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<td>Record Unit 87</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>1942-1946</td>
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<td>Extent:</td>
<td>16.5 cu. ft. (2 record storage boxes) (29 document boxes)</td>
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<td>Creator:</td>
<td>Ethnogeographic Board (Washington, D. C.)</td>
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<td>Language of Materials: English</td>
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 87, Ethnogeographic Board (Washington, D. C.), Records

Historical Note

The Ethnogeographic Board was established during the Second World War. It was established primarily to act as a clearinghouse for government wartime needs. During the three and one-half years of its existence (June of 1942 through December of 1945) the board provided ethnogeographic information on the non-European areas of the war, notably Africa, Micronesia, Melanesia and Indonesia. It aided in the location and mobilization of area and language specialists, especially anthropologists. It was jointly sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, the National Research Council and the Smithsonian Institution. The Board utilized facilities and other technical assistance provided by the latter. William Duncan Strong served as the Board's Director from 1942 until 1944 at which time he was succeeded by Henry B. Collins Jr. The salaries of both men were provided by the Smithsonian.

The original Board consisted of six members and until 1945 met semi-annually as an advisory and policy making body. In addition, five separate committees worked closely with the Board. These included the Committee on African Anthropology; the Committee on the Anthropology of Oceania; the Joint Committee on the Latin American Studies; the Intensive Language Program; and the Smithsonian War Committee. A sixth, the Committee on Asiatic Geography, was formed as a result of a Board-sponsored conference. Each committee remained an independent entity, although theoretically the Board was supposed to integrate the work of all of these committees. The Board received its financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and its own sponsoring organizations. Of the latter, the Smithsonian contributed the largest portion.

Five major undertakings were of sufficient magnitude to be designated as projects. The most important of these was the "Survival Project." At the request of the United States Navy, the Ethnogeographic Board and the staff of the Smithsonian prepared the manual Survival on Land and Sea in 1943. Several editions
were published and by 1944 970,000 copies had been printed and distributed to the armed forces in the Pacific Theater.

In September of 1942 the Board sponsored a conference on Bolivian Indians in New Haven. Its purpose was to discuss those factors relevant to the use of Indians as industrial labor in the mines and to encourage greater agricultural output from this group. A thirty-five page report resulted from this conference and was subsequently distributed by the Board. Though this project was less extensive than the "Survival" project it was significant because it was designed to serve as a model for other similar projects.

In January of 1944 under the direction of Research Associates Bacon and Fenton a third project was initiated. The subsequent "Survey of Area Studies in American Universities" was undertaken to analyze the foreign area courses offered at selected universities. A total of 27 universities from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts were included, and reports on about one-third of these were completed.

In March of that year the Board members discussed the feasibility of writing a history of the Board's activities. It was agreed that such a record was necessary and eventually Board member Wendell Clark Bennett was designated to draft this account. This fourth project, covering the activities of the Board up to June of 1945, was completed in August of that year.

In June of 1945 the last major undertaking was initiated. At that time the executive committee considered compiling a list of all war-related documents provided by the Board. Homer Barnett was assigned late in 1945 to survey those documents concerned with the Pacific Area. This project was combined with the never-completed Pacific Survey Project under Barnett's direction.

Although not considered a major undertaking, the "World File of Area and Language Specialists List" might better be described as an ongoing Board project. Approximately 5000 names were included on this roster. The sources from which they were gathered were numerous and included the Committee on Latin American Anthropology; the Committee on Asiatic Geography; the Intensive Language Program; and the Smithsonian War Committee. The lists provided by the Committees on the Anthropology of Africa and Oceania formed the backbone of this roster. The geographic areas of primary concern included Africa, Indonesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. This roster was used extensively by the government and other agencies throughout the course of the war.

Besides its own projects, the Board participated in a number of others in conjunction with various organizations and institutions. The Board assisted in the preparation of a manual entitled "Jungle and Desert Emergencies" with the Air Corps. The Quartermaster General's Office worked with the Board on a "Reconnaissance Report on Concentrated Rations of Primitive Peoples". Cooperating with the American Council of Learned Societies, the Board aided in the development of a program to train personnel in the Russian language. Other projects initiated but never completed included the Pacific Survey Project, the Area and Language Notes Project and the Research Committee Project.

Though the Board continued to operate until December of 1945, the first three years of its existence were those of the greatest activity.

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**Descriptive Entry**

This collection includes records concerning the Board's projects, general correspondence, committee and organization work and information concerning specialized data and special subjects. Postwar regional administration records, geographic reports, country information files, photographs and uncompleted project records are also included, as are the Board's fiscal, conference, meeting and miscellaneous records.
Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- African languages
- Anthropologists
- Geography -- Africa
- Geography -- Japan
- Geography -- Micronesia
- Japanese
- Micronesian languages
- Museums -- Administration
- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States

Types of Materials:
- Manuscripts

Names:
- American Council of Learned Societies
- Ethnogeographic Board (Washington, D. C.)
- National Research Council (U.S.)
- Smithsonian War Committee
- Social Science Research Council (U.S.)
- Strong, William Duncan, 1899-1962

Geographic Names:
- Africa -- Social life and customs
- Japan -- Social life and customs
- Micronesia -- Social life and customs
### Container Listing

**Series 1: Board’s Project Records: 1942-1946**

This series consists of the records of the Board’s major projects. Included are the Survival project papers and the Survival file card index. Also included are the area and regional specialists file arranged alphabetically and topically. It also contains the Bolivian Indian Project records, the Area Studies records and material dealing with the Ethnogeographic Board’s history.

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Box 5 of 31  Russian Speaking Technical Personnel (without PhD or equivalent), 1943.
Box 5 of 31  Survey of Russian Speaking Technical Personnel, 1943.
Box 5 of 31  Administrators, Potential, 1943.
Box 5 of 31  Europe Personnel Sheets (American Scandinavian Foundation), 1943.
Box 5 of 31  Partial List of Oceania Experts in Washington, 1943.
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Box 5 of 31  Some Recent American and British Expeditions To The Southwest Pacific, 1943.

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Box 20 of 31  Lists, Committee Reports, etc., Joint Committee on Latin American Studies. 1943.
Box 20 of 31  Latin American Dutch Treat Luncheon Group. 1943.
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Box 20 of 31  NRC Committee on Anthropology of Africa, Wilfred B. Hambly, Chairman No. III. 1942-1944.
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Series 4: Post War Regional Administration Records: 1942-1945

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This series includes a country information file of specialized strategic areas, alphabetically arranged.

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Box 24 of 31  Nunivak Island, Alaska, 1942.
Box 24 of 31  St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 1942.
Box 24 of 31  Western End of Seward Peninsula and Bering Strait, 1942.
Box 24 of 31  Mexico, 1942.
Box 24 of 31  Oceania, East Netherlands East Indies, 1942. (2 folders)
Box 24 of 31  Oceania, A Tabular Outline, 1942.
Box 24 of 31  Polynesia, 1942.
Series 6: Geographic Reports: 1942-1944

This series is comprised of 6 geographic status reports, numbered and dated.

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Box 25 of 31  Status of Geographic Reports, nos. 1, 2, 3. 1942-1943. (2 folders)
Box 25 of 31  Status of Geographic Reports, nos. 4, 5, 6. 1943-1944. (3 folders)

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Series 7: Country Information File: 1942-44
This series includes a country information file, geographically arranged.

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Box 26 of 31  Tuamotu Archipelago, Supplementary Reports. undated.
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Box 26 of 31  Rotuma Island, Supplementary Reports, undated.
Box 26 of 31  New Zealand, Supplementary Reports, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Horne and Wallis Islands, Supplementary Reports, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Gambier Islands, Supplementary Reports, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Cook Islands, Supplementary Reports, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Marshall Islands, Supplementary Reports, undated.
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Box 26 of 31  Santa Cruz Islands, Supplementary Reports, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Louisade Island, Supplementary Report, undated.
Box 26 of 31  D'Entrecasteaux Islands, Supplementary Report, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Melanesia, Supplementary Report, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Galapagos Islands, Latin America, Supplementary Report, undated.
Box 26 of 31  Borneo, Supplementary Report, 1943.
Box 26 of 31  Caroline Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942-1944.
Box 26 of 31  Marianas or Ladrones Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942.
Box 26 of 31  Tonga or Friendly Island, Supplementary Report, 1942.
Box 26 of 31  Fiji Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942.
Box 26 of 31  Niue Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942.
Box 26 of 31  Society Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942.
Box 26 of 31  New Caledonia Island, Supplementary Report, 1942.
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Australia, Supplementary Report, 1942.

Box 26 of 31  
Siam, Singapore, Supplementary Reports, 1942.

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New Guinea, Mandated Territory, Supplementary Reports, 1942.

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Netherlands New Guinea, Supplementary Report, 1942.

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Molluca Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942.

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Formosa Island, Supplementary Report, 1942.

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Philippine Islands, Supplementary Report, 1942.

Box 27  
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Lesser Sundas, Supplementary Report, 1942.

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Series 8: Uncompleted Project File: 1943-1945

These miscellaneous records consist of the uncompleted project papers of the Pacific Survey File.

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Box 27 of 31  Miscellaneous Papers, 1943-1945. (2 folders)
Box 27 of 31  Social Science, 1944.
Box 27 of 31  Minutes of Committee Meetings, 1944.
Box 27 of 31  Forestry, Pacific Islands, 1944.
Box 27 of 31  Conference on Pacific Survey Problems, 1943-1944.
Box 27 of 31  Draft of Survey, Preliminary, 1943.
Box 27 of 31  Minutes of Committee Meetings, 1943.
Box 27 of 31  Pacific Conference, 1943.
Box 27 of 31  Medical Angle, 1943.
Box 27 of 31  Kroeber, A.L., Pacific Coast Project and General Correspondence, 1942-1943.

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This series consists of the Board's fiscal records and includes dated requisitions and vouchers, dated correspondence regarding accounts, dated appropriations statements, proposed budgets and payroll information.

Box 28

Box 28 of 31 Accounts, January to June, 1946.
Box 28 of 31 Accounts, Requisitions and Vouchers, July to December, 1945.
Box 28 of 31 Accounts, Requisitions and Vouchers, January to June, 1945.
Box 28 of 31 Correspondence Regarding Accounts, 1944-1946.
Box 28 of 31 Appropriations Statements, 1943-1946.
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Box 28 of 31 Invoices and Unrequisitioned Bills, 1943 (?).
Box 28 of 31 Correspondence Regarding Accounts, 1943.
Box 28 of 31 Original Requisitions, 1942.
Box 28 of 31 Correspondence Regarding Accounts, 1942.
Box 28 of 31 Sample Forms, undated.
Series 10: Records of Board's Meetings: 1942-1944

This series is comprised of the dated minutes of the Board's meetings and also includes the Director's Annual Data Report and the dated executive committee meetings.

Box 28
Box 28 of 31  Board Meeting. December 9, 1944.

Box 29
Box 29 of 31  Board Meeting. March 25, 1944.
Box 29 of 31  Annual Report Data (end of first year of Board's work), 1943-1944.
Box 29 of 31  Board Meeting, Correspondence, Memos. September 24, 1943.
Box 29 of 31  Executive Committee Meetings. 1943-1944.
Box 29 of 31  Board Meeting, Correspondence regarding memos. February 28, 1943.
Box 29 of 31  Minutes of the Board (Second Meeting). February 28, 1943.
Box 29 of 31  Minutes of the Board (First Meeting). August 3, 1942.
Box 29 of 31  Board Meeting, Correspondence regarding memos. August 3, 1942.

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Series 11: Board Conference Records: 1942-1943
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Series 12: Miscellaneous Photographs and Negatives: Undated

This series includes miscellaneous photographs and negatives used in the preparation of the Board’s or the sponsoring institution’s regional reports.

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Series 13: Miscellaneous Documents: 1942-1944

This series includes miscellaneous papers, reports and correspondence alphabetically arranged.

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Box 30 of 31  Arctic, Desert Tropic Information Center. 1943.
Box 30 of 31  Caribbean Areas, Modern Peoples of. 1943.
Box 30 of 31  Community War Fund, D.C. 1943.
Box 30 of 31  Consultant's Meetings. 1943.
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Box 31 of 31  Siamese Botany, Bibliography of. 1943.
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Series 14: Miscellaneous Publications: 1943

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Strategic Bulletin of Oceania, Number 5: FOOD AND WATER SUPPLY IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, February 23, 1943.

Box 31 of 31
Strategic Bulletin of Oceania, Number 6: DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASES IN MELANESIA, March 5, 1943.

Box 31 of 31
Strategic Bulletin of Oceania, Number 7: METEOROLOGY OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS, March 5, 1943.

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