



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Robert B. Cumming
papers, circa 1939 - circa 1950

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Robert B. Cumming papers
Date:	circa 1939 - circa 1950
Identifier:	NAA.XXXX.0309
Creator:	Cumming, Robert B., 1915-2005
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Cumming gave these materials to Waldo R. Wedel, who in turn placed them in the archives.

Separated Materials

Two motion picture films that came with Cumming's papers, one concerning the Hidatsa Indians and the other showing River Basin Surveys work, are at the Human Studies Film Archives.

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds additional materials related to the the River Basin Surveys in the the River Basin Surveys records, Donald Jayne Lehmer papers, Paul Lemen Cooper papers, Frank Harold Hanna Roberts, Jr. papers and photographs, Waldo Rudolph Wedel and Mildred Mott Wedel papers and Photo Lot 87-3.

Processing Information

The collection is unprocessed. Contact the repository for more information.

Preferred Citation

Robert B. Cumming papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Access to the Robert B. Cumming papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Robert B. Cumming studied at Wesleyan University (A.B., 1938) and pursued graduate studies in anthropology under William Duncan Strong at Columbia University. In 1940, he became the supervisor of the archaeology laboratory at the Nebraska State Historical Society, and in 1941-1942, he was a supervisor with the Nebraska Work Projects Administration archaeology. Following several nonarchaeological jobs, he

became the laboratory supervisor of the River Basin Surveys Missouri Basin Project in Lincoln, Nebraska, 1946-1950. In 1950-1954, he was a Missouri Basin Project field archaeologist.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a miscellany of Cumming's and other archaeologists' materials relating to River Basin Surveys (RBS) work. Materials include diaries (1939-1950), site photographs, site forms, site maps, specimen forms, manuscripts, and card files. Some are duplicates of files in the RBS records.

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.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Archaeology

Names:

River Basin Surveys

Places:

North America