



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

MS 4851 Frank Harold Hanna
Roberts, Jr., papers and photographs

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 4851 Frank Harold Hanna Roberts, Jr., papers and photographs
Identifier:	NAA.MS4851
Date:	undated
Extent:	1 Item (Papers : 5.4 linear feet (16 boxes) 1 Item (Photographs : ca 3100 prints and negatives) 1 Item (Maps and illustrations)
Creator:	Roberts, Frank H. H. (Frank Harold Hanna), 1897-1966 Allyn, Harriet M. Antevs, Ernst V. Baker, Frank C. Chaney, Ralph W. Eiseley, Loren C., 1907-1977 Figgins, J.D. Gazin, C. Lewis (Charles Lewis), 1904-1996 Guthe, Carl E. (Carl Eugen), 1893-1974 Hall, Marion Harcus, John Haury, Emil W. (Emil Walter), 1904-1992 Hitchcock, Virginia Beth Hooton, Earnest Albert, 1887-1954 Howard, Edgar B. Hrdlička, Aleš, 1869-1943 Judd, Neil Merton, 1887-1976 Judson, Sheldon Kellogg, A. Remington Krieger, Alex D. (Alex Dony), 1911-1991 Leonard, Jane McCarty, Oscar Miller, Carl F. Moomaw, Jack C. Ray, Cyrus N. Reiter, Paul David Richards, Horace G. Shapiro, Harry L. (Harry Lionel), 1902-1990 Shepard, Anna O. Van Devanter, D.W. Van Riet, Clarence Wheat, Joe Ben Woodbury, George Judd, Neil Merton, 1887-1976 Anderson, Jack C. Baby, Raymond S. Atkins, Ruth Deacon, John C. Greenwood, Walter B.

Hill, Ernest H. Jr
Kyte, Dorothy
Leonard, Jane
Morgan, Dorothy
Smith, George Hubert
Stern, Theodore, 1917-
Stewart, T. D. (Thomas Dale), 1901-1997
United States. Federal Civil Works Administration

Language: Undetermined .

Digital Content: [Digital Content: Frank Harold Hanna Roberts, Jr., papers and photographs](#)

Administrative Information

Citation

MS 4851, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The photographic negatives are in special storage and require advance notice to view.

Biographical / Historical

Frank H.H. Roberts, Jr. studied history and English at the University of Denver and after receiving his B.A. worked briefly as a journalist. Entering graduate school at Denver he was influenced by Etienne Bernadeau Renaud and, later, Jean Allard Jeacon. Although his studies toward a master's degree were in political science, he carried out archeological work among ruins in the Piedra-Pagosa region of the San Juan River valley in southwestern Colorado and became an instructor in archeology at the University of Denver. In 1923, he became an assistant curator at the Colorado State Museum.

Biographical / Historical

Robert's formal training in archeology came through subsequent studies at Harvard University, where he received a Ph.D. in 1927. While a student, he worked during the summers of 1925 and 1926 for Neil Merton Judd on expeditions to Chaco Canyon. Judd offered him the opportunity to study pottery sequences, expanding upon work already carried out successfully for the Piedra region. From his work under Judd, Roberts produced his dissertation. The work also led to a permanent appointment as an archeologist with the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology in 1926.

Biographical / Historical

For some time after this, Roberts continued to work primarily among ruins in the Southwest. In 1927, he conducted excavations at Shabik'esche Village in Chaco Canyon and carried on excavations at Kiathuthlunna on the Long H Ranch in eastern Arizona. In 1930, he excavated in the Village of the Great Kivas on the Zuni reservation and, in 1931-1933, worked along the Whitewater River in eastern Arizona and at a site near Allantown, Arizona. For the University of New Mexico Field School in 1940-1941, Roberts directed expeditions to the Bc-53 site in Chaco Canyon.

Biographical / Historical

Throughout this work Roberts's primary interest was "the early structure and sequences of Southwestern culture." This led to Roberts's ultimate interest in the problem of early man in America. He was asked to inspect the discoveries at the original Fosom site in 1927, and over time became convinced of an error in contemporary thinking about the relatively recent arrival of humans in the New World. He was increasingly drawn to study the problem and particularly after 1933, devoted most of his field work to it. Between 1934 and 1940, he worked at Lindenmeier, a Folsom campsite in northern Colorado. In 1941, he excavated the Mons site near the Peaks of Otter in Virginia, though failing to find expected remains of early man. In the same year, he worked at a Folsom site at San Jon, New Mexico, and, in 1942, another Folsom site in the Agate Basin in Wyoming. In 1943--again in connection with this interest in early man--he carried out a reconnaissance of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River in Texas. In addition, Roberts inspected other sites in Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Saskatchewan.

Biographical / Historical

Roberts also worked briefly with other interests. In 1932, he served as an advisor to the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C., in its excavation at Chichen Itza and Uxmal in the Yucatan. In 1933-1934, he conducted a Civil Works Administration expedition to excavate mounds in the Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee. In 1956-1960, he was on the advisory council for the National Park Service's Wetherill Mesa Project.

Biographical / Historical

In the administration of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Roberts became the assistant chief under Matthew Williams Stirling in 1944. In 1946, he became, in addition, the director of the BAE's River Basin Surveys, a salvage archeological program concerned with areas where the federal government was planning dams and reservoirs. In 1947, he became the associate director of the BAE and, in 1958, its director. In addition to these duties and his scientific work, Roberts served as American representative to the League of Nations' International Conference of Archeologists at Cairo in 1937 and as representative on the International Commission for Sites and Monuments in 1939-1942. During World War II, he was involved with the Ethnogeographic Board, an organization that provided liaison between federal war agencies and the scientific community. For the board, Roberts prepared a survival manual and a volume on Egypt and the Suez Canal that was issued as one of the Smithsonian's War Background Studies. For several years later in his life, Roberts was also on the National Council for Historical Sites and Buildings. He also served the Smithsonian on committees concerned primarily with personnel.

Biographical / Historical

Outside official duties, Roberts represented the American Anthropological Association on the National Research Council in 1935-1949. In 1936, he was president of the Anthropological Society of Washington and, in 1944, vice president of the AAA. In 1949, he became president of the Washington Academy of Sciences. A founding member of the Society for American Archaeology and a member of the committee that drafts its constitution and bylaws, Roberts served that organization as president in 1950. In 1952, he became a vice president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Scope and Contents

This collection of Rober's papers and photographs is almost exclusively concerned with his scientific fieldwork and resulting publications. It is not complete; for example, there is little in the photographs concerning his work at Agate Basin in Wyoming (though some related site forms are part of the records of the River Basin Surveys). Apparently, some of the series that form the records of the RBS began as Roberts's own files and were simply continued once his interest turned to the administration of the RBS. For instance, there is correspondence concerning Robert's work in New Mexico among the RBS correspondence series. The file of correspondence in manuscript 4851 is a miscellany with few letters from any one correspondent.

Local Numbers

MS 4851

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Clear Fork site, Texas -- Archeology
- Early man -- in America
- Kiathuthlanna, Arizona -- Archeology
- Lindenmeier site, Colorado -- Archeology
- Pagosa Springs, Colorado -- archeolgoy
- Peaks of Otter -- Virginia -- Archeology
- Piedra District, Colorado -- Archeology
- San Jon, New Mexico -- Archeology
- Shiloh Mound, Tennessee -- Archeology
- Shiloh National Military Park
- Texas -- Archeology
- Village of the Great Kivas, New Mexico -- Archeology
- Virginia -- Archeology
- Whitewater District, Arizona -- Archeology
- Wyoming -- Archeology

Geographic Names:

Agate Basin, Wyoming -- Archeology
Arizona -- Archeology
Bc53, Chaco Canyon, New Mexico -- Archeology
Chaco Canyon (N.M.) -- Archeology
Colorado -- Archeology
New Mexico -- Archeology
United States -- Archeology

Container Listing

Zuni Workmen

1 Photograph (003 in x 005 in)

Roberts, Frank H. H. (Frank Harold Hanna), 1897-1966

Undetermined.

Eight men standing in western dress, six with type of headdress, not feathers, two with western hats. One holding what looks like a bow. Village of the Great Kivas, New Mexico.

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Local Numbers

NAA INV 10000220

NAA MS 4851

OPPS NEG 79-11638

Local Note

Black and white photoprint

Place

New Mexico Zuni Pueblo

Genre/Form: Photographs

Culture: A:shiwi (Zuni)
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New

Petroglyphs

1 Photograph (003 in x 005 in)

Roberts, Frank H. H. (Frank Harold Hanna), 1897-1966

Undetermined.

Pictographs of animals and other items on rock. To the left are the words "Bob Hudson"; to the right is a feathered headdress. Village of the Great Kivas, New Mexico.

Frank Harold Hanna Roberts Colln Smithsonian Institution National
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Local Numbers

NAA INV 10000221

NAA MS 4851

OPPS NEG 79-11643

Local Note

Black and white photoprint

Place

New Mexico Zuni Pueblo

Genre/Form: Photographs

Culture: A:shiwi (Zuni)
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New