



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Frances Cooke Macgregor papers

Gina Rappaport

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National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1310
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Frances Cooke Macgregor papers
Date:	1906-2002
Identifier:	NAA.1994-16
Creator:	Macgregor, Frances Cooke, 1906-2001
Extent:	4 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Frances Cooke Macgregor in 1994 and 1998 and from Macgregor's relatives Ann and Lee Bain in 2020.

Separated Materials

The film *Portugal Novo* was transferred to the Human Studies Film Archives (HSFA 1993.19.1).

Related Materials

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum holds the Frances Cooke Macgregor Papers, 1941-1985.

Processing Information

The collection came to the archives in several accessions in the 1990s and in 2020. Existing organization of the papers was maintained, with some additional arrangement by the archivist for clarity.

The abbreviation "FCM" is used throughout the finding aid to refer to Frances Cooke Macgregor.

Some material relating to *This Is America*, Macgregor's book co-authored with Eleanor Roosevelt, was transferred to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library.

Duplicate material was removed from the collection.

Preferred Citation

Frances Cooke Macgregor papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Access to the Frances Cooke Macgregor papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Frances Cooke Macgregor was born Frances Maxwell Cooke in Portland, Oregon in 1906. She grew up in California, receiving her BA in economics from Berkeley in 1927. She married anthropologist Gordon Macgregor in 1933 and spent the next few years traveling with him to various Native American reservations for his work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1936 while traveling in Germany, Macgregor purchased a Leica camera and proceeded to take photographs of Hitler's birthday parade (finding out later that it was forbidden).

Back in the US, Macgregor used her Leica camera to document people and conditions on the reservations, which culminated in her book, *Twentieth Century Indians*, in 1941. Around this time Macgregor became interested in creating a "sociological document, a photographic document, of a small town." She chose Hingham, Massachusetts, where she was living, as the subject of the study. She sent her photographs to the publisher, who ended up connecting Macgregor with Eleanor Roosevelt, who had seen the photos and wanted to provide the text. The book, *This Is America*, was published in 1942.

In 1939 Macgregor helped to fund the making of the film *Portugal Novo*, produced by Jeanne Broadhurst. The film's purpose was to record life and activities in Portugal and the Azores for the thousands of Portuguese immigrants who had long been settled in the US.

In 1944, Macgregor separated from husband Gordon (they were later divorced) and her interests turned away from photography to focus on social science. She went to Columbia, Missouri for a visit and ended up taking graduate courses in sociology and anthropology at the University. In 1946 she went to New York to study at Columbia University, and there met Dr. John Converse, a plastic surgeon who had been treating American and English air pilots who had suffered facial injuries during the war. Macgregor had worked as a medical photographer just before coming to New York, developing an interest in and concern for patients who had facial injuries or deformities and the sociological/psychological effects of these conditions. As a result of this, she was able to work with Converse's patients on a pioneering research project, leading to her MA thesis "The Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities," in 1947 (University of Missouri).

Macgregor also met Margaret Mead in 1946, and Mead soon involved her in research analyzing thousands of photographs of children from Bali made by Gregory Bateson. From this collaboration, the book *Growth and Culture: A Photographic Study of Balinese Childhood* was published in 1951. In 1948, Macgregor traveled to South America – mainly Chile and Brazil – and conducted a photographic study of Chilean children.

During and following these projects Macgregor continued to build on her master's research, coordinating the interdisciplinary research project "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery" conducted under the departments of psychiatry and surgery at the New York College of Medicine. In 1953, she was a founding member of the New York City Medical Social Science Group, an informal organization of anthropologists/sociologists and those in medicine who would meet for discussions on various topics. The group disbanded in 1962 as professional associations dealing with these topics were growing. From 1954-1968 Macgregor taught at the Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing. In 1960 she published the textbook *Social Science in Nursing: Applications for the Improvement of Patient Care*.

Macgregor continued her research and work with people having facial differences throughout her career, working as a consultant, and becoming professor and research scientist in the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery at the New York University Medical Center in 1968. In her later years, Macgregor became interested in issues of iatrogenic disease and endowed a fund to provide grants for research into it.

Macgregor died in Carmel, California in 2002.

Scope and Contents

The Frances Cooke Macgregor papers document Macgregor's interests in photography and medical anthropology and consists primarily of material relating to major projects she was involved with, but also includes some personal material. The collection includes correspondence, notes and meeting minutes, manuscripts and published works, photographs, a sound recording, and the film *Portugal Novo*.

Biographical material (series 1) consists of one folder of descriptions of Macgregor's work and life, written by Macgregor and others.

Photography project files (series 2) relate to *Twentieth Century Indians*, *Portugal Novo*, *This Is America*, and Macgregor's 1948 fieldwork in South America.

Macgregor's relationship with Margaret Mead (series 3) is reflected through materials relating to their publication *Growth and Culture: A Photographic Study of Balinese Childhood*, as well as through correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings of Mead. Also included in the series are excerpts of talks given at the Institute for Intercultural Studies, and a manual on "Theory and Practice in the Study of Culture at a Distance by Interdisciplinary Groups" authored by Mead and Metreaux.

Macgregor's medical anthropology research (series 4) is documented in files relating to her project "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Disfigurement and Plastic Surgery," minutes from meetings of the Medical Social Science Group, and interdisciplinary group of colleagues that met for ten years, and through her published and unpublished writings (series 5).

The collection also contains some personal papers including correspondence with friends and family, photographs of Macgregor and others, and other personal material.

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.

Selected Bibliography

1942. *Twentieth Century Indians*. New York: G.P. Putnam and Sons.

1942. *This is America*. (With Eleanor Roosevelt) New York, G.P. Putnam and Sons.

1951. *Growth and Culture: A Photographic Study of Balinese Childhood*. (With Margaret Mead) New York, G.P. Putnam and Sons.

1953. *Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery*. (With others) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher.

1960. *Social Science in Nursing: Applications for the Improvement of Patient Care*. New York: Russel Sage Foundation.

1974. *Transformation and Identity: The Face and Plastic Surgery*. New York: Quadrangle Press.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Medical anthropology

Visual anthropology

Names:

Mead, Margaret, 1901-1978

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical material, 1942-2001

Scope and Contents: Series 1: Biographical material consists of descriptions of Macgregor's work and life written at different times by Macgregor and others including Lois G. Howard and Lee Bain.

Box 1, Folder 1

Biographical material, 1942-2001

Notes: Includes descriptions of Macgregor's work as a photographer and anthropologist written by Macgregor and others.

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Series 2: Photography and film projects, 1937-1997

Scope and Contents: Series 2, photography and film projects encompasses a range of documentary projects undertaken by Macgregor. Included is material related to Macgregor's books *Twentieth Century Indians* and *This Is America*, as well as the film *Portugal Novo* by Jeanne Broadhurst which Macgregor helped to finance. Photographs from Macgregor's 1948 trip to South America (Mainly Chile and Brazil) are also included, as well as correspondence and other material relating to photography exhibits and projects.

Subseries 1: Twentieth Century Indians

Scope and Contents: Subseries 1, Twentieth Century Indians, comprises material relating to that publication and includes photographic prints, slides, and negatives, as well as one audio cassette recorded circa 1984. Few of Macgregor's negatives for this project are in the collection.

Box 1, Folder 2	TCI - Notes and correspondence, 1937-1993
Box 1, Folder 3	TCI - reviews, 1941
Box 1, Folder 4	TCI - photographs (contact sheets), 1937-1941
Box 1, Folder 5	TCI - prints by FCM (1 of 2), undated
Box 1, Folder 6	TCI - prints by FCM (2 of 2), undated
Box 1, Folder 7	TCI - prints by Lee Bain (1 of 2), undated
Box 1, Folder 8	TCI - prints by Lee Bain (2 of 2), undated
Box 1, Folder 9	TCI - slides and sound recording (cassette), 1937-1984
Box 1, Folder 10	TCI - slides, undated
Box 8	TCI - negatives, 1937-1941

Subseries 2: Portugal Novo

Scope and Contents: Subseries 2: Portugal Novo contains outlines and working notes for the film, as well as photographs of Portugal by Jeanne Broadhurst. There are also some 35mm (still film) negatives and clippings (outtakes) from the original 35mm motion picture film. Also in this subseries is a manuscript titled "Meg's Daughter" written by William Broadhurst, husband of Jeanne Broadhurst.

HSFA.1993.19: Portugal Novo, 1939
1 Motion picture film (1 reel (black and white, sound; 2103 feet, 16mm))

Box 2, Folder 1	Film outline and contents, 1939
Box 2, Folder 2	Reel 1 working notes, circa 1939

Box 2, Folder 3	Reel 2 working notes, circa 1939
Box 2, Folder 4	Photographs by Jeanne Broadhurst (1 of 2), 1939
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs by Jeanne Broadhurst (2 of 2), 1939
Box 8	Negatives or outtakes, 1939
Box 2, Folder 6	Manuscript, "Meg's Daughter" by William Broadhurst, undated

Subseries 3: Other photography projects

Scope and Contents: Subseries 3: Other photography projects, is a catch-all for material related to Macgregor's photography pursuits and includes an interview about the book project *This Is America* with Eleanor Roosevelt and articles about Macgregor's photography. Additional material about the book with Roosevelt can be found at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. This subseries also includes correspondence about Macgregor's photography work and exhibits in Hingham, Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Box 2, Folder 7	Interview about This Is America book project, 1984
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs from This Is America and other projects, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Articles about FCM photography, 1944, 1987
Box 2, Folder 10	FCM photography exhibits, 1942-1990
Box 2, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1984-1986
Box 2, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1987-1990
Box 2, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1991-1997
Box 8	Miscellaneous negatives, undated

Subseries 4: South America photographs

Scope and Contents: Subseries 4: South America photographs consist of prints and negatives from Macgregor's fieldwork in 1948 documenting Chilean and Brazilian children.

Box 3, Folder 1	Chile photographs (contact sheets) and correspondence, 1948-1991
Box 3, Folder 2	Chile photographs (roll 3), 1948
Box 3, Folder 3	Chile photographs (roll 6), 1948

Box 3, Folder 4	Chile photographs (roll 7), 1948
Box 3, Folder 5	Chile and Brazil photographs (roll 8), 1948
Box 3, Folder 6	Brazil photographs (roll 9), 1948
Box 3, Folder 7	South America photographs, 1948
Box 8	South America negatives, 1948

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Series 3: Margaret Mead, 1947-1993

Scope and Contents: Series 3: Margaret Mead contains files relating to the book *Growth and Culture: A Photographic Study of Balinese Childhood* and includes correspondence, notes, and promotional material for the publication. Also included are cards and photographs from Mead as well as a set of Mead's letters or "bulletins" from the field, and a file of news clippings on Mead. Additionally, this series includes excerpts from talks given at the Institute for Intercultural Studies, and a two-volume set of "Research in Contemporary Cultures: A Manual on Theory and Practice in the Study of Culture at a Distance by Interdisciplinary Groups," prepared for the Human Relations Branch of the Office of Naval Research by Mead and Rhoda Metraux.

Box 3, Folder 8	Growth and Culture - correspondence and notes, 1947-1991
Box 3, Folder 9	Growth and Culture - notes, 1947-1948
Box 3, Folder 10	Growth and Culture - notes, 1948-1968
Box 3, Folder 11	Growth and Culture - promotional material, circa 1951
Box 3, Folder 12	Cards and photographs, undated
Box 3, Folder 13	Margaret Mead - "bulletins" from the field, 1950-1972
Box 3, Folder 14	News clippings about Margaret Mead, 1969-1993
Box 4, Folder 1	Excerpts of papers given at Institute for Intercultural Studies, 1947-1953
Box 4, Folder 2-4	Research in Contemporary Cultures - manual on theory and practice in the study of culture at a distance by interdisciplinary groups - Volume I (3 folders), 1951
Box 4, Folder 5-7	Research in Contemporary Cultures - manual on theory and practice in the study of culture at a distance by interdisciplinary groups - Volume II (3 folders), 1951
	Sound recording: C. Cameron and Margaret Mead, Aquarest, 1963 1 Sound recording (1/4 in. reel)

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Series 4: Medical research, 1949-1995

Scope and Contents: Series 4: Medical research consists of material relating to Macgregor's research in anthropology/sociology and medicine. Included is a grant proposal and meeting notes for the project "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery," as well as meeting minutes from the Medical Social Science Group that met for ten years. several other files include material relating to the tenth anniversary conference of About Face, an organization working with people with facial differences, nursing school class lectures given by Macgregor and Margaret Mead, and correspondence.

Box 5, Folder 1 "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery" project - grant proposal and talk, 1949-1950

Box 5, Folder 2 "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery" project - meeting notes, 1949-1950

Box 5, Folder 3 "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery" project - meeting notes, 1950

Box 5, Folder 4 "The Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery" project - meeting notes, 1951

Box 5, Folder 5 Photo essay or report on facial disfigurement, undated

Box 5, Folder 6 Medical Social Science Group - meeting notes, 1952-1962

Box 5, Folder 7 Medical Social Science Group - meeting notes, 1954-1986

Box 5, Folder 8 About Face - 10th annual conference, 1995

Box 5, Folder 9 School of nursing - class lectures by FCM and Margaret Mead, 1956-1965

Box 5, Folder 10 Correspondence with Juliene Lipson, 1988-1990

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Series 5: Writings , 1941-1995

Scope and Contents: Series 5: Writings consist of published and unpublished writings by Macgregor, as well as reviews of her work.

Box 5, Folder 11	Lists of FCM publications, undated
Box 5, Folder 12	Reviews of FCM publications, 1950-1979
Box 5, Folder 13	Reviews of FCM publications, 1950-1981
Box 5, Folder 14	Writings - Nursing, 1957-1968
Box 5, Folder 15	Writings - Nursing, 1956-1968
Box 6, Folder 1	Writings, 1941
Box 6	"The Sociological Aspects of Facial Deformities" FCM MA thesis, University of Missouri, 1947
Box 6, Folder 2	Writings, 1950-1953
Box 6, Folder 3	Writings, 1963-1969
Box 6, Folder 4	Writings, 1970-1978
Box 6, Folder 5	Writings, 1980-1985
Box 6, Folder 6	Writings, 1990
Box 6, Folder 7	FCM mentions and accolades, 1984-1995, undated
Box 6	Copy of Facial Deformities and Plastic Surgery by FCM, 1953
Box 6	Copy of Social Science in Nursing by FCM, 1960
Box 6	Copy of Transformation and Identity: The Face and Plastic Surgery by FCM, 1974
Box 6	Copy of Facial Disfigurement: A Rehabilitation Problem conference book with paper by FCM, 1963

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Series 6: Personal, 1918-2002, undated

Scope and Contents: Series 6: Personal consists of correspondence to and from Macgregor's family and friends, pages from a yearbook, photographs of Macgregor and others, and other personal items. Also included are files on Macgregor's cousin, Maxwell Blake, and newspaper executive Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger, a friend of Macgregor.

Box 7, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1918-1939
Box 7, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1936
Box 7, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1940-1948
Box 7, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1968-2002
Box 7, Folder 5	FCM yearbook pages and class photos, circa 1920s
Box 7, Folder 6	Miscellaneous personal items, undated
Box 7, Folder 7	Maxwell Blake , 1932-1944, undated
Box 7, Folder 8	Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger, 1974-1985
Box 7, Folder 9-11	Photos of FCM (3 folders), undated
Box 7, Folder 12	Photos of FCM family and friends, undated
Box 7, Folder 13	Photos of Jeanne Broadhurst, undated
Box 7, Folder 14	Photos (slides) of Spain and Portugal, 1957

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