
Molly Kamph

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Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives
Title: Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki papers
Identifier: NAA.2016-29
Date: 1904-2017
(bulk 1951-1999)
Extent: 107 Linear feet
Creator: Solecki, Ralph S.
Solecki, Rose L.
Language: Multiple languages
Collection is primarily in English. Some files are in French, German, Kurdish, Arabic, Polish, and Russian.
Summary: The papers of Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki, 1904-2017 (bulk 1951-1999) primarily document their archaeological excavations and subsequent analysis of Near East sites including Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar in northern Iraq; Yabroud, Syria; and Nahr Ibrahim and El Masloukh, Lebanon primarily during the 1950s-1980s. The papers also include their work at other sites throughout the Near East and North America and files relating to the professional careers at the Smithsonian Institution, Columbia University, and Texas A and M University. The collection consists of field notes, data and analysis, manuscript drafts, publications, correspondence, illustrations and maps, photographic prints, negatives, slides, and recorded film.
Digital Content:
Image(s): Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki papers

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Ralph and Rose Solecki and their sons, John and William, in 2016, 2018, and 2019.

Related Materials
The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's Department of Anthropology contains archaeological and ethnographic collections relating to the work of Ralph and Rose Solecki including accession numbers 202536, 209544, 217009, 220078, 220920, 224956, 232170, 242336, 249217, 356696.

Accession 220078 contains archaeological and archaeobiological material excavated by Ralph and Rose Solecki at Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar. An accretion transferred in
2016 was cataloged as part of the Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki Papers and Artifacts Project (2017-2019) and cross-references excavation and artifact analysis within the Solecki papers.

Processing Information

The collection arrived at the National Anthropological Archives in two primary deposits. The first accession was stored at the Soleckis' home in South Orange, NJ and at Columbia University and then transferred to the NAA in 2016. These materials were primarily arranged by archaeological site or affiliated institution. The second accretion of materials was stored at the Soleckis' home, transferred in 2018, and were similarly arranged by site or institution in which the files were affiliated. The archivist has maintained this arrangement. Original folder titles have also been maintained. Weeding of materials was undertaken to remove duplicate material. Material was either transferred to the John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology or destroyed. In Series 5: Research and Teaching Files, only the material that was annotated or rare/unpublished was retained.

Molly Kamph processed and encoded series 1 and some of 3 from 2017-2019. Material still in process has been rehoused but remains to be arranged and described.

MS 7091 has been relocated into the Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki papers. MS 4348, MS 4358, MS 4613, MS 92-10, MS 92-35, and PL 77 are in process to be incorporated into the papers.

Preferred Citation

Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical / Historical

Ralph S. Solecki (1917-2019) and Rose L. Solecki (b. 1925) are archaeologists that worked in the Near East at Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar in northern Iraq (1951-1960); Yabroud, Syria (1963-1965, 1981, 1987); and Nahr Ibrahim and El Masloukh in Lebanon (1969-1973). Ralph Solecki also conducted archaeological field work in North America at sites in Nebraska, Alaska, and New York as well as with the Smithsonian Institution's River Basin Surveys. From 1958-1988, Ralph Solecki was a professor of anthropology at Columbia University. The Soleckis became adjunct faculty at Texas A&M University.

Stefan Ralph Solecki was born on October 15th, 1917 in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from Newtown High School in 1936, he attended the City College of New York from 1936-1941 and received a B.S. in Geology in 1942. Solecki then served in the US Army and fought in World War II. He was discharged in 1945. In 1946, Solecki enrolled at Columbia University to study Anthropology, and he received a M.A. degree in 1950. During this time, Solecki worked for the River Basin Surveys at the Smithsonian Institution. He also accompanied a geological survey to northern Alaska in 1949. In 1951, he became an associate curator of archaeology at the Smithsonian Institution. In that same year, he traveled to Iraq to survey prehistoric sites and began Season I of excavation at Shanidar Cave. Solecki then received a Fulbright fellowship to return to Iraq in 1953-1954 to continue excavations at Shanidar Cave (Season II) and conduct research at the Iraq Museum in Baghdad. In 1958, he received his PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University and accepted a faculty position within the Department of
Anthropology at Columbia University. Following the final two seasons of excavation at Shanidar Cave (see below for details on Season III and IV), Solecki led a number of Columbia University expeditions to various locations around the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. He also spent three seasons (1963-1964, 1981, 1987) surveying and excavating the site of Yabroud in Syria and three field seasons excavating the sites of Nahr Ibrahim (1969, 1970, 1973) and El Masloukh (1969) in Lebanon. Solecki retired from Columbia University in 1988.

Rose Muriel (née Lilien) Solecki was born on November 18th, 1925 in New York City, New York. She completed her undergraduate studies in Anthropology from Hunter College in 1945, and she went on to receive her M.A. and PhD degrees in Anthropology from Columbia University. While at Columbia, she studied under William Duncan Strong and joined Strong's excavations in Peru from 1952-1953. Rose Solecki acted as a research associate within the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University until Ralph Solecki's retirement in 1988.

Ralph and Rose met at Columbia University as students and married in 1955. In 1956-1957, both Ralph and Rose Solecki travelled to Iraq, where Ralph conducted a third season of excavation at Shanidar Cave and Rose excavated the nearby Zawi Chemi Shanidar village site. In 1960, the Soleckis returned for a fourth and final field season of excavation at Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar, where they were accompanied by Smithsonian Institution curator of Physical Anthropology, T. Dale Stewart. Ralph and Rose Solecki both held positions at Columbia University until Ralph's retirement in 1988. In 1990, Ralph and Rose served as adjunct professors at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. In 2000, they left Texas A&M University and moved to South Orange, New Jersey.

Ralph Solecki died in Livingston, New Jersey on March 20, 2019.

**Chronology of the Life of Ralph S. Solecki**

1917 October 15  
Born in Brooklyn, New York, USA

1942  
B.S. in Geology from City College of New York

1942-1945  
Served in the United States Army during World War II

1948  
Started working with the Smithsonian Institution’s River Basin Surveys

1948-1949  
Accompanied a United States Geological Survey party to the upper Kokpowruk and Kokolik rivers at the Brooks Range in northwestern Alaska

1950  
M.A. in Anthropology from Columbia University

1951  
First field season at Shanidar Cave, Iraq

1953-1954  
Fulbright fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Iraq

1955  
Married Rose M. Lilien

1956-1957  
Third field season at Shanidar Cave, Iraq

1958  
Appointed Associate Curator of Archaeology at the Smithsonian Institution

1958  
PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University

1988  
Accepted post at Columbia University as Associate Professor of Anthropology
1960
Fourth field season at Shanidar Cave
Shanidar IV, V, VI, VII (or IV-VII), and VIII skeletons discovered

1961-1962
Columbia University Nubian Expedition to Sudan

1963
Columbia University Near East (C.U.N.E.) Expedition to Seberde, Turkey and Yabroud, Syria

1964-1965
Columbia University Near East (C.U.N.E.) Expedition to Yabroud, Syria

1969-1973
Three field seasons at Nahr Ibrahim and El Masloukh, Lebanon

1971
Authored *Shanidar: The First Flower People*

1981
Archaeological survey at Yabroud, Syria

1987-1988
Field season at Yabroud, Syria

1988
Retired from Columbia University

1990-2000
Served as Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M University

2004
Coauthored *The Proto-Neolithic Cemetery in Shanidar Cave* with Ralph S. Solecki and Anagnostis P. Agelarakis

2019 March 20
Died in Livingston, New Jersey

**Chronology of the Life of Rose L. Solecki**

1925 November 18
Born in New York City, New York

circa 1945
B.S. in Anthropology at Hunter College

1946
Enrolled at Columbia University

1952-1953
Field season in Peru under William Duncan Strong

1956
PhD from Columbia University

1956-1957
Field season at Zawi Chemi Shanidar, Iraq

1960
Field season at Zawi Chemi Shanidar, Iraq

1990-2000
Served as Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M University

2004
Coauthored *The Proto-Neolithic Cemetery in Shanidar Cave* with Ralph S. Solecki and Anagnostis P. Agelarakis

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**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki document their archaeological excavations and subsequent analysis of Near East sites including Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar in northern Iraq; Yabroud, Syria; Nahr Ibrahim and El Masloukh, Lebanon primarily during the 1950s-1980s. The papers also reflect their academic careers as students and faculty at Columbia University, staff at the Smithsonian Institution, and adjunct faculty at Texas A&M University.

The bulk of the collection consists of materials relating to the Soleckis’ archaeological excavations at Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar in northern Iraq (1951-1960); Yabroud, Syria (1963-1965, 1981, 1987-1988); Nahr Ibrahim and El Masloukh, Lebanon (1969-1973). These materials include field notebooks, excavation catalogs, research notes, data analysis, manuscript drafts, publications,
correspondence, illustrations, maps, photographs, slides, sound recordings, and film. Similar materials from other expeditions and projects include aerial photography projects in the 1950s-1960s; expeditions to Alaska in 1949 and 1961; expeditions to Sudan, Iran, and Turkey through the Columbia University Near East expeditions (or C.U.N.E.) throughout the 1960s-1970s; and various archaeological projects elsewhere in North America such as Ralph's work with the River Basin Surveys in the 1940s-1950s, New York, and elsewhere in the eastern United States, contain similar materials.

The papers also contain research and teaching files in the form of annotated publications, course materials, student theses, and other files from their time as students and faculty at Columbia University, staff at the Smithsonian Institution, and adjunct faculty at Texas A&M University. Correspondence and administrative files such as grant applications, daybooks, and departmental forms and files from their professional careers are also within the collection. Personal files, while sparse, are also represented.

Arrangement

The Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki papers are divided into 7 series:

• Series 1: Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar, Iraq, 1947-2017 (bulk 1951-1990)
• Series 4: Other Expeditions and Projects
• Series 5: Research and Teaching Files
• Series 6: Correspondence and Administrative Files
• Series 7: Personal Files

Selected Bibliography


The proto-neolithic cemetery in Shanidar Cave. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2004

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Archaeologists
Archaeology -- Iraq
Early man -- Neanderthal
Excavations (Archaeology)
Human evolution

Occupations:
Women archaeologists

Geographic Names:
Shanidar Cave (Iraq)
Container Listing


This series comprises materials relating to Ralph and Rose Solecki's excavations at Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar sites from 1951-1960 as well as subsequent analyses. The analytical and administrative files relating to the excavations date between 1951 and 2017 with the bulk dating from 1951-1990.

Included are field notebooks of the Soleckis and their students, field and artifact catalogs, field and artifact data cards, research files, drafts and manuscripts, publications, correspondence, maps of the sites and geographical region in Iraq, illustrations of artifacts and site sequencing, and photographs and slides of Shanidar Cave, Zawi Chemi Shanidar, and other locations in Iraq.

Series 1 is divided into 8 subseries: (1.1) Season I-IV Excavation Field Notebooks, Excavation Catalogs, and Notes, 1951-1963; (1.2) Field and Artifact Data Cards, 1951-1998; (1.3) Excavation and Artifact Analysis, 1951-2017; (1.4) Writings and Publications, 1951-2012; (1.5) Correspondence and Administrative files, 1951-2003; (1.6) Illustrations and Maps, 1951-2003; (1.7) Photographs and Slides, 1950-2017; (1.8) Sound Recordings, 1971-1975; and (1.9) Film, [1951-1993]

1.1: Season I-IV Field Notebooks, Excavation Catalogs, and Notes, 1951-1963

This subseries is comprised of field notebooks, transcriptions of field notebooks, excavation and artifact catalogs, and other notes created during or shortly after the Soleckis' four seasons of excavations (Season I: 1951, Season II: 1953-1954, Season III: 1956-1957, Season IV: 1960) at the Shanidar Cave, Zawi Chemi Shanidar, and other sites in northern Iraq. The materials date from 1951-1963. Included are notes by their students Jacques Bordaz, Philip E. Smith, and others.

Subseries 1.1 is further divided into type of materials including Field Notebooks, 1951-1960 and Excavation and Artifact Catalogs and Notes, 1951-1963. They are then arranged chronologically.

Field Notebooks, 1951-1960

Box 1  
Transcription of Shanidar Season I Notebook, 1951

Box 1  
Notebooks 1 Rowanduz Surveys and Shanidar, Ralph Solecki, 1951 May-October

Box 1  
Ralph Solecki- Shanidar- Notebook No. 2, 1951 November-December

Box 1  
Caves- 1953-Book 2, 1951- Book 1, 1951-1953

Box 1  
Transcription of Shanidar Season I, II, III, and IV Notebooks, 1951-1960

Box 1  
Duplicate- Transcription of Shanidar Notebook, 1953
Box 1; Four Daily Logbooks and One Book on General Archaeological Observations Regarding Shanidar Cave, Iraq, R. Solecki, 1953

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

Box 2

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Box 3

Box 3

Box 3

Zawi Chemi Shanidar and Shanidar Cave (Descriptions of Miscellaneous Stone Artifacts), 1956-1957

Shanidar Cave Field Notes, circa 1957

Duplicate- Notes, 1957


Philip E. Smith- Shanidar Cave- Book II, 1957

Ralph Solecki- Iraq Museum Baghdad, 1957

Zawi Chemi Shanidar Field Notebook Spring 1957 (Season III), 1957
Box 4 1957 Shanidar, 1957 March 4- 1957 June 21

Box 4 Description of Zawi Chemi Artifacts (Season IV), 1960

Box 4 Jacques Bordaz- Shanidar Season IV, 1960


Box 5 Transcription, 1960

Box 5 Ralph Solecki- 4th Season- Shanidar Cave- Book I, 1960 June

Excavation and Artifact Catalogs and Notes, 1951-1963

Box 5 Bones- Frags Season I, circa 1951

Box 5 Shanidar Cave Season I Bones Etc., circa 1951

Box 5 Catalog List Boxes 1-4, circa 1951-1960

Box 5 Kurdish Record Notes, circa 1951-1960

Box 5 Notes Detailing Excavation Depths, circa 1951-1960

Box 5 Field Catalog Season I, 1951

Box 5 Season I Field Notes, 1951

Box 5 Shanidar Floors Season I Hearths and Plots, 1951

Box 5 Shanidar Season I Excavation Notes, 1951

Box 5 Shanidar Season I 1952 Original, 1952

Box 5 Field Catalog Season II, 1953

Box 5 Season II from Cat. Lot Nos by Layers A, B, C, D, 1953

Box 5 Season II Field Notes, 1953

Box 5 Season II Shanidar Cave Stratigraphy, 1953
Box 5  Shanidar - Lists and Catalogues- Season II , 1953

Box 6  Shanidar Season II Original Catalog, 1953

Box 6  Shanidar Season II, 1953

Box 6  Shanidar II Season Animal Bones, 1953-1954

Box 6  Shanidar Season II Notes, 1954

Box 6  III ('56-'57) Register of Catalogued Specimens for Division of Artifacts w/ Iraq Museum, 1956-1957

Box 6  Field Catalog Season III, 1956-1957

Box 6  Season III Field Notes, 1956-1957

Box 6  Shanidar Season III Catalog, 1956-1957

Box 6  Shanidar Season III Excavation Notes, 1956-1957

Box 6  Worked Bone and Stone / All Layers, 1957

Box 6  Shanidar Material Deposited with D.C. of Antiquities, 1957

Box 6  Shanidar Cave Season IV Locations of Artifacts in Burial Area, circa 1960

Box 6  4th Season Shanidar Artifact Records, 1960

Box 6  IV Register of Catalogued Specimens, 1960

Box 6  Elevations in the Cemetery Area, 1960

Box 6  Season IV Catalog Nos., 1960

Box 6  Season IV Field Notes, 1960

Box 6  Shanidar 1960 Season Division of Finds, 1960

Box 6  Shanidar Cave, 1960

Box 6  Shanidar Season IV Excavations Notes, 1960
1.2: Field and Artifact Data Cards, 1951-1998 (bulk 1951-1960)

This subseries is comprised of artifact and field data cards relating to Ralph and Rose Solecki’s Season I-IV excavations at Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar in 1951, 1953, 1956-1957, and 1960. The notecards present stratigraphic data from excavations at the site, and some contain descriptions of artifacts and illustrations or photographs of the corresponding artifact.

Subseries 1.2 is arranged chronologically.

Box 7  Mainly Layer B Shanidar Cave Artifacts Season I, II, III, IV, circa 1951-1960
        Image(s)

Box 7;   S.C. Shanidar Squares and Levels, circa 1951-1960
Box 8    Image(s)

Box 8    Shanidar Artifact Cards, circa 1951-1960
        Image(s)

Box 8;   Shanidar Lithic Artifacts Cards, circa 1951-1960
Box 9;   Image(s)
Box 10

Box 10   Shanidar Cave Artifact Notes , circa 1951-1960
        Image(s)

Box 11   Skinner- Layer D , circa 1951-1960
        Image(s)

Box 11   Shanidar Cave Field Notes Season I, 1951
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Box 11;  Shanidar Cave Artifact Notes Season I Baghdad , 1951
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Box 15;  Shanidar Cave Field Notes Season II, 1953
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Shanidar Layer D, 1953

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Season III Artifact Notecards, circa 1956-circa 1957

Box 17;

Shanidar Artifacts Season III, IV Plus Helen's Cards, circa 1956-1960, 1984

Box 18

Shanidar Cave III and IV Season, sq. and level and layer mel. , circa 1956-1960

Box 18;

Shanidar Cave Artifact Notes Season III, IV Mainly Layer B-C, circa 1956-1960

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Shanidar Cave Field Notes Season III, 1956-1957, 1990

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Shanidar Cave Season III Data Cards, 1956-1957

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Zawi Chemi 3rd Season Description of Finds, 1956-1957

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Artifacts Notes Shanidar Cave Season IV Mainly Layer B, circa 1960

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B-194IV- [?], circa 1960

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Shanidar Cave Season IV, 1960

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Shanidar Field Notes, 1960

Box 27

Zawi Chemi Season 4 Description of Finds, 1960

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This subseries is comprised of notes, catalogs, plans, tables, data sheets, and other data used for analysis of the excavations at and artifacts from the Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar sites. This includes materials created during return visits to Iraq and the Shanidar site in 1966 and 1993. Many of the data sheets include typology data for artifacts including lithics and other tools excavated at the sites. Included are notes by their students and colleagues Erik Trinkaus, Denise Ferembach, Douglas Campana, Bruce Howe, Ann H. Sontz, J.H. Skinner, and others. These materials date from 1951-2017.

Subseries 1.3 is arranged chronologically.

Box 28  Shanidar Season I Distribution of Artifacts, circa 1951
Box 28  Shanidar Seasons I. II. Cores Flints, circa 1951-1953
Box 28  Shanidar- Seasons I, II Catalogues and Notes- Layer D Artifacts, circa 1951-1954
Box 28  Shanidar Artifact List, circa 1951-1960
Box 28  Proto-Neolithic Special Artifacts Copper Beads, Beads, Figurine, Slates, circa 1951- circa 1969
Box 28  S.C. Squares and Catalog Numbers, circa 1951- circa 1969
Box 28  Shanidar Neanderthals Soils, Etc. , circa 1951- circa 1969
Box 28  Zawi Chemi Analysis Notes, circa 1951- circa 1969
Box 28  Zawi Chemi Shanidar Info, circa 1951- circa 1969
Box 28  Season II Hearths- Good Use, 1951-1953
Box 28  Shanidar Cave Data Sheets, 1951-1953
Box 28  Shanidar Cave Season I-III Animal Bones, 1951-1953, 1990
Box 28  Shanidar Area- Neolithic- Caves Info, 1951-1956
Box 28  Shanidar Cave Season III Floor Plans, 1951-1957
| Box 29 | Miscellaneous C14 Data and Shanidar Cave, 1951-1963, 1974 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Cave Layer A, circa 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Cave Season II Floor Plans Excavation, circa 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Layer C, circa 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Season I and II- Layer B1/ Fr. Neolith. Stone Features- Season 2?, circa 1953 |
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| Box 29 | Shanidar- Cave Grid Forms Blank, 1953 |
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Shanidar III (1956-1957) Smithsonian Collection, 1956-1963

Box 30  
Shanidar I and Animal Bones, circa 1957

Box 30  
Layer C and Some B Lithics Season I, 1957

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Box 30  
Shanidar Pollen Analysis- Vaughn Bryant, 1957, 1992

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C-14 Dates Shanidar Miscellaneous Data and Observations, 1957-1959, 1992

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Box 31  
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Trace Elements- Bruno Sabels, 1958-1962

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Carbon-14 Material Burials, circa 1960

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Season IV- Square D8-E8 Depths, circa 1960

Box 31  
Shanidar Cave Artifact- Possibly Season IV, circa 1960

Box 31  
Zawi Chemi Ground Stone Tools, circa 1960

Box 31  

Box 31  
Shanidar Levels and Hearths Lucite Sheets Analysis, circa 1960- circa 1979

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Box 32  
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Box 32  Shanidar Neanderthals etc. Misc. Shanidar IV and VI, 1960-1962, 1974
Box 33  ILL- Misc. Info- Shanidar Cave, 1962, 1990
Box 33  Lithic Analysis Data- Tool Types (Various Classifications), 1965
Box 33  Baghdad Museum Shanidar Notes Winter 1966 by RS/RLS, 1966
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Box 33  Ann H. L. Sontz- Shanidar Mousterian Season III and IV, 1968-1969
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Box 33  Isabella Drew, Cyril S. Smith- Trace Elements Metallurgy, 1971
Box 33;  Erik Trinkaus Shanidar, 1975-1982
Box 34  Iraq Museum Data Z.C.S. S.C., 1978
Box 34  EU's- Xerox Copies, circa 1980- circa 1989
Box 34  Limaces- Layer D, circa 1980- circa 1989
Box 34  S.C. Filled in Sheets EU's All Types, circa 1980- circa 1989
Box 34  S.C. Not Filled in Sheets: EU's, Tools, Cores, Unret. Fl and Bl, circa 1980- circa 1989
Box 34  Shanidar Cave- Cores- Xerox Copies, circa 1980- circa 1989
Box 34  Shanidar Cave Original Tool Analysis Sheets Nos 57-1931 pp. 3-65, circa 1980- circa 1989
| Box 34 | Shanidar Cave Tools 22-26, circa 1980- circa 1989 |
| Box 34 | Xerox Copies- Data Sheets, circa 1980- circa 1989 |
| Box 34 | Shanidar Cave- Tools Orig. Data Sheets, circa 1980- circa 1999 |
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| Box 35 | Shanidar Cat. Nos. Columbia- Flakes Measurements Layer D, 1983 |
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| Box 35 | Shanidar- Season III- Miscellaneous Notes- In Re: Discarded Faunal Fragments, 1984-1987 |
| Box 35 | Shanidar Cave- D- Pointed Tools, 1985-1990 |
| Box 35 | Shanidar Cave- Proto-Neolithic Layer B, 1985-1986 |
| Box 35 | Proto Neolithic Field Notes, Conclusions, Notes from Plexiglass Sheets by Levels Layer A to B, 1986 |
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This subseries is comprised of drafts, writings, and publications relating to the excavations at and analysis of the Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar sites. The subseries includes drafts of Ralph S. Solecki’s *Shanidar: The First Flower People* (published in 1971) and Ralph S. Solecki, Rose L. Solecki, and Anagnostis Agelarakis’s *The Proto-Neolithic Cemetery in Shanidar Cave* (published in 2004). The materials date from 1951-2012. The materials were created by Ralph and Rose Solecki and their students and colleagues including Denise Ferembach, Erik Trinakus, Herbert Wright, Rick Davis, Peter Francis, Anagnostis Agelarakis, Marvin Kay, and others.

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This subseries is comprised of illustrations, drawings, plans, diagrams, and photographs used for general analysis and publications relating to the excavations at the Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Shanidar sites. The materials include illustrations, figures, and plates for publications including most prominently those associated with *The Proto-Neolithic Cemetery in Shanidar Cave* (published in 2004) by Ralph Solecki, Rose Solecki, and Anagnostis Agelarakis. In some instances these materials can be signified by a "P.N." or "S.C. P.N." label. The materials date from 1951-2003. Many of the illustrations are undated, but attempts have been made to associate materials with a "circa" date.

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Box 54  Fig. 2- The Location of Shanidar Cave, undated
Box 54  Figure 3, undated
Box 54  Fig. 5-8 and Excavation Squares, undated
Box 54  Fig. 18 and 19, undated
Box 54  Figure 36, undated
Box 54  Figure 37- Chipped Stone Tools from the Fill Around Stone Structure 8 (Cat. No. 344IV)- Squares C3 and D3, undated
Box 54  Figures, undated
Box 54  Illustrations Layer A- Not Recorded, undated
Box 54  Kebarah Artifact Illustration Compared to Shanidar Artifacts, undated
Box 54  Lists of Figures, Plates, Tables, and Labels, undated
Box 54  Map of Shanidar Area (and Baradost), undated
Box 54  Misc. Illus.- Shanidar Cave Miscellaneous Artifact Drawings, undated
Box 54  Original Drawings, undated
Box 54  Points, undated
Box 54  Proto-Neo. Plain v Decorated Slate [Plycets?] from the Cemetery Fill, undated
Box 54  S.C. Baradostian Originals- Layer C III.- 1, 2, 3, 7 (also in Layer B folder), 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 44, 45, 46, 36, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 58 (also B), 59 (also B), 63, 64, 65, 66, 97, 22, 23, 29, 70, 73 (also in D), 74, undated

2 Folders
Box 54  S.C. (Layer B1)- Illustrations- Ill. III, undated

Box 54  S.C. (Layer B1)- Illustrations- Ill. IV, undated

Box 54  S.C. Layer B1- Illustrations- Mainly Bone Tools- Some Shell and Some Impressed Pottery, undated

Box 54  S.C. Layer B1- Illust. Various Large Stone Tools, undated

Box 54  S.C. Pointed Tools, undated


Cabinet Oversized  Schematic Cross-Section of the Shanidar Cave Deposits, undated

Cabinet Oversized  Shanidar and Near East Maps, undated

Box 55  Shanidar Cave Cross Section, undated

Box 55  Shanidar Cave Figure 10, undated

Box 55  Shanidar Cave Flint Artifacts III Season Mousterian- ? Drawn by Jamil Hamoudi- (Iraq) artist, undated

Cabinet Oversized  Shanidar Cave Flowers Illustrations, undated

Cabinet Oversized  Shanidar Cave Layer A Illustrations, undated

Box 55  Shanidar Cave Layer D- Illustrations- Originals # 4, 5, 6, 8, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47 (also B and C), 61, 66, 67, 68, 69, 73 (also C), undated

Box 55  Shanidar Cave Plan of Cemetery Area, undated

Box 96  Shanidar Cave Tool Attribute Sheets Tool Numbers 1-2215 pp. 1-76 Complete Set, undated

Box 96  Shanidar Child Illustration, undated

Box 55  Shanidar Illustrated Materials, undated

Box 55  Shanidar Map, undated
1.7: Photographs and Slides, 1950-2017

This subseries is comprised of photographic prints, negatives, albums, and slides that depict travel around, excavations at, and artifacts from Shanidar Cave in northern Iraq and its environs. The materials date from 1950-2011, with the bulk dating from the excavations at Shanidar Cave from 1951-1960. Most of the photographs were taken by Ralph Solecki, Rose Solecki, or their students and colleagues including Jacques Bordaz, T. Dale Stewart, Douglas Campana, and Philip E. Smith.

To date not all matched individual negatives correspond to individual prints, and vice versa. However, the photograph albums do contain numbered prints of the images that will correspond to negatives found within the "Shanidar Negative Number 1-3544, Unlabeled Negatives, circa 1951-1960".

Subseries 1.7 is further divided into Prints, Negatives, and Albums, 1950-2017 (bulk 1951-1960) and 35mm Slides, 1950-1993. The materials are then arranged chronologically.

Boxes 55-63 contain prints and corresponding documentation; Boxes 64-70 contain photograph albums; Boxes 71-89 contain negatives; Boxes 90-95 contain primarily 35mm slides; and Box 96 contains oversized material.


Box 55 Kurdistan Iraq Chai Khane, Near Rowanduz Gorge, Northern Iraq, circa 1946

Box 55 Iraq Eridu, circa 1950


Box 55 Shanidar Maps and Photographs, 1950, 1975, 2011

Box 64 Album: Shanidar- 1950 Survey, 1952 #702-905 and 640-2, 1950-1952

Box 89 Iraq Warka 1953, Batas Cave 1950, Shanidar-Der 1953, 1950-1953


Box 55 Shanidar Baby- Faber 1402 C.9- Iraq, 1950-1959

Box 56 C-LB-38542, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56  Dick Forbis, circa 1951- circa 1960, undated
Box 62; Misc. Shanidar, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 89
Box 71  Musical Instruments Kurdistan Negatives 1-10, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56  Photos for Paper on Kurds, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56  Shanidar IV and Views, circa 1951- circa 1960, 1999
Box 56  Shanidar Artifact Photographs and Scenes at Shanidar Cave, circa 1951- circa 1960, 1986-1989
Box 56  Shanidar Cave and Plaster Cast of Shanidar Skeleton, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56  Shanidar Cave- Proto-Neolithic, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56  Shanidar Cave, Shanidar IV, Excavations, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56  Shanidar Film #2, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 62; Shanidar Misc. Identified Prints and Negatives, Shanidar Duplicate Prints, circa 1951- circa 1960, 1968
Box 63
Box 56  Shanidar Misc. Photographs, circa 1951- circa 1960, 1966
Box 72; Shanidar Negative Numbers 1-3544, Unlabeled Negatives, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 73;
Box 74;
Box 75;
Box 76;
Box 77;
Box 78;
Box 79;
Box 80;
Box 81;
Box 82;
Box 83; Box 84
Box 63; Shanidar Negs. 3005-3554, circa 1951-circa 1960, undated
Box 84; Box 85; Box 86
Box 89 Shanidar Numbered Film, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 96 Shanidar Oversized Photographs, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56 Shanidar Photographs (Some Color), circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56 Shanidar Skeletons, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 56 UR Send to Shanidar , circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 57 Portraits of Ralph Solecki and Shanidar Cave, circa 1951- circa 1960
Box 57 Shanidar Photo and Map, circa 1951-1966
Box 57 Shanidar Photo Lists- Season I-III, 1951-1957
Box 87 Iraq- Habbaniya Camp, circa 1952
Box 57 Solecki and Shanidar Photographs, circa 1952-1976
Box 57 No. 1915 and Kurd Singing, 1952
Box 57 Ralph Solecki Iraq Kurdistan, 1952
Box 66 Album: Shanidar Cave, 1952
Box 89 Shanidar Negatives from "Alaska Negatives" , 1952, circa 1957
Box 57 Shanidar Views and Excavations, 1952, 1960, 1980
Box 67 Album: Shanidar Cave, 1952-1954
Box 57 Shanidar Cave and Zawi Chemi Views, General Studies, 1952-1973
Box 58 Shanidar Cave- Photographs, circa 1953-1959
Box 58  Shanidar Cave- Photographs- People and Places, circa 1953-1959
Box 58  Shanidar Film #4-7, 9, 11-13, 1953, 1989
Box 89  Taalo, Iraq, 1953, 1992, 2002
Box 87  Illustrations for Article, circa 1956- circa 1957, circa 1966, circa 2005
Box 59  Shanidar I Feet, circa 1956-1957
Box 59  Shanidar II, circa 1956-1957
Box 59  Shanidar I Withered Arm, circa 1956- circa 1960, 1980
Box 59  Shanidar Cave and Excavations, circa 1956-1957
Box 59  Michael Munsell Moulin, Zawi Chemi, circa 1956-1960
Box 59  Shanidar IV, circa 1956-1960
Box 98  Zawi Chemi Shanidar Oversized Photographs , circa 1956- circa 1960
Box 59  Feast in Kurdish Tent, 1956
Box 87; Box 89  Color Shanidar I, 1956-1957
Box 59  Shanidar Cave, Iraq Photographs, 1956-1957
Box 68  Album: Shanidar Season III, 1956-1957
Box 59  Shanidar I, 1956-1958
Box 59  Bordaz's Notes on Shanidar Photos, 1956-1960
Box 59  Shanidar III, 1957
Box 88  Possibly Z.C.S., circa 1960
Box 59  Shanidar 4 "Flower Burial", circa 1960
Box 89  Shanidar Cave Proto-Neolithic Cemetery - Stone Artifacts and Other Pieces from Fill Layer B, circa 1960

Box 59  Shanidar 1960 Large Negative 5x7 Artifacts Shanidar IV, Shanidar Artifacts Layer A-B Section Stratigraphy, Layer A3 Maps, Drawings, Negative 8x10, 1960

Box 59  Shanidar Cave - Proto-Neolithic Artifacts Photos - Z.C.S., 1960

Box 69  Album: Shanidar Cave Season IV, 1960

Box 70  Album: Shanidar Cave Season IV - Proto-Neolithic and Neanderthals, 1960

Box 59  T. Dale Stewart and Ibrahim as Sayhi Excavating Shanidar IV, 1960

Box 59  Reprints Shanidar, 1960-1963, 1989


Cabinet Oversized  Album: Shanidar Lithic Artifacts, Neg. No. 3493-3544, circa 1966


Box 59  Bad Shots of Shanidar Collection in Baghdad Museum , 1978

Box 89  Shanidar Cave General Info, Layer D Neanderthals, Proto-Neolithic Cemetery , 1978

Box 59  Aerial Photos Mucosin. Iraq, circa 1980-circa 1989

Box 59  Negatives of Illustrations Z.C.S., 1980

Box 59  Iraq Museum, Baghdad Fall 1988 , 1988

Box 59  Shanidar Cave Artifact Photos Identification, 1989

Box 60  Plate 20 Bone Tools from Burials 22 and 24, circa 1990- circa 2000

Box 60  Proto-Neolithic Stone Querns, circa 1990- circa 2000
Box 60  S.C. Photograph- Plate 1, circa 1990- circa 2000  
Box 60  S.C. P.N. Cemetery Burials 10, 14, 17 Cat. No. 351, 373, 376, Fig. 17, circa 1990- circa 2000  
Box 60  S.C. P.N. Cemetery Burial 11, 355 IV Plate 12 Fig. 17, circa 1990- circa 2000  
Box 60  S.C. Proto-Neolithic Cemetery Photos, circa 1990- circa 2000  
Box 60  Shanidar Cave Layer D- Photos of Artifacts, circa 1990- circa 2000  
Box 60  Smithsonian Artifacts, 1991  
Box 60  Zawi Chemi Shanidar Photo Neg. , circa 1990- circa 2000  
Box 60;  Photographs Kurdistan, Shanidar Cave, 1993 June- 1998  
Box 89  Shanidar Cave Non-Artifacts View, Locales, Etc. , 1998 June  
Box 89  Shanidar Cave Photos, circa 2017  
Box 60  Artifact No. 3461, undated  
Box 60;  Campana- Shanidar Artifacts, undated  
Box 61  Dokan Cave- 779[?], undated  
Box 61  Gundi Shkreft- Photos - Historic Site - Halfway to Shanidar Cave form Shanidar, undated  
Box 61  Marvin Kay- Shanidar Cave- Photos of Burins- Use Wear, undated  
Box 61  Plate 3- Neg. No. 2188, undated  
Box 61  Notes Accompanying Shanidar Negatives, undated  
Box 61  Shanidar Cave- Plate 2, undated  
Box 61  Shanidar Cave Sign, undated
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35mm Slides, 1950-1993

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1.8: Sound Recordings, 1971-1975

This subseries is comprised of three sound recordings dating from 1971-1975 of Ralph Solecki’s lectures and presentations regarding his book *Shanidar, The First Flower People*.

Subseries 1.8 is arranged chronologically.

Box 97
- Shanidar- The First Flower People, 1971 October 25 - 1971 November 11
  - 1 Sound tape reel (5 inch reel)
  - Broadcast on KAUM 96.5 FM: 10/25/71 Length: 6:53 Date: 11/11/71 Speed: 7.5 ips

Box 97
- Recording Tape Made by George Lloyd of Ralph S. T.V. Presentation, circa 1975
  - 2 Sound tape reels (2 inch reels)

1.9: Films, [1951-1993]

Original and duplicate print motion picture films and video transfer copies from anthropologist Ralph S. Solecki related to his archaeological field work in Iraq, Syria and Turkey from 1953-1965. These A-V materials form part of the Ralph S. Solecki papers at the National Anthropological Archives. The film footage documents several archaeological sites excavated by Dr. Solecki included the excavations at Shanidar Cave in Northern Iraq. Also include in the footage is documentation of the daily life in the area surrounding the digs and the local inhabitants hired to assist with the labor involved in the extensive excavations. Notes accompanying the film rolls identify local communities as Kurdish and Yezidi.

An item level Excel inventory created with notes on the condition of the individual rolls as well as basic technical evaluation sheets started for the technical file.

Subseries 1.9 is arranged chronologically.

More films were added to the collection with accession 2018-10 and are currently in process.
The film exhibits signs of extensive handling and considerable wear: perforation and sprocket damage, scratches, dirt, etc. The film has a slight odor of acetate deterioration; A-D strip testing did not indicate any rolls greater than "1". Judging by some of the labels and notes attached to the original film cans, some film rolls appeared switched from their designated cans most likely while at film and video labs. Dr. Solecki’s notes helped to correct this, but as stated above, some notes indicate possible additional footage currently not accounted for.

2018.3.1: IRAQ, 1951

2018.3.2: [Ralph S. Solecki Archaeological Film Ftge. of Iraq, ca. 1953], circa 1953

2018.3.4: [Ralph S. Solecki Archaeological Film Ftge. of Southern Iraq, ca. 1953], circa 1953

2018.3.5: Shanidar Excavations by Prof. Ralph S. Solecki Part 1 & 2, circa 1951- circa 1960

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Files relating to Yabroud, Syria are still in process.

Return to Table of Contents
Files relating to Nahr Ibrahim and El Masloukh, Lebanon are still in process.

Return to Table of Contents
Series 4: Other Expeditions and Projects
Files relating to other expeditions and projects are still in process.

Return to Table of Contents
Series 5: Research and Teaching Files
Research and Teaching Files are still in process.

Return to Table of Contents
Series 6: Correspondence and Administrative Files
Correspondence and Administrative files are still in process.

Return to Table of Contents
Series 7: Personal Files

Personal Files are still in process.

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