



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the William Louis Abbott Collection, 1888-1919

Judith Boruchoff

1986

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	William Louis Abbott collection
Date:	1888-1919
Identifier:	NAA.XXXX.0228
Creator:	Abbott, William Louis, 1860-1936 (Creator) Hough, Walter, 1859-1935 Raven, Henry Cushier, 1889-1944 (Photographer) Kloss, Charles Boden Mason, Otis Tufton, 1838-1908
Extent:	13 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The papers in the Abbott collection appear to have been brought together in the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology in order to process ethnological specimens from Malaya and Indonesia and to prepare an exhibit and publications. Included are some of Abbott's original letters, notes, maps, and a considerable number of photographs. Most of these materials concern the Enggano, Jakun, and Dyak. Many other documents in the collection consist of copies of or extracts from Abbott's letters, the originals of which are now in the Smithsonian Institution Archives. There are also letters and other materials of Otis Tufton Mason and Walter Hough accumulated as they worked on the collection, many simple lists of accessions compiled in the Department of Anthropology, and a few manuscripts. In addition, there are printed materials that were apparently used by the department's staff for reference purposes. Some of the photographs made in Borneo in 1914 are by Henry Cushier Raven, a field assistant of Abbott and, later, a collector financed by Abbott. Additional materials of Abbott and Raven are in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, and their material (often duplicate photographs) are included in several collections in the National Anthropological Archives.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

William Louis Abbott was a self-trained and self-sustaining collector who donated large numbers of ethnological artifacts, zoological specimens, and funds to the United States National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution around the turn of the twentieth century. The Abbott Papers in the National Anthropological Archives were apparently compiled by the staff of the Department of Anthropology, especially Otis Tufton Mason, curator of ethnology, in order to process incoming collections. The correspondence and printed materials relate primarily to Abbott's collecting activities and to Mason's research on Abbott's collections.

Processing Information

Processed by Judith Boruchoff, 1986 Encoded by NAA staff, 2011

Preferred Citation

William Louis Abbott collection, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The William Louis Abbott collection is open for research. Access to the William Louis Abbott collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

William L. Abbott studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and, after receiving an M.D., continued his training in London. Although a highly successful student, he seems never to have been fully committed to medicine. Instead, around 1880, using his own resources, he turned to a life of exploration and the study of natural history.

Abbott's early expeditions were in the United States, but, in time, he went abroad, at ever increasing distances, to the Greater Antilles, East Africa, Kashmir, and Turkestan. In 1896, he began work in Malaya and Indonesia that would largely occupy him until 1915. Using Singapore as a base, he sailed his ship, the *Terrapin*, to points on both coasts of the Malayan Peninsula, Trang in Thailand, the Anambas Islands, the Mergui Archipelago, the Nicobars and Andamans, both coasts of Sumatra and the nearby islands (notably Nias, the Mentawai Islands, and Enggano), the Rhio Archipelago, and Borneo. On many of these voyages, he collected both biological and ethnological specimens and photographs. At times, however, he was accompanied by an Englishman, Cecil Boden Kloss, who handled the ethnological work. Kloss retains his own notes and many of his photographs.

Abbott's later work, between 1916 and 1923, was carried out in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. After this, he retired to a farm on the Elk River in Maryland.

Abbott has been described as one of the great field naturalists of all time simply for the quantity of material he collected. Virtually the only body of work he left, in fact, is his large collection of specimens and notes, letters, and photographs that relate to them. Although he contributed to the collections of several museums, the chief benefactor of his work was the United States National Museum. Its staff and associated produced around forty publications based on his material. Abbott himself published very little.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM LOUIS ABBOTT

<i>1860 February 23</i>	Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
<i>1880</i>	Collected birds in Iowa and North Dakota
<i>1881</i>	Bachelor of Arts, University of Pennsylvania
<i>1883</i>	Collected birds in Cuba and Santo Domingo
<i>1884</i>	Doctor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
<i>1884-1886</i>	Postgraduate work in England Licentiate of Royal College of Surgeons and Royal College of Physicians
<i>1886</i>	Received inheritance and discontinued formal practice of medicine
<i>1887-1889</i>	Exploration of Taveta region near Mt. Kilimanjaro with William Astor Chandler. Collection donated to United States National Museum

- 1890 Exploration and collection in Zanzibar, Seychelles Islands, and Madagascar
- 1891 "Ethnological collections in the U.S. National Museum from Kilima-Njaro, East Africa," *Annual Report of the U.S. National Museum for 1891*, pages 381-398
Exploration and collection in India, including Baltistan, Karachi, Kashmir, and Srinagar
- 1892 Exploration and collection in Vale of Kashmir, Baltistan, Aden, Seychelles Islands, and Aldabra Island
- 1893 Exploration and collection in Seychelles Islands; India, including Kashmir and Srinagar; Leh Ladakh; Sinkiang, China; and Eastern Turkistan
- 1894 Continued exploration and collection in region of Eastern Turkistan, Pakistan, India, and Ceylon
- 1895 Exploration and collection in Madagascar and Kashmir
- 1896 Exploration and collection in Malay Peninsula, including: Jan-Feb – Perak
Feb-Mar – Canton
Apr-Nov – Trang Province, Siam, including Pramon, Tyching, and Penang
- 1897 Exploration and collection: Jan -- Trang
Apr-May -- Penang
May-Dec -- India
- 1898 Volunteered in Spanish-American War with William A. Chambers as "Irregular Horse" in Florida, and served in Cuba
Travel in Singapore and China
- 1899 Construction of schooner "Terrapin" Exploration and collection accompanied by Cecil Boden Kloss: Jan-Mar -- Trang
March -- Singapore
Mar-Apr -- Java
Jul-Sept -- Lingga and Anamba islands
Oct-Nov - Singapore, Penang
Dec - Junk
Seylon
- 1900 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss: Jan-Mar -- Burma, Mergui Archipelago
Jun-Aug -- Natuna Archipelago
Nov-Dec -- Penang, Burma, Mergui Archipelago
- 1901 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss: Jan -- Andaman Islands
Jan-Mar -- Nicobar Islands
Apr-Nov -- Northern Sumatra, Rhio-Lingga Archipelago, Johore, Penang
Nov-Jan 02- Simalur
- 1902 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss: Jan-Feb -- Banjak Islands, Lasia, Babi
Feb-Mar -- Western Sumatra
Mar -- Nias
Apr-May -- Pahang, Malaya; Singapore and Straits Islands
Aug-Sep -- Bintang, Rhio Archipelago
Oct-Nov -- Simalur
Nov-Jan 03 -- Pagi Islands
- 1903 Exploration and collection: Jan -- Western Sumatra
Feb -- Pulo Tello
Apr -- Penang, Singapore
May-June -- Karimun Islands
July-Aug -- Rhio-Lingga Archipelago
Aug-Sep -- Eastern Sumatra
Oct -- Penang
Nov-Mar 04 -- Burmese coast, including Victoria Point, Mergui Archipelago, and Tenasserim
- 1904 Exploration and collection: Apr -- Penang and Straits of Malacca
May-Jun -- Banka Island
Jul-Aug -- Billiton Island
Aug-Sep -- Karimata Island
Oct -- Benkulen, Sumatra
Nov-Dec -- Engano
- 1905 Exploration and collection: Dec 04-Feb- Western Sumatra
Feb-Mar -- Nias
Jun-Sep -- Western Borneo, including Pontianak and Kapuas

- riversNov-Jan 06 -- Eastern Sumatra Designated Honorary Associate in Zoology by the U.S. National Museum
- 1906 Visited Hong Kong and Japan (April-May)Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss:Oct-Feb 07 -- Easter Sumatra, including Bengkalis and Rupert islands and Siak River
- 1907 Exploration and collectionMar -- Rhio ArchipelagoMay -- Islands of South China Sea, including Direction Island, Datu, Temayer, Lamukutan, Panebangan, and PelapisMay-Sep -- Western Borneo, including Kapuas and Simpang riversNov-Dec -- Java Sea, including Bawean Island
- 1908 Exploration and collection:Dec 07-Mar- Southeastern Borneo, including Pulo Laut and Pulo SebukuJun -- Southwestern BorenoNov -- Java Sea
- 1909 Exploration and collection:Dec 08-Apr -- Pulo Laut and eastern Borneo, including Pasir RiverOnset of partial blindness caused by spirochetosis, and treatment in Aachen, Germany. Illness forced Abbott to suspend collecting activities in tropics.
- 1910-1915 Exploration and collection in Kashmir
- 1912-1915 Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to Borneo by Henry Cushier Raven
- 1914 Brief visit and collection in Molucca Islands and Celebes, accompanied by his sister
- 1915-1916 Donated funds for expedition by Raven to Dutch East Indies, especially Celebes
- 1916 Exploration and collection in Dominican Republic
- 1917-1918 Exploration and collection in Haiti
- 1918 Interruption of field work by Abbott because of servere illness (dysentary) and by Raven because of the war
- 1919-1923 Exploration and collection in Hispaniola
- 1920 Donated funds to United States National Museum for botanical collection in Haiti by Emery C. Leonard, aid in Division of Plants
- 1920-1922 Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to Australia by naturalist Charles M. Hoy
- 1923-1924 Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to China by Charles M. Hoy until Hoy's death in the field; workconcluded by Reverend David Crockett Graham
- 1925-1927 Donated funds to United States National Museum for expeditions to Hispaniola
- 1928 Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to China
- 1928 Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to Hispaniola by Arthur J. Poole, Division of Mammals
- 1928-1931 Donated funds to United States National Museum for archeological expedition to Hispaniola by Herbert William Krieger, curator, Division of Ethnology

1932	Donated funds to United States National Museum for archeological expedition to Cuba
1934	Purchase and donation of birds of the Himalayas for the United States National Museum
<i>April 2, 1936</i>	Death of William Louis Abbott at his farm near North East, Maryland of heart disease after a long illness Bequest to Smithsonian Institution any of books and papers desired (278 volumes accepted) and approximately \$100,000 (1/5 of estate) to promote zoological researchers

Scope and Contents

William Louis Abbott, although formally trained in medicine, chose instead to devote his time and inherited wealth to worldwide exploration and the collection of natural history specimens and ethnological artifacts. The Abbott papers in the National Anthropological Archives reflect his collecting activities in the East Indies, and the work on his collections from that region by United States National Museum personnel, especially Otis Tufton Mason, curator of ethnology. The collection includes correspondence, maps, illustrations of artifacts, manuscripts, lists of objects in the Abbott collection in the Smithsonian Department of Anthropology, and photographic prints and negatives. In addition, there is a subject file which contains information on a variety of topics relating to Indonesia and Malaysia. The materials date from the 1890s to the early decades of this century.

This archival collection forms a valuable complement to the collection of artifacts housed in the National Museum of Natural History. (Abbott's collections from Indonesia are described by Dr. Paul M. Taylor, curator of Asian ethnology, in the Museum Anthropology Newsletter, April, 1985.) The subject file and lists of objects provide data on certain specific artifacts and their uses and Abbott's correspondence contains his observations of the daily life of the various peoples from whom the objects were collected. These documents are supplemented by a generous photographic record and sketch maps which outline the routes he followed. The papers focus on the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, the region closest to Abbott's heart and to which he dedicated over a decade before eye disease forced him to leave the tropics.

In addition to Abbott's own materials, there are notes by museum staff, including descriptions of artifacts, and manuscripts of articles mostly by Mason who was particularly interested in basketry. The bulk of the correspondence is between Abbott, Otis Mason, Walter Hough, and Cecil Boden Kloss who accompanied Abbott on several expeditions. Other correspondents include Cyrus Adler, Jesse Walter Fewkes, William H. Furness, Alfred Cort Haddon, Ales Hrdlička, Mary Lois Kissell, Elmer D. Merrill, William Palmer, Richard Rathbun, and Charles Clark Willoughby. Most of the letters are brief and discuss proposed work on the Abbott collections, bibliographic sources, and basketry.

Additional material in the National Anthropological Archives relating to William Louis Abbott is contained in the papers of Ales Hrdlička and of Herbert W. Krieger, the Manuscript and Pamphlet File of the United States National Museum Department of Anthropology, and the photographic collection of the United States National Museum Division of Ethnology. Because Abbott donated material to a variety of departments in the Smithsonian, his original written material is located in several other Smithsonian departments as well. There are personal letters to his mother and sister as well as Smithsonian personnel in the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Field notebooks including detailed sketch maps of collecting stations are in the libraries of the departments of Mammals and of Birds.

The spelling of place names used here are those of Abbott who frequently wrote them as they sounded to him.

Arrangement

Collection arranged into 9 series: (1) Correspondence, 1896-1919; (2) Subject file; (3) Register of accessions, 1890-1906; (4) Lists of objects by accession number and location; (5) Lists of objects by type or geographic location; (6) Drafts of unpublished articles with working materials; (7) Printed material; (8) Photographic prints; (9) Photographic negatives.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Borneo
- Dyak
- Enggano
- Indonesians
- Jakun (Malaysian people)

Cultures:

- Borneo
- Dyak
- Enggano
- Indonesians
- Jakun (Malaysian people)

Places:

- Anambas Islands (Indonesia)
- Enggano (Malaysia)
- Malaysia
- Mentawai Islands (Indonesia)
- Mergui Archipelago
- Nias Island (Indonesia)
- Sumatra
- Trang -- Thailand

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1896-1919

Scope and Contents: Original handwritten documents as well as typed copies and excerpts of letters make up this file. Most of the letters are from Abbott to Otis Mason and later to Walter Hough. There are also some typed copies and excerpts of letters to museum officials George Brown Goode and Frederick William True. Accession numbers penciled on the top of typed documents refer to the registrar's accession file in which the original is stored. These files are housed in the Smithsonian Institution Archives and microfilmed copies are available in the Office of the Registrar in the Museum of Natural History. Abbott's letters provide information about his collecting activities, possible plans for future expeditions, and shipment of objects. He describes native peoples, their way of life, customs, use of certain artifacts, food, dress, racial and physical features, character, and intelligence. Abbott refers to the work of Elio Modigliani and W.W. Skeat, accompaniment by Cecil Boden Kloss on expeditions, opinions of colleagues, and various people encountered in the field. These letters are mostly from and about the Malay region, with a few later documents to Hough concerning Haiti and Santo Domingo.

There are four letters to Abbott from Mason and Hough, mostly about manuscripts and work on the collections; attached to one is a rough draft of a paper on the Haitian pree-pree (type of raft). Correspondence concerning Abbott and the Abbott collections are generally to or from Mason or Hough. Other correspondents include Cyrus Adler, assistant secretary of libraries and exchanges; Jesse Walter Fewkes, of the Bureau of American Ethnology; William H. Furness, of the University of Pennsylvania; Alfred Cort Haddon, of Cambridge, England; Ales Hrdlička, Smithsonian curator of physical anthropology; Cecil Boden Kloss; Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of Smithsonian Institution; Elmer D. Merrill, of the Bureau of Science in Manila; William Palmer, in Java; Mary Lois Kissell, of the American Museum of Natural History; Charles Willoughby, of the Harvard Peabody Museum. They discuss proposed work on the Abbott collections, bibliographic sources, and basketry. Correspondence with Kloss mainly concerns publications and exchanges of photographs.

Additional correspondence is included in several of the series described below.

Box 1 Letters from Abbott, 1896-1902

Box 1 Letters from Abbott, 1903-1905

Box 1 Letters from Abbott, 1906-1919

Box 1 Letters Sent Abbott, 1919, 1908-1909

Box 1 Correspondence Concerning Abbott and the Abbott Collection at United States National Museum, 1902-1919

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Series 2: Subject file

Scope and Contents: This series consists primarily of notes compiled by Otis Mason on a variety of subjects relating to the Abbott collections from Malaysia and Indonesia. Information contained in these folders was derived largely from Abbott's letters, of which this series includes originals as well as Mason's notes and excerpts from them. Files on places and people contain data on native populations, their physical characteristics, way of life, clothing, food, dwellings, character and intelligence, fertility, health and medicine, and local vegetation and wildlife. In addition, Abbott's collecting activities, some objects collected, and their shipment to the United States may be discussed. Abbott also refers to the works of Modigliani, photographs, and other sources of information.

Box 1	Andaman Islands (description of artifacts) Notes: Includes a list of negative numbers of photographic plates.
Box 1	Bibliography and Dictionary Notes: Includes a series of cards on the Andamans, apparently sent by Haddon; dictionary-type references by Mason with short definitions and sources of information; short "Bibliography" organized by geographic location with some references and notes; series of cards written by Mason on "names," "geography- Abbott," and "tribes- Abbott," some with references to Abbott's letters or to publications.
Box 2	Engano Notes: Includes references to an Englishman named Francis who had lived there 25-30 years previously and to indebtedness to Johannes Winkler of Barmen Mission for his data.
Box 2	Illustrations (mostly references to) Notes: Lists of Abbott's references to illustrations of objects from Engano, mostly in the works of Elio Modigliani; similar lists, ordered alphabetically, of objects from Engano and Nias; list of some of Abbott's objects in the United States National Museum which have been illustrated.
Box 2	Illustrations (figures and plates) from Mason's "Vocabulary of Malaysian Basketwork" Notes: Original drawings labeled by Mason and printer's proofs of illustrations.
Box 2	Jakuns Notes: Includes a list of vocabulary from Rumpin River, Pahang; reference to W.W. Skeat quoting Rudolf Martin of Zurich (from <i>Journal of Anthropological Institute</i> , London, 1902, pages 124-138, reprinted in <i>Smithsonian Institution Report</i> , 1902, pages 463-478). Poem entitled "Song of The Batin's Hut" written in Mason's hand.
Box 2	Joinerwork Notes: Illustrations of various types of joinerwork.
Box 2	Kashmir, India (minnowing fan)

	Notes:	One sheet describing a minnowing fan from Srinagar written by Mason.
Box 2	Knotwork Notes:	KnotworkMason's notes, including translation of terms from Lehmann; a letter to Mason from John L. Cox of Philadelphia describing and illustrating the Malay knot; list of knots and illustrated list apparently taken from a standard dictionary; letter from the Bishop Museum in Honolulu answering questions about knots.
Box 2	Land Dyak - Miscellaneous Notes:	Includes Abbott's original sketch map of Dyak collecting stations of 1907 and of 1908.
Box 2	Land Dyak - Houses	
Box 2	Malay - Basketry Notes:	Notes by Mason with general definition of basketry and some plans for study of Malay works; original excerpt and Mason's notes from Abbott's letter on vocabulary of Malay asketwork. Letter to Mason from Thomas key of Breasted Chart, Seven Oaks, answering questions about basketry.
Box 2	Malay and Orang Laut - Medicine Notes:	Includes reference to two objects in the collection.
Box 2	Maps Notes:	Abbott's original sketch maps with collecting stations marked, from various locations; also, printed map of the Molucca Islands with Abbott's collecting stations marked; manuscript maps of "Trong." Note: There are many more detailed sketch maps with collecting stations marked in Abbott's field notebooks in the library of the Smithsonian Division of Mammals.
Box 2	Metawi Islands Notes:	Includes Abbott's notes with diagrams of tattooing; references to Reverend August Lett, and to written accounts by a German named Alfred Maas and by a Dr. Morris.
Box 2	Miscellany Notes:	A variety of documents relating to Abbott's collections and to Malaysia and Indonesia, including a photograph, outline for a paper, lists of objects, terms, and questions to ask Abbott; illustration of sword types.
Box 2	Musical Instruments Notes:	Mason's excerpt of an Abbott letter; duplicate catalog cards of Malay musical instruments.
Box 2	Nias	

	Notes:	Includes Abbott's notes on Batu Islands, which were colonized from Nias, and on Nias headhunting; excerpt from an Abbott letter to C.W. Richmond (original in Smithsonian Institution Archives) on shipment of three Mentawai Island canoes.
Box 2	Nicobar	
Box 3	Notes on Sumatra from Marsden Notes:	Notes in Mason's hand with page references to Marsden [William, <u>The History of Sumatra?</u>] on various topics concerning Sumatra.
Box 3	Ornamentation (on basketry) Notes:	Notes by Mason on ornamentation on basketry in the Abbott collection, including a list of types of ornamentation.
Box 3	Selungs Notes:	Includes brief reference to the Nicobarese.
Box 3	Simalur Notes:	Includes reference to Nias and information on Engano.
Box 3	Subject Index (Partial) To Abbott's Letters Notes:	Cards by Mason, arranged by subject, with references to some of Abbott's letters in the correspondence file. Reference list of some letters from Abbott and Cecil Boden Kloss, some of which are in the correspondence or subject files.
Box 3	Textiles - Malaysian and Hawaiian Notes:	Notes by Mason on technique and plant types used in Malaysian textiles; notes by Hough about Abbot textiles.
Box 3	Textile Plants - Polynesia Notes:	Short list of plants with scientific and native names, some with notes on use.
Box 3	Traps Notes:	Includes some publication-quality illustrations and a reference to Skeat's <i>Pagan Races</i> ; notes may have been used for draft of paper on traps.
Box 3	Vocabulary - Geographical Notes:	Information on localities visited by Abbott, including a letter written by Hough in reply to Mary Lois Kissell (of American Museum of Natural History) listing exact locations of Abbott's collections in Borneo prior to 1908; maps printed in <i>Proceedings of the National Museum</i> , vol. XXVI.
Box 3	Vocabulary - Peoples	

Notes: Notes, lists, and newspaper articles about various Malay peoples, islands, and dialects, with references to Abbott and printed sources.

Box 3

Vocabulary - Relating to Artifacts

Notes: Vocabulary lists by Hough and Mason, and outline by Mason of "Abbott Collections--Topics."

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Series 3: Register of accessions, 1890-1906

Scope and Contents: This partial register of accessions includes cards with locality, accession and catalog numbers, and date accessioned and a list of collections received from Abbott (not exhaustive for years covered).

Box 3	Partial Register of Accessions, "Abbott Accessions Abstracted", 1890-1906
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Series 4: List of objects by accession number and location

Scope and Contents: These lists are of two basic types: 1) one type is based on the accession number and includes a separate sheet for each object providing catalog number, name of object in English and frequently in the native tongue, dimensions, material of construction, and further physical description; and 2) the other type is based on the provenance and provides the catalog number, name of object, and specific locality of collection and sometimes includes a list of objects in other accessions from the same location. Each folder may contain either or both types of listings or a similar variation. Although catalog numbers listed in folder titles refer to all objects in the accession, the enclosed lists may not provide information on every artifact mentioned.

Box 4	Accession 31,341 (cat. 175,973-176,051) -- Trong -- Trapping Equipment Notes: Trapping equipment. Many include publications-quality illustrations.
Box 4	Accession 32,376 (cat. 176,710-712) -- Trong, Lower Siam Notes: Contains only one original label by Abbott from cat. #176, 710, a chopping knife.
Box 4	Accession 33,299 (cat. 178,105-146) -- Ledakh, Tibet
Box 4	Accession 35,322 (cat. 202,848-853) -- Lower Siam Notes: Objects listed are mostly quivers and blowguns.
Box 4	Accession 35,505 (cat. 203,670-674) -- Java Notes: Objects listed are mostly crises and daggers.
Box 4	Accession 36,053 (cat. 204,573-574) -- Anambas Islands Notes: A canoe and its parts, and a sleeping mat.
Box 4	Accession 37,007 (cat. 206,515-522) -- Mergui Archipelago and Java
Box 4	Accession 37,335 (cat. 208,042-043) -- Natuna Islands
Box 4	Accession 37,409 (cat. 209,201-212) -- Trengganu, Malay Peninsula
Box 4	Accession 38,307 (cat. 211,701-874) -- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Box 4	Accession 38,608 (cat. 213,441-480) -- Andaman Islands
Box 5	Accession 39,649 (cat. 216,276-361; 218,156-171) -- Simalur
Box 5	Accession 40,243 (cat. 219,901-987) -- Jakuns of Johore
Box 5	Accession 41,161 (cat. 219,094-096) -- Mentawi Islands Notes: Includes brief note on boats.
Box 5; Box 6	Accession 41,342 (cat. 221,501-997) -- Nias, Pagi, and Siberut Notes: This file has 5 parts (I-V) divided among 2 boxes (5-6).

		Box 5 contains the following: Part I: (cat. 221,501-646) Part II: (cat. 221,647-799) Part III: (cat. 221,800-997) Box 6 contains the following: Part IV: (cat. 221,501-959) Part V: Includes some objects from Batu and possibly New Guinea.
Box 6	Accession 42,168 (cat. 229,401-429) -- Rhio-Lingga Archipelago (and other locales) Notes:	Includes original page of notes by Abbott about a shed in which sago is processed.
Box 6	Accession 43,017 (cat. 232,501-580) -- German New Guinea, Singapore Straits Settlement, Mergui Archipelago (and other locales) Notes:	Includes objects from Sumatra or Borneo and Renong, Lower Siam.
Box 6	Accession 43,559 (cat. 232,621-706) -- Banka, Billiton, and Karimata Islands and Mergui Archipelago Notes:	Includes Abbott's original notes on a quail trap, deer net, and whirligig.
Box 7	Accession 44,682 (cat. 237,001-525) Notes:	This folder is divided into Part I and Part II: Part I: Engano and Nias Part II: Engano only
Box 7	Accession 45,397 (cat. 244,101-532) -- Western Borneo Notes:	Includes newspaper article about the collection.
Box 7	Accession 47,566 (cat. 247,736-801) -- Eastern Sumatra	
Box 8	Accession 48,220 (cat. 249,001-520; 249,539-540) -- Western Borneo Notes:	Includes Abbott's original label for cat. #249,379.

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Series 5: Lists of objects by type or geographic location

Scope and Contents: These lists generally include catalog number, name of object, location of collection, dimensions, and description of structural parts and technique of construction. Some have accession numbers penciled on the top, and some include illustrations.

Box 8	Basketry I	
Box 8	Basketry II	
	Notes:	Includes lists of catalog numbers and basket types mostly from Engano, western Borneo, Pagi, Nias, Simalur, Banka, and Billiton.
Box 8	Basketry III	
	Notes:	Includes objects mostly from Simalur, Nias, Pagi, Engano, and Sumatra.
Box 8	Basketry IV	
Box 8	Dyak Basketry I (acc. 45,397, cat. 244,215-229)	
Box 9	Dyak Basketry II (acc. 45,397, cat. 244,300-527)	
Box 9	Jakuns	
Box 9	Nias	
Box 9	Sumatra	
Box 9	Traps I	
	Notes:	Includes original diagram and notes by Abbott on a bamboo rat trap and photograph of a Dyak weir in a stream.
Box 9	Traps II	
	Notes:	Includes typed excerpt of a letter from Abbott from Trong Bangdee on a method of fishing and Abbott's diagram and notes on a Jakun trap for arboreal mammals.
Box 10	Trong	
Box 10	Weaponry, Fishing and Hunting Gear	

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Series 6: Drafts of unpublished articles and working materials

- Box 10 Anyam Gila (Mad Weave)
Notes: Material concerning manuscript of "Anyam Gila (Mad Weave) A Malaysian Type of Basketwork" by Otis Mason. Correspondence includes letters between Hough and the assistant secretary of the Smithsonian about publication after Mason's death; also, letters between Mason and Mrs. L.E. Bland, and a copy of her publication "A Few Notes on the Anyam Gila."
- Box 10 "First Account of the W.L. Abbott Basketry from Southern Malaysia, Now in the U.S. National Museum"
Notes: Typed manuscript by Otis Mason, possibly unfinished.
- Box 10 "Preface" to Handbook to Abbott Collection
Notes: Author unknown, unfinished.
- Box 10 "The W.L. Abbott Ethnographic Collections in the U.S. National Museum from Western Malaysia"
Notes: Manuscript by Otis Mason and Walter Hough. Includes outline of Abbott's collecting activities, 1895-1905, and general description of the collections.
- Box 10 "Traps in the Abbott Collections of the U.S. National Museum from Southwestern Malaysia"
Notes: Manuscript by Otis Mason, illustrated by Mary Wright Gill.

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Series 7 : Printed material

Scope and Contents: Mostly newspaper clippings and reprints of articles about Abbott, his collections, Malaysia, and related topics, including book prospectuses. Also, printed maps and exhibit labels.

Box 10	<p>“Current Literature for Paper” (i.e., Mason)</p> <p>Notes: Newspaper clippings and reprints of articles about Abbott, his Andaman collection, and Malay topics. Includes articles by Kloss, W.W. Skeat, Mrs. L.E. Bland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Mason and correspondence from A.B. Meyer in Dresden.</p>
Box 10	<p>Exhibit Labels</p> <p>Notes: Labels from various exhibits of Abbott objects in the United States National Museum.</p>
Box 11	<p>Maps</p> <p>Notes: Several printed maps of Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Pacific area, from various sources.</p>
Box 11	<p>Newspaper Clippings and Reprints I</p> <p>Notes: This folder and the following include published articles, notes, reprints, and excerpts about Abbott and his collections, the Malays, and voyages and finds in the East Indies by persons other than Abbott; also catalogs for ethnographic specimens, maps, equipment, books and reprints from Smithsonian publications of short articles about mammals collected by Abbott.</p>
Box 11	<p>Newspaper Clippings and Reprints II</p>

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Series 8: Photographic prints

Scope and Contents: The majority of these photographs were taken by Abbott, although a few are by Henry Cushier Raven from the Borneo expeditions funded by Abbott, and some were probably taken by Cecil Boden Kloss. Many are labeled on the back by Abbott, or mounted on paper and labeled by Mason. A few folders also contain Abbott's written remarks about the photographs, in which he elaborates on the subjects of certain prints and related customs.

Abbott took many portraits of natives with only a plain backdrop for physical anthropology purposes. These photographs provide information primarily on facial features, although some show native dress as well. In addition, these are supplemented by village scenes showing streets, dwellings, and surroundings. Most are marked with Abbott's negative numbers, some of which refer to the glass negatives in the negative file described below. Some also include a five-digit Smithsonian negative number indicating negatives stored in the Institution's Office of Printing and Photographic Services.

Raven's photographs, while far fewer, tend to portray native peoples in natural settings, going about daily activities. All are labeled on the back. Raven's negatives have not been located.

Many prints are duplicated in the same or other folders.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by region, people, and locality.

Box 11	Abbott, W.L. Notes: Studio photographs taken in old age and portraits and views taken at Abbott's farm on Thackery Point, Elk Neck, near North East, Maryland in 1927 and 1930.
Box 11	Banka and Billiton Islands I Notes: Includes prints of hand-born litter, boat model, and a dogfish.
Box 11	Banka and Billiton Islands II
Box 12	Batu Islands
Box 12	Borneo--Bajans Notes: Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes photographs of people fishing and a mother with her child.
Box 12	Borneo--Beraoe Malays Notes: Taken by Raven, 1914.
Box 12	Borneo--Dwellings and Village Scenes Notes: Includes village scenes and shore scenes with boats, bridges, and a fish weir. Many duplicated elsewhere.
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Bark Canoe, Semandong River Notes: Photographs of a canoe in the Singapore Museum labeled and sent by Abbott, with a note referring to a letter in the Correspondence File.
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Bayu
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Birang River

	Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914.
Box 12	Boreno--Dyaks--Bukan or Bukang Notes:	These portraits appear to be in the same setting as those from Dadap (see below).
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Dadap	
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Denuku	
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Granary, Benti (Sakaiam River)	
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Kamintung	
Box 12	Borneo--Dyaks--Karangan Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914. Include people planting rice and boating.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Laham (Upper Mahakam River) Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes boys at a mission school and a mock fight.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Long Ayan (Segah River) Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Long Huree (Upper Mahakam River) Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Miscellaneous Notes:	Most are portraits of people, some showing ornamentation. One is of an orangutan. Some were taken by Raven, 1914, and have labels including personal names of subjects. Most of Abbott's photographs in other Dyak folders duplicate prints here.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Nadjo	
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Pessing (Sakaiam River) Notes:	Includes yard with piles of bamboo and carved wooden images. Duplicates in other folders.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Petong	
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Pulo Saparo (Kapuas River)	
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Renduku Notes:	Includes picture of a camp and a crew.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Sanggan (Kapuas River)	

	Notes:	Includes "Kampong China," boats on river, and area of construction with wood carvings.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Sintass (Sakaïam River) Notes:	Includes fish weir and bridge.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Tambeling	
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Toembil (Kalei River) Notes:	Beraoe District. Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes boats along shore, interior of house, girl grating coconut, and men making charms at a feast.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Tyan (Kapuas River) Notes:	Includes scenes of town and house of controleur.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Wood Carvings Notes:	Includes field photograph of carvings <i>in situ</i> and museum photograph of specimen (cat. #211,785) from Katchall, Nicobar Islands.
Box 13	Borneo--Dyaks--Rabah	
Box 14a	Borneo--Miscellaneous Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914. Most show boats and river scenes, but also include a Dyak grave and a bamboo on which are offerings for goodwill of spirits.
Box 14a	Borneo--Pulo Derawan Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes people gambling and a wedding procession.
Box 14a	Borneo--Punans Notes:	Taken by Raven, 1914.
Box 14a	Engano	
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula (i.e., Malaysia, Burma, Thailand)-- Jakuns--Klaydong	
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Kemel Notes:	Includes mailing label from London.
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Menchelli	
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Miscellaneous Notes:	Includes portraits labeled with names of subjects and the "Terrapin" anchored at Batu Umpor, Rumpin River.
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Pow Notes:	Includes mailing label and Abbott's notes about exposure.

Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Sungei Gyung Notes: Includes mailing label and Abbott's notes about exposure.
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Miscellaneous Notes: Most of these photographs are duplicated in other Malay Peninsula folders. Also, includes photographs from eastern Sumatra, Banka and Billiton islands, a dogfish, people riding elephants, and a wooden model canoe.
Box 14b	Malaya Peninsula--Selungs--Mergui Archipelago Notes: Includes Selung camp and canoes on Festings Island.
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Siam--Chantaboon Notes: Print of natives at market.
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Siam, Lower--Renong Notes: Includes elephants with riders and baskets on their backs.
Box 14b	Malay Peninsula--Victoria Point
Box 15	Nias--Miscellaneous I Notes: Includes a few pages of typed notes elaborating on subjects of certain prints and related customs. Some show people with artifacts similar to those collected by Abbott; however, none show people engaged in daily activities. Few of these are from negatives in this collection, and the numbering system differs from Abbott's; it is therefore likely that these photographs were taken by Kloss who accompanied Abbott on the expedition. Prints in other Nias folders duplicate those in this and the following folder.
Box 15	Nias--Miscellaneous II Notes: Many duplicate prints in previous folder.
Box 15	Nias--Basketry Notes: Photographs of three baskets in Abbott collection, used in Mason's basketry article.
Box 15	Nias--Dwellings Notes: Various dwellings, including some unfinished; detail of wood carving on house; and a blacksmith's bellows.
Box 15	House at Gunoug Sitali, Nias 1 Photograph Language: Undetermined. Notes: NAA INV.10000193 OPPS NEG.80-4944 Topic: Abbott, W. L., collection Place: Malaysia

Nias Island (Indonesia) -- Siaba Bay

Box 15 Adu Adu in One House in Situ
1 Photograph
Language: Undetermined.
Notes: NAA INV.10000240
 OPPS NEG.80-4945
 Hill village beyond Siaba bay, Nias I
Topic: Abbott, W. L., collection
Place: Malaysia
 Nias Island (Indonesia) -- Siaba Bay

Box 15 Adu Adu in One House in Situ
1 Photograph
Language: Undetermined.
Notes: NAA INV.10000241
 OPPS NEG.80-4946
 Hill village beyond Siaba bay, Nias I
Topic: Abbott, W. L., collection
Place: Malaysia
 Nias Island (Indonesia) -- Siaba Bay

Box 15 Nias--Wood Carvings
Notes: Photographs of carvings in situ on Nias.

Box 15 Nicobar Islands--Wood Carvings

Box 15 Pagi Islands--Basketry
Notes: Prints of baskets collected by Abbott labeled with catalog and
 accession numbers, some with page of descriptive notes attached.

Box 15 Pagi Islands--Dwellings
Notes: Includes photographs of boathouses and a print of Abbott surrounded
 by natives.

Box 15 Pagi, Simalur, and Siberut Islands--Miscellaneous I
Notes: Typed pages of Abbott's remarks on photos, including descriptions
 of communal houses, dances, women's refusal to be photographed,
 burial places, and other subjects. Prints include scenes of natives
 fishing and a child's grave. Many portraits are labeled with the name
 of the subject. Photographs from Simalur include a rice pounder, nut
 store, basket like one collected by Abbott, graffiti on a mosque, and
 some people with tattoos.

Box 16 Pagi, Simalur, and Siberut Islands--Miscellaneous II
Notes: Most duplicate prints in previous folder. Also photographs
 accessioned as prints.

Box 16	Rhio Archipelago--Orang Kwala Notes: Portraits include Dutch aid at Singapore Stratits.
Box 16	Rhio Archipelago--Orang Mantong
Box 16	Rhio Archipelago--Orang Utan Notes: Includes Malay clubhouse and Sultan's palace at Siak.
Box 16	Siberut Island Notes: One print shows a group of natives and another a shield in the collection (cat. #221,689).
Box 16	Simalur Notes: Includes portraits of two men with tattoos and women in boats from Siberut; boys from northern Nias; decendants of Nias emigrants; and a prau and granary. Also, a binder with Abbott's original list of photo negatives with information on location, date, number, subject, and exposure.
Box 16	Sipora Island
Box 16	Sumatra--Little Siak River Notes: Photographs taken on the river that include the crew pulling the boat through floating vegetation, surrounding vegetation, Abbott bathing, Abbott's camp, a Chinese trader's boat, a lisang (similar to a civet), the "Terrapin," Siak Town including "Chinatown," and a river turtle.
Box 16	Unmarked Notes: Unlabeled Abbott prints, duplicating prints elsewhere in the collection. Most were taken on islands off western Sumatra. Also prints of an unidentified house, a few wood carvings from Nicobar, and a basket used in Mason's article. Includes two photographic illustrations clipped from a journal.

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Series 9: Photographic negatives

Scope and Contents: Five-by-seven-inch dry plate glass negatives arranged alphabetically and numerically by negative number.

Abbott's numbering system consists of a letter (a-j including hh) or a number (1- 56) followed by a decimal point a number from 1-14 (e.g., a.1, a.2, ... or 1.1, ... 54.12). (Note: not every number in these ranges is represented.)

The subject of the photographs, all apparently taken by Abbott, is generally similar to that of the photographic prints described above. A few of the negatives were labeled with names of the locality of people depicted. Two unnumbered negatives are of "Javanese." Those labeled with letters were generally of "Orang Mantong," "Orang Utan," or "Orang Kwala" from the Malay Peninsula and area off eastern Sumatra, especially the Rhio Archipelago, Pulo Kundur, and Pulo Sanglar. Images numbered from 1-4 show Selungs and Malays from the Malay Peninsula, including Victoria Point and Festings Island, and a "Malay house on Lingga Id" (#2.11). Most other negatives with numbers ranging through 24 are portraits from unspecified Malay localities.

Abbott used 25-47 to catalog his photographs from Engano. His list providing negative numbers, name, sex, age, physical measurements, and brief description of the person depicted is in box 16.

Nias is the subject of negatives numbered 48-56. Whereas most of the images in this series are portraits of natives before a plain white backdrop, those of Nias tend to show people in more natural settings with views of streets, dwellings, stone carvings, and other features of their environment. Among the photographs of Nias are negatives numbered a9-a12 and b.9-10 of the body of a girl who was a victim of headhunting and the head hanging in the village. Note that the numbers duplicate some previously used, and that the events depicted are referred to by Abbott in the Nias folder of the subject file.

Few of the negatives have been printed.

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