

Register to the Papers of  
Ethel Mary Albert

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National Anthropological Archives  
Smithsonian Institution

## CONTENTS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	3
CHRONOLOGY	3
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	4
PROCESSING NOTE	5
SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST	6
SERIES 1. RUNDI PROJECTS REPORTS AND JOURNALS	6
SERIES 2. RUNDI ETHNOGRAPHY ; ROUGH NOTES	6
SERIES 3. RUNDI BIOGRAPHIES	7
SERIES 4. RUNDI TEXTS	8
SERIES 5. PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES	9
SERIES 6. STUDY OF FATALISM	10
SERIES 7. STUDY OF VALUES IN FIVE CULTURES	11
SERIES 8. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES	11
SERIES 9. UNPUBLISHED WRITINGS	11
SERIES 10. PUBLISHED ARTICLES	12
SERIES 11. BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
SERIES 12 UNPUBLISHED DRAFTS OF MANUSCRIPTS	13
SERIES 13 MISCELLANY	14
SERIES 14. SOUND RECORDINGS	14

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Ethel M. Albert was born on March 28, 1918. She received her B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1942 and her M.A. from Columbia University in 1947. She was awarded a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1949. She taught philosophy at Brooklyn College (1946-1947) and Syracuse University (1949-1952). She later taught speech at the University of California at Berkeley (1958-1966) and anthropology and speech at Northwestern University (1966-1977). From 1958-66, she served as chair of the committee for African Studies (a part of the Institute of International Studies). She was chair of the anthropology department at Northwestern University from 1972-73.

Albert's ethnographic research focused on communication and speech, and values and ethics. She pursued these themes cross-culturally across a wide spectrum of social classes, ethnic groups and locations. She carried out work among the Navaho while serving as a research associate with the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University (1953-1955). As a Ford Foundation fellow (1955-1957), she carried out ethnographic studies of the Tutsi, Hutu and Twa peoples of Burundi, from which she produced numerous notes and writings. Albert died at the age of 71 in October of 1989, in Sarasota, Florida.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF ETHEL MARY ALBERT**

1918	Born on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of March in New Britain, CT.; daughter of Zundel and Dorothy (Eisenstadt) Sokolsky
1942	Receives her B.A. from Brooklyn College
1947	Receives her M.A. from Columbia University
1946-47	Instructor of philosophy at Brooklyn College
1949	Awarded a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin
1949-52	Instructor of philosophy at Syracuse University
1953-55	Research associate with the Laboratory of Social Relations at Harvard University; carries out work among the Navahos
1955-57	Carries out an ethnographic study of the Rundi Culture in central Africa as a Ford Foundation Fellow in the Overseas African Program
1957-58	Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California
1958-66	Instructor of speech at the University of California at Berkeley
1960, 1961	Assistant Director for ethnology, National Science Foundation Project on Educational Resources in Anthropology
1963-65	Chairman of committee for African studies (Institute of International Studies), University of California at Berkeley
1964-65	Appointed vice-chairman of the speech department at the University of California at Berkeley
1966-77	Professor of anthropology and speech at Northwestern University
1973-73	Chairman of anthropology and speech department, Northwestern University

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1956 "The Classification of Values: A Method and Illustration." *American Anthropologist* 58(2): 221-248.
- 1963 *The Teaching of Anthropology*. Edited by David G. Mandelbaum, Gabriel W. Lasker and Ethel M. Albert. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. (Also published in AAA Memoir 94).
- 1963 *Resources for the Teaching of Anthropology*. Edited by David G. Mandelbaum, Gabriel W. Lasker and Ethel M. Albert. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. (Also published in AAA Memoir 95).
- 1964 " 'Rhetoric,' 'Logic,' and 'Poetics' in Burundi: Culture Patterning of Speech Behavior " *American Anthropologist* 66 (suppl. 3): 35-54.
- 1966 *People of Rimrock: A Study of Values in Five Cultures*. Edited by Evon Z. Vogt and Ethel M. Albert. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is mainly comprised of Albert's papers produced in the course of her ethnological studies as Ford Fellow in Burundi in the late 1950s; field research among the Navaho; and materials related to a later cross cultural study of fatalism.

Among her field notes and extensive personal journals produced during her stay in Burundi are collections of Kirundi texts, including fables and stories, many of which were produced in direct cooperation with (and in a few cases authored by) some of her more literate informants. She also collected a wide spectrum of biographies. During her time in Central Africa, she interviewed many people from both major ethnic groups (Tutsi and Hutu) and accumulated photographic portraits of many of her biographical subjects.

Her collection of photographic slides number more than 300. They depict a wide range of the activities of village life (such as traditional dances, dress, children, cows, and agricultural activities) as well as portraits of the King and Queen of Urundi.

Albert also conducted ethnographic fieldwork among the Navaho. From that period, her papers include material relating to a study of values in five cultures; these appear in Vogt and Albert's *People of Rimrock* (1967).

Another important group of materials consists of manuscripts and notes relating to Albert's study of fatalism. In these notes and manuscripts she relates her previous

ethnographic studies to her philosophical knowledge in the production of a cross-cultural study of the values and life ways associated with fatalism, resignation and determinism.

This collection contains many of her completed essays and articles, both published and unpublished. Albert also produced sound recordings related to her field work in Burundi.

This collection measures 8.33 linear feet (22 boxes, 3 audio reels).

## **PROCESSING NOTE**

The papers of Ethel Mary Albert were received partially organized. The processing archivist maintained the original groupings and arrangement, with the exception that drafts of published articles were removed from Series 10 (Published Articles) and placed in Series 12 (Drafts of Published Articles); a manuscript from F.G. Friedmann and Albert's Book appraisal were removed from Series 9 (Unpublished Writings) and moved to Series 13 (Miscellany). Original folder titles were retained in most cases, with titles assigned by the archivist placed within square brackets. The photographic slides were placed into archival slide folders but the original numbering and groupings have been maintained. The audio reels were isolated for appropriate storage.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES 1: RUNDI PROJECT REPORTS AND JOURNALS. 5 in.

#### Box 1

Ford Foundation Reports, No. 1-8. 1955-1957.  
Journal [Travel]. September 1955-January 4 1957; July 4, 1957-August 4, 1957.  
Journal, Mutumba [pages 1-197]. May 23-November 30, 1956  
Journal, Mutumba [pages 198- 470]. May 23-November 30, 1956  
Journal, Rusaka [pages 471-700]. January-June 1957  
Journal, Rusaka [pages 701- 961]. January-June 1957

### SERIES 2: RUNDI ETHNOGRAPHY; ROUGH NOTES. 17 ½ in.

#### Box 2

Misc., *Infor-Urundi* No's 106, 105, 63, *numero special.*, (1963-1964), bibliography  
"la femme en urundi "  
Misc., kinship chart, village and housing diagrams, *Infor-Burundi* No.117, 120,  
newspaper clipping, AAA pamphlet, notes  
Ubgenge (intelligence)  
1. Preface, acknowledgements  
Maps (commercial and illustrated)  
1. Introduction  
2. Arts (music and dance; entertainment, games, hunting)  
3. Asking and giving  
4. Culture contact and change  
5. Economy I: herding and agriculture: government control  
7. Ethnoscience  
8. Family: relations and constitution

#### Box 3

9. Field work: methods and conditions  
10. Food and Indulgences  
11. Health and curing, beliefs  
12. History, general  
13. Husband-Wife relationships  
14. Interpersonal relations: household, other (*including personal correspondence*  
*1/28/57*)  
15. Kinship and genealogies  
16. Life cycle  
18. Linguistics: naming and symbolism

19. Logic: discourse, knowledge, communication
20. Marriage, divorce, spinsterhood, polygamy, etc.

#### **Box 4**

21. Material culture
22. Personal appearance, Physical types, Dress, etc.
23. Personality and ethnopsychology
24. Physical setting and climate
25. Political system
25. Modern structure and dynamics
26. Property and cows
28. Schedules: daily, annual
29. Sex, reproduction, and childbirth
30. Social control and law [*Cow-Thieving*]
30. Cases for analysis
31. Social relations: superior-inferior; Hutu, Tutsi, Twa
32. Socialization
35. Value system
35. Foci

#### **Box 5**

35. [Fables?]
35. Character
35. Valued entities
35. Texts (for analysis)
36. Witchcraft
37. Metaphysics- Infor. Outlines
37. Imana
38. Variations

### **SERIES 3: RUNDI BIOGRAPHIES. 5 in.**

#### **Box 6**

39. Biographies [Letters]
- Simbabaje (*Folder only contains note indicating to cross reference to cow thieving*  
30. *Social control and law*)
- Ndiruhangura, Simuganira et al
- Miscellaneous short biographies
- Interesting "Atypical " Barundi
- Rukere and Gahitira
- Rukwebuka and Muyehe
- Ruvako

Mubamba  
Matabishi  
Muhorana, Mozakari, Bujana  
Kimararungu  
Inabanguka  
Elisabetha  
Datus  
Burije  
Nziguheba & Brothers  
Mbwirahoze  
Bashirashihize & Family  
Baranyanka & Family  
Mwambutsa & Family  
Europeans

**SERIES 4: RUNDI TEXTS. 20 in.**

**Box 7**

Correspondence with Andre Coupez  
Rundi Tapes Lang. Lab Tapes  
[Kirundi Proverbs Drafts]  
[Rundi Stories-1]  
[Rundi Stories-2]  
[Rundi Stories-3]  
[Rundi Stories-4]  
[Rundi Stories-5]  
[Rundi Stories-6]

**Box 8**

Rundi Texts- French Translation- Uncorrected (Photo copies) Part I  
Rundi Texts- French Translation- Uncorrected (Photo copies) Part II  
Rundi Texts- English Translation- Carbon Copy- Tales, etc [1]  
Rundi Texts- English Translation- Carbon Copy- Tales, etc [2]

**Box 9**

Rundi Texts- English Translations Part I (Originals) [1]  
Rundi Texts- English Translations Part I (Originals) [2]  
Rundi Texts- English Translations Part II (Originals) [1]  
Rundi Texts- English Translations Part II (Originals) [2]  
Ethel M. Albert & André Coupez- Kirundi only- Photocopy II Rundi Literature

## **Box 10**

[Collected Rundi Texts- 1]  
[Collected Rundi Texts- 2]  
[Collected Rundi Texts- 3]  
[Collected Rundi Texts- 4]  
Amazina y'Abaganwa (Munyagara)  
Notes on Rundi Texts- Papers- Translations  
Rundi Texts- General and Misc.

## **Box 11**

Microfilm Copies of Kirundi Texts [1]  
Microfilm Copies of Kirundi Texts [2]  
"Values and Conduct: a Study of the Peoples of Urundi. " Chapter 5: The Nature of  
the Universe. *Unpublished Draft of Manuscript*  
"Values and Conduct: a Study of the Peoples of Urundi. " Chapter 15: The World  
View. Chapter 15(a): Logic and Rhetoric. *Unpublished Draft of Manuscript*

## **SERIES 5: PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES. 5 in.**

## **Box 12**

[List of Captions]  
1-26 Land, settlement, and scenery  
27-54 Special shots (maize, rainstorm, fires)  
55- 81 Agriculture and food  
82-103 Hutu  
104-129 Tutsi, portraits, King and Queen (see 306-307)  
130-151 Tutsi (not portraits) Ausi, Christiana, Marie Immaculata  
152-168 Children and nursing  
169-191 Cows and milking  
192-217 Structures, crafts  
218-237 Banana beer  
238-265 Kitega dances  
266-290 Hutu dancers, Harroy visit, violin, Umuduli  
291-316 Batwa, Ngozi, Nyabikara, Urundi, Usumbura, Astrida  
317-339 Tanganyika, Astrida, Astrida dancers  
340-368 Gite and staff  
369-395 Congo

## **SERIES 6: STUDY OF FATALISM. 20 in.**

### **Box 13**

Science of western culture equation and the method of the study of man  
Criteria of credibility  
Poets and peasants as philosophers  
Consistency in cultural philosophies  
Consistency, empiricism, and pluralism--resolutions of inconsistencies  
Cultural variations and consistency  
Change  
Consistency and culture change

### **Box 14**

Comparative cultural logics (including paradox)  
Fatalism: Outlines, Preface  
Introduction  
Definition of fatalism  
Islam  
Varieties of Fatalism (1)  
Varieties of Fatalism (2)  
Logic of Fatalism  
Manuscript

### **Box 15**

Uncertainty and 'Changing Fate'  
Part II- Ethics and Changes  
Part III  
[Study of Fatalism-1]  
[Study of Fatalism-2]  
[Study of Fatalism-3]  
[Study of Fatalism-4]

### **Box 16**

This box is comprised mainly of Albert's unpublished manuscript relating to her cross cultural study of fatalism.

Outline: *Fatalism, the ethics of resignation: a case study in ethnophilosophy*  
Fatalism Preface- Correspondence & Special Notes (orig. 9 page preface)  
Fatalism: Outline [Draft]  
"Fatalism in Cultural World-Views" [pages i-100]  
"Fatalism in Cultural World-Views" [pages 101- 199a]

"Fatalism in Cultural World-Views" [pages 200-316]  
"Fatalism in Cultural World-Views" [pages c1-c99]  
"Fatalism in Cultural World-Views" [pages c100-c129]  
"Fatalism in Cultural World-Views" [pages 1-153; partial bibliography, 4 pages]

**SERIES 7: STUDY OF VALUES IN FIVE CULTURES. 5 in.**

**Box 17**

Preface, Acknowledgements, and Maps  
'Val. St'.- Original  
Comparisons- 5 Value Studies  
Bibliography (old-combined)  
"Theory construction for the comparative study of values in five cultures: a report on the values study," January 1954  
MS, "Ethnography of values: five cultural value Systems." January 1971

**SERIES 8: MISCELLANEOUS NOTES. 7 ½ in.**

**Box 18**

African Comm. Conf.  
Ch 3-A Methodology- oper. indices/sampling, native informants  
Ch 4B Data collection: field work methods and techniques  
Ch 4B Assumptions--General  
Assumptions--Ethnological  
Ch 3B Data--Paralingual and behavioral  
Ch 3B Words-Actions/behavior-value and conduct  
Premises as unit--contextual meaning

**Box 19**

Pattern, Context- Overflow  
Data: the language of values  
Ch 3 Values in language and conduct: content analysis in culture context

**SERIES 9: UNPUBLISHED WRITINGS. 5 inches**

**Box 20**

"Cultural universals--words or things." *AAA*. November 20, 1964  
"Pierce's type-token distinction." [Student Paper] January 26, 1947

Semeiotics and semantics bibliography.

"On the science of values: a footnote to scientific humanism." [Student Paper] May, 1948

48. "A Re-examination of 'existential import' of categorical propositions."  
*First written as a talk delivered at Syracuse University in April, 1952.* December 1957

"The Philosophical Consequences of Modern Physical Theory." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin, 1949

"The problem of historical causation," *MA thesis, Columbia University*

"A Comparative Study of Hutu and Tutsi Values in Urundi." *Text of a talk given to I.R.S.A.C. staff in Belgian Congo, translated from French.* July 4, 1957

#### **SERIES 10: PUBLISHED ARTICLES. 5 in.**

This series contains Albert's publications. Many publications are accompanied by earlier drafts of those articles. Some folders which contained only drafts of publication have been removed and separated into Series 13: Drafts of Published Articles.

#### **Box 21**

[Miscellaneous Book Reviews for American Anthropologist]

1954 Causality in the Social Sciences. *The Journal of Philosophy.* 51(30): 695-706.

1954 The Classification of values: A Method and Illustration. *American Anthropologist* 55(2): 111-154.

1956 La Philosophie des Indiens Zunis. *Extrait du Numero du 2ème Trimestre 1956 De La Revue de Psychologie des Peuples.* Institut Havrais de Sociologie Economique et de Psychologie des Peuples, Paris. Co-authored by Jean Cazeneuve, pp. 1-12.

1957 Value Sentences and Empirical Research. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research.* 17(3): 331-338.

1958 First Principles in Logic and Ethics. *Bucknell Review* 7(3): 133-143

1958 Social Sciences Facts and Philosophical Values. *The Antioch Review* (Winter 1957/1958): 406-420. *This folder also contains a Vietnamese translation.*

- 1960 My "Boy " Muntu. In *In The Company of Man: Twenty Portraits by Anthropologists*, edited by Joseph B Casagrande, pp. 358-375. NY: Harper & Bros.
- 1960 Socio-Political Organization and Receptivity to Change: Some Differences Between Ruanda and Urundi. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 16(1): 46-74
- 1960 Une Etude de Valeurs en Urundi. *Cahiers D'Etudes Africaines* 2: 358-375.
- 1963 Conflict and Change In American Values: A Culture-Historical Approach. *Ethics: An International Journal Of Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy* 74(1): 19-33.
- 1963 The Role Of Women: A Question ff Values. *The Voice Of America: Forum Lectures. Potential of Woman Series.* 5: 1-8.
- 1963 Value Aspects of Teaching Anthropology. In *The Teaching of Anthropology*, edited by David G. Mandelbaum, Gabriel W. Lasker and Ethel M. Albert, pp. 559-581. (American Anthropological Association, Memoir 94) Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- 1964 "Rhetoric ", "Logic ", and "Poetics " in Burundi: Culture Patterning of Speech Behavior. *American Anthropologist* 66 (6): 35-54.
- 1970 Conceptual Systems in Africa. In *The African Experience, Volume 1: Essays*, edited by John N. Paden and Edward W. Soja, pp. 99-10.

**SERIES 11: BIBLIOGRAPHY. 5 in.**

**Box 22**

Bibliography- Africa, Urundi, General. (*This box contains index cards comprising a bibliography related to Africa.*)

**SERIES 12: DRAFTS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES. 2 ½ in.**

**Box 23**

- 1963 "Women of Burundi: A Study of Social Values " *Authors Translation of "La Femme en Urundi " in "Femmes d'Afrique Noire. "*
- 1968 "Value Systems " in *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*
- 1966 "The Unmothered Woman " in *Challenge to Women.*

1960 "Five Abstracts in the Philosophy of Science and the Philosophy of Values "  
*Submitted to Paul W. Kurtz, editor, for Philosophical Abstracts.*

**SERIES 13: MISCELLANY. 2 ½ in..**

**Box 24**

"The Peasant " and "La Miseria." October, 1954. By F. G. Friedmann

Book Appraisal, November 18, 1983. (*Appraisal of Albert's Library; Contains last known address.*)

**SERIES 14: SOUND RECORDINGS**

Sound Recordings. (*One four inch and two six inch reels; these reels are housed separately.*)