



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Institute of Social Anthropology records

G. Erwin Huffhines

1974

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:	Institute of Social Anthropology records
Date:	1942-1952
Identifier:	NAA.1996-04
Creator:	Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of American Ethnology. Institute of Social Anthropology (Creator)
Extent:	9 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The Institute of Social Anthropology was an autonomous unit of the Smithsonian Institution which existed from 1942-1952. The objectives of the Institute of Social Anthropology were to work in cooperation with the institutions in certain Latin American republics which had requested assistance in anthropological work; the Institute of Social Anthropology had two main objectives: 1) Training of personnel in the concepts and techniques of anthropology; 2) Acquisition of a body of scientific information concerning the basic rural populations that is fundamental to any program affecting Latin Americans as well as to science and education. The research provided an understanding of the manner of living, agricultural systems in relation to environmental factors, economic life, crafts and industries, food habits, health status, social organization, religion, language, literacy, and basic attitudes and interests of the people. From a scientific point of view, these studies revealed the most recent changes and the factors making for change in cultures that in many instances can be traced back more than 2,000 years through archaeology and post-conquest written history. From a practical point of view, the findings were indispensable to any action programs, both governmental and private, concerned with matters of health, education, soil erosion, commercial development, colonization, marketing, and so on.</p>

Administrative Information

Related Materials

Other material in the National Anthropological Archives that relates to the Institute of Social Anthropology can be found among the correspondence files of the Bureau of American Ethnology 1907-1950, consisting of fifty linear feet files in one continuous alphabet in ninety seven boxes.

Preferred Citation

Institute of Social Anthropology records, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Institute of Social Anthropology records are open for research.

Access to the Institute of Social Anthropology records requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Historical Note

The Institute of Social Anthropology was established under the directorship of Julian H. Steward on September 8, 1943, as an autonomous unit of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Its purpose was to set up cooperative Institutes of Social Anthropology for scientific research and training in certain Latin American countries, each working under the guidance of the Smithsonian Institution. This program was carried out under the auspices of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation in Latin American of the U.S. Department of State, and was financed by funds transferred from the State Department to the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Steward directed the Institution of Social Anthropology until September, 1946, when he was succeeded by George M. Foster, who continued as director until the Institute was abolished in 1952.

At its outset, the ISA staff consisted of eight social scientists (four social anthropologists, two cultural geographers, a linguist, and a sociologist) stationed in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru (for a short time in 1950 a station was established in Guatemala, but it was discontinued the same year for lack of funds). Their duties consisted in instructing local students (in collaboration with Latin American universities and other institutions) in social science research techniques through classroom, laboratory, and field situations, and in assisting with publication projects. In 1948, the budget was cut to allow for only six scientists. The ISA continued in this capacity until 1949, when the Inter-departmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation was abolished, and it was placed under the Division of International Exchange of Persons, another State Department Committee. The ISA did not form an organic part of this new program, and the State Department decided to terminate its support as of December 31, 1951.

Following this time, the ISA integrated its activities with the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. In the spring of 1952, the IIAA requested that all ISA personnel who so desired be permanently incorporated into the IIAA organization. This terminated the activities of the Institute of Social Anthropology as such

Scope and Contents

These documents reflect the correspondence and other office records of the Institute of Social Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Included are annual reports, correspondence, memoranda, printed material, and financial records that cover the period of the Institute's existence 1942-1952. The majority of the material relates to the office files of the Institute and its correspondence with its social scientists in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru.

Also included are documents that relate to the Institute of Social Anthropology and its relations with the State Department. There is also correspondence concerning the ISA and Acta Americana, Bollingen Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, National Indian Institute, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO, Wenner-Gren Foundation, Inter-American Society of Anthropology and Geography, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Escola Livre de Sociologia e Política, Instituto de Antropología Social.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Anthropology -- Latin America
- Mexicans
- Peruvians

Cultures:

- Mexicans

Names:

- Inter-American Society of Anthropology and Geography
- United States. Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs

Places:

- Brazil
- Central America
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- South America

Container Listing

Series 1: ANNUAL REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, 1942-1952

0.25 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Included are annual reports, correspondence, memoranda, and printed material. The records place emphasis on explanations and justification for the Institute of Social Anthropology and its programs in Latin America. Includes the correspondence relating to the Point IV legislation and the integration of anthropology with Point IV. In addition are membership lists of Latin American Committees through which ISA works and a copy of an ISA list entitled "Who's Who in Latin American Anthropology." There exists information on the Institute of Social Anthropology Project Proposals concerned with cooperation in research and teaching in social anthropology with the various institutes in other Latin American countries. Concludes with a general mailing list from the Institute to Latin Americanists in both history and anthropology.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Box 1	Organizational Records, Annual Reports, 1942-1952
Box 1	Information on Anthropologists, 1942-1952
Box 1	Point IV Proposals, 1949-1952
Box 1	Project Proposals

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Series 2: ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL RECORDS, 1942-1952

0.5 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Included are correspondence, memoranda, bulletins, rosters, releases, notifications and printed matter. The records emphasize the operational framework of the Institute of Social Anthropology. Includes correspondence relating to personnel instructions, allowances, salaries and leaves, authorizations, loyalty data, various memoranda to all field personnel, permission to publish releases, and personnel action. In addition are personnel reports and detailed job descriptions. Of import are the reclassification personnel statements of the director of the Institute of Social Anthropology. Concludes with recruitment directives.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Box 1	Instructions and Memoranda, 1944-1952
Box 1	Shipping Records, 1943-1952
Box 1	Allowances, Salaries, and Leaves, 1945-1952
Box 2	Authorizations, 1942-1952
Box 2	Loyalty Data, 1948-1952
Box 2	Memoranda to All Field Personnel, 1950-1952
Box 2	Permission to Publish, 1946-1952
Box 2	Personnel Action, 1952
Box 2	Personnel, Job Description, Etc., 1944-1952
Box 2	Recruitments, 1950-1951

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Series 3: STATE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDA AND RELATED MATERIALS, 1946-1951

0.5 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS RELATING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES UNDER WHICH ISA OPERATED Included are announcements, correspondence, memoranda, messages, notes, notices, summaries, instructions, surveys, and printed matter. The records emphasize the role of the Institute of Social Anthropology and its relations with the State Department. Included are the correspondence relating to the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation as well as its financial records and miscellaneous reports. Concludes with the State Department File on the Division of Exchange of Persons which contains correspondence with the Director of the Institute of Social Anthropology.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

Box 2	Relating to the State Department
Box 2	Committees Under Which ISA Operated
Box 3	Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Memos, 1948-1949
Box 3	Interdepartmental Committee, 1942-1949
Box 3	ExScientific and Cultural Cooperation, 1947-1949
Box 3	Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, 1947-1950
Box 3	Division of Exchange of Persons, 1949-1951

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Series 4: INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, CORRESPONDENCE, 1942-1952

4.5 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Included are correspondence, printed matter, requests, notifications, plans, and memoranda.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically - material within each folder arranged by date

Box 3	Correspondence A, 1942-1952
Box 3	Adams, Richard N., 1950-1952
Box 3	Correspondence B, 1942-1952
Box 3	Beals, Ralph, 1943-1952
Box 3	Bennett, Wendell C., 1941-1952
Box 3	Borbolla, Daniel F., 1942-1950
Box 3	Brand, Donald, 1943-1944
Box 3	Brand, Donald, 1944-1952
Box 4	Bruman, Henry, 1943-1944
Box 4	Buitron, Anibel, 1944-1952
Box 4	Correspondence C, 1943-1952
Box 4	Carrasco, Pedro, 1950-1951
Box 4	Chaves, Milciades, 1950-1952
Box 4	Christ, Raymond E., 1948-1951
Box 4	Clark, Virginia L., 1951-1953
Box 4	Collier, Donald, 1943-1950
Box 4	Comas, Juan, 1945-1952
Box 4	Cooper, John, 1943-1946
Box 5	Correspondence D, 1948-1952
Box 5	Diaz, Jorge, 1950-1952

Box 5	Duque, Luis Gomez, 1949-1952
Box 5	Correspondence E, 1943-1951
Box 5	Erasmus, Charles J., 1949-1953
Box 5	Correspondence F, 1943-1952
Box 5	Fejos, Paul, 1943-1951
Box 6	Foster, George M., 1942-1945
Box 6	Foster, George M., 1946-1953
Box 6	Correspondence G, 1941-1952
Box 6	Gillin, John, 1942-1944
Box 6	Gillin, John, 1945-1952
Box 6	Correspondence H, 1941-1952
Box 7	Hanke, Lewis, 1943-1952
Box 7	Hernandez de Alba, Gregorio, 1943-1951
Box 7	Holmberg, Allan, 1941-1947
Box 7	Holmberg, Allan, 1948-1952
Box 7	Correspondence I, 1948-1950
Box 7	Correspondence J, 1945-1946
Box 7	Johnson, Frederick, 1942-1951
Box 7	Correspondence K, 1942-1950
Box 7	Kelly, Isabel, 1946-1947
Box 7	Kelly, Isabel, 1947-1948
Box 8	Kelly, Isabel, 1949
Box 8	Kelly, Isabel, 1950
Box 8	Kelly, Isabel, 1951-January-1951 July

Box 8	Kelly, Isabel, 1951 August-1953
Box 8	Kubler, George A., 1948-1952
Box 8	Correspondence L, 1940-1952
Box 8	Lowie, Robert H., 1942-1949
Box 8	Correspondence Mc, 1943-1952
Box 8	McBryde, Webster, 1944-1951
Box 8	Correspondence M, 1942-1952
Box 9	Martinez del Rio, Pablo, 1946-1952
Box 9	Correspondence N, 1947-1952
Box 9	Newman, Stanley S., 1943-1946
Box 9	Newman, Stanley S., 1947-1950
Box 9	Northcott, Lois C., 1947-1952
Box 9	Correspondence O, 1943-1952
Box 9	Oberg, Kalervo, 1946-1949
Box 9	Oberg, Kalervo, 1950-1953
Box 9	Correspondence P, 1947-1952
Box 9	Pecora, Ethelwyn Carter, 1942-1949
Box 9	Pierson, Donald, 1942-1945
Box 9	Pierson, Donald, 1946-1947
Box 10	Pierson, Donald, 1948-1949
Box 10	Pierson, Donald, 1950-1951 August
Box 10	Pierson, Donald, 1951 September-1952
Box 10	Correspondence Q, 1952
Box 10	Correspondence R, 1946-1952

Box 10	Reichel-Dolmatoff, 1944-1951
Box 10	Rowe, John M., 1943-1947
Box 10	Rowe, John M., 1948-1953
Box 10	Correspondence S, 1942-1952
Box 10	Simmons, Ozzie, 1949-1950
Box 11	Simmons, Ozzie, 1951-1961
Box 11	Steward, Julian H., 1942-1945
Box 11	Steward, Julian H., 1946-1952
Box 11	Strong, William Duncan, 1944-1950
Box 11	Correspondence T, 1948-1951
Box 11	Tax, Sol, 1945-1952
Box 11	Tschopik, Harry, 1943-1945
Box 11	Tschopik, Harry, 1946-1951
Box 11	Correspondence U-V, 1945-1952
Box 11	Valcareel, Luis, 1943-1952
Box 11	Correspondence W, 1944-1952
Box 11	Wagley, Charles, 1941-1952
Box 11	West, Robert, 1945-1949
Box 12	Willey, Gordon, 1943-1951
Box 12	Wonderly, William, 1950-1951
Box 12	XYZ Correspondence, 1947-1952

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Series 5: AREAL SUBJECT FILE, 1942-1952

1 Linear foot

Scope and Contents: Included are correspondence, agreements, announcements, briefs, reports of the Institute Conventions, decisions, memoranda, publicity notes, and printed material as they deal with the Institute of Social Anthropology, 1942-1956. Includes Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; Guatemala; Mexico; Old World (China); Panama; Peru; Venezuela; Washington, DC.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by country - material within each folder arranged by date

Box 12	Bolivia, 1942-1945
	Brazil, 1942-1951
Box 12	Mailing List
Box 12	Publicity
	Chile, 1945-1946
Box 12	Publicity, Review, Etc.
Box 12	China, 1945-1947
	Colombia, General, 1943-1950
Box 12	Agreements, 1944-1952
Box 12	Publicity, 1949-1950
Box 12	Costa Rica and Cuba, 1943-1950
Box 12	Ecuador, 1947-1950
	Guatemala, 1947-1951
Box 13	Agreements
Box 13	Mailing List
Box 13	Mexico, 1942-1943
	Mexico, 1944-1949
Box 13	Agreements
Box 13	Old World, 1945-1950

Box 13	Panama
Box 13	Peru, General, 1943-1945
	Peru, General, 1946-1951
Box 13	Agreements, 1943-1952
Box 13	Conferences, 1948
Box 14	Publicity, Reviews, Etc., 1946-1951
Box 14	Venezuela, 1948-1951
Box 14	Washington, DC, 1945-1956

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Series 6: SUBJECT FILE, 1944-1952

0.25 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Included are correspondence, circulars, bulletins, notifications, instructions, plans, resolutions, and printed matter. The records emphasize the various research foundations and their correspondence with the Institute of Social Anthropology. Included are Acta-Americana; Bollingen Foundation; Guggenheim Foundation; National Indian Institute; National Research Council; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; Rockefeller Foundation; UNESCO; and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by research foundation - material within each folder arranged by date

Box 14	Acta-Americana, 1944-1949
Box 14	Bollingen Foundation, Correspondence, 1951-1952
Box 14	Circulars and Instructions, Bureau of Budget, Comptroller General, 1951-1952
Box 14	Human Relations Area File, 1949-1950
Box 14	National Indian Week, 1950-51
Box 14	National Indian Institute, 1950
Box 14	National Research Council, 1949-1952
Box 14	Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, 1944-1951
Box 14	Rockefeller Foundation, 1951
Box 14	State Department, Institute of Inter-American Affairs, 1950-1952
Box 14	Wenner-Gren Foundation, 1952

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Series 7: ACCOUNTS AND FISCAL RECORDS, 1946-1952

0.75 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Included are correspondence, allotments, awards, bids, commissions, contracts, directives, endorsements, instructions, journals, ledgers, notes, receipts, tabulations, and vouchers of the Institute of Social Anthropology. The records contain several folders on the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, 1950-1952 and provide information regarding its relationship with the Institute of Social Anthropology.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically and partially by particular country

Box 15	Accounts, 1946
Box 15	Accounts, 1947
Box 15	Fiscal, 1948
Box 15	Fiscal, 1949
Box 15	Old World, 1949
Box 15	Fiscal, 1950
Box 15	Budget, 1952
Box 15	Budget and Finance, 1944-1945
Box 16	Budget and Finance, 1945-1947
Box 16	Budget, Eastern Hemisphere, 1947
Box 16	Budget and Finance, 1948

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Series 8: BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RECORDS, 1944-1951

1.25 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Included are correspondence, allotments, financial estimates, journals, ledgers, payrolls, tabulations, vouchers, printed matter, directives, and instructions.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by subject

Box 16	1946-1948, 1946-1948
Box 17	1947-1949, 1947-1949
Box 17	1948-49-1950, 1948-1950
Box 17	1950-51-52, 1950-1952
Box 18	Fiscal Year, 1947
Box 18	Fiscal Year, 1948
Box 18	Fiscal Year, 1949
Box 18	Fiscal Year, 1950
Box 18	Fiscal Year, 1950

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