



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the William Lipkind papers, 1936-1939

Gina Rappaport

April 2023

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

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical Note.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	William Lipkind papers
<b>Date:</b>	1936-1948
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.1982.0408
<b>Creator:</b>	Lipkind, William, 1904-1974
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Related Materials

The Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University Bloomington holds the original wax cylinders of Caraja and Cayapo songs.

The Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota holds the William Lipkind (Will) papers, which relate to Lipkind's work as a children's author.

### Preferred Citation

William Lipkind papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

Access to the William Lipkind papers requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

---

## Biographical Note

William Lipkind (1904-1974) Was an anthropologist and author of children's books. He received a master's degree in English literature from Columbia University before returning for a PhD in Anthropology under Franz Boas and Ruth Benedict.

Lipkind's first fieldwork was among the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) community in Nebraska in 1936, on which he based his doctoral dissertation. From 1937-1939 Lipkind conducted fieldwork among the Karajá (Caraja) and Mebêngôkre (Kayapó/Cayapo) communities in Brazil, and was a part of a cohort of Columbia anthropology graduate students all working in Brazil around the same time, including Ruth Landes, Charles Wagley, George Donahue, and Buell Quain.

Following a number of years teaching at Ohio State University and working for the Federal Government, Lipkind turned to writing children's literature, winning a Caldecott medal in 1951.

## Scope and Contents

The William Lipkind papers relate to Lipkind's fieldwork among the Indigenous Brazilian communities of Mebêngôkre (Kayapó/Cayapo) and Karajá (Caraja), as well as his work with the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) in Nebraska. The papers comprise field notebooks, vocabularies, manuscripts and correspondence, photographs, and sound recordings.

The field notebooks contain ethnographic and linguistic documentation of the Caraja, Cayapo, and Winnebago communities. Additional linguistic documentation is present in card files of Winnebago and Mandan vocabularies, as well as a draft manuscript on the Winnebago language.

Other files include a draft manuscript of a Ponca dictionary by James Owen Dorsey, and Lipkind's reading notes relating to Grundzüge der Phonologie by N.S. Trubetzkoy.

Photographs are comprised of lantern slides and small photographic prints (which appear to be mostly of the same images as the lantern slides). The sound recordings are vinyl copies of wax cylinders held at the University of Indiana's Archives of Traditional Music.

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.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)
- Karajá (Caraja)
- Mebêngôkre (Kayapó/Cayapo)
- Numakiki (Mandan)

### Cultures:

- Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)
- Karajá (Caraja)
- Mebêngôkre (Kayapó/Cayapo)
- Numakiki (Mandan)

---

## Container Listing

Field notes and linguistic documentation	
Box 1, Folder 1	Typescript of Caraja notebooks, 1938
Box 1, Folder 2	Caraja notebook 1, 1938
Box 1, Folder 3	Caraja notebook 2, 1938
Box 1, Folder 4	Caraja notebook 3, 1939
Box 1, Folder 5	Caraja notebook 4, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Caraja notebook 5, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Caraja notebook 6 and typescript, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Caraja notebook 7, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Caraja notebook 8 and typescript, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Caraja notebook 9, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Caraja notebook 10, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence and manuscript drafts relating to Handbook of South American Indians, 1941-1948
Box 2, Folder 1	Cayapo notebook (1 of 2), undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Cayapo notebook (2 of 2), undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Winnebago notebooks (1 of 5), undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Winnebago notebooks (2 of 5), undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Winnebago notebooks (3 of 5), undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Winnebago notebooks (4 of 5), undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Winnebago notebooks (5 of 5), undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Winnebago loose notes from notebook 5, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Dissertation manuscript on Winnebago language, 1945

Box 3, Folder 1	Grammar of the Ponca language by James Owen Dorsey, undated
Box 3, Folder 2	Reading notes from N.S. Trubetskoy, Grundzüge der Phonologie, undated
Box 4	Winnebago vocabulary note slips, undated
Box 5	Mandan vocabulary note slips, undated
Photographs	
Box 6	Lantern slides and prints documenting Indigenous Brazilian communities, circa 1938
Box 7	Sound recordings of Caraja and Cayapo songs, 1938 Notes: Recordings are copies of originals at Indiana University's Archives of Traditional Music.