



# Smithsonian

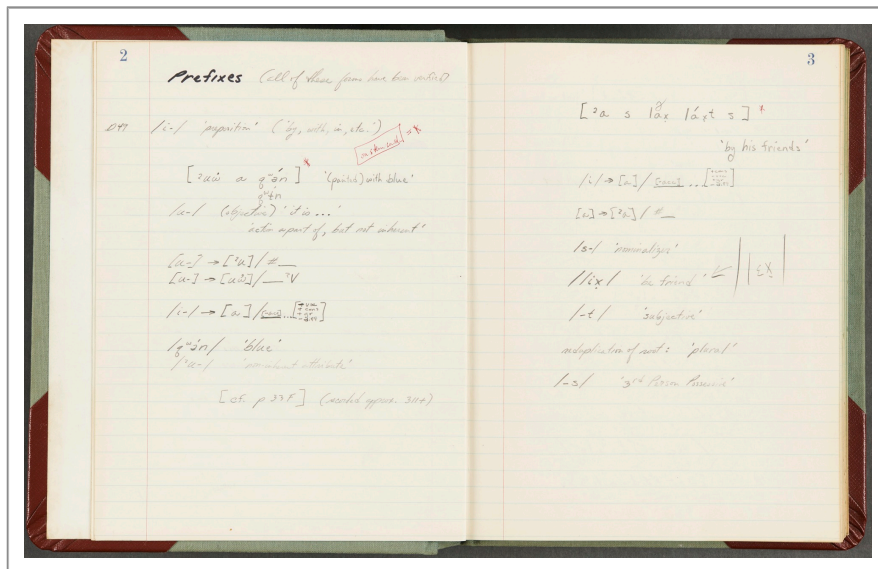
## National Museum of Natural History

### Robert E. Johnson Papers on the Coeur d'Alene and Makah Languages

Richelle Brown

Digitization and preparation of most of this material for online access has been funded through generous support from the Arcadia Fund and by National Science Foundation under BCS Grant No. 1561167 and the Recovering Voices initiative at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

2013 May



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## Collection Overview

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | National Anthropological Archives   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Robert E. Johnson Papers on the Coeur d'Alene and Makah Languages                                       |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1969-1971   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NAA.2011-34   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Johnson, Robert E. (Robert Erik), 1945  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1 Boxe (Oversize)<br>2.7 Linear feet (4 document boxes, 2 boxes of index cards and 16 sound recordings) |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English, Coeur d'Alene and Makah  |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Robert E. Johnson upon his retirement from Gallaudet University in 2011.

### Related Materials

The Human Studies Film Archives holds Robert E. Johnson's Mayan sign language video tapes and related notebooks.

### Processing Information

Robert E. Johnson's papers were received organized by language. The original folder titles and arrangement were retained. Folder titles assigned by the archivist are indicated by square brackets. Files have been rehoused in acid free folders. Oversized materials were separated and placed in oversize boxes. Original and new locations of separated materials have been indicated with separation sheets.

Processed by Richelle Brown, May 2013.

### Preferred Citation

Robert E. Johnson papers on the Coeur d'Alene and Makah languages, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

## Biographical / Historical

Robert E. Johnson, an anthropological linguist, received a B.A. in psychology from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University. As a doctoral student he conducted field research on the Coeur d'Alene language on the tribe's reservation in Idaho (1969 and 1970). In 1971, he did fieldwork on the Makah language in Washington state.

Johnson began teaching at Gallaudet University's Department of Linguistics in 1981. While there, he engaged in research on the phonetic, phonological, and morphological structures of signed languages. He studied the structures of American Sign Language, Argentine Sign Language, and the sign language of a Yucatec Maya community. He also worked with Scott Liddell on a phonetic notation system for signed languages and co-authored with Liddell and Carol Erting "Unlocking the Curriculum: Principles of Achieving Access in Deaf Education." In addition, he provided consulting services as an expert witness on Miranda rights for deaf suspects.

Johnson retired from Gallaudet University in December of 2011.

### Sources Consulted

Johnson, Robert. n.d. Robert Johnson, PhD. Accessed April 10, 2013. [http://www.gallaudet.edu/faculty-staff/linguistics/johnson\\_robert\\_e.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/faculty-staff/linguistics/johnson_robert_e.html)

Johnson, Robert. n.d. Robert Johnson, PhD. Accessed April 10, 2013. <http://www.mendeley.com/profiles/robert-johnson2/>

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## Scope and Contents

This collection documents the research Robert E. Johnson conducted for his dissertation on the Coeur d'Alene language, as well as his fieldwork on the Makah language. Johnson's papers consist of field notes, audio recordings, index cards, and transcripts concerning both languages. The Coeur d'Alene recordings are of Lawrence Nicodemus. The Makah recordings were done with several of the last remaining speakers of that language, most of whom were over eighty years old when the recordings were made.

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## Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series: 1) Coeur d'Alene Language, 1969 and 2) Makah Language, 1971.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Coeur d'Alene
- Coeur d'Alene language
- Language and languages -- Documentation
- Makah
- Makah language

### Cultures:

- Coeur d'Alene

Makah

Types of Materials:

Field notes  
Sound recordings

Names:

Nicodemus, Lawrence G., 1909-2004

Places:

Makah Indian Reservation (Wash.)  
Neah Bay (Wash.)

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Coeur d'Alene Language, 1969

#### 1.17 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains field notes, index cards, and audio recordings from Johnson's doctoral research on the Coeur d'Alene language. The audio recordings were made with Lawrence Nicodemus on the Coeur d'Alene reservation in Idaho.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Box 1 | <a href="#">Prefixes: Final Forms, The Vowels in Their Environments [1 of 4], 1969</a>   |
| Box 1 | <a href="#">Prefixes: Final Forms, The Vowels in Their Environments [2 of 4], 1969</a>   |
| Box 1 | <a href="#">Prefixes: Final Forms, The Vowels in Their Environments [3 of 4], 1969</a>   |
| Box 1 | <a href="#">Prefixes: Final Forms, The Vowels in Their Environments [4 of 4], 1969</a>   |
| Box 1 | Coeur d'Alene Suffixes, 1969   |
| Box 1 | B. Johnson N-F-A [Coeur d'Alene and English word and phrase lists], 1969   |
| Box 1 | Prefixes [1 of 2], 1969  |
| Box 1 | Prefixes [2 of 2], 1969  |
| Box 1 | Coeur d'Alene: Co-occurrences in Reichard's Prefixes. Biom 1 - Type Data Sheets, 1969  |
| Box 2 | <a href="#">F. Coeur d'Alene Final Forms, 1969</a>   |
| Box 2 | [Sound Recording 01] - C d'A #1 Field, 1969<br>1 Sound tape reel ("Master" copy of Johnson SR 01; 7 in)<br>1 Sound tape reel (5 in)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 01 part 2</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 01 part 1</a><br>Notes: Coeur d'Alene Field Tape #1; Lawrence Nicodemus -1969; recordings of "F" notebook begin at approx. 144 + (Hitachi) |
| Box 2 | [Sound Recording 02] - C d'A #2 Field, 1969<br>1 Sound tape reel ("Master" copy of Johnson SR 02; 7 in)<br>1 Sound tape reel (5 in)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 02</a><br>Notes: #2 C d'A LN Field Notes 1969<br>Complete 9/23/69   |
| Box 3 | <a href="#">F. Coeur d'Alene Index Cards, 1969</a>   |

Notes: Bibliographies and linguistic notes

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## Series 2: Makah Language, 1971

### 1.54 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains field notes, index cards, audio recordings, and transcripts from Johnson's research on the Makah language in Washington state. He worked with some of the last surviving speakers of the language, most of whom were in their eighties at the time.

Box 4 [Neah Bay Rough Notes, 1971](#)  
3 Folders

Box 4 Makah Suffices, 1971

Box 6 [\[Makah Index Cards\], 1971](#)  
Notes: Vocabulary and phrases

Box 5 [Sound Recording 05] NB I, 1971  
1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 5 side 1](#)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 5 side 2](#)  
Notes: Neah Bay  
JL: Side I Sept 3, '71 ethn/on Ozette  
JL: Side II Sept 2, '71 text on dance

Box 5 [Sound Recording 06] NB II, 1971  
1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 6 side 1](#)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 6 side 2](#)  
Notes: LC + RC Both Side

Box 5 [Sound Recording 07] NB III, 1971  
1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 7 side 1](#)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 7 side 2](#)

Box 5 [Sound Recording 08] NB IV, 1971  
1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 8 side 2](#)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 8 side 1](#)

Box 5 [Sound Recording 09] NB V, 1971  
1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 9 side 1](#)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 9 side 2](#)

Box 5 [Sound Recording 10] NB VI, 1971  
1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)  
[Audio: Johnson SR 10](#)



|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Box 5 | [Sound Recording 11] NB VII, 1971<br>1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 11 side 2</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 11 side 1</a>   |
| Box 5 | [Sound Recording 12] NB VIII, 1971<br>1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 12 side 2</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 12 side 1</a>  |
| Box 5 | [Sound Recording 13] NB IX, 1971<br>1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 13 side 1 part 1</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 13 side 1 part 2</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 13 side 2</a><br>Notes:            July 28 274 I<br>July 30 335 I |
| Box 5 | [Sound Recording 14] NB X, 1971<br>1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 14 side 1</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 14 side 2</a>   |
| Box 5 | [Sound Recording 15] NB XI, 1971<br>1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 15 side 1</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 15 side 2</a>  |
| Box 5 | [Sound Recording 16] NB XII, 1971<br>1 Sound recording (5" audio reel)<br><a href="#">Audio: Johnson SR 16</a><br>Notes:            Side I Jack Lachester August 12, 1971<br>Makah Text of Dentalium +[writing illegible]  |

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