



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Cherry Lowman papers

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Field notes and research data	4
Series 2: Correspondence	8
Series 3: Photographs	9
Series 4: Artwork	11

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Cherry Lowman papers
Date:	1962-2008 (bulk 1962-1980)
Identifier:	NAA.2022-06
Creator:	Lowman, Cherry Vayda, Andrew Peter (1931)
Extent:	7.5 Linear feet (15 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Cherry Lowman was an anthropologist and health science administrator whose ethnographic studies focused on the cultural ecology of the Maring people of highlands Papua New Guinea. Her papers contain fieldnotes and research data, correspondence, photographs, and artworks by Maring men and women.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Andi Vayda, Cherry Lowman's daughter, in 2021.

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives/Human Studies Film Archives holds the films of Alison and Marek Jablonko from the Columbia University Expedition fieldwork.

The National Anthropological Archives holds the papers of Andrew P. Vayda.

The papers of Roy A. Rappaport relating to the Papua New Guinea fieldwork are held at the Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Processing Information

The collection came to the archives in a fairly disorganized state. While the archivist maintained what apparent original order existed, there were cases where a lack of order prompted the archivist to impose an arrangement. Many of the files were not labeled so it was not always easy to make a positive identification on what an item might be, which led to generalized descriptions in the finding aid such as "research notes and data." Those wishing to consult the papers may be advised to review the entire "Field notes and research data" series as there is overlap of topics and chronology in many of those files.

Photographs are not annotated with identifications. Rather, the negative rolls are numbered and those numbers can be matched to the "Pentax chronological log" sheets that contain the descriptions. Many of the film rolls were at least contact printed, but there are many negatives for which there are no prints.

Preferred Citation

Cherry Lowman papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Cherry Lowman papers are open for research. Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Cherry Lowman was an anthropologist and health science administrator whose ethnographic studies focused on the cultural ecology of the Maring people of highlands Papua New Guinea.

Lowman was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on September 19, 1934. She attended Russell Sage College, University of Louisville, and received her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Columbia University in 1959. She then became a graduate student in anthropology at Columbia, and in 1962, she joined the two-year "Columbia University Expedition" to the Maring communities of western highlands Papua New Guinea, a National Science Foundation-funded research project to investigate the cultural ecology of the Maring people in the Simbai Valley of the Bismarck Mountains. Andrew P. "Pete" Vayda (to whom Lowman was married at the time) was principal investigator. The research team included Lowman and Vayda, Ann and Roy "Skip" Rappaport, and Allison and Marek Jablonko. The research pairs lived in different villages but communicated frequently. Lowman and Vayda were situated primarily in Gunts, in the Simbai Valley.

Once there, Lowman gave particular attention to collecting data on the role of women in subsistence, the care and development of children under five, cultural conceptions of and responses to disease, and the use and management of both wild and domesticated resources. With Vayda, she conducted surveys on health and marriage practices and other demographic points which continued during Lowman and Vayda's return trip in 1966. This second research trip brought Lowman and Vayda and their daughter Andi to the the Jimi Valley, where they collected systematic interview data on household histories of illness and its treatment and collaborated with Anglican Mission health providers to conduct health surveys in adjacent Jimi Valley communities. On both research trips Lowman also studied the interrelations of Maring art and war as expressed in shield designs.

The two related field experiences produced a wealth of data that Lowman continued to analyze and work with through her master's degree (Columbia, 1976), and culminating with her doctoral dissertation (Columbia, 1980), "Environment, Society and Health: Ecological Bases of Community Growth and Decline in the Maring Region of Papua New Guinea." In it, Lowman developed a model to explain the influence of interdependent regional-level environmental processes, health patterns, and social practices on the growth and decline of local communities.

In 1979, Lowman moved from New York to the Washington DC area to work as a health science administrator at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), a division of the National Institutes of Health. There, she administered grants, coordinated health services research, and published widely on alcoholism issues in adolescents. Lowman worked for NIAAA until her retirement in 2014. Lowman died on November 22, 2019, in Ithaca, New York.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Cherry Lowman primarily concern her ethnographic fieldwork in Papua New Guinea in the 1960s, and subsequent follow up studies based on data collected at that time. Lowman's work for NIAAA is not represented in the papers. It should be noted that there is a great deal of related and overlapping material on the Papua New

Guinea research between Lowman's papers and the papers of Andrew P. Vayda, so researchers are encouraged to consult both collections on the topic.

The largest series - Series 1: Field notes and research data - contains field notes from the 1962-1963 and 1966 field work as well as research notes and data files from subsequent analyses and studies. There are some handwritten field notes but the majority are typed. Field notes are arranged chronologically and also by subject, but many related notes are found in separate locations from each other, for instance there may be notes on a particular topic filed by subject, but related notes may be found in the field notes organized chronologically as well. This series also includes a number of paper drafts, as well as Lowman's doctoral dissertation.

Series 2: Correspondence contains only a few files, but includes significant correspondence with Ann and Roy Rappaport and Georgeda Buchbinder.

Series 3: Photographs contains photographs made primarily on the first research trip and include negatives, contact sheets and prints, with associated typed photo logs. Photographs document Maring people, activities, and events. It should be noted that not all of the negatives have corresponding prints.

Series 4: Artwork consists of drawings and paintings made by Maring men and women.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series:

- Series 1: Field notes and research data
- Series 2: Correspondence
- Series 3: Photographs
- Series 4: Artwork

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Ethnology -- Papua New Guinea
Maring (Papua New Guinean people)

Cultures:

Maring (Papua New Guinean people)

Names:

Rappaport, Roy A.

Places:

Papua New Guinea

Container Listing

Series 1: Field notes and research data

Scope and Contents: Series 1: Field notes and research data comprises the largest series in the collection and contains field notes filed chronologically and by subject from Lowman's 1962-1963 and 1966 field research as well as subsequent data analyses. Included are six field notebooks, but most of the field notes are typed. Many related notes are found in separate locations from each other. For instance, there may be notes on a particular topic filed by subject, but related notes may be found in the field notes organized chronologically as well.

In addition to field notes, there are files containing research notes, data, and reports relating to marriage and health surveys from the 1962-1963 and 1966 field research, follow up studies, and related writings. Included are several papers and talks given, and also Lowman's doctoral dissertation, which is a culmination of the field research and analysis.

Box 1, Folder 1	Field notes - notebooks, 1962-1963
Box 1, Folder 2	Field notes, September-November 1962
Box 1, Folder 3	Field notes, December 1962
Box 1, Folder 4	Field notes, January 1963
Box 1, Folder 5	Field notes, February 1963
Box 1, Folder 6	Field notes, March-May 1963
Box 1, Folder 7	Field notes and photo logs, June 1963 Notes: Photo logs are mostly carbon copies, originals may be in Series 3 as "Pentax - chronological log" files.
Box 1, Folder 8	Field notes and photo logs, July 1963 Notes: Photo logs are mostly carbon copies, originals may be in Series 3 as "Pentax - chronological log" files.
Box 1, Folder 9	Field notes and photo logs, August 1963 Notes: Photo logs are mostly carbon copies, originals may be in Series 3 as "Pentax - chronological log" files.
Box 1, Folder 10	Field notes and photo logs, September 1963 Notes: Photo logs are mostly carbon copies, originals may be in Series 3 as "Pentax - chronological log" files.
Box 1, Folder 11	Field notes, October 1963
Box 1, Folder 12	Field notes, November 1963

Box 2, Folder 1	Field notes - Maring courts, 1963
Box 2, Folder 2	Field notes - Maring growth [gardens and horticulture], 1962-1963
Box 2, Folder 3	Field notes - gardens, 1962-1963
Box 2, Folder 4	Field notes - Gunts/Fungai history, 1962-1963
Box 2, Folder 5	Field notes - Maring Kinesiology, 1963
Box 2, Folder 6	Field notes - Maring medical, 1962-1963, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Field notes - Maring ritual, 1963, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Field notes - Maring pigs, 1963
Box 2, Folder 9	Field notes - Maring perception, 1963, undated
Box 2, Folder 10-11	Field notes - Maring vocabulary (2 folders), 1962-1963, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Notes on tape recordings, 1963
Box 3, Folder 1	Basic data sheets - APV [A.P. Vayda] survey, 1963
Box 3, Folder 2	Field notes - notebooks, 1966
Box 3, Folder 3	Field notes - diary, 1966
Box 3, Folder 4	Field notes, 1966-1967
Box 6	Field notes - note cards indexed by subject, 1963-1966
Box 3, Folder 5	Field notes and data - marriage and exchange, 1966
Box 3, Folder 6	Field notes - pig killing, 1966
Box 3, Folder 7	Field notes - Kauwatyi , 1966
Box 3, Folder 8	Maring songs, 1966
Box 3, Folder 9	Field notes - miscellaneous, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Marriage survey - notes and data, 1963, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Interview schedules [marriage, pig killing, and other survey questions], 1966
Box 3, Folder 12	Marriage survey - notes and tables, 1966-1976, undated

Box 3, Folder 13	Marriage [and possibly other] survey, 1966
Box 3, Folder 14	Marriage survey - notes and data, 1974-1977
Box 3, Folder 15-16	NSF final report drafts - marriage survey (2 folders), 1977
Box 4, Folder 1	Pan-Maring survey - notes and data, 1963
Box 4, Folder 2	Pan-Maring survey - notes and data, 1963-1974, undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Pan-Maring survey - Maring local groups, 1963-1983
Box 4, Folder 4	Village population registers, 1961-1966
Box 4, Folder 5	Census - basic data sheets , 1966
Box 4, Folder 6	Maring health survey, 1966-1976
Box 4, Folder 7	Maring surveys - notes and data, NSF final report draft, 1972-1977, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Kauwatyi residential groups, 1974
Box 4, Folder 9	Population pyramids - health survey, 1974, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Maring nutritional status, 1975-1978
Box 4, Folder 11	Maring surveys local group tables and notes, 1975-1977
Box 4, Folder 12	Kinship notes, undated
Box 4, Folder 13	Goiter - notes and data, 1978-1986
Box 5, Folder 1	Maring code design, 1973-1974
Box 5, Folder 2-6	Notes and data (5 folders), 1966-1977, undated
Box 5, Folder 7	Notes - miscellaneous, 1966-1972, undated
Box 5, Folder 8	Maps, 1966, undated
Box 5, Folder 9-10	Writings - papers and drafts (2 folders), 1972-1982, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Paper draft - "Cultural Behavior, Environmental Management, and Individual Adaptation in the Maring Region of Papua New Guinea" with handwritten notes by Alexander Alland and Roy Rappaport, and letter from Rappaport, 1975-1976
Box 7, Folder 1	Dissertation proposal and outline, 1976

Box 7, Folder 2	Dissertation appendices, 1966-1978
Box 7, Folder 3	Dissertation notes, 1971-1977, undated
Box 7, Folder 4-7	Dissertation - "Environment, Society, and Health: Ecological Bases of Community Growth and Decline in the Marin Region of Papua New Guinea" (4 folders), 1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence

Scope and Contents: Series 2: Correspondence contains only a few files. Of note is a large file of correspondence with Ann and Roy "Skip" Rappaport primarily from the 1962-1963 Columbia University Expedition fieldwork which discusses the research at hand but also illuminates issues around doing ethnographic fieldwork.

Box 7, Folder 8	Correspondence [and research notes] - Georgeda Buchbinder, 1966-1975
Box 7, Folder 9	Correspondence - Ann and Roy "Skip" Rappaport, 1962-1963
Box 7, Folder 10	Correspondence - various, 2007-2008, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Photographs

Scope and Contents: Series 3: Photographs contains mostly black and white photographs from the 1962-1963 Columbia University Expedition and document people, activities and events, and general area in which fieldwork was undertaken. There are also some photographs made during Lowman's 1966 fieldwork. Materials consist of negatives, contact sheets, and some prints and enlargements. Photo identifications may be found in the photographic logs ("Pentax - chronological logs"); these map to the numbering schema given to the film rolls. Many of these log sheets contain general field notes as well. It should be noted that not all of the film rolls were printed.

The series also contains photos and text for a proposed exhibit on bilums (string bags) and Maring women titled "The Life Cycle of the Bilum." There is also a set of slides with tables and other data graphs, probably related to Lowman's dissertation.

Box 8, Folder 1-2	Pentax - chronological logs (2 folders), 1962-1963
Box 8, Folder 3-5	Prints and text for "The Lifecycle of the Bilum" proposed exhibit (3 folders), 1968
Box 8, Folder 6	Slides showing research data, undated
Box 8, Folder 7	Enlarged prints of selected photographs, undated
Box 9, Folder 1	Contact sheets for rolls V-A1 to V-A20, circa 1963
Box 9, Folder 2	Contact sheets for rolls B1 to B11 and G1 to G10, circa 1963
Box 9, Folder 3	Contact sheets for rolls B13 to B19 and G12 to G18, circa 1963
Box 9, Folder 4	Contact sheets for rolls D1 to D20, circa 1963
Box 9, Folder 5	Contact sheets for rolls F1 to F20, circa 1963
Box 9, Folder 6	Contact sheets for rolls G, I, K, 1963
Box 9, Folder 7	Contact sheets relating to Kompiai, Bokpai, Tswenkai, 1966
Box 9, Folder 8	Contact sheets - various including Vayda, CV, APV, Film A and B rolls, ca 1963
Box 10	Photographic prints sorted by roll number, circa 1963
Box 10	Photographic prints - miscellaneous, undated
Box 11	Negatives - A, B, C rolls, circa 1963
Box 12	Negatives - D, F, G rolls, circa 1963
Box 13	Negatives - H, K, I rolls, circa 1963

Box 14

Negatives for rolls HON-1, NOKO 1-16, KO, Bok, Tswen, and miscellaneous or unidentified, circa 1963

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Artwork

Scope and Contents: Series 4: Artwork contains drawings and paintings relating to shield designs by Maring men and women. Some of the works have notes indicating the artist, but there is little other information accompanying the material.

Box 15 Drawings and paintings by Maring men and women (6 folders), circa 1963

[Return to Table of Contents](#)