



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Preliminary guide to the Francis B. Wilson papers, 1945-1950

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Francis B. Wilson papers
Date:	1945-1950
Identifier:	NAA.2015-08
Creator:	Wilson, Francis B., 1914-2004
Extent:	2.25 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were part of a donation of Ulithi materials to the collections of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History (Accession No. 2059602) , from Luke E. Wilson, son of Francis Wilson, in 2015. The papers were separated from the objects and transferred to the National Anthropological Archives.

Separated Materials

The Francis B. Wilson papers came to the Smithsonian as part of a larger collection which contain objects from Ulithi collected by Wilson. These materials, which include basketry, carved wooden figures and other items comprise Accession No. 2059602 in the collections of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the Francis B. Wilson papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Historical Note

In 1945 Dr. Marshall Paul Wees received orders to travel to Ulithi Atoll (Yap, Federated States of Micronesia) and treat an outbreak of yaws. He selected Francis B. "Willie" Wilson (1914-2004), a Chief Pharmacist's Mate, to accompany him as assistant.

Scope and Contents

The Francis B. Wilson papers comprise material documenting Wilson's time in Ulithi and include correspondence, a diary, photographs, Ulithi language documentation, a copy of *Life* magazine featuring the Ulithi community in which Wees and Wilson lived, and compiled transcripts of a radio show distributed

as "Ulithi Encyclopedia," with information about the islands and their inhabitants. Also included is Wees' autobiographical publication *King Doctor of Ulithi*. Photographs include an annotated photo album plus additional photographic prints and negatives.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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

Wees, Marshall Paul, as related to Thornton, Francis Beauchesne. *King-Doctor of Ulithi*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1950.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Places:

- Oceania
- Ulithi (Micronesia)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Diary, 1945
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1945
Box 1, Folder 3	King-Doctor of Ulithi, 1950
Box 1, Folder 4	WVTY "Ulithi Encyclopedia", undated
Box 1, Folder 5	"Some useful English words and their use" and English-Ulithi vocabularies, circa 1945
Box 1, Folder 6	Ulithi language notes and phrases, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	"Some useful words as spoken by the people of Fassarai" by Francis B. Wilson, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Time magazine "Pacific Pony Edition" and pages from Life magazine, 1945
Box 2	Life magazine with feature about Ulithi with Wees and Wilson., 1945
Box 1, Folder 9-12	Photographic prints, circa 1945 4 Folders
Box 2	Photograph album, circa 1945
Box 3	Photographic negatives, circa 1945 9 Rolls of negatives (35mm)