
Molly Kamph

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund

2019 August
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**Collection Overview**

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<th><strong>Repository:</strong></th>
<th>National Anthropological Archives</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
<td>Ralph S. and Rose L. Solecki papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Identifier:</strong></td>
<td>NAA.2016-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong></td>
<td>1904-2017 (bulk 1951-1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extent:</strong></td>
<td>107 Linear feet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creator:</strong></td>
<td>Solecki, Ralph S.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solecki, Rose L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language:</strong></td>
<td>Multiple languages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>October 15: Born in Brooklyn, New York, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>B.S. in Geology from City College of New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942-1945</td>
<td>Served in the United States Army during World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Started working with the Smithsonian Institution's River Basin Surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948-1949</td>
<td>Accompanied a United States Geological Survey party to the upper Kokpovruk and Kokolik rivers at the Brooks Range in northwestern Alaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>M.A. in Anthropology from Columbia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>First field season at Shanidar Cave, Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1954</td>
<td>Fulbright fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second field season at Shanidar Cave, Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shanidar Child skeleton discovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Married Rose M. Lilien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1957</td>
<td>Third field season at Shanidar Cave, Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shanidar I, II, and III skeletons discovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Appointed Associate Curator of Archaeology at the Smithsonian Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accepted post at Columbia University as Associate Professor of Anthropology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
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 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 Agelarakis

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

- Transcription of Shanidar Season II Notebooks, 1953
- Ralph Solecki- Iraq, 1953 January-June
- Ralph Solecki- Shanidar Cave- Book 2, 1953 June-August
- Shanidar I- Red Notebook, Solecki, circa 1956-1957

Box 2

- 1. Descriptions of Artifacts from Shanidar Cave (III Season)[Worked Bone]
  - 2. Descriptions of Artifacts from Shanidar Cave (III Season)[Ground and Pecked Stone]
  - 3. Descriptions of Artifacts from Zawi Chemi /Shanidar (III Season)[Worked Bone, Worked Horn]
  - 4. Description of Querns, Mortars, and Fragments from Surface of Zawi Chemi Shanidar (III Season), probably 1956-1957
- 1. Gundi Shekft Field Notebook Fall 1956 (III Season)
- 2. Descriptions of Artifacts from Shanidar Cave (III Season)[Ground and Polished Stone, Bone, Metal, Glass, etc.]
- 3. Descriptions of Artifacts from Gundi Shkeft Shanidar (III Season)
- 4. Descriptions of Late Period (Layer D) Artifacts and Marble Pendant from Zawi Chemi Shanidar (III Season), 1956
- Ralph Solecki- c/o Iraq Museum- Baghdad, Iraq, 1956 October 20-1957 March 12
- Transcription, 1956-1957

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

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Box 6  Shanidar Season III Excavation Notes, 1956-1957
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Box 6  4th Season Shanidar Artifact Records, 1960
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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.

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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)
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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
   Image(s)

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; Box 18
Shanidar Artifacts Season III, IV Plus Helen's Cards, circa 1956-1960, 1984

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

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

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B-194IV- [?], circa 1960

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Shanidar Field Notes, 1960

Box 27
Zawi Chemi Season 4 Description of Finds, 1960

Box 27

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.

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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

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<p>| 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 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Blank Season III and IV Excav. Sheets, 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Bones Distribution Season 1 and 2, 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar- Cave Grid Forms Blank, 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Cave Layer B and C, 1953, 1987 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Cave Season II Grids, 1953 |
| Box 29 | Shanidar Skeletons- Neand, 1953, 1960-1962 |
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| Box 29 | S.C. Proto-Neolithic Depths, 1955-1960 |
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| Box 30 | Shanidar Cave Season III-IV Floor Plans, circa 1956-1960 |
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<td>Shanidar I and Animal Bones, circa 1957</td>
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1.5: Correspondence and Administrative Files, 1947-2011

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1.6: Illustrations and Maps, 1951-2003

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 53  S.C.- Mainly Layer D- Illustrations- Point Pictures, 1990
Box 53  Xerox Copies- RSS Drawings, 1991
Box 53  Shanidjar Drawings Sept. 1994 Bill Dickens, 1994 September
Box 53  Shanidar Cave Proto-Neolithic Cemetery- Stone Artifacts and Other Pieces from Fill- Layer B1, 1999
Box 53  Protoneolithic Cemetery Shanidar Cave- Book Illustrations, circa 2000
Box 53  S.C. P.N. Cemetery- Figure 35- Pecked/Ground Stone Tools (Must Be Photographed), 2001
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Box 54  Kebarah Artifact Illustration Compared to Shanidar Artifacts, undated
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Box 54  
S.C. Layer B1- Illust. Various Large Stone Tools, undated

Box 54  
S.C. Pointed Tools, undated

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

Cabinet Oversized  
Shanidar and Near East Maps, undated

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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; Box 89 | Misc. Shanidar, circa 1951- circa 1960

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; Box 63 | Shanidar Misc. Identified Prints and Negatives, Shanidar Duplicate Prints, circa 1951- circa 1960, 1968

Box 56 | Shanidar Misc. Photographs, circa 1951- circa 1960, 1966

Box 72; Box 73; Box 74; Box 75; Box 76; Box 77; Box 78; Box 79; Box 80; Box 81; Box 82; | Shanidar Negative Numbers 1-3544, Unlabeled Negatives, circa 1951- circa 1960
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Box 63;  Shanidar Negs. 3005-3554, circa 1951-circa 1960, undated  
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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

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Box 60  Proto-Neolithic Stone Querns, circa 1990- circa 2000
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35mm Slides, 1950-1993

Box 91  Shanidar Numbered Slides and Misc., circa 1950-circa 1969
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Box 90  Around Lake Urmia- Rezaiyeh Iran, 1950
Box 90  High Zagros Kurdistan Iraq-Iran, 1950
Box 90  Kurdistan Iraq Expedition to Topzawa, 1950
Box 90  Kurdistan Iraq-Iran, 1950
Box 92  Shanidar Cave 1-12, circa 1951-1960
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Box 90  Shanidar Cave and Valley, 1956-1957
Box 95  Shanidar 2, circa 1956- circa 1957
Box 95  Proto-neolithic Burials, 1957-1960
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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Research and Teaching Files are still in process.

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Correspondence and Administrative files are still in process.

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