



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Frederic G. Cassidy papers
and sound recordings concerning
Jamaican language, 1951-1991

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Frederic G. Cassidy papers and sound recordings concerning Jamaican language, 1951-1991
Date:	1951 -1991 (bulk 1951-1952)
Identifier:	NAA.2008-22
Creator:	Cassidy, Frederic Gomes, 1907-
Extent:	1 Linear foot 15 Sound tape reels
Language:	Jamaican; Creole; English
Summary:	The Frederic G. Cassidy papers contain sound recordings and partial transcriptions; drafts of manuscripts and conference papers; and one map, all relating to his work on Jamaican and Creole languages.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Claire M. Cassidy and Michael Cassidy in 2008.

Related Materials

Digital surrogates of the sound recordings are also held by the Dictionary of American Regional English at the University of Wisconsin and at the University of the West Indies Archives in Kingston, Jamaica.

Processing Information

Processed and encoded by Daisy Njoku 2017.

Preferred Citation

Manuscript 2008-22 Frederic G. Cassidy papers concerning Jamaican language, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Frederic G. Cassidy papers and sound recordings are open for research. Access to the Frederic G. Cassidy papers and sound recordings requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

Biographical / Historical

Frederic Gomes Cassidy (1907-2000) was a Jamaican-born lexicographer who is best known as a long time editor and director of the Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE) Project at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was a professor of English. In 1951 Cassidy received a Fulbright Research Fellowship to go back to Jamaica to interview people about their daily lives. These recordings became the source for *Jamaica Talk* (1961) and the *Dictionary of Jamaican English* (1967) which he co-authored with R.B.LePage.

Scope and Contents

Of primary interest in the Frederic G. Cassidy papers are his 1952 sound recordings of everyday Jamaican people. The recordings are itemized and described according to a typed inventory found among the papers. There are partial handwritten notes and transcriptions of some of the recordings as well as a map of Jamaica which Cassidy used in his field work. The papers also contain drafts of articles and conference papers on Jamaican and Creole languages. It is not clear which, if any, of these drafts were published.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Creole dialects
- Gullah
- Language and languages -- Documentation
- Pidgin languages
- Rastafari

Cultures:

- Gullah
- Rastafari

Places:

- Caribbean
- Jamaica

Container Listing

Box 1	Notes, papers and presentations, 1983-1991, most undated 3 Folders
Box 1	Transcriptions of sound recordings, undated
Box 1	Sound recordings list, undated Notes: Typed list of the contents of sound recordings transcribed from original reel to reel tape boxes.
Roll 1	Map of Jamaica, 1941
Box 2	Sound Recordings 15 Sound tape reels (7 in) Notes: Original numbering of sound recordings has been retained. Description and information transcribed directly from tape boxes and from typed list of sound recordings.
Box 2, Item 1	Lucea, Askenish - Hanover, 1952 April 5-6 1 Sound tape reel (7 in) Audio: SR 1, side a Audio: SR 1, side b Notes: Side 1 - Lucea, Hanover: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leonard Chapman: ballads <i>Rygin</i>, <i>Rastfari</i>, <i>Sweepstakes</i>, <i>Hard Times</i>, etc.• Askenish, Hanover - Hugh D. Johnson: yam-growing Side 2 - Askenish, Hanover: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hugh Johnson and other yam-growers: digging songs, nine night songs• Lucea, Hanover - L. Chapman: end of <i>Hard Times</i> song
Box 2, Item 2	Hamden, Deeside - Trelawny/St. James, 1952 1 Sound tape reel (7 in) Audio: SR 2, side a Audio: SR 2, side b Notes: Side 1 - Hamden Estate Trelawney- St. James: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manchester - E.L. Wells, distiller• Oswald Clark: now St. James/Trelawny; Anancy story• James Harris: St. James• Pert Robinson: Evening Time Side 2 - Deeside area - Trelawny/St. James: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eglon Menzie• Wedan Miller: hunting wild hogs• Sedyu Leris: pineapple culture• Chas. Samuel Johnson: growing corn
Box 2, Item 3	Hamden - Trelawny/St. James, 1952 1 Sound tape reel (7 in.) Audio: SR 3, side a

[Audio: SR 3, side b](#)

- Notes: Side 1 - Hamden Estate, Trelawny/St. James:
- Westmorland - C.F. Gooden, factory superintendent: Hamden
 - Allen MacLaven: Trelawny
 - Wilmot Brown: Trelawny
- Side 2:
- Wilmot Brown: planting cane
 - James Brown: carpentering

Box 2, Item 4

Moy Hall (Reading), St. James, 1952 April 4
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 4, side a](#)

[Audio: SR 4, side b](#)

- Notes: Side 1 - Moy Hall:
- Willeslie Gooms: making a cottonwood canoe
 - Stanford Morris, fisherman
 - Reading - Gordon Cook, age 11 yrs, 4 mos
 - Brown's Town School - Sylvia Cook, age 8 yrs
 - Charles Janson, fisherman, Torville District
- Side 2 - Reading, St. James:
- Har? Star(?), fisherman
 - Ner Ster (Stewart?), fisherman
 - Herbert Robinson

Box 2, Item 5

Montego Bay - St. James, Lucea - Hanover, 1952 April 5-6
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 5, side a](#)

[Audio: SR 5, side b](#)

- Notes: Side 1 -Montego Bay:
- A snatch of talk by a building contractor
 - "Daisy", charwoman
 - Lucea - Leonard Chapman: Anancy stories
- Side 2 - Lucea:
- Leonard Chapman: Anancy stories, songs
 - Airi Chan, maid
 - Peter Horsith, ag3 10 yrs: Anancy story

Box 2, Item 6

Port Maria- St. Mary, Runaway Bay - St. Ann, 1952
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 6, side a](#)

[Audio: SR 6, side b](#)

- Notes: Side 1 - Port Maria Group:
- Rosy Belo: songs *Donkey waan waata, Hill and Gully, Moon a Shine, Anancy and Monkey*
 - Elsa Thompson: Louis Bennett poems: *Love is a Ting dat I Never Understand*
 - Kingston - Beryl Fletcher: conversation and reading. Self correct British pronunciation
- Side 2 - Runaway Bay:
- Myrtle Bres: *Sing Miss Bernice, Carry me Ackee, etc.*
 - Evelyn Thomas: Brer Nancy and B. Tukoma, *Donkey waan waata, Broke Rock Stone*

• Larry Laav

Box 2, Item 7 Port Maria - St. Mary, 1952
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)
[Audio: SR 7](#)
Notes: Side 1 only:
 • Oswald Miller, fisherman
 • another?, boatbuilder: songs

Box 2, Item 8 Highgate - St. Mary, 1952 March 3-4
1 Sound tape reel (7 in.)
[Audio: SR 8, side a](#)
[Audio: SR 8, side b](#)
Notes: Side 1:
 • Street revivalist meeting, drumming preaching, singing
 Side 2:
 • Josephine Scarlett, St. Ann
 • Songs, etc. St. Mary Parish
 • Phylliss Read, Trelawny Parish: *Story of the Parrot and Sugar*
 • Merlin Richards, Carinah, St. Mary: digging, match, and Dinki

Box 2, Item 9 Port Antonio - Portland, 1952
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)
[Audio: SR 9, side a](#)
[Audio: SR 9, side b](#)
Notes: Side 1:
 • Joseph Camden, night watchman for United Fruit Company
 • Hala Daily: carpenter, United Fruit Company
 • Irene Edwards: Anancy stories (school influence evident)
 • Herbert Scott
 • others?
 Side 2 - All at Happy Grove School:
 • Denzel Smith
 • Joyce Jacobs
 • ? Edgar
 • Albert Forest
 • Richard Walker: *Bungo Man, Finger mash no Cry*

Box 2, Item 10 Moretown - Portland: Maroons - the Colonel and others, 1952
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)
[Audio: SR 10, side a](#)
[Audio: SR 10, side b](#)

Box 2, Item 11 Port Antonio -Portland, Prospect - St. Thomas, 1952
1 Sound tape reel (7 in)
[Audio: SR 11, side a](#)
[Audio: SR 11, side b](#)
Notes: Side 1 - Port Antonio:
 • Miss Edith Scott: on teaching school in Port Antonio

- Miss Theima Scarlett: songs
- Miss Edna Scarlett: same
- Miss Minerva Moses: same

Side 2 - Prospect:

- Isaiah Williams: *Pretty lickle pot*
- Seaford McMans: *Three Sisters, Hawk*
- Vivian Williams: Anancy - change of names
- Philip Brynan: *Dean - fisherman's daughter lover*
- Gladstone Lee: *Timber* - magic of music
- Abraham Bryan: *Breda Hog and Breda Anancy, Fan me soldier-man*

Box 2, Item 12

Morant Bay - St. Thomas Parish, 1952

1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 12](#)

Notes: Side 1 only. Mrs. McCalis, social worker born in St. Andrew; Katheleen McLeon, servant; Gladstone Lee and Thos. Johnson, roadside singers (see Reel 11)

Box 2, Item 13

Christiana - Manchester, Barbican - St. Andrew, 1952 April

1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 13, side a](#)

[Audio: SR 13, side b](#)

Notes: Side 1 - Christiana:

- Hubert Miller: ginger
- Irene ? : hurricane
- Donald Allen: head suger
- Essie Rose: agricultural recovery

Side 2 - Barbican:

- Cleveland Nelson

Box 2, Item 14

Christiana - Manchester/St. Catherine/St. Andrew, 1952 May

1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 14, side a](#)

[Audio: SR 14, side b](#)

Notes: Side 1 - Christiana:

- Bull Savanna contin.
- The Dairy scheme
- Mr. George Lord, Old Harbour, St. Catherine: psychic phenom.

Side 2 - St. Andrew - Barbica:

- Cleveland Nelson (possib. contin. from Reel 12)
- Pedro Plains, St. Elizabeth Parish
- Ebanks brothers: gungo peas, skelllion, peanuts, tomatoes
- Bull Savanna (cont. on side 1)

Box 2, Item 15

Bull Savanna - St. Elizabeth, 1952 May 5-6

1 Sound tape reel (7 in)

[Audio: SR 15, side a](#)

[Audio: SR 15, side b](#)

Notes: Side 1:

- tomatoes, tobacco

- near Black River: chipping logwood
 - Frenchman's (Treasure Beach Hotel): fishing
- Side 2:
- Frenchmans' Bay: fishing, cassava