



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Frederick L. W. Richardson
papers, circa 1930 - circa 1980

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Frederick L. W. Richardson papers
Date:	circa 1930 - circa 1980
Identifier:	NAA.1992-32
Creator:	Richardson, F. L. W. (Frederick Leopold William)
Extent:	52.25 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the collection was received from Rebecca Broch Richardson in 1992 and 1994. Additional materials were received from the Tozzer Library at Harvard University in 2017.

Processing Information

The collection is unprocessed. Contact the repository for more information.

Preferred Citation

Frederick L. W. Richardson papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Some materials may be restricted for privacy reasons.

Access to the Frederick L. W. Richardson papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Frederick L.W. Richardson was educated at Harvard University (B.S. in geology, 1931; Ph.D. in anthropology, 1941). During World War II, he served with the Board of Economic Warfare, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and Lend Lease Administration. His professional affiliations were with the Yale Labor-Management Center, Harvard School of Public Health, 1949-1954; University of Pittsburgh, 1962-1966; and the University of Virginia, 1966-1980. While at the two universities, he was on the faculty of their graduate business schools and also their departments of anthropology. Richardson was originally interested in the geological and geographical influences that shaped ancient cultures. With this in mind, he worked in Iraq in 1931-1934 on expeditions to Ur of the British Museum and University of Pennsylvania University Museum and at an Assyrian site of the University of Chicago Oriental Institute. In 1933, he surveyed ancient irrigations systems in southern Iraq. In 1934, he joined a Harvard expedition to Ireland. While at Harvard he studied with Elton Mayo, a psychologist, and Lloyd Warner. In 1938-1941, under their influence, he became involved in the Penncraft project in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, a project jointly sponsored by

the Harvard Business School and the Harvard Department of Anthropology. In this, he worked closely with Eliot Chapple and Conrad Arensberg, who were developing new and revolutionary theories concerning human interaction. Under Chapple's direction, Richardson's wrote his dissertation, *An Anthropological and Geographical Approach to a Resettlement Problem in the Pennsylvania Coal Region*. This work also led Richardson to abandon his archaeological interest and became an industrial consultant focusing on human interaction and an anthropology teacher in business schools. Richardson worked on projects involving International Business Machines (IBM), the Ford Motor Company, Massachusetts General Hospital, New England Telephone Company, and the Raytheon Corporation.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Applied anthropology
- Industrial relations
- Organizational behavior

Names:

- Society for Applied Anthropology