

Register to the Papers of  
Jon Haskell Breslar

Lorain Wang  
September 2007

[National Anthropological Archives](#)  
Smithsonian Institution

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Jon Haskell Breslar, a sociocultural and applied anthropologist, was born on June 22, 1949 in Ware, Massachusetts. He received a B.A. in Anthropology and French in 1971 from Franklin & Marshall College and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981.

As a doctoral student, Breslar originally planned to study ethnic identities and relationships in the Lac Alaotra region of Northeast Madagascar. His plans came to a halt, however, when officials from the Malagasy Embassy informed him that westerners were no longer allowed to conduct long term ethnological research in Madagascar. As a result, he decided to carry out his research in Mayotte, Comoro Islands. From 1975 to 1976, Breslar conducted fieldwork in the villages of Sada and M'Zouazia, which led to his dissertation, "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands)." He still had not completed his dissertation when, upon the invitation of the French government, he returned to Mayotte for four months from November, 1977 to February, 1978 to develop a new housing policy for the Mahorais as a contractor for Société Immobilière de Mayotte. He returned to Mayotte again in September, 1978 to January, 1982, this time with his family, to continue work on the project. A pilot study was conducted and published in a three-volume set, one of which was Breslar's *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique* (1979-1982). The project resulted in the construction of more durable housing using low-cost materials.

In 1983, he joined the US Agency for International Development (USAID). During the course of his career at USAID, he was assigned to Nepal, Mali, and Lebanon (where he served as director). He rose to the diplomatic rank of Minister Counselor and was a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award and the Administrator's Award for Distinguished Career Service.

Breslar passed away at the age of 56, from lung cancer, on September 3, 2005.

### Sources Consulted

Lambek, Michael. "Jon Haskell Breslar." *Anthropology News* 47.2 (2006): 35.

## **CHRONOLOGY**

- 1949            Born June 22 in Ware, Massachusetts
- 1971            Earns B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College in Anthropology and French
- 1975-1976      Conducts ethnological fieldwork in Mayotte, Comoro Islands.
- 1977-1978      Returns to Mayotte for four months to help develop new housing policy for the Mahorais as a contractor for Société Immobilière de Mayotte
- 1978-1982      Continues work on Mayotte housing project
- 1981            Earns Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh
- 1983            Joins USAID
- 1985-1989      Serves as USAID Rural Development Officer in Nepal
- 1989-1993      Serves as USAID Program Officer in Mali
- 1997            Visits Mayotte
- 2000-2002      Serves as Mission Director in Lebanon
- 2005            Dies on September 3 at the age of 56.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1981 Ph.D. dissertation. "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands)." University of Pittsburgh.

1979 *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*. Paris: Editions A.G.G.

1986 with Michael Lambek. "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte." *Madagascar: Society and History*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

These papers document Jon Breslar's fieldwork on Mayotte, Comoro Islands for his dissertation as well as his work developing a new housing policy for Mayotte. The collection contains his professional correspondence, notes, writings, research materials, photographs, maps, plant specimens, and sound recordings.

Among his correspondents in the collection are Georges and Genevieve Boulinier, Michael Lambek, Paul Ottino, and Alexander Spoehr. The collection also contains his correspondence relating to arrangements for his trip to Mayotte as well as his fieldwork progress reports sent to the Social Science Research Council, which funded his research.

A copy of Breslar's dissertation can be found in the collection along with his field notes; maps; sound recordings of ceremonies and interviews with informants; plant specimens used for medicine; photographic prints; and 35 mm slides. Materials relating to his work on the Mayotte housing project consist of his research notes, photographs, and the *L'Habitat* publications produced from the project.

Michael Lambek and Breslar both conducted fieldwork on Mayotte at around the same time and collaborated on two papers: "Death and Politics in Mayotte" (presented at the 1977 76<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association meeting) and "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte" (1986). A draft of the first paper can be found filed with Lambek's correspondence while a copy of the second paper is under *Series 4. Writings*.

In addition to Breslar's writings, the collection contains monographs, articles, and theses on the Comoro Islands and Madagascar by other authors. Most of the writings are in French and English, but there are also photocopies and photographic prints of a manuscript in Arabic.

Other materials that may be of interest are Breslar's teaching materials for his course on Shimaore. While in Mayotte, Breslar became fluent in Shimaore and offered a course on the language.

## **EXTENT**

7.17 linear feet (16 boxes), 32 sound recordings, 1 map drawer.

## **PROVENANCE**

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Jon Breslar's wife, Bonnie. A copy of Breslar's dissertation was obtained by his wife and added to the collection at a later date.

## **RELATED COLLECTIONS**

Four 8mm film reels received with the papers of Jon Breslar have been transferred to the Human Studies Film Archives. The reels contain footage of a circumcision and other Mayotte rituals and ceremonies.

## **PROCESSING NOTE**

The papers of Jon Breslar were received partially organized and loosely grouped into field notes and research notes, correspondence, languages materials, and writings by others. The processing archivist kept existing groupings and organized the collection into eight series. Original folder titles were retained with titles assigned by the archivist placed within square brackets. Paper clips and staples were removed and, when necessary, an acid-free sheet of paper was folded around documents to indicate original groupings. Photographs that were intermixed with other materials were separated and filed with other photographs. Oversized materials were also separated and placed in oversized storage. Original and new locations of separated materials have been noted with separation sheets.

The processing archivist would like to thank Dominique Rogers for her assistance.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES 1. CORRESPONDENCE. 1971-1989 [BULK 1971-1978].

5 inches

This series contains Breslar's professional correspondence. Also in the series are his progress reports sent to the Social Science Research Council (which funded his research in Mayotte) and correspondence relating to preparations for his trip to Mayotte. A draft of Michael Lambek and Breslar's paper, "Death and Politics in Mayotte," presented at the 1977 76<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association annual meeting, can be found with Lambek's correspondence.

#### Box 1

Boulinier, Georges et Genevieve	1975-1977
Lambek, Michael [1 of 2]	1977-1989
<i>Correspondence; paper by Lambek and Breslar for 76th AAA meeting entitled, "Death and Politics in Mayotte"; and various papers by Lambek</i>	
Lambek, Michael [2 of 2]	1977-1989
<i>Correspondence; paper by Lambek and Breslar for 76th AAA meeting entitled, "Death and Politics in Mayotte"; and various papers by Lambek</i>	
Ottino, Paul - Correspondence	1973-1978
[Saindou, Ibrahim]	1975
<i>Thank-you letter from I. Saindou to Breslar, Nov.3, 1970; letter separated from Series 4. Writings "Lambek; Lambeck- Breslar; CNRS Geology; Rombi; Shepherd; Gueunier; Ottenheimer"</i>	
Spoehr, Alexander	1971-1976
Mayotte: Official Correspond. 1977/8	
Mayotte Trip: Official Letters, Travel . . .	
Visa Information - Comoros	1974-1975
Social Science Research Council	1974-1977
<i>Also contains research proposals and progress reports sent to SSRC</i>	
New SSRC Proposal	1976-1977
<i>Also contains research proposals and progress reports sent to SSRC</i>	

## **SERIES 2. RESEARCH. 1975-1980.**

2.04 linear feet

This series contains Breslar's field notes, genealogy charts, and research notes for his dissertation and his work on the Mayotte housing project. This series also contains copies of his dissertation research proposal, a translated transcription of an interview with an informant, and an outline for a talk he gave on his research to a synagogue. Some of his dissertation field notes are arranged chronologically in the three volumes that can be found in the beginning of this series. Breslar also organized his field notes by subject and informant. Material relating to the housing project can be found in the latter part of the series.

For Breslar's progress reports sent to the Social Science Research Council, please see *Series 1. Correspondence*. A copy of his dissertation can be found in *Series 4. Writings*.

### **Box 2**

Volume 1 Sada pp. 1-175	1975 July 13 - December 9
Volume 2 Sada, M'Zouazia pp. 175-348	1975 December 26 - 1976 August 13
Volume 3 M'Zouazia pp. 349-525	1976 August 15 - October 28
Attitudes Toward Sex	1976
Childbirth	1975-1976
Circumcisions	1975-1976
Daira, Dinaho, Mulidi, Maolida, Deba	1975-1976
Death and Funerals	1975-1976
Divination	undated
Economics	1976
Ethnohistory	1976
Ethnomedicine and Curing	1975-1976
Fatiha, Shidjabu, Badiri	1975-1976
Islam: The Mosque & School	1975-1977
Kinship	1976
Law	1976
Marriage & Family	1975-1977
Melanges	1975-1976
Monyezh and Mugen [Mujen?]	1976
Mugala, Patrosy, and Spirits	1975-1976
Mwaha and Idi	1975
Other Villages	undated
Political Congress	1975

### **Box 3**

Political Reconciliations	1975-1976
Political-Religious Hierarchy	1975-1976
Politics (General)	1975-1976
Property Conflict	1976
Technolinguistics	1975
Youth Organization	undated
[Stories by students at the College in Dzaoudzi]	1975
A1 Saindou Ibrahim / Kurati Youssouf	1976
A2 Saindou Ibrahim / Rilawyin Attoumane	undated
A3 Saindou Ibrahim / Fatima Hussein	1976
A4 Zainaba Saindou	undated
A5 Mariata Saindou	1976
A6 Hanithi Saindou / Saindou Aboudou	undated
A7 Mwazari Ibrahim / Bacari M'Shama	undated
A8 Yesha Madi / Abdourahman Hamada	undated
A9 Mahariri Ibrahim	undated
B1 Diwan Madi / Djadi Saidi	undated
B2 Amina Madi / Matwari M'Lamali	undated
B3 Mwalulu Mwanwabu	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
B4 Zimuda Madi / Youssouf Mari	1976
B5 Nyimi Youssouf	undated
B6 Kurashia Madi / Marciale Henri	undated
C1 Mwada Insa	undated
C2 Yesha Daolabou / Muhusuni Madi	undated
C3 Halima Muhusuni / M'Hijahi M'Laili	undated
C4 Myisara Muhusuni / Saidi Assan	undated
C5 Zaliha Daolabou / Youssouf Djibir	undated
C6 Sabutia Youssouf / Hafithu Nasweer	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
C7 Fatima Insa	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
C8 Mariama Madi Bacari / Ahamadi Abdallah	undated
C9 Bwena Amina Madi / Ibrahim Damalahi	1976
C10 Saodati Madi Bacari / Youssouf M'Cadara	1976
D1 Amina Saidi / Bwana Combo	1976
D2 Houazimata Soumaila / Boura Malidi	1976
D3 Swabia Soumaila / Bousouri Darimi	1976
D4 Anlia Soumaila / Younoussa Humadi	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
D5 Antufati Soumaila	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
D6 Halima Saidi / Hikin a Silahi	undated
D7 Fatima Hussein / Ali Youngou	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	

D8 Bwenlali Saidi / Saidi Sola	undated
E1 Salima Masondi	undated
E2 M'Pate Combo / Salimou Aboudou	
E3 Assanati Combo	undated
E4 Mahaba Ali / Aboudou Shahidi	1976
E5 Mwadjumwa Masondi / Sidi Djabir	undated
E6 Atuya Sidi / Youssouf Shaka	1976
E7 Habushia Masondi / Youssouf Madi	1976
E8 Zalifati Masondi / Attoumane Colo	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
F1 Fatima Alawi / Youssouf Ali	undated
F2 Afswati Aboudou / Hamadane Youssouf	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
F3 Mwanarafi Youssouf	undated
F4 Fazati Youssouf / Darwesh	undated
F5 Maboto Youssouf	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
F6 Hamidia Alawi	undated
F7 Zaina Hamidia	undated
F8 Mariata Bwana / Abdulahi Hedja	undated
F9 Madi Sidi	undated
F10 Nuru Madi Sidi / Ahmed Omari	undated
F11 Mambweni Madi Sidi / Madi Ali Tembre	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
G1 Halima Bounou / Assan Baco	undated
G2 Amina Muhudini / Anjilane Assan	undated
H1 Twaifati Maolida / Boundra Bacari	undated
H2 Kala Madi / Bacari Youssouf	1976
H3 Mazena Madi / Ali Humadi	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
H4 Hafifati Maolida	undated
H5 Salama Saindou	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
H6 Anfuati Madi Sidi / Abdou Latuf Bacari	undated
H7 Zakia Maolida / Moustwaffa Bounou	undated
H8 Hafidati Sidi	undated
H9 Malawia Aboudou / Ibrahim Saindou	1976
I1 Kamissi Madi / Bounjoumane Aluwaha	1976
I2 Mwanu Malidi / Aboudou Alawi	undated
I3 Latufa Malidi / Kambi Aboudou	undated
J1 Mwacazi Kabiri	undated
J2 Manesha M'Colo / Shaka Vita	1976
J3 Rakoto Shaka	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
J4 Ravavi Shaka / Samba Malidi	undated

J5 Fatima Shaka / Abdou Madi Kele	undated
J6 Rukia Shaka / Bacari Ali	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
J7 Zaliha Shaka / Zaidou Abdallah	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
J8 Swafia Ali / Ahamadi Shaka	undated
J9 Mwadjumwa Bao	undated
J10 Mariama Rama / Hussein Wali	1976
J11 Binti Mari / Djabir M'Cadara	1976
J12 Fatima Madi / Ahamadi Saidi Boto	1976
J13 Salama Shaka / Hamada Toto	undated
J14 Rahema M'Colo	undated
J15 Fatima M'Cadara	undated
K1 Afswati Bwanashi / Shihiti Djuhudi	undated
K2 Fatima Djuhudi / Ali Abdallah Hadji	1976
K3 Safinati M'Dallah / Hamada Safinati	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
K4 Zuhurati M'Dallah / Mohamed Vita	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
K5 Fanuni M'Dallah	undated
K6 Mariama Mwarabu / Bourhane Twabibu	undated
L1 Mze Mazh	undated
L2 Mwadjumwa Mze Mazh	undated
L3 Musulimati M'Dallah / Saindou Ali	
<i>Folder is empty</i>	
[Notes & labels]	1976, undated
<i>Folder labels with informants' names</i>	
Bwanali Aboudou	undated
Zainaba Aboudou	1976
Mahadali Achiraffi	1975-1976

#### Box 4

Omari Attoumane	undated
Moussa Bahedja	1976
Hamada Bwanali	
Kamardine Daniale	1976
Mohamed Hachim	1975
Shechi Hamida	1976
Azimati Haribou	1975
Attoumane Madi	1975-1976
Mwadahabou Madi	1976
Ali Mari	undated
Madi Mari	1976

Nafissa Massiala	1976
Saidi Mohamed Hussein	undated
Moutoubani Saidi	1976
Salama Salimou	1976
Sharlot Selimane	undated
Saidi Shanfi	undated
Saidi Souffu	undated
Bourahane Tamimou	1976
Miscellaneous	1975-1976
<i>Notes on various informants</i>	
Ibrahim Wali Family	1976
Combo Hussein Family	undated
M'Dallah Bwana Family	undated
Sharif	undated
M'Zouazia Data (Madi Youssouf) Summer 1976	
Grande Comorians, Anjouanais, and Mohelians	
<i>List of names</i>	
M'Zouazia Residents	1976
[Map and list of M'Zouazia households]	1976
Miscellaneous [1 of 2]	1975-1976, undated
<i>Field notes and research notes</i>	
Miscellaneous [2 of 2]	1975-1976, undated
<i>Field notes and research notes</i>	
Hirimu, Shikao - Sada	
Maps: Sada and M'Zouazia	undated
<i>Hand-drawn maps</i>	
Taperecording translation	1976
[Field notes & notes on M'Zouazia photos]	1977 November 28 - 1978 January 26

#### **Box 5**

[5 kinship charts]	undated
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#### **Box 6**

[Field notes]	1978 February
Songoro, Mavingoni	1977, undated
<i>Survey of Songoro and Mavingoni village settlements and field notes</i>	
Sada landownership	
<i>See Map Drawer – map folder; map originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash</i>	

- crops*”  
 [Artisans 22 Sept. 80 and field notes 5 July 80]  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Final Report: M'Zouazia [1 of 2]  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Final Report: M'Zouazia [2 of 2]  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- [Synagogue lecture]  
*Outline for talk given at synagogue; originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Shungu, Matahiri - Field notes 1979-1980  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Cash Crops  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Selected Villages 1977-1978  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Urban  
*Originally in binder entitled “Notes - M'Zwazia, Urban Zone, Dembeni Coop, Religion, Selected Villages, Cash crops”*
- Dembeni - Sada 1960-1967, 1977-1978  
 Demog.; INSEE; Censuses; DASS: Latrines, Nutrition; Pop + Employ.  
*In French; notes and articles about Mayotte demography, weather, employment; also 1978 official population census form*
- Seasonal Displace., Research Proposals, Personal Resume  
*2 documents in French on local transportation, copies of Breslar's proposal for his dissertation field research, notes on displacement; no resume*

## Box 7

Archeology Mayotte <i>Notes and articles by others, in French and English, about Mayotte archaeology and history</i>	
Wright: Archaeology of SW I. Ocean Setting	1978, undated
Colonial Period Ethno-Linguistics Village Life	1976, undated

## SERIES 3. LANGUAGE. 1978-1982.

7 inches

In the course of his fieldwork in Mayotte, Breslar became fluent in Shimaore (Mahorais). According to his wife, Breslar obtained permission from the prefect of Mayotte to teach a course on the language in 1980-1981 in Mamoutzu, the capital of Mayotte; he may have also taught the course in Dzaoudzi. This series contains his teaching materials for the course and articles on the languages of Mayotte, which includes a typescript manuscript by Sophie Blanchy.

## Box 7 (continued)

[Articles on the languages of the Comoro Islands, 1 of 2] <i>Also contains list of vocabulary in Mahorais / French</i>	
[Articles on the languages of the Comoro Islands, 2 of 2] <i>Also contains list of vocabulary in Mahorais / French</i>	
Chap 4 Part 1 [1 of 2] <i>Manuscript in French on the Moharais language by Sophie Blanchy; letter from Blanchy asking Breslar to write a foreword</i>	undated
Chap 4 Part 1 [2 of 2] <i>Manuscript in French on the Moharais language by Sophie Blanchy; letter from Blanchy asking Breslar to write a foreword</i>	undated
SHIMAORE M-F ROMBI <i>Article in French</i>	
Garvey - Magalasy Introductory Course <i>Photocopy of Catherine Garvey's "A Sketch of Malagasy Grammar" and Breslar's notes</i>	
Projet lexique	

*French and Shimaore terms*

**Box 8**

SHIMAORE	1982
<i>Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)</i>	
SHIMAORE 1	1978
<i>Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)</i>	
SHIMAORE 2	1979
<i>Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)</i>	
SHIMAORE 3 [1 of 2]	1979-1980
<i>Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)</i>	
SHIMAORE 3 [2 of 2]	1979-1980
<i>Teaching materials for Breslar's Shimaore language course (in French)</i>	
Shimaore Handouts [1 of 2]	
Shimaore Handouts [2 of 2]	

**SERIES 4. WRITINGS. 1870-1984 [BULK 1959-1984].**

1.54 linear feet

This series contains Breslar's writings, writings by others, and bibliographies. Most of the documents relate to the Comoro Islands and the Mayotte habitat project, but there are also materials on Madagascar, possibly from Breslar's original plans to conduct fieldwork in that area. This series also contains a photocopy of Paul Ottino's writings on sociology and social anthropology. Writings by Breslar that can be found in this series are his dissertation, "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands); a copy of his paper with Michael Lambek, "Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte"; his typescript manuscript, "An Overview of the Project to Improve the Social Habitat of Mayotte"; and *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*. Writings by others consist of photocopies of newspaper clippings, articles, and monographs; manuscripts; and theses. Breslar's handwritten notes can be found interfiled with some of these materials. Most of the writings in this series are in French and English, with one manuscript in Arabic.

Progress reports and research proposals that Breslar sent to the Social Science Research Council can be found in *Series 1. Correspondence* along with his other manuscript that he coauthored with Lambek, "Death and Politics in Mayotte." Articles that Breslar collected on languages can be found in *Series 3. Languages*.

Subseries: Comoro Islands

Subseries: Habitat Project  
Subseries: Madagascar  
Subseries: Social Anthropology

### Box 8 (continued)

Subseries: Comoro Islands

Allibert [1 of 2] 1977  
*Photocopy of Claude Allibert's thesis, Histoire de Mayotte, Ile de L'Archipel des Comores, Avant 1841*

### Box 9

Allibert [2 of 2] 1977  
*Photocopy of Claude Allibert's thesis, Histoire de Mayotte, Ile de L'Archipel des Comores, Avant 1841*

Breslar, Jon "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands) [1 of 2] 1981  
*Copy of Breslar's dissertation produced by University Microfilms International.*

Breslar, Jon "An Ethnography of the Mahorais (Mayotte, Comoro Islands) [2 of 2] 1981

Bibliog Comoros - Dubins, Damir; Comoros 1978, 1980, undated  
(Encyclo); Borstelmann; Chron Arabe (Cidey); Chron Rigotard [?]  
*Two copies of a document in French translated from Arabic about the history of Ndzaouani Island; bibliography; articles by Borstellmann; and an encyclopedia entry*

Comorian Economy (Boisson) 1975

Comoros: Newspaper Articles 1967-1982

Coutume Grand-Comorienne - Femmes <--> Dieu 1982  
*Letter and article by Jean Mas - "La Loi des Femmes et la Loi de Dieu"*

[Documents in Arabic] [1 of 2] undated  
*Photocopy of manuscript in Arabic and notebook with what appears to be line by line Arabic transliteration of manuscript; see also Series 5. Photographs for photos of manuscript*

Gevrey, A. *Essai sur Les Comores* [1 of 2] 1870

Gevrey, A. *Essai sur Les Comores* [2 of 2] 1870

Hory undated  
*"Relations Entre Le Droit International Et Le*

*Dr. Droit Interne Dans L'Affaire De Mayotte” by Jean-Francois Hory*

**Box 10**

Lambek; Lambeck- Breslar; CNRS Geology; Rombi; Shepherd; Gueunier; Ottenheimer [1 of 2] Copies of published articles and reports on Mayotte; copy of Breslar’s article written with Lambek, “Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte”; letters from Lambek and Harriet and Martin Ottenheimer	1970-1984
Lambek; Lambeck- Breslar; CNRS Geology; Rombi; Shepherd; Gueunier; Ottenheimer [2 of 2] Copies of published articles and reports on Mayotte; copy of Breslar’s article written with Lambek, “Funerals and Social Change in Mayotte”; letters from Lambek and Harriet and Martin Ottenheimer	1970-1984
Loze, Benoit “La Sante a Mayotte (A Partir d'une Enquete Personnelle Effectuee en 1976)” <i>Dissertation encribed by author</i>	1980
Ottino, Amstrong, Tattersal, Wright, Kus [1 of 2] <i>Contains papers by Henry Wright, James C. Armstrong, Ian Tattersal, Paul Ottino, and Susan Kus; letter from Wright</i>	1979-1984, undated
Ottino, Amstrong, Tattersal, Wright, Kus [2 of 2] <i>Contains papers by Henry Wright, James C. Armstrong, Ian Tattersal, Paul Ottino, and Susan Kus; letter from Wright</i>	1979-1984, undated
[Petite histoire de Mayotte] <i>Document in French about the sultans of Mayotte, probably a translation from an earlier Arabic text; includes Breslar's handwritten notes</i>	undated
SW Indian Ocean Bibliographies	undated

Subseries: Habitat Project

<i>Habitat Mahorais: Rapport de présentation</i>	1979
<i>Habitat Mahorais: Étude analytique et Perspectives - Bernard Chatain &amp; Leon Attila Cheyssial</i>	undated

**Box 11**

<i>L’Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique - Jon Breslar</i>	undated
<i>Habitat Mahorais: Bilan des Premieres Realisations - Michel Besombes and Pierre-Yves Perrot</i>	1982

- “An Overview of the Project to Improve the Social Habitat of Mayotte” 1980 October  
*By Breslar*
- Vita News 1980 April  
*Contains article, “Improved construction plans for a small island community: Villagers in Africa's Mayotte are trying new housing ideas”*

Subseries: Madagascar

- Deschamps - Histoire de Madagascar [1 of 2] 1961  
 Deschamps - Histoire de Madagascar [2 of 2] 1961  
 Deschamps - Les migrations intérieures à Madagascar [1 of 2] 1959  
*Photocopy of monograph with handwritten notes by Breslar*
- Deschamps - Les migrations intérieures à Madagascar [2 of 2] 1959  
*Photocopy of monograph with handwritten notes by Breslar*
- Dialectes Malgaches  
 Koechlin – Vezo 1972  
*“Les Vezo, Semi-Nomades Marins du Su-Ouest de Madagascar”*

**Box 12**

- Malagasy Dynasties – Ottino 1979  
 “L'Ancienne Succession Dynastique Malgache (L'exemple Merina)”
- Razafindratovo - Hiérarchie et alliance dans un village de l'Imerina [1 of 2] 1970  
 Breslar's handwritten notes and photocopy of portions of Janine Razafindratovo's dissertation
- Razafindratovo - Hiérarchie et alliance dans un village de l'Imerina [2 of 2] 1970  
*Breslar's handwritten notes and photocopy of portions of Janine Razafindratovo's dissertation*

Subseries: Social Anthropology

- Ottino - Sociologie et Anthropologie sociale [1 of 2]  
 Ottino - Sociologie et Anthropologie sociale [2 of 2]

## **SERIES 5. PHOTOGRAPHS. CIRCA 1975-1982.**

1.17 linear feet

This series is composed of prints and 35mm slides of Mayotte villages, Mahorais, and their ceremonies. Also in the series are prints of an Arabic manuscript; photocopies of the manuscript can be found in *Series 4. Writings*. The 35mm slides appear to be from his field work for his dissertation while some of the prints appear to have been taken while Breslar was in the field working on the housing project. Sixty-three of the prints were assigned a number by Breslar. Some of these were published in *L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique*, but the numbering on the prints do not all correspond with the numbering in the publication. At the beginning of *Subseries: 35mm Slides* is Breslar's guide to his slides, which lists 21 boxes. However, only 4 slide boxes were received with Breslar's papers, and the labels on the boxes (as listed below) do not correspond with any of the boxes in the guide. Of use in the guide is a key to the abbreviations Breslar used to label his slides.

Subseries: Prints

Subseries: 35mm Slides

### **Box 13**

Subseries: Prints

[Documents in Arabic] [2 of 2]

*See also Series 4. Writings for photocopies*

Attoumane Made

*Photo separated from Series 2. Research, folder*

*"Attoumane Made"*

Final Report: M'Zouazia

*Photos separated from Series 2. Research, folder*

*"Final Report: M'Zouazia"*

[B/w 5x7" prints]

*Photos of Mahorais, housing structures, and island*

[Aerial photo of Mayotte]

*See Map Drawer – Map Folder*

### **Box 14**

[B/w prints]

*Includes images of Mayotte housing, Mahorais, circumcision ceremony, views of island from plane, and a photo of an unidentified young man (possibly Michael Lambek) standing by a car*

[Numbered b/w prints for housing project]

*Several of these prints were published in L'Habitat Mahorais: Une Perspective Ethnologique; only*

*numbering of some of the photos correspond with  
numbering in publication*

### **Box 15**

Subseries: 35mm Slides

Slide Organization undated  
*Breslar's guide to his slides with key to his  
abbreviations*  
Mayotte PhD Research  
Mayotte Ceremonies  
Mayotte Marriages/Funerals  
[Various images]

### **SERIES 6. MAPS. 1955-1956.**

1 map drawer

This series contains 6 maps of the Comoro Islands published by the Institut  
Géographique National. For Breslar's hand-drawn maps, please see *Series 2. Research.*

#### **Map Drawer - Rolled Maps**

[6 maps of Comoro Islands by Institut Géographique National] 1955-1956

### **SERIES 7. BOTANICAL SPECIMENS. CIRCA 1975-1982.**

1 linear foot

While in Mayotte, Breslar collected plant specimens that were used as herbal medicine.  
Most of the specimens have been assigned numbers. Breslar's notes can be found with  
some of the plants.

### **Box 16**

[Mayotte Herbal Medicine]  
[Plant Specimens]

### **SERIES 8. SOUND RECORDINGS. 1975-1976.**

21 cassette tapes, 11 audio reels

Series 5. Photographs  
Series 6. Maps  
Series 7. Botanical Specimens  
Series 8. Sound Recordings

This series is composed of cassette tapes and audio reels containing Breslar's recordings from the field in Mayotte. These include recordings of music and singing and Breslar's interviews with informants conducted in Shimaore. There are also recordings of what seem to be of Guy Cidey reading documents in French about Mayotte myths and history. The contents of most of the recordings appear to match Breslar's descriptions. (A few of the recordings could not be played and have been so noted in the description field below.) Recordings are grouped by recording medium and arranged in chronological order with undated recordings placed at the end. Item numbers were assigned by the processing archivist.

## Cassette Tapes

Item #		
1	Conversation w/ Kamardine on Sharifs 13 Feb 76 1: full 2: to 248 <i>Appears to be duplicate of #30</i>	1976 February 15?
2	March 76 - Dinaho Maohida at Moussa's <i>Singing and music</i>	
3	Side 1: 5 July 76 Hale 20-660 Side 2: Ba Inaya [?] #2 of 2 (decent conversation on silamo) 1-568 <i>Tape does not work</i>	
4	Side 1: 28 July 76 Shirondroa to 570 or so Side 2: 1 Nov. 76 w/ Inzudine #1 of 3 Full <i>See also Series 2. Research for transcription of interview with Inzudine</i>	
5	Side 1: Fundi Amma's stuff (cf. inside leaflet) Side 2: 1 Nov 76 w/ Inzudine #2 of 3 Full  [Leaflet] 1: 4 July 76 Shio of Amma Madi 15-220 Daira 220-320 MaMadi Diwan reading Twa'ibali Assimai 320-342 Amma Madi <i>See also Series 2. Research for transcription of interview with</i>	

- Inzudine*
- 6 Side 1 10 July 76  
Marengé / Boeui  
Full  
Side 2 1 Nov 76  
w/ Inzudine  
#3 of 3 full  
*See also Series 2. Research for transcription of interview with Inzudine*
- 7 1: 24 Aug 76  
Masamama [?] of Anjilane's Nyadza  
Full, Notes to go w/ this  
2: 24 Sept  
To 363 w/ Masama  
400-543 Sidi Jabir NIA on last day of tsumu  
*Singing and music followed by Breslar's comments in English*
- 8 1: 12 Sept 76 Notes on Houz's Circumcision  
Immediately following it. Conversation w/ Oha, Dsindane, Abdou M. Keli  
Full  
2: Full  
*Breslar's comments in English on circumcision and his conversations with informants*
- 9 1: Mugala (Mxisara [?])  
4:00 AM – 4:30 AM  
1 October  
2: Mugala Songs  
(In MaDao's [?] back yard) w/ MaDao, MaMari, Nura, BaMari, Mwad. Masondi, Bunch of Kids  
(6 Oct 76) 8-9 PM
- 10 6 Oct 76  
Side 1 1-226 w/ MaMari [?] & Madao,  
Patrosy Songs  
  
2 Nov 76  
#1 of 2  
Side 1 Abdou Rahman and Koran  
250-end  
Side 2 AR Full
- 11 1A  
G. Cidey á John  
face 1. document 1 Tsingoni  
doc 2 manuscrit de Chex Moukadara  
1B  
doc 2  
doc 3 manuscrit de Nzouani variante Ahmed Charifou

- 12 2A  
 doc 3 manuscrit Nzaouani (suite) variants  
 doc 4 about motion of conflict  
 doc 5 Ma tsingo  
 doc 6 Polè  
 doc 7 les ziyara [?]  
 2B
- 13 Entretien – Jon Madi, Jon Asanoti  
*Recording of interview*
- 14 Ba Inzu [?] 1 – Full  
*Tape does not work*
- 15 Ba Inzu [?] 2 – Full  
*Interview*
- 16 Ba Inzu [?] 3 1-437  
*Interview*
- 17 Ba Inzu [?] 4  
*Interview*
- 18 Ba Inzu [?] 5  
*Interview*
- 19 Ba Inzu [?] 6  
*Interview*
- 20 Ba Inzu [?] 7  
*Interview*
- 21 Ba Inzu [?] 8  
*Interview*

### **3" Audio Reel – 3 ¾ ips**

- 22 Book: Sabam’Naji [?], Sowate [?]: #2 INAFATAHNA  
 8/5/75 Kamardine reading the Lakima (from funeral)  
*Reel needs to be rewound.*
- 23 Sahalara

### **4" Audio Reel – 1 7/8 ips**

- 24 Track 1: 2 debas  
 1 Aug 75  
 Half full  
 Track 2: Kuvetti [?]  
 2 Aug 75  
 Full
- 25 Daira IDI – 7 Oct 75  
 In [?] Mosque.  
 All of Track I.  
 Comments at end  
 Track 2 – 8 Oct

- Maolida of Bibi Baheja  
Track 2 full. Comments at beginning
- 26 Track 1 – Walima of Siragi 17 Oct 75  
Track 2 – (nothing)
- 27 4 Nov 1975  
Daira of Charif – Track I  
Track II – empty
- 28 Track 1: 11 Nov. [1975] Mugala of Salimati Hamada  
Only ½ of Track 1  
Track 2: Empty
- 29 Nov 15 [1975]  
I. Big Mulidi in Sada. Nearly full.
- 30 Conversations w/ Kamardine: Charifu  
Feb 13, 1976  
Track 1: full (2/3)  
Track 2: empty  
*See also #1*
- 31 Ali Issouf  
Track 1: Discourse of marriage by Kamardine . . . (Lousy band)  
Only ½ used  
(must rewind it first)
- 32 Women’s singing at Habibas

**5” Reel - 3 ¾ ips**

- 33 [Recording of Breslar speaking Shimaore; recording on both tracks]

Last updated: November 19, 2007  
Lorain Wang