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Ethnological Society
1948	Served as President of the American Ethnological Society
1952-1956	Publication of "Isleta Paintings," Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 181, with Introduction and Commentary by Elsie Clews Parsons and edited by Esther S. Goldfrank
	Served as editor for the American Ethnological Society
1967	Goldfrank's "Artist of 'Isleta Paintings' in Pueblo Society" was issued as Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology, volume 3
1978	Publication of the Memoirs of Esther S. Goldfrank, entitled, "Notes on an Undirected Life," New York, Queens College, 1978
1988	Death of Karl A. Wittfogel
1997 April 23	Died

Scope and Contents

These papers document the professional life of anthropologist Esther Schiff Goldfrank (b. 1896) through correspondence, arranged both alphabetically and chronologically; correspondence specifically referencing the Isleta paintings; manuscripts by Goldfrank; field, reading and typescript notes; material from other anthropologists; miscellaneous printed material such as articles, reports, papers and invitations; transparencies of artwork from Isleta paintings; facsimiles of the Joe B. Lente letters; and, photographs, mostly concerning Goldfrank's early travels with Franz Boas and Harvey Biele's work with the Bloods. The collection dates from 1920 through 1980.

Among correspondents whose letters are included in the papers, are David F. ABERLE, John ADAIR, M. F. ASHLEY-MONTAGUE, Victor BARNOUW, Ruth F. BENEDICT, Franz BOAS, Charles E. BORDEN, Henry B. COLLINS, Carlton S. COON, George DEVEREUX, Rene d'HARNONCOURT, Edward P. DOZIER, Fred R. EGGAN, Ward H. GOODENOUGH, Alfred I. HALLOWELL, June HANKS, Byron HARVEY III, Florence M. HAWLEY, E. Adamson HOEBEL, Alfred V. KIDDER, Solon T. KIMBALL, Clyde KLUCKHOLN, R. Weston LABARRE, Oliver LAFARGE, Dorothea C. LEIGHTON, Oscar LEWIS, Edward M. LOEB, John P. LUCERO, Margaret MEAD, Robert MURPHY, Morris OPLER, Elsie Clews PARSONS, Herbert PARSONS, Jane RICHARDSON, M. Estellie SMITH, Frank G. SPECK, Leslie SPIER, Morris SWADESH, Sol TAX, Mischa TITIEV, Caroline TRUJILLO, Leslie A. WHITE, Nathalie F. S. WOODBURY, and Richard B. WOODBURY.

The bulk of the material concerns Goldfrank's work on the genesis and publication of the Isleta paintings and her research on and fieldwork with the Pueblo, Navaho, Blood and Teton Dakota. Additionally, there are field notes and manuscript articles by Ruth F. Benedict, Harry D. Biele, Marjorie Lismer, Jane Richardson, and George D. Spindler.

There is also a good deal of autobiographical material and information about her interaction with other anthropologists (Franz Boas and Ruth F. Benedict among others) in the various drafts of Goldfrank's privately published autobiography, "Notes on an Undirected Life" (1978).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series: (1) Correspondence arranged by correspondent or subject; (2) Correspondence arranged in chronological order, 1922-1950; (3) Correspondence arranged in chronological order, 1951-1980; (4) Manuscripts by Goldfrank; (5) Isleta paintings, 1949-1976, undated; (6) Blackfoot and Blood Indians; (7) Navajo and Pueblo Indians; (8) Teton Dakota (Sioux) Indians; (9) Miscellany; (10) Photographs.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Diné (Navajo)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains
- Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
- Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)
- Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)
- Niitsitapii (Blackfoot/Blackfeet)
- Sihasapa Lakota (Blackfoot Sioux)

Cultures:

- Diné (Navajo)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains
- Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
- Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)
- Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)
- Niitsitapii (Blackfoot/Blackfeet)
- Sihasapa Lakota (Blackfoot Sioux)

Types of Materials:

- Letters (correspondence)
- Manuscripts
- Photographs

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence arranged by correspondent or subject

Box 1	Adair, John
Box 1	Ashley-Montague, M.F.
Box 1	Benedict, Ruth
Box 1	Blackfoot Indians, re (includes George Talbot, Mary Sue Walker, George D. Spindler)
Box 1	Boas, Franz
Box 1	Deposit of Papers in National Anthropological Archives
Box 1	Devereux, George
Box 1	Dozier, Edward
Box 1	Harvey, Byron III
Box 1	Hawley, Florence M. (Ellis)
Box 1	Laguna Pueblo (Solomon Day, Katie Day, Carl Leon)
Box 1	Lucero, John P. and Isabel (of Isleta Pueblo)
Box 1	Mead, Margaret
Box 1	Murphy, Robert
Box 1	Parsons, Elsie Clews
Box 1	Smith, E.M.
Box 1	Titiev, Mischa
Box 1	Trujillo, Caroline (of Cochiti)

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Series 2: Correspondence arranged in chronological order, 1922-1950

General: The following list of the names of correspondents is not exhaustive; to a significant degree, it has been limited to names of anthropologists. Additionally, the signatures and/or nicknames of many of the correspondents have not been deciphered. There are folders included for each year.

Box 1	1922 (Frank Boas)
Box 1	1929 (Frank G. Speck)
Box 1	1937 (Ellery Sedgewick)
Box 1	1940 (includes June Hanks)
Box 1	1941 (includes E. Adamson Hoebel)
Box 1	1942 (includes W. W. Hill)
Box 1	1943 (includes Edwin M. Loeb, Solon T. Kimball, W. W. Hill, Leslie A. White, Clyde Kluckhohn, June Hanks, Alfred I. Hallowell)
Box 1	1945 (includes Sol Tax, Fred Eggan, E. Adamson Hoebel, J. Alden Mason, Dorothea C. Leighton, Jane Richardson, Clyde Kluckhohn, Leslie A. White)
Box 1	1946 (includes Oscar Lewis, Edward S. C. Handy, Blanche C. Grant, Weston LaBarre, Florence M. Hawley, David Kidney, Carleton Coon, Malcolm Collier)
Box 1	1947 (includes Weston La Barre, Francis L.K. Hsu, Oscar Lewis, Morton H. Fried, W. W. Hill, Dorothy Eggan, Richard S. Lyman, George P. Murdock)
Box 1	1948 (includes Alfred V. Kidder, Clyde Kluckhohn, Leslie Spier, Douglas Harding, George Devereux, Robert Redfield, George A. Pittit, Weston La Barre, Francis L. K. Hsu, David Aberle, Florence M. Hawley)
Box 1	1949 (includes Walter R. Goldschmidt, Evon Vogt, Carling Malouf, Weston La Barre)
Box 1	1950 (includes Oliver La Farge)

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Series 3: Correspondence arranged in chronological order, 1951-1980

Box 2	1951 (includes George P. Murdock, Oliver La Farge, Weston La Barre, Jerome Frank, George Devereux, John Slawson)
Box 2	1952 (includes June Hanks, J. Charles Kelly, James B. Watson, Nels C. Nelson, Robert Endleman, Evon Vogt)
Box 2	1953 (includes W. W. Hill, David Aberle, Sol Tax, Evon Vogt, Hugh A. Dempsey, Emil W. Haurly, Charles H. Lange)
Box 2	1954 (includes Gladys Reichard, Ruth Wallis, Alfred L. Kroeber, George P. Murdock)
Box 2	1955 (includes Charles H. Lange, John J. Honigman, Leslie Spier, Emil W. Haurly, Ruth Wallis, Verne F. Ray)
Box 2	1956 (includes Michael Smith)
Box 2	1957 (includes John W. Bennett, Morris Swadesh, J. Charles Kelley, Rene d'Harnoncourt)
Box 2	1958 (includes George M. Foster)
Box 2	1959 (includes Robert Hackenburg, Charles H. Lange, John Adair, E. Adamson Hoebel)
Box 2	1961 (includes Rene d'Harnoncourt, Sam J. Ervin)
Box 2	1962 (includes Nathalie F. S. Woodbury, Charles H. Lange)
Box 2	1963 (includes Alfred I. Hallowell, Frank H. H. Roberts, George F. Carter, Dwight Robinson, George D. Spindler, Charles H. Lange)
Box 2	1964 (includes George D. Spindler, James B. Griffen, George F. Carter, Benjamin N. Colby, Verne F. Ray, A. James Gregor, W. W. Hill, Ed Lanning, Richard B. Woodbury, Alfonzo Ortiz, David G. Mandelbaum, E. Adamson Hoebel)
Box 2	1965 (includes Kent V. Flannery, George D. Spindler, Charles H. Lange, Charles E. Borden, Bea Medicine)
Box 2	1966
Box 2	1967 (includes E. Adamson Hoebel, Charles H. Lange)
Box 2	1968 (includes E. Adamson Hoebel, Ward H. Goodenough, Morris Opler)

Box 2	1969 (includes Victor Barnouw, Alfonzo Ortiz, Victor Golla, Fritz Redl, Mark Ross, George L. Trager)
Box 2	1970 (includes George D. Spindler, Fritz Redl)
Box 2	1971 (includes Charles C. Di Peso, Bea Medicine, Fred R. Eggan)
Box 2	1972 (includes Charles C. Di Peso, Bea Medicine)
Box 2	1973 (includes Peter G. Slater, Charles C. Di Peso)
Box 2	1974 (Includes Charles C. Di Peso, Nathalie F. S. Woodbury)
Box 2	1975 (Includes Judith Modell, Stanley Newman, John J. Honigmann, Robert J. Havighurst)
Box 2	1976 (includes Charles C. Di Peso)
Box 2	1977
Box 2	1978
Box 2	1979
Box 2	1980

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Series 4: Manuscripts by Goldfrank

Box 3	The Favorite Child: Comparison of the Institution among Blood and Teton Dakota
Box 3	Life of a Blackfoot Indian (Blood)
Box 3	Notes on an Undirected Life (drafts) [4f]
Box 4	Sorrel Horse's Life Story (original version)
Box 4	Sorrel Horse's Life Story (revised version)
Box 4	Two Anthropologists - The Same Informant: Some Differences in Their Recorded Data
Box 4	Articles by Goldfrank
Box 4	[Book reviews by Goldfrank]

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Series 5: Isleta Paintings, 1949-1976, undated

Box 4	Isleta Paintings— Working notes [2f]
Box 5	Reading notes
Box 5	Correspondence
Box 5	1949
Box 5	1950 (includes Herbert Parsons, Elsie Clews Parsons)
Box 5	1953 (includes Rene d'Harnoncourt)
Box 5	1955 (includes Matthew Stirling, Elsie Clews Parsons, Rene d'Harnoncourt)
Box 5	1956 (includes Rene d'Harnoncourt, Edward Dozier)
Box 5	1957 (includes Edward Dozier, Matthew Stirling)
Box 5	1958 (includes George L. Trager)
Box 5	1959 (includes George L. Trager, Frank H. H. Roberts)
Box 5	1960 (includes Frank H. H. Roberts, George L. Trager)
Box 5	1961
Box 5	1962
Box 5	1963 (includes Henry B. Collins, Frederick Dockstader)
Box 5	1964 (includes Florence M. Hawley)
Box 5	1965
Box 5	1966 (includes Richard Woodbury)
Box 5	1967
Box 5	1968
Box 5	1969
Box 5	1970
Box 5	1971

Box 5	1972
Box 5	1976
Box 5	Letters of Appreciation
Box 5	Riverside Museum
Box 6	Material Regarding the Exhibit, Riverside Museum, New York
Box 6	Transparencies of Artwork From Isleta Paintings [7f]
Box 6	[Captions -- Under pictures]
Box 6	Leap, William, Notes for "The Artist" (glossary)

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Series 6: Blackfoot and Blood Indians

Box 6	Original Field Notes: Blood Reservation, Summer 1939 [7f]
Box 7	Original Field Notes
Box 7	Blood Reservation Re: Joe Beebe, Summer 1939
Box 7	History
Box 7	Miscellany [2f]
Box 7	Notes by Subject [typed], Summer 1939
Box 7	Birth, Pregnancy
Box 7	Kinship
Box 7	Miscellany [3f]
Box 8	Working Notes, typescript
Box 8	Blackfoot [2f]
Box 8	Blackfoot, arranged by informant [3f]
Box 8	Blood Indian
Box 9	Microfilm of Goldfrank's notes, 1939
Box 10	Invitation and Program, Opening of Blood Indian Community Hall, 1949
Box 10	Benedict, Ruth, "Discussion of Genealogies of Teton Blackfoot"
Box 10	Benedict, Ruth, History of the Skunk Band (Piegan, Northern Blackfoot)
Box 10	Benedict, Ruth, Notes on Blackfoot Kinship
Box 10	Benedict, Ruth, Notes on Kinship from Goldfrank's Notes on the Bloods
Box 10	Benedict, Ruth, "Story of the Blackfoot Claim"
Box 10	Benedict, Ruth and Richardson, Jane, Notes on the Bloods
Box 10	Biele, Harry D., Notes on the Bloods
Box 10	Lismer, Marjorie, Material Regarding Blackfoot Adoption [2f]

Box 10	Spindler, George D., "The Blood Indians of Alberta"
Box 10	[Notes to be used with Lisner's cards]
Box 11	Marie Lisner's cards on Blood Indians

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Series 7: Navajo and Pueblo Indians

Box 12	Reading Notes [3f]
Box 12	Reading Notes & Data [2f]
Box 12	Reading & Work notes
Box 12	Facsimiles of Joe B. Lente Letters
Box 12	Material on the Navaho
Box 12	[Old Man Bear print]
Box 13	Drury, De Witt, "The Stepped Terrace: A Pueblo Indian Design", 1973
Box 13	Smith, M. Estellie, "Aspects of Social Control among the Taos Indians"

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Series 8: Teton Dakota (Sioux) Indians

Box 13

Notes

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Series 9: Miscellany

Box 13	Bibliography of Esther S. Goldfrank
Box 13	Bibliography of Fritz Redl
Box 13	Committee on the Study of Adolescents, "Description of the Study of Adolescents," Commission on Secondary School Curriculum, Progressive Education Association, 1938
Box 13	Report at AES meeting
Box 13	Steward, Julian, "Initiation of a Research Trend: (Karl) Wittfogel's Irrigation Hypothesis" and Printed Material
Box 13	Unidentified Notes

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Series 10: Photographs

Box 14	Blood Reserve (Blackfoot) 1939 by Harry Biele
Box 14	Illustrations from Notes on an Undirected Life
Box 14	Pueblos and Anthropologists [2f] Notes: Album and Loose Photographs (includes Franz Boas, his wife, Robert Lowie, Gladys Reichard, Erna Gunther, E. P. Goddard, Ruth Benedict, Alfred Kroeber, Edward Sapir, Melville Herskovits, and Laguna and Cochiti pueblos)

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