



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

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

Gina Rappaport

2009

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Frederick M. Bayer photographs from the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia survey of Ifalik Atoll
Date:	1953
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.2008-20
Creator:	United States. Navy Bayer, Frederick M.
Extent:	159 Photographic prints (silver gelatin) 122 Negatives (acetate) 0.58 Linear feet
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 Octocorillia (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]

[1] Bayer, Frederick M. *Atoll Research Bulletin* no. 494, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC: 2001.

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., Jr., 1915-2004

Places:

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; Box N1	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; Box N1	B1.4-B1.12: Reef views under water of coral and other marine life
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 2	B2.1-B2.9: Reef views under water of coral and other marine life
Box N1; 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," <i>Southwestern Journal of Anthropology</i> , Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring, 1952).
Box N1	B2.11: SIM outdoor work area under tent behind Fan Nap
Box 1, Folder 2; Box N1	B2.12: SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants performing survey work
Box 1, Folder 3; Box N1	B3.1: Shore of Falarik Island, Ifalik Atoll
Box N1	B3.2: Shallow water "poison station" for collecting marine specimens Notes: 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; Box 1, Folder 4	B3.3-5: Men collecting marine specimens in shallow water "poison stations"
Box N1; 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

Box N1; Box 1, Folder 4	B3.10: SIM researcher Ted Arnow at lake on Ella Islet
Box 1, Folder 4; Box N1	B3.11-12: SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants having lunch at lake on Ella Islet
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 4	B4.1-5: Bivalve, "Sample no. 40"
Box 1, Folder 4; Box N1	B4.6: Ifalik Atoll man Gavilesei
Box 1, Folder 4; Box N1	B4.7: Ifalik Atoll children near beach beneath palm trees
Box 1, Folder 4; Box N1	B4.9: Spotted shrimp
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 4	B4.11: Snapping shrimp and Trapezia crab
Box 1, Folder 4; Box N1	B4.14: Ifalik Atoll man Wetrilliar
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.1-2: Ifalik Atoll boy on lagoon reef at low tide
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.3: Ifalik Atoll lagoon reef at low tide
Box N1	B5.4: SIM researcher and Ifalik Atoll boy at lagoon
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.5: Ifalik Atoll lagoon with small boat at right
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.6-7: Outer reef of Falarik Islet
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.8: Ella Islet
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.9: Men and canoes in water with Elangelap Islet in background

Box N1; Box 1, Folder 5	B5.10-11: Canoes in lagoon
Box N1	B5.12: Ifalik Atoll man "Tom" in small outrigger canoe
Box N1	B6.1: Ifalik Atoll boys with dead monitor lizard
Box 1, Folder 6; Box N1	B6.2-4: Ifalik Atoll Second Chief Maroligar wearing feathered headdress and other decoration
Box 1, Folder 6; Box N1	B6.5-12: Underwater views of coral reef
Box 1, Folder 7; Box N1	B7.1-11: Canoes from Woleai arriving at Ifalik Atoll
Box 1, Folder 7; Box N1	B7.12-B8.1: Woleai visitors on Ifalik Atoll
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 8	B8.2-4: Woleai chiefs and palus (navigators) on Ifalik Atoll
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 8	B8.5-12: Woleai canoes on shore of Ifalik Atoll, showing canoe structure and rigging
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 9	B9.1-8: Ifalik Atoll women and girls performing dance for Woleai visitors
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 9	B9.9-10: Son of Tom with wife and children
Box 1, Folder 9; Box N1	B9.11-12: Tom with son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren
Box 1, Folder 10; Box N1	B10.1-2: Ifalik Atoll men writing letters prior to departure of SIM researchers
Box 1, Folder 10; Box N1	B10.3: Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier
Box 1, Folder 10; Box N1	B10.4: Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier and boy
Box N1	B10.5: Ifalik Atoll fifth chief Wolpaitik

Box N1; Box 1, Folder 10	B10.6: Ifalik Atoll third chief Toroman
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 10	B10.7: Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier, third chief Toroman, and Awelligar
Box N1; Box 1, Folder 10	B10.8: Ifalik Atoll third chief Toroman and fifth chief Wolpaitik
Box N1	B10.9-10: Ifalik Atoll fifth chief Wolpaitik and Maroligar
Box 1, Folder 10; Box N1	B10.11: Ifalik Atoll men Mangyan and Wetrillar and boy
Box 1, Folder 10; Box N1	B10.12: Ifalik Atoll man Maroligar laying across lap of third chief Toroman in "death scene"
Box N1	B11.1-4: Views of village or buildings at edge of bay with hills or mountains in background. Not Ifalik Atoll

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Series 2: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll

Scope and Contents: 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

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