



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Frederick Johnson papers concerning the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains, 1929-1969, bulk (1944-1957)

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Correspondence, 1945-1969.....	4
Notes and meeting materials, 1929, 1944-1955.....	6
Other anthropological organizations, 1944-1951.....	7
Transcripts of meetings, 1947-1965.....	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Frederick Johnson papers concerning the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains
Date:	1929-1969 (bulk 1944-1957)
Identifier:	NAA.1982-39
Creator:	Johnson, Frederick, 1904-1994
Extent:	3.57 Linear feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Frederick Johnson papers concerning the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains mainly comprise information and records pertaining to the committee. CRAR operated from 1945 to the mid 1970's with the goal of protecting archaeological remains from destruction and promoting salvage archaeology through government action. Frederick Johnson created the committee, organized its original members, and served as secretary during its early years. This collection includes correspondence, notes, meeting materials, and transcripts.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Frederick Johnson in 1982.

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds material related to the result of the efforts of the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains in the River Basin Survey Records.

The National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, The Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology at the Phillips Academy, and Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles hold papers and photographs of Frederick Johnson.

Processing Information

The Correspondence series is organized alphabetically. Johnson's folder titles were mostly retained. Some folder titles have been created by the archivist and are placed within square brackets. Processed by Lea Sellon, October 2022

Preferred Citation

Frederick Johnson papers concerning the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Frederick Johnson papers concerning the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Frederick Johnson (1904-1994) was an archaeologist and advocate for the protection of archaeological remains, mainly active during the mid to late 20th century. Johnson received his B.A. in Sociology from Tufts College in 1929 and later joined the Robert S. Peabody Foundation at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, serving as curator and later, director. Johnson pursued a wide range of anthropological interests and was a leader in field of early radiocarbon dating methods. He was active in multiple organizations outside of the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains (CRAR), serving as president of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in 1947 and as secretary of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) from 1949-1952.

Johnson created and acted as chair of the SAA's Planning Committee, a group which was tasked with evaluating archaeological needs and efforts relating to the Works Projects Administration. During this work, the members of the Planning Committee became concerned with the certain destruction of archaeological sites that would result from an approaching large-scale program for the construction of dams and other public works on America's rivers. Out of this concern, Johnson formed the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains with support from the Smithsonian, SAA, AAA, and the National Research Council. The original members of the CRAR consisted of Frederick Johnson, John O. Brew, Alfred V. Kidder, and William S. Webb. The group served as a lobbying and support organization for government action of salvage archeology which upheld professional standards in archaeology.

Scope and Contents

The Frederick Johnson papers concern the Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains (CRAR), for which Johnson served as secretary during the 1940's and 1950's. There is also some material concerning Johnson's other activities of the period, mainly including work for the Society of American Archaeology. This collection mainly consists of correspondence, budgets, reports, notes, meeting materials, and transcripts.

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

The material in this collection is arranged into four series: (1) Correspondence, 1944-1968; (2) Notes and meeting materials, 1929-1955; (3) Other anthropological organizations, 1944-1955; and (4) Transcripts of meetings, 1948-1949.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Archaeology

Names:

Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains

Container Listing

Correspondence, 1945-1969

Box 1, Folder 1	Committee for Recovery A, 1947-1956
Box 1, Folder 2	Alaska, 1952-1953
Box 1, Folder 3	American Council of Learned Societies [I], 1945-1949
Box 1, Folder 4	American Council of Learned Societies [II], 1951-1956
Box 1, Folder 5	Committee for Recovery B, 1945-1953
Box 1, Folder 6	Brew, 1945-1949
Box 1, Folder 7	[Brew - Outgoing], 1948
Box 1, Folder 8	J.O. Brew, 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 9	Committee for Recovery C, 1945-1955
Box 1, Folder 10	CRAR- Circular letters sent to committee members, 1945-1946
Box 1, Folder 11	CRAR, 1957-1968
Box 2, Folder 1	Congress, letters from 1945, 1945-1953
Box 2, Folder 2	Congressional Papers, 1945
Box 2, Folder 3	Committee for Recovery D, 1946-1956
Box 2, Folder 4	Daughtery, 1946-1949
Box 2, Folder 5	Committee for Recovery E, 1947-1953
Box 2, Folder 6	Engineers (War Dept.), 1947-1949
Box 2, Folder 7	Committee for Recovery F, 1946, 1951
Box 2, Folder 8	Finances, 1947-1951
Box 2, Folder 9	Committee for Recovery G, 1945-1955
Box 2, Folder 10	Committee for Recovery H, 1947-1957

Box 2, Folder 11	Committee for Recovery I, 1954-1955
Box 2, Folder 12	Committee for Recovery J, 1947-1953
Box 2, Folder 13	Committee for Recovery K, 1945-1956
Box 2, Folder 14	Alfred V. Kidder, 1945-1949
Box 2, Folder 15	Committee for Recovery L, 1946-1965
Box 2, Folder 16	[Little Cabinet Committee], 1954-1955
Box 2, Folder 17	Committee for Recovery M, 1945-1953
Box 3, Folder 1	National Park Service A-H, 1945-1969
Box 3, Folder 2	National Park Service I-Q, 1949-1955
Box 3, Folder 3	National Park Service R-Z, 1948-1955
Box 3, Folder 4	Committee for Recovery O, 1946-1947
Box 3, Folder 5	Origin of the committee, 1945
Box 3, Folder 6	Committee for Recovery P, 1947-1952
Box 3, Folder 7	Committee for Recovery R, 1948-1956
Box 3, Folder 8	1956 Reorganization, 1956-1957
Box 3, Folder 9	F.H.H. Roberts [I], 1945-1949
Box 3, Folder 10	F.H.H. Roberts [II], 1950-1955
Box 4, Folder 1	Committee for Recovery S, 1945-1957
Box 4, Folder 2	William Duncan Strong, 1945-1956
Box 4, Folder 3	Committee for Recovery W, 1945-1956, 1966
Box 4, Folder 4	W.S. Webb, 1945-1956
Box 4, Folder 5	George Will, 1949-1954

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Notes and meeting materials, 1929, 1944-1955

Box 5, Folder 1	CRAR minutes of meeting, 1945 May 05
Box 5, Folder 2	CRAR meeting, 1946 October 25-26
Box 5, Folder 3	Meeting, 1947 October 22-23
Box 5, Folder 4	Notes of meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1947 December 01-02
Box 5, Folder 5	Notes and handouts, 1948 November 17-18
Box 5, Folder 6	Discussions, Washington, 1949 February 14-16
Box 5, Folder 7	Notes and handouts, 1949 December
Box 5, Folder 8	CRAR annual meeting, 1950 November 16
Box 5, Folder 9	CRAR symposium, 1955 May 06
Box 5, Folder 10	CRAR meeting notes, 1955 December 07
Box 5, Folder 11	Reports relating to the Committee for Archaeological Remains, 1945-1955
Box 5, Folder 12	Reports, policy papers, and other material [I], 1929, 1947-1953
Box 5, Folder 13	Reports, policy papers, and other material [II], 1945-1947

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Other anthropological organizations, 1944-1951

Box 6, Folder 1	Dating of sites by tree ring and carbon 14 analysis, 1947-1951
Box 6, Folder 2	Planning Committee correspondence - Haury and Griffin, 1944-1945
Box 6, Folder 3	Planning Committee of the Society for American Archaeology, 1944-1946, 1951
Box 6, Folder 4	Planning Committee - SAA reports, minutes, and other documents, 1945-1947

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Transcripts of meetings, 1947-1965

Box 7, Folder 1	[Transcript of proceedings, October 22, 1947]
Box 7, Folder 2	[Transcript of proceedings, November 17, 1948]
Box 7, Folder 3	[Transcript of proceedings, December 9, 1949]
Box 8, Folder 1	[Transcript of proceedings, November 16, 1950]
Box 8, Folder 2	[Transcript of proceedings, November 20, 1951]
Box 8, Folder 3	[Transcript of proceedings, November 19, 1952]
Box 8, Folder 4	[Transcript of proceedings, November 20, 1952]
Box 8, Folder 5	[Transcript of proceedings, relating to UNESCO, November 12, 1953]
Box 8, Folder 6	[Transcript of proceedings, November 12, 1953]
Box 8, Folder 7	[Transcript of proceedings, November 13, 1953]
Box 9, Folder 1	[Transcript of proceedings, November 16, 1954]
Box 9, Folder 2	[Transcript of proceedings, December 7, 1955]
Box 9, Folder 3	[Transcript of proceedings, January 30, 1957]
Box 9, Folder 4	[Transcript of proceedings, January 31, 1957]
Box 9, Folder 5	[Transcript of proceedings, January 22, 1959]
Box 9, Folder 6	[Transcript of proceedings, February 8-9, 1962]
Box 10, Folder 1	[Transcript of proceedings, February 12-13, 1964]
Box 10, Folder 2	[Transcript of proceedings, February 4-5, 1965]

[Return to Table of Contents](#)