



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Leonard Mason papers, 1938-1943

Lea Sellon

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National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Leonard Mason papers
Date:	1938-1943
Identifier:	NAA.XXXX.0207
Creator:	Mason, Leonard, 1913-2005
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Leonard Mason papers mainly include material on the Swampy Cree and the Dunne-za (Beaver) from Mason's early anthropological research. Mason's research during the late 1930s to early 1940s among these communities is primarily focused on acculturation and material culture, but also includes a thorough bibliography of research on Swampy Cree culture. This collection consists of prints, slides, negatives, fieldnotes, manuscripts, receipts, and correspondence.

Administrative Information

Processing Information

Original nitrate negatives are not available. Copy negatives are available for viewing.

Preferred Citation

Leonard Mason papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Leonard Mason papers are open for research.

Access to the Leonard Mason papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical

Leonard Edward Mason (1913-2005) was an anthropologist who was active from the mid to late 20th century, best known for his research among the Swampy Cree and the peoples of Micronesia. Mason received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1935 and 1941 respectively. During his time at the University of Minnesota, Mason researched the Swampy Cree at the Hudson Bay Company's Oxford House in Manitoba, Canada. Before earning his PhD in Anthropology from Yale University in 1950, Mason held multiple governmental positions including the resident analyst at the Office of Residence and Intelligence at the United States State Department. While a graduate student at Yale University, Mason began his research in Micronesia among the Marshallese of the Marshall Islands.

After leaving Yale University, Leonard Mason became a faculty member at the University of Hawaii as first associate professor and later, professor. While there, Mason studied Pacific Island ethnology, with special interests in social and cultural change, resettled populations, and applied anthropology and research in Micronesia. Mason became an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawaii in 1969.

Scope and Contents

The Leonard Mason papers reflect a portion of Mason's early anthropological work among the Swampy Cree and the Dunne-za (Beaver). From 1938 to 1940, while studying at the University of Minnesota, Mason researched among the Swampy Cree at the Hudson Bay Company's Oxford House in Manitoba, Canada. Following this research, Mason studied the Dunne-za of Alberta, Canada, while earning his PhD from Yale University. Most of this collection relates to Mason's research concerning his work among the Swampy Cree in the late 1930s. Mason's research is documented in this collection through prints, slides, negatives, fieldnotes, manuscripts, receipts, and correspondence.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Selected Bibliography

1941. *The Swampy Cree: A Study in Acculturation*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 1941.

1941. "Notes on the Material Culture of the Oxford House Cree" *Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science* 9, no. 1 (1941): 11-19.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Cree
- Dunne-za (Beaver)
- Saulteaux
- Swampy Cree

Cultures:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Cree
- Dunne-za (Beaver)
- Saulteaux
- Swampy Cree

Places:

- North America

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	[Negatives, July 1938 - July 6, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 2	[Negatives, July 7, 1940 – July 10, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 3	[Negatives, July 18, 1940 - July 27, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 4	[Negatives, July 28, 1940 - August 5, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 5	[Negatives, August 6, 1940 - August 16, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 6	[Negatives, August 17, 1940 - August 20, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 7	[Negatives, August 22, 1940 - August 23, 1940]
Box 1, Folder 8	[Negatives, August 1940 - May 1941]
Box 1, Folder 9	[Slides, July 1940 - August 1940]
Box 1, Folder 10	The Beaver: A research program. Yale 1943
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence regarding Beaver research 1943
Box 1, Folder 12	Oxford House genealogies 1940
Box 1, Folder 13	Vital statistics, Oxford House 1940 recording
Box 1, Folder 14	Hudson Bay fur receipts, Oxford House 1940
Box 2	Fieldnotes
Box 3	Original negative sleeves