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National Museum of Natural History

Register to the Papers of Jon Haskell Breslar

Lorain Wang

The Jon Breslar Papers were processed with the support of a Wenner-Gren Foundation Historical Archives Program grant awarded to Bonnie Breslar. Funding for the digitization of portions of this collection was provided by the Arcadia Fund.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Jon Breslar papers
Date:	1870-1984 (bulk 1971-1982)
Identifier:	NAA.2007-04
Creator:	Cidey, Guy Breslar, Jon, 1949-2005
Extent:	7.2 Linear feet (16 boxes, 21 cassette tapes, 12 audio reels, 1 map drawer)
Language:	Most of the writings are in French and English, but there are also photocopies and photographic prints of a manuscript in Arabic. There are sound recordings in Maore, French, and English.
Summary:	These papers document Jon Breslar's fieldwork on Mayotte, Comoro Islands for his dissertation as well as his work developing a new housing policy for Mayotte. The collection contains his professional correspondence, field notes, research notes, his writings, writings by others, newspaper clippings, teaching materials for his Shimaore language course, photographs, maps, plant specimens, and sound recordings.

Administrative Information

Provenance

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Jon Breslar's wife, Bonnie. A copy of Breslar's dissertation was obtained by his wife and added to the collection at a later date.

Separated Materials

Four 8mm film reels received with the papers of Jon Breslar have been transferred to the Human Studies Film Archives. The reels contain footage of a circumcision and other Mayotte rituals and ceremonies.

Processing Note

The papers of Jon Breslar were received partially organized and loosely grouped into field notes and research notes, correspondence, languages materials, and writings by others. The processing archivist kept existing groupings and organized the collection into eight series. Original folder titles were retained with titles assigned by the archivist placed within square brackets. Paper clips and staples were removed and, when necessary, an acid-free sheet of paper was folded around documents to indicate original groupings. Photographs that were intermixed with other materials were separated and filed with other photographs. Oversized materials were also separated and placed in oversized storage. Original and new locations of separated materials have been noted with separation sheets.

The processing archivist would like to thank Dominique Rogers for her assistance.

Processed by Lorain Wang

Encoded by Jocelyn Baltz, June 2012

Preferred Citation

Jon H. Breslar papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions on Accesss

No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Jon Haskell Breslar, a sociocultural and applied anthropologist, was born on June 22, 1949 in Ware, Massachusetts. He received a B.A. in Anthropology and French in 1971 from Franklin & Marshall College and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981.

As a doctoral student, Breslar originally planned to study ethnic identities and relationships in the Lac Alaotra region of Northeast Madgascar. His plans came to a halt, however, when officials from the Malagasy Embassy informed him that westerners were no longer allowed to conduct long term ethnological research in Madagascar. As a result, he decided to carry out his research in Mayotte, Comoro Islands. From 1975 to 1976, Breslar conducted fieldwork in the villages of Sada and M'Zouazia, which led to his dissertation, "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands)." He still had not completed his dissertation when, upon the invitation of the French government, he returned to Mayotte for four months from November, 1977 to February, 1978 to develop a new housing policy for the Mahorais as a contractor for Société Immobilière de Mayotte. He returned to Mayotte again in September, 1978 to January, 1982, this time with his family, to continue work on the project. A pilot study was conducted and published in a three-volume set, one of which was Breslar's *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique* (1979-1982). The project resulted in the construction of more durable housing using low-cost materials.

In 1983, he joined the US Agency for International Development (USAID). During the course of his career at USAID, he was assigned to Nepal, Mali, and Lebanon (where he served as director). He rose to the diplomatic rank of Minister Counselor and was a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award and the Administrator's Award for Distinguished Career Service.

Breslar passed away at the age of 56, from lung cancer, on September 3, 2005.

Sources Consulted

Lambek, Michael. "Jon Haskell Breslar." *Anthropology News* 47.2 (2006): 35.

Chronology

1949	Born June 22 in Ware, Massachusetts
1971	Earns B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College in Anthropology and French
1975-1976	Conducts ethnological fieldwork in Mayotte, Comoro Islands.
1977-1978	Returns to Mayotte for four months to help develop new housing policy for the Mahorais as a contractor for Société Immobilière de Mayotte
1978-1982	Continues work on Mayotte housing project
1981	Earns Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh
1983	Joins USAID
1985-1989	Serves as USAID Rural Development Officer in Nepal

1989-1993	Serves as USAID Program Officer in Mali
1997	Visits Mayotte
2000-2002	Serves as Mission Director in Lebanon
2005	Dies on September 3 at the age of 56.

Selected Bibliography

1981	Ph.D. dissertation. "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands)." University of Pittsburgh.
1979	*L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*. Paris: Editions A.G.G.
1986	with Michael Lambek. "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte." *Madagascar: Society and History*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press.

Scope and Content

These papers document Jon Breslar's fieldwork on Mayotte, Comoro Islands for his dissertation as well as his work developing a new housing policy for Mayotte. The collection contains his professional correspondence, notes, writings, research materials, photographs, maps, plant specimens, and sound recordings.

Among his correspondents in the collection are Georges and Genevieve Boulinier, Michael Lambek, Paul Ottino, and Alexander Spoehr. The collection also contains his correspondence relating to arrangements for his trip to Mayotte as well as his fieldwork progress reports sent to the Social Science Research Council, which funded his research.

A copy of Breslar's dissertation can be found in the collection along with his field notes; maps; sound recordings of ceremonies and interviews with informants; plant specimens used for medicine; photographic prints; and 35 mm slides. Materials relating to his work on the Mayotte housing project consist of his research notes, photographs, and the *L'Habitat* publications produced from the project.

Michael Lambek and Breslar both conducted fieldwork on Mayotte at around the same time and collaborated on two papers: "Death and Politics in Mayotte" (presented at the 1977 76th American Anthropological Association meeting) and "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte" (1986). A draft of the first paper can be found filed with Lambek's correspondence while a copy of the second paper is under *Series 4. Writings.*

In addition to Breslar's writings, the collection contains monographs, articles, and theses on the Comoro Islands and Madagascar by other authors. Most of the writings are in French and English, but there are also photocopies and photographic prints of a manuscript in Arabic.

Other materials that may be of interest are Breslar's teaching materials for his course on Shimaore. While in Mayotte, Breslar became fluent in Shimaore and offered a course on the language.

Arrangement

Arranged into 8 series: (1) Correspondence, 1971-1989 [Bulk 1971-1978]; (2) Research, 1975-1980; (3) Language, 1979-1982; (4) Writings, 1870-1984 [Bulk 1959-1984]; (5) Photographs, circa 1975-1982; (6) Maps, 1955-1956; (7) Botanical Specimens, circa 1975-1982; (8) Sound Recordings, 1976

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Applied anthropology
Housing
Language and languages -- Documentation
Mahorais

Cultures:

Mahorais

Types of Materials:

Botanical specimens
Field notes
Photographic prints
Slides (photographs)
Sound recordings

Places:

Mayotte

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1971-1989 (bulk 1971-1978)

0.41 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains Breslar's professional correspondence. Also in the series are his progress reports sent to the Social Science Research Council (which funded his research in Mayotte) and correspondence relating to preparations for his trip to Mayotte. A draft of Michael Lambek and Breslar's paper, "Death and Politics in Mayotte," presented at the 1977 76th American Anthropological Association annual meeting, can be found with Lambek's correspondence.

Box 1	Boulinier, Georges et Genevieve, 1975 - 1977	
Box 1	Lambek, Michael, 1977 - 1989 [1 of 2]	Notes: Correspondence; paper by Lambek and Breslar for 76th AAA meeting entitled, "Death and Politics in Mayotte"; and various papers by Lambek
Box 1	Lambek, Michael, 1977 - 1989 [2 of 2]	Notes: Correspondence; paper by Lambek and Breslar for 76th AAA meeting entitled, "Death and Politics in Mayotte"; and various papers by Lambek
Box 1	Ottino, Paul - Correspondence, 1973 - 1978	
Box 1	[Saindou, Ibrahim], 1975	Notes: Thank-you letter from I. Saindou to Breslar, Nov.3, 1970; letter separated from Series 4. Writings "Lambek; Lambeck- Breslar; CNRS Geology; Rombi; Shepherd; Gueunier; Ottenheimer"
Box 1	Spoehr, Alexander, 1971 - 1976	
Box 1	Mayotte: Official Correspondence, 1977 - 1978	
Box 1	Mayotte Trip: Official Letters, Travel, etc., 1974 - 1976	
Box 1	Visa Information - Comoros, 1974 - 1975	
Box 1	Social Science Research Council, 1974 - 1977	Notes: Also contains research proposals and progress reports sent to SSRC
Box 1	New SSRC Proposal, 1976 - 1977	

Notes: Also contains research proposals and progress reports sent to SSRC

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Series 2: Research, 1975 - 1980

2.04 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains Breslar's field notes, genealogy charts, and research notes for his dissertation and his work on the Mayotte housing project. This series also contains copies of his dissertation research proposal, a translated transcription of an interview with an informant, and an outline for a talk he gave on his research to a synagogue. Some of his dissertation field notes are arranged chronologically in the three volumes that can found in the beginning of this series. Breslar also organized his field notes by subject and informant. Material relating to the housing project can be found in the latter part of the series.

For Breslar's progress reports sent to the Social Science Research Council, please see *Series 1. Correspondence*. A copy of his dissertation can be found in *Series 4. Writings*.

Box 2	Volume 1: Sada pp. 1-175, 1975 July 13-December 9
Box 2	Volume 2: Sada, M'Zouazia pp. 175-348, 1975 December 26 - 1976 August 13
Box 2	Volume 3: M'Zouazia pp. 349-525, 1976 August 15 - October 28
Box 2	Attitudes Toward Sex, 1976
Box 2	Childbirth, 1975-1976
Box 2	Circumcisions, 1975-1976
Box 2	Daira, Dinaho, Mulidi, Maolida, Deba, 1975-1976
Box 2	Death and Funerals, 1975-1976
Box 2	Divination, Undated
Box 2	Economics, 1976
Box 2	Ethnohistory, 1976
Box 2	Ethnomedicine and Curing, 1975-1976
Box 2	Fatiha, Shidjabu, Badiri, 1975-1976
Box 2	Islam: The Mosque & School, 1975-1977
Box 2	Kinship, 1976
Box 2	Law, 1976
Box 2	Marriage & Family, 1975-1977

Box 2	Melanges, 1975-1976
Box 2	Monyezh and Mugen [Mujen?], 1976
Box 2	Mugala, Patrosy, and Spirits, 1975-1976
Box 2	Mwaha and Idi, 1975
Box 2	Other Villages, Undated
Box 2	Political Congress, 1975
Box 3	Political Reconciliations, 1975-1976
Box 3	Political-Religious Hierarchy, 1975 - 1976
Box 3	Politics (General), 1975 - 1976
Box 3	Property Conflict, 1976
Box 3	Technolinguistics, 1975
Box 3	Youth Organization, Undated
Box 3	[Stories by students at the College in Dzaoudzi], 1975
Box 3	A1 Saindou Ibrahim / Kurati Youssouf, 1976
Box 3	A2 Saindou Ibrahim / Rilawyin Attoumane, Undated
Box 3	A3 Saindou Ibrahim / Fatima Hussein, 1976
Box 3	A4 Zainaba Saindou, Undated
Box 3	A5 Mariata Saindou, 1976
Box 3	A6 Hanithi Saindou / Saindou Aboudou, Undated
Box 3	A7 Mwazari Ibrahim / Bacari M'Shama, Undated
Box 3	A8 Yesha Madi / Abdourahman Hamada, Undated
Box 3	A9 Mahariri Ibrahim, Undated
Box 3	B1 Diwan Madi / Djadi Saidi, Undated
Box 3	B2 Amina Madi / Matwari M'Lamali, Undated

Box 3	B3 Mwalulu Mwanswabu, Undated Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	B4 Zimuda Madi / Youssouf Mari, 1976
Box 3	B5 Nyimi Youssouf, Undated
Box 3	B6 Kurashia Madi / Marciale Henri, Undated
Box 3	C1 Mwada Insa, Undated
Box 3	C2 Yesha Daolabou / Muhusuni Madi, Undated
Box 3	C3 Halima Muhusuni / M'Hijahi M'Laili, Undated
Box 3	C4 Myisara Muhusuni / Saidi Assan, Undated
Box 3	C5 Zaliha Daolabou / Youssouf Djabir, Undated
Box 3	C6 Sabutia Youssouf / Hafithu Nasweer Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	C7 Fatima Insa Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	C8 Mariama Madi Bacari / Ahamadi Abdallah, Undated
Box 3	C9 Bwena Amina Madi / Ibrahim Damalahi, 1976
Box 3	C10 Saodati Madi Bacari / Youssouf M'Cadara, 1976
Box 3	D1 Amina Saidi / Bwana Combo, 1976
Box 3	D2 Houazimata Soumaila / Boura Malidi, 1976
Box 3	D3 Swabia Soumaila / Bousouri Darimi, 1976
Box 3	D4 Anlia Soumaila / Younoussa Humadi Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	D5 Antufati Soumaila Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	D6 Halima Saidi / Hikina Silahi, Undated
Box 3	D7 Fatima Hussein / Ali Youngou Notes: Folder is empty

Box 3	D8 Bwenlali Saidi / Saidi Sola, Undated
Box 3	E1 Salima Masondi, Undated
Box 3	E2 M'Pate Combo / Salimou Aboudou
Box 3	E3 Assanati Combo, Undated
Box 3	E4 Mahaba Ali / Aboudou Shahidi, 1976
Box 3	E5 Mwadjumwa Masondi / Sidi Djabir, Undated
Box 3	E6 Atuya Sidi / Youssouf Shaka, 1976
Box 3	E7 Habushia Masondi / Youssouf Madi, 1976
Box 3	E8 Zalifati Masondi / Attoumane Colo Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	F1 Fatima Alawi / Youssouf Ali, Undated
Box 3	F2 Afswati Aboudou / Hamadane Youssouf Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	F3 Mwanarafi Youssouf, Undated
Box 3	F4 Fazati Youssouf / Darwesh, Undated
Box 3	F5 Maboto Youssouf Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	F6 Hamidia Alawi, Undated
Box 3	F7 Zaina Hamidia, Undated
Box 3	F8 Mariata Bwana / Abdulahi Hedja, Undated
Box 3	F9 Madi Sidi, Undated
Box 3	F10 Nuru Madi Sidi / Ahmed Omari, Undated
Box 3	F11 Mambweni Madi Sidi / Madi Ali Tembre Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	G1 Halima Bounou / Assan Baco, Undated
Box 3	G2 Amina Muhudini / Anjilane Assan, Undated

Box 3	H1 Twaifati Maolida / Boundra Bacari, Undated
Box 3	H2 Kala Madi / Bacari Youssouf, 1976
Box 3	H3 Mazena Madi / Ali Humadi Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	H4 Hafifati Maolida, Undated
Box 3	H5 Salama Saindou Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	H6 Anfuati Madi Sidi / Abdou Latuf Bacari, Undated
Box 3	H7 Zakia Maolida / Moustwaffa Bounou, Undated
Box 3	H8 Hafidati Sidi, Undated
Box 3	H9 Malawia Aboudou / Ibrahim Saindou, 1976
Box 3	I1 Kamissi Madi / Bounjoumane Aluwha, 1976
Box 3	I2 Mwanu Malidi / Aboudou Alawi, Undated
Box 3	I3 Latufa Malidi / Kambi Aboudou, Undated
Box 3	J1 Mwacazi Kabiri, Undated
Box 3	J2 Manesha M'Colo / Shaka Vita, 1976
Box 3	J3 Rakoto Shaka Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	J4 Ravavi Shaka / Samba Malidi, Undated
Box 3	J5 Fatima Shaka / Abdou Madi Kele, Undated
Box 3	J6 Rukia Shaka / Bacari Ali Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	J7 Zaliha Shaka / Zaidou Abdallah Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	J8 Swafia Ali / Ahamadi Shaka, Undated
Box 3	J9 Mwadjumwa Bao, Undated

Box 3	J10 Mariama Rama / Hussein Wali, 1976
Box 3	J11 Binti Mari / Djabir M'Cadara, 1976
Box 3	J12 Fatima Madi / Ahamadi Saidi Boto, 1976
Box 3	J13 Salama Shaka / Hamada Toto, Undated
Box 3	J14 Rahema M'Colo, Undated
Box 3	J15 Fatima M'Cadara, Undated
Box 3	K1 Afswati Bwanashi / Shihiti Djuhudi, Undated
Box 3	K2 Fatima Djuhudi / Ali Abdallah Hadji, 1976
Box 3	K3 Safinati M'Dallah / Hamada Safinati Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	K4 Zuhurati M'Dallah / Mohamed Vita Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	K5 Fanuni M'Dallah, Undated
Box 3	K6 Mariama Mwarabu / Bourhane Twabibu, Undated
Box 3	L1 Mze Mazh, Undated
Box 3	L2 Mwadjumwa Mze Mazh, Undated
Box 3	L3 Musulimati M'Dallah / Saindou Ali Notes: Folder is empty
Box 3	[Notes & labels], 1976, Undated Notes: Folder labels with informants' names
Box 3	Bwanali Aboudou, Undated
Box 3	Zainaba Aboudou, 1976
Box 3	Mahadali Achiraffi, 1975 - 1976
Box 4	Omari Attoumane, Undated
Box 4	Moussa Bahedja, 1976
Box 4	Hamada Bwanali

Box 4	Kamardine Daniale, 1976
Box 4	Mohamed Hachim, 1975
Box 4	Shechi Hamida, 1976
Box 4	Azimati Haribou, 1975
Box 4	Attoumane Madi, 1975 - 1976
Box 4	Mwadahabou Madi, 1976
Box 4	Ali Mari, Undated
Box 4	Madi Mari, 1976
Box 4	Nafissa Massiala, 1976
Box 4	Saidi Mohamed Hussein, Undated
Box 4	Moutoubani Saidi, 1976
Box 4	Salama Salimou, 1976
Box 4	Sharlot Selimane, Undated
Box 4	Saidi Shanfi, Undated
Box 4	Saidi Souffu, Undated
Box 4	Bourahane Tamimou, 1976
Box 4	Notes [on various informants], 1975-1976
Box 4	Ibrahim Wali Family, 1976
Box 4	Combo Hussein Family, Undated
Box 4	M'Dallah Bwana Family, Undated
Box 4	Sharif, Undated
Box 4	M'Zouazia Data (Madi Youssouf), Summer 1976
Box 4	Grande Comorians, Anjouanais, and Mohelians Notes: List of names

Box 4	M'Zouazia Residents, 1976
Box 4	[Map and list of M'Zouazia households], 1976
Box 4	Miscellaneous [field notes and research notes], 1975 - 1976 2 Folders
Box 4	Hirimu, Shikao - Sada
Box 4	Maps: Sada and M'Zouazia, Undated Notes: Hand-drawn maps
Box 4	Tape recording translation, 1976 Image(s) Image(s)
Box 4	[Field notes & notes on M'Zouazia photos], 1977 November 28 - 1978 January 26
Box 5	[5 kinship charts], Undated
Box 6	[Field notes], 1978 February
Box 6	Songoro, Mavingoni, 1977, Undated Notes: Survey of Songoro and Mavingoni village settlements and field notes
Box 6	Sada landownership Notes: See Map Drawer --map folder; map originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	[Artisans 22 Sept. 80 and field notes 5 July 80] Notes: Originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	Final Report: M'Zouazia 2 Folders Notes: Originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	[Synagogue lecture] Notes: Outline for talk given at synagogue; originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	Shungu, Matahiri - Field notes, 1979 - 1980 Notes: Originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	Cash Crops

	Notes:	Originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	Selected Villages, 1977 - 1978 Notes:	Originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	Urban Notes:	Originally in binder entitled "Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops"
Box 6	Dembeni - Sada, 1960 - 1967, 1977 - 1978	
Box 6	Demog.; INSEE; Censuses; DASS: Latrines, Nutrition; Pop + Employ. Language: Notes:	French. In French; notes and articles about Mayotte demography, weather, employment; also 1978 official population census form
Box 6	Seasonal Displace., Research Proposals, Personal Resume Notes:	2 documents in French on local transportation, copies of Breslar's proposal for his dissertation field research, notes on displacement; no resume
Box 7	Archeology Mayotte Language: Notes:	Multiple languages. Notes and articles by others, in French and English, about Mayotte archaeology and history
Box 7	Wright: Archaeology of SW I. Ocean Setting, Undated, 1978	
Box 7	Colonial Period	
Box 7	Ethno-Linguistics	
Box 7	Village Life, Undated, 1976	

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Series 3: Language, 1978-1982

0.58 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: In the course of his fieldwork in Mayotte, Breslar became fluent in Shimaore (Mahorais). According to his wife, Breslar obtained permission from the prefect of Mayotte to teach a course on the language in 1980-1981 in Mamoutzu, the capital of Mayotte; he may have also taught the course in Dzaoudzi. This series contains his teaching materials for the course and articles on the languages of Mayotte, which includes a typescript manuscript by Sophie Blanchy.

Box 7	[Articles on the languages of the Comoro Islands] 2 Folders Notes:	Also contains list of vocabulary in Mahorais / French
Box 7	Chap 4 Part 1, Undated 2 Folders Language: Notes:	French. Manuscript in French on the Moharais language by Sophie Blanchy; letter from Blanchy asking Breslar to write a foreword
Box 7	SHIMAORE M-F ROMBI Language: Notes:	French. Article in French
Box 7	Garvey - Magalasy Introductory Course Language: Notes:	French. Photocopy of Catherine Garvey's "A Sketch of Malagasy Grammar" and Breslar's notes
Box 7	Projet lexique Notes:	French and Shimaore terms
Box 8	SHIMAORE, 1982 Language: Notes:	French. Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)
Box 8	SHIMAORE 1, 1978 Language: Notes:	French. Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)
Box 8	SHIMAORE 2, 1979 Language: Notes:	French. Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)
Box 8	SHIMAORE 3, 1979 - 1980 2 Folders Language:	French.

	Notes:	Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)
Box 8	Shimaore Handouts 2 Folders Language:	 French.

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Series 4: Writings, 1870-1984 (bulk 1959-1984)

1.54 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains Breslar's writings, writings by others, and bibliographies. Most of the documents relate to the Comoro Islands and the Mayotte habitat project, but there are also materials on Madagascar, possibly from Breslar's original plans to conduct fieldwork in that area. This series also contains a photocopy of Paul Ottino's writings on sociology and social anthropology. Writings by Breslar that can be found in this series are his dissertation, "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands); a copy of his paper with Michael Lambek, "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte"; his typescript manuscript, "An Overview of the Project to Improve the Social Habitat of Mayotte"; and *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*. Writings by others consist of photocopies of newspaper clippings, articles, and monographs; manuscripts; and theses. Breslar's handwritten notes can be found interfiled with some of these materials. Most of the writings in this series are in French and English, with one manuscript in Arabic. Progress reports and research proposals that Breslar sent to the Social Science Research Council can be found in *Series 1. Correspondence* along with his other manuscript that he coauthored with Lambek, "Death and Politics in Mayotte." Articles that Breslar collected on languages can be found in *Series 3. Languages*.

Subseries 4.1: Comoro Islands

Box 8	Allibert, 1977 2 Folders Notes: Photocopy of Claude Allibert's thesis, *Histoire de Mayotte, Ile de L'Archipel des Comores, Avant 1841*
Box 9	Breslar, Jon: "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands), 1981 2 Folders Notes: Copy of Breslar's dissertation produced by University Microfilms International.
Box 9	Bibliog Comoros - Dubins, Damir; Comoros (Encyclo); Borstelmann; Chron Arabe (Cidey); Chron Rigotard [?], Undated, 1978, 1980 Notes: Two copies of a document in French translated from Arabic about the history of Ndzaouani Island; bibliography; articles by Borstellmann; and an encyclopedia entry
Box 9	Comorian Economy (Boisson), 1975
Box 9	Comoros: Newspaper Articles, 1967 - 1982
Box 9	Coutume Grand-Comorienne - Femmes...Dieu, 1982 Notes: Letter and article by Jean Mas - "La Loi des Femmes et la Loi de Dieu"
Box 9	[Documents in Arabic], Undated Language: Arabic. Notes: Photocopy of manuscript in Arabic and notebook with what appears to be line by line Arabic transliteration of manuscript; see also Series 5. Photographs for photos of manuscript

Box 9	Gevrey, A. Essai sur Les Comores, 1870 2 Folders
Box 9	Hory, Undated Language: French. Notes: "Relations Entre Le Droit International Et Le Droit Interne Dans L'Affaire De Mayotte" by Jean-Francois Hory
Box 10	Lambek; Lambeck- Breslar; CNRS Geology; Rombi; Shepherd; Gueunier; Ottenheimer, 1970 - 1984 2 Folders Notes: Copies of published articles and reports on Mayotte; copy of Breslar's article written with Lambek, "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte"; letters from Lambek and Harriet and Martin Ottenheimer
Box 10	Loze, Benoit "La Sante a Mayotte (A Partir d'une Enquete Personnelle Effectuee en 1976)", 1980 Language: French. Notes: Dissertation enscribed by author
Box 10	Ottino, Amstrong, Tattersal, Wright, Kus, Undated, 1979 - 1984 2 Folders Notes: Contains papers by Henry Wright, James C. Armstrong, Ian Tattersal, Paul Ottino, and Susan Kus; letter from Wright
Box 10	[Petite histoire de Mayotte], Undated Language: French. Notes: Document in French about the sultans of Mayotte, probably a translation from an earlier Arabic text; includes Breslar's handwritten notes
Box 10	SW Indian Ocean Bibliographies, Undated

Subseries 4.2: Habitat Project

Box 10	Habitat Mahorais: Rapport de présentation, 1979 Language: French.
Box 10	Habitat Mahorais: Étude analytique et Perspectives - Bernard Chatain & Leon Attila Cheyssial, Undated Language: French.
Box 11	L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique - Jon Breslar, Undated Language: French.
Box 11	Habitat Mahorais: Bilan des Premieres Realisations - Michel Besombes and Pierre-Yves Perrot, 1982 Language: French.

Box 11	"An Overview of the Project to Improve the Social Habitat of Mayotte", 1980 October Notes:	By Breslar
Box 11	Vita News, 1980 April Notes:	Contains article, "Improved construction plans for a small island community: Villagers in Africa's Mayotte are trying new housing ideas"

Subseries 4.3: Madagascar

Box 11	Deschamps - Histore de Madagascar, 1961 2 Folders Language:	French.
Box 11	Deschamps - Les migrations intérieures à Madagascar, 1959 2 Folders Language: Notes:	French. Photocopy of monograph with handwritten notes by Breslar
Box 11	Dialectes Malgaches	
Box 11	Koechlin -- Vezo, 1972 Language: Notes:	French. "Les Vezo, Semi-Nomades Marins du Su-Ouest de Madagascar"
Box 12	Malagasy Dynasties -- Ottino. "L'Ancienne Succession Dynastique Malgache (L'exemple Merina)", 1979 Language:	French.
Box 12	Razafindratovo - Hiérarchie et alliance dans un village de l'Imerina, 1970 2 Folders Language: Notes:	French. Breslar's handwritten notes and photocopy of portions of Janine Razafindratovo's dissertation

Subseries 4.4: Social Anthropology

Box 12	Ottino - Sociologie et Anthropologie sociale 2 Folders Language:	French.

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Series 5: Photographs, Circa 1975-1982

1.17 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series is composed of prints and 35mm slides of Mayotte villages, Mahorais, and their ceremonies. Also in the series are prints of an Arabic manuscript; photocopies of the manuscript can be found in *Series 4. Writings*. The 35mm slides appear to be from his field work for his dissertation while some of the prints appear to have been taken while Breslar was in the field working on the housing project. Sixty-three of the prints were assigned a number by Breslar. Some of these were published in *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*, but the numbering on the prints do not all correspond with the numbering in the publication. At the beginning of *Subseries: 35mm Slides* is Breslar's guide to his slides, which lists 21 boxes. However, only 4 slide boxes were received with Breslar's papers, and the labels on the boxes (as listed below) do not correspond with any of the boxes in the guide. Of use in the guide is a key to the abbreviations Breslar used to label his slides.

Subseries 5.1: Prints

Box 13	[Documents in Arabic] [2 of 2]	
	Notes:	See also Series 4. Writings for photocopies
Box 13	Attoumane Made	
	Notes:	Photo separated from Series 2. Research, folder "Attoumane Made"
Box 13	Final Report: M'Zouazia	
	Notes:	Photos separated from Series 2. Research, folder "Final Report: M'Zouazia"
Box 13	[B/w 5x7" prints]	
	Notes:	Photos of Mahorais, housing structures, and island
Box 13	[Aerial photo of Mayotte]	
Box 14	[B/w prints]	
	Notes:	Includes images of Mayotte housing, Mahorais, circumcision ceremony, views of island from plane, and a photo of an unidentified young man (possibly Michael Lambek) standing by a car
Box 14	[Numbered b/w prints for housing project]	
	Notes:	Several of these prints were published in *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*; only numbering of some of the photos correspond with numbering in publication

Subseries 5.2: 35mm Slides

Box 15	Slide Organization, Undated	
	Notes:	Breslar's guide to his slides with key to his abbreviations

Box 15	Mayotte PhD Research
Box 15	Mayotte Ceremonies
Box 15	[Various images]
Box 15	Mayotte Marriages/Funerals

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Series 6: Maps, 1955 - 1956

1 File drawer

Scope and Contents: This series contains 6 maps of the Comoro Islands published by the Institut Geographique National. For Breslar's hand-drawn maps, please see *Series 2. Research*.

Drawer 1	[6 maps of Comoro Islands by Institut Géographique National], 1955 - 1956

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Series 7: Botanical Specimens, Circa 1975-1982

1 Linear foot

Scope and Contents: While in Mayotte, Breslar collected plant specimens that were used as herbal medicine. Most of the specimens have been assigned numbers. Breslar's notes can be found with some of the plants.

Box 16	[Mayotte Herbal Medicine]
Box 16	[Plant Specimens]

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Series 8: Sound Recordings, 1975 - 1976

32 Sound recordings (21 cassette tapes, 12 audio reels)

Scope and Contents: This series is composed of cassette tapes and audio reels containing Breslar's recordings from the field in Mayotte. These include recordings of music and singing and Breslar's interviews with informants conducted in Shimaore. There are also recordings of what seem to be of Guy Cidey reading documents in French about Mayotte myths and history. The contents of most of the recordings appear to match Breslar's descriptions. Recordings are grouped by format and arranged in chronological order with undated recordings placed at the end of the format grouping. Item numbers were assigned by the processing archivist.

Box 17

Breslar SR 1, 1976 February 15?
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 1 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 1 side 1
Notes: Missing Title:
1) Conversation w/ Kamardine on Sharifs
2) 13 Feb 76
3) 1: full
4) 2: to 248
Appears to be a duplicate of #30

Box 17

Breslar SR 2, 1973
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 2 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 2 side 2
Notes:
- March 76 -
- Dinaho
- Maohida at Moussa's

Box 17

Breslar SR 3, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 3 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 3 side 1
Notes:
- Side 1: 5 July 76
- Hale 20-660
- Side 2: Ba Inaya [?]
- #2 of 2 (decent conversation on silamo) 1-568

Box 17

Breslar SR 4, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 4 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 4 side 1
Notes:
- Side 1: 28 July 76
- Shirondroa to 570 or so
- Side 2: 1 Nov. 76
- w/ Inzudine #1 of 3 Full

See also Series 2. Research for transcription of interview with Inzudine

Box 17

Breslar SR 5, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 5 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 5 side 1
Notes:
- Side 1: Fundi Amma's stuff
- (cf. inside leaflet)
- Side 2: 1 Nov 76 w/ Inzudine
- #2 of 3 Full
- [Leaflet]
- 1: 4 July 76
- Shio of Amma Madi
- 15-220 Daira
- 220-320 MaMadi Diwan reading Twa'ibali Assimai
- 320-342 Amma Madi

See also Series 2. Research for transcription of interview with Inzudine

Box 17

Breslar SR 6, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 6 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 6 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- Side 1 10 July 76
- Marenge / Boeui
- Full
- Side 2 1 Nov 76
- w/ Inzudine
- #3 of 3 full

See also Series 2. Research for transcription of interview with Inzudine

Box 17

Breslar SR 7, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 7 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 7 side 1
Notes: Missing Title:
- 1: 24 Aug 76
- Masamama [?] of Anjilane's Nyadza
- Full, Notes to go w/ this
- 2: 24 Sept
- To 363 w/ Masama
- 400-543 Sidi Jabir NIA on last day of tsumu

Singing and music followed by Breslar's comments in English

Box 17

Breslar SR 8, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Notes: Missing Title:
- 1: 12 Sept 76 Notes on Houz's Circumcision
- Immediately following it. Conversation w/ Oha, Dsindane, Abdou
- M. Keli
- Full

- 2: Full

Breslar's comments in English on circumcision and his conversations with informants

Box 17

Breslar SR 9, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 9 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 9 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- 1: Mugala (Mxisara [?])
- 4:00 AM --4:30 AM
- 1 October
- 2: Mugala Songs
- (In MaDao's [?] back yard) w/ MaDao, MaMari, Nura, BaMari, Mwad. Masondi, Bunch of Kids
- (6 Oct 76) 8-9 PM

Box 17

Breslar SR 10, 1976
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 10 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 10 side 2
Digital Content

Box 17

Breslar SR 11, undated
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 11 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 11 side 1
Notes: Missing Title:
- 1A
- G. Cidey á John
- face 1. document 1 Tsingoni
- doc 2 manuscrit de Chex Moukadara
- 1B
- doc 2
- doc 3 manuscrit de Nzouani variante Ahmed Charifou

Box 17

Breslar SR 12, undated
1 Sound cassette
Notes: Missing Title:
- 2A
- doc 3 manuscrit Nzaouani (suite) variants
- doc 4 about motion of conflict
- doc 5 Ma tsingo
- doc 6 Polè
- doc 7 les ziyara [?]
- 2B

Box 17

Breslar SR 13, undated
1 Sound cassette
Notes: Entretieu --Jon Madi, Jon Asanoti

Recording of interview

Box 17	Breslar SR 14, undated 1 Sound cassette Program heavily distorted, starts and ends abruptly on both sides of tape. Cassette re-shelled and baked, but kept stopping during playback and could not safely transfer to digital format. Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 1 --Full
Box 17	Breslar SR 15, undated 1 Sound cassette Program heavily distorted, starts and ends abruptly on both sides of tape. Cassette re-shelled and baked, but kept stopping during playback and could not safely transfer to digital format. Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 2 --Full Interview
Box 17	Breslar SR 16, undated 1 Sound cassette Program heavily distorted, starts and ends abruptly on both sides of tape. Cassette re-shelled and baked, but kept stopping during playback and could not safely transfer to digital format. Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 3 1-437 Interview
Box 17	Breslar SR 17, undated 1 Sound cassette Audio: Breslar SR 17 side 2 Audio: Breslar SR 17 side 1 Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 4 Interview
Box 17	Breslar SR 18, undated 1 Sound cassette Audio: Breslar SR 18 side 1 Audio: Breslar SR 18, side 2 Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 5 Interview
Box 17	Breslar SR 19, undated 1 Sound cassette Audio: Breslar SR 19 side 2 Audio: Breslar SR 19 side 1 Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 6 Interview
Box 17	Breslar SR 20, undated

1 Sound cassette
Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 7

Interview

Box 17

Breslar SR 21, undated
1 Sound cassette
Audio: Breslar SR 21 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 21 side 2
Notes: Ba Inzu [?] 8

Interview

Box 18

Breslar SR 22, undated
1 Sound tape reel (3 in.)
Notes: Missing Title:
- Book: Sabam'Naji [?], Sowate [?]: #2 INAFATAHNA
- 8/5/75 Kamardine reading the Lakima (from funeral)

Box 18

Breslar SR 23, undated
1 Sound tape reel (3 in.)
Notes: Sahalara

Box 18

Breslar SR 24, 1975
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Audio: Breslar SR 24 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 24 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- Track 1: 2 debas
- 1 Aug 75
- Half full
- Track 2: Kuvetti [?]
- 2 Aug 75
- Full

Box 18

Breslar SR 25, 1975
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Audio: Breslar SR 25 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 25 side 1
Notes: Missing Title:
- Daira IDI -- 7 Oct 75
- In [?] Mosque.
- All of Track I.
- Comments at end
- Track 2 --8 Oct
- Maolida of Bibi Baheja
- Track 2 full. Comments at beginning

Box 18

Breslar SR 26, 1975
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Audio: Breslar SR 26 side 1

Audio: Breslar SR 26 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- Track 1 --Walima of Siragi 17 Oct 75
- Track 2 --(nothing)

Box 18
Breslar SR 27, 1975
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Audio: Breslar SR 27 side 2
Audio: Breslar SR 27 side 1
Notes: Missing Title:
- 4 Nov 1975
- Daira of Charif --Track I
- Track II --empty

Box 18
Breslar SR 28, 1975
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Audio: Breslar SR 28 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 28 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- Track 1: 11 Nov. [1975] Mugala of Salimati Hamada
- Only ½ of Track 1
- Track 2: Empty

Box 18
Breslar SR 29, 1975
Audio: Breslar SR 29 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 29 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- Nov 15 [1975]
- I. Big Mulidi in Sada. Nearly full.

Box 18
Breslar SR 30, 1976
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Audio: Breslar SR 30 side 1
Audio: Breslar SR 30 side 2
Notes: Missing Title:
- Conversations w/ Kamardine: Charifu
- Feb 13, 1976
- Track 1: full (2/3)
- Track 2: empty

See also #1

Box 18
Breslar SR 31, undated
1 Sound tape reel (4 in.)
Notes: Missing Title:
- Ali Issouf
- Track 1: Discourse of marriage by Kamardine . . . (Lousy band)
- Only ½ used
- (must rewind it first)

Box 18
Breslar SR 32, unadated

	1 Sound tape reel (4 in.) Audio: Breslar SR 32 side 2 Audio: Breslar SR 32 side 1 Notes: Women's singing at Habibas
Box 18	Breslar SR 33, undated 1 Sound tape reel (5 in.) Audio: Breslar SR 33 side 2 Audio: Breslar SR 33 side 1 Notes: [Recording of Breslar speaking Shimaore; recording on both tracks]

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