Frederick M. Bayer photographs from the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia survey of Ifalik Atoll, 1953

Gina Rappaport

2009
# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Biographical/Historical note .............................................................................................. 2
Arrangement note ............................................................................................................ 2
Scope and Contents ........................................................................................................ 2
Geographical Note ........................................................................................................... 3
Names and Subjects ...................................................................................................... 3
Container Listing ............................................................................................................. 4
    Series 1: People and marine life on Ifalik Atoll ........................................................ 4
    Series 2: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll ............................................................... 8
Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives

Title: Frederick M. Bayer photographs from the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia survey of Ifalik Atoll

Identifier: NAA.PhotoLot.2008-20

Date: 1953

Extent: 159 Photographic prints (silver gelatin)
122 Negatives (acetate)
0.58 Linear feet

Creator: United States. Navy
Bayer, Frederick M.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Frederick M. Bayer donated the photographs, along with a collection of artifacts from Ifalik Atoll to the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, in 2003. The photographs were transferred to the archives in 2008.

Separated Materials Note

The 8 artifacts purchased by Bayer while on Ifalik Atoll form accession no. 2028523 in the Department of Anthropology's ethnology collections at the National Museum of Natural History. The accession includes a conch shell used for signaling, grass skirts, fishhooks, and baskets.

Related Materials Note

The Joshua Irving Tracey Jr. papers, accession no. 02-021, in the Smithsonian Institution Archives contains materials relating to the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia, including field notes and photographs from the 1953 survey of Ifalik Atoll.

The Smithsonian Institution Archives also holds records pertaining to Bayer's work as a curator in the National Museum of Natural History.

Processing Information

Collection and image descriptions provided in this finding aid were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material (i.e. documents, publications, and websites), and subject matter experts. While every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is understood that errors may reveal themselves following review by other subject experts, and new information is welcome.
Processing

Not all of the negatives have associated prints. The collection does not include the negatives for the aerial photographs. The collection was processed by Gina Rappaport, 2009.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 2008-20, Frederick M. Bayer photographs from the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia survey of Ifalik Atoll, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Frederick M. Bayer (1921-2007) was a research zoologist who specialized in the study of Octocorallia (soft corals). He worked at the Smithsonian Institution from 1947-1961 and 1975-1996, and taught at the School of Marine Science at the University of Miami in the interim years. The Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History hired Bayer as a curator in 1947 and immediately sent him to survey marine fauna at the Bikini Atoll. In 1950 the Office of Naval Research sponsored the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia (SIM), a program administered through the Pacific Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Bayer was a member of the SIM team that surveyed the Ifalik Atoll in 1953. [1]


Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 122 photographs of people and marine life made by Bayer while on the SIM survey of Ifalik Atoll in 1953, as well as 68 aerial photographs of the Atoll. The aerial photographs are stamped on verso as official Navy photographs. Bayer's marine life photographs include underwater images of coral, fish, crustaceans, and other invertebrates. Photographs of Ifalik Atoll inhabitants include images of the Atoll's chiefs, as well as a gathering to welcome for visitors from Woleai, and women performing a dance for the Woleai visitors. Several images show the Fan Nap, or public assembly house, and outrigger canoes. SIM team members, including ocean geologist Joshua I. Tracey, and their local assistants, are shown surveying the area and collecting specimens. Included is Bayer's photograph log, which lists the date the photograph was made, its subject, sometimes the time of day, and the camera settings used.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into 2 series: 1) The people and marine life on Ifalik Atoll, 2) Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll.
Bayer's photographs are numbered according to Bayer's numbering schema, which is [film roll number.item number]. The aerial photographs are numbered according to the Naval photographer's numbering schema.

Geographical Note

Ifalik Atoll is comprised of several small islets: Falarik, Falalap, Ella, and Elangalap. The atoll forms part of the Caroline Islands archipelago in Yap County of Micronesia.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Alcyonaria
- Crustacea

Types of Materials:
- Aerial Photographs
- Photographs -- Black-and-white negatives -- 20th century
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- 1940-2000

Names:
- Tracey, Joshua I. (Joshua Irving), 1915-

Geographic Names:
- Caroline Islands -- Social life and customs
- Ifalik Atoll (Micronesia)
Container Listing

Series 1: People and marine life on Ifalik Atoll

Box 1
Bayer's photograph log

Box 1, Folder 1;
B1.1-B1.2: SIM researcher Joshua Tracey working at plane table with Ifalik islander assistants looking on

Box N1
B1.3: SIM ocean geologist Joshua Tracey and Ifalik high chief Fagolier looking at plane table

Box 1, Folder 1;
B1.4-B1.12: Reef views under water of coral and other marine life

Box N1;
B2.1-B2.9: Reef views under water of coral and other marine life

Box 1, Folder 2
B2.10: A-frame structure made of wooden poles and woven grasses used for public assembly called the "Fan Nap" or "Big House." (See Burrows, Edwin G. "From Value to Ethos on Ifaluk Atoll," Southwestern Journal of Anthropology, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring, 1952).

Box N1
B2.11: SIM outdoor work area under tent behind Fan Nap

Box 1, Folder 2;
B2.12: SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants performing survey work

Box N1
B3.1: Shore of Falarik Island, Ifalik Atoll

Box N1
B3.2: Shallow water "poison station" for collecting marine specimens
A "poison station" typically uses Rotenone to enable collection of specimens; a small amount is released into a shallow pool which sedates or kills the marine life.

Box N1;
B3.3-5: Men collecting marine specimens in shallow water "poison stations"

Box 1, Folder 4
B3.6-7: SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants at camp with collected specimens

Box N1
B3.8-9: Men at lake on Ella Islet
B3.10: SIM researcher Ted Arnow at lake on Ella Islet

B3.11-12: SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants having lunch at lake on Ella Islet

B4.1-5: Bivalve, "Sample no. 40"

B4.6: Ifalik Atoll man Gavilesei

B4.7: Ifalik Atoll children near beach beneath palm trees

B4.9: Spotted shrimp

B4.11: Snapping shrimp and Trapezia crab

B4.14: Ifalik Atoll man Wetrilliar

B5.1-2: Ifalik Atoll boy on lagoon reef at low tide

B5.3: Ifalik Atoll lagoon reef at low tide

B5.4: SIM researcher and Ifalik Atoll boy at lagoon

B5.5: Ifalik Atoll lagoon with small boat at right

B5.6-7: Outer reef of Falarik Islet

B5.8: Ella Islet

B5.9: Men and canoes in water with Elangelap Islet in background
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N1;</td>
<td>B5.10-11: Canoes in lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B5.12: Ifalik Atoll man &quot;Tom&quot; in small outrigger canoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B6.1: Ifalik Atoll boys with dead monitor lizard</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 6;</td>
<td>B6.2-4: Ifalik Atoll Second Chief Maroligar wearing feathered headdress and other decoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B6.5-12: Underwater views of coral reef</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 6;</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B7.1-11: Canoes from Woleai arriving at Ifalik Atoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 7;</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B7.12-B8.1: Woleai visitors on Ifalik Atoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1;</td>
<td>B8.2-4: Woleai chiefs and palus (navigators) on Ifalik Atoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1;</td>
<td>B8.5-12: Woleai canoes on shore of Ifalik Atoll, showing canoe structure and rigging</td>
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<td>1, Folder 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1;</td>
<td>B9.1-8: Ifalik Atoll women and girls performing dance for Woleai visitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1;</td>
<td>B9.9-10: Son of Tom with wife and children</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1;</td>
<td>B9.11-12: Tom with son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B10.1-2: Ifalik Atoll men writing letters prior to departure of SIM researchers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 10;</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B10.3: Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 10;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B10.4: Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier and boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 10;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N1</td>
<td>B10.5: Ifalik Atoll fifth chief Wolpaitik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 10
Box N1; B10.6: Ifalik Atoll third chief Toroman
Box 1, Folder 10
Box N1; B10.7: Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier, third chief Toroman, and Awelligar
Box 1, Folder 10
Box N1; B10.8: Ifalik Atoll third chief Toroman and fifth chief Wolpaitik
Box 1, Folder 10
Box N1; B10.9-10: Ifalik Atoll fifth chief Wolpaitik and Maroligar
Box 1, Folder 10; B10.11: Ifalik Atoll men Mangyan and Wetrillar and boy
Box N1
Box 1, Folder 10; B10.12: Ifalik Atoll man Maroligar laying across lap of third chief Toroman in "death scene"
Box N1
Box N1; B11.1-4: Views of village or buildings at edge of bay with hills or mountains in background. Not Ifalik Atoll

Return to Table of Contents
Series 2: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll

These aerial photographs were made on April 23, 1953, and cover the four islets that comprise Ifalik Atoll. In addition to showing the reefs and lagoon of the atoll, dwellings and cultivated land can be seen on the larger islets.

All photographs in this series are stamped on verso "VU-5 Photographic Laboratory, U.S. Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam," and "Official Photograph, not to be used for publication by order of the Chief of Naval Operations." Items USNB1-34 have the additional stamp "Restricted security information."

Box 1, Folder 11    A66-79: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
Box 1, Folder 12    A80, 83-89: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
Box 1, Folder 13    A90-95, 97-101: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
Box 1, Folder 14    USNB1-10: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
Box 1, Folder 15    USNB11-20: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
Box 1, Folder 16    USNB21-34: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll

Return to Table of Contents