

Register to the Papers of
Ethel Cutler Freeman

Mary Zimmerman
April 1978

Modified and updated
Susan McElrath
July 2001

[National Anthropological Archives](#)
Smithsonian Institution

INTRODUCTION

The Papers of Ethel Cutler Freeman (1886-1972) were left to the National Anthropological Archives by the terms of her will. Her son, Leon Freeman, Jr., donated the collection to NAA in August 1972. By Mrs. Freeman's instructions, the collection was restricted for ten years dating from the receipt and signing of the release forms on October 12, 1972.

Literary property rights to the unpublished materials in the collection were donated to the National Anthropological Archives.

The Collection occupies 54 linear feet of shelf space.

- 1949 Field trip to Bahamas to study native culture
- 1950 Field trip to Africa, studied Zulu and Savagis of South Africa, Masai of East Africa, and Pigmies of Central Africa
- 1951 Spent winter with Florida Seminoles
- 1952 Field trip to study native cultures of Virgin Islands and Haiti
- 1953-55 Spent winter with Florida Seminoles
- 1955-57 Acting Chairman, ACLU
- 1957 Field trip to study Mexican Seminoles
- 1957-58 Spent winters with Florida Seminoles
- 1959 Attended annual meeting of American Anthropological Association in Mexico City
- 1960-65 Spent winters with Florida Seminoles
- 1963 Field trip to Oklahoma, studied the Seminoles
- 1964 Presented paper, "The Correlation between Directed Culture Change and Self Determination" VII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Moscow
- 1968 Studied costumes of Portugal for AMNH
- 1965 Presented paper, "Lawlessness in an Indian Tribe as a Microcosm of a World Trend" VIII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Japan
- 1970-71 Spent winter with Florida Seminoles
- 1972 Died, July 14

Ethel Cutler Freeman is listed in:

Who's Who 1948

Who Knows What 1949

Who's Who in American Women 1962

A list of published articles of ECF is located in Box 2 of the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These papers reflect the anthropological interests of Ethel Cutler Freeman (1886-1972), Field Associate with the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Mrs. Freeman was born of a well-to-do family and was educated at private schools in the United States and England. After twenty-five years of marriage (1934), she became bored with the round of social activities and began to take courses at Columbia University. She started taking courses in psychology and sociology, but soon became interested in anthropology. The papers in this collection include the notes and diaries, published articles, unfinished manuscripts, and source materials, which she collected during the next thirty years. The bulk of the collection is material relating to the Seminole Indians of Florida. From 1939 until 1971, Mrs. Freeman spent almost every winter with the Seminoles on their reservations in the Everglades. The major part of this series is the notes and diaries, which she kept during these field trips.

There is also material, which represents Mrs. Freeman's interest in cultural change. As a result of her long acquaintance with the Seminoles, she became interested in how different groups of American Indians and other cultures adapted to changes brought about by contact with modern society. The material relating to this interest is grouped in two sections, North American Indians and other cultures. Mrs. Freeman made several trips to the Southwest and Mexico to study such tribes as the Arapaho, Shoshone, Navajo, Pueblo, and Hopi. There is substantial information from these studies. She also made less extensive studies of various other cultures in the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and Haiti. In 1950, she studied tribal music and chants of several African tribes. The material from these studies forms the major portion of the series on other cultures.

The series of source materials consists of newspaper clippings and notes grouped by subject, including religion and the Seminoles. Mrs. Freeman grouped some of the material for use in several books, which she was writing and is so labeled. There is also the working material for many of the articles, which she wrote about the Seminoles and cultural change. The manuscripts for these articles, both published and unpublished, are grouped with the manuscripts of monographs, which Mrs. Freeman worked on during the thirty years of her studies.

The collection also contains several sound recordings made by Mrs. Freeman. One set contains chants and music of African tribes, which she studied. The other contains recordings of Josie Billie's discussion of religion and magic. There are also numerous photographs, negatives, and slides, which are unarranged. During rehousing additional materials including index cards and notebooks from field trips were located and incorporated into the collection. These materials are located in boxes 84 and 106-112.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I – Biographical Information and Miscellaneous Personal Papers, 1944-70 (0.75 linear feet)

This series contains several narrative autobiographical sketches written for writing seminars. There is also biographical data compiled at the request of various groups. The series also contains lists of speeches and radio talks given at various times throughout ECF's life. Some of the actual speeches are included. There is also some of her records from Columbia University and miscellaneous personal papers.

Series II – Correspondence (3 linear feet)

This series is divided into three groups: anthropological colleagues, committees, and organizations of personal membership. It is arranged alphabetically within each group. With the exception of Leonard Brass and Richard Archbold of the Archbold Biological Station in Florida, none of the correspondence is extensive or carried on over any length of time. There is also correspondence in other series.

Series III – Manuscripts, 1941-68 (4.75 linear feet)

The manuscripts in these series are divided into three sections: published articles; unpublished or unfinished articles; and unfinished monographs. The manuscripts of published articles are arranged by date of publication. The other two groups are arranged alphabetically by title. There are usually several drafts of the articles written at different times. Criticisms of the drafts by various people are grouped with the drafts. The section of monographs contains criticisms and chapter units as well as larger units. There are three main monographs: one on the Seminoles; one on Indians of the Southeast; and one on cultural change.

Series IV – Source Material, 1934-70 (5 linear feet)

This series consists of notes and newspaper clippings grouped by subject. The groups are course notes from Columbia University, 1934-36, 1957; notes labeled simply research notes and ideas, 1942-69; religion, 1967; the Seminoles, including trait lists and vocabularies, 19942-70; Southeast Indians, 1946, 1967-68; working materials for articles and monographs, 1942-63; and bibliographies.

Series V – Seminole Indians, 1939-71 (9.75 linear feet)

The bulk of this series is the notes and diaries from ECF's field trips among the Florida Seminoles. The notes and diaries are dated from 1939 to 1971. The rest of the series

includes correspondence with government officials, nurses, school teachers and others working with the Seminoles; letters, clippings and articles on several aspects of Seminole culture, arranged by subject; government material relating to Seminole claims and ECF's proposals to government officials concerning handling of claims; reprints and other information on Florida's environment and history, and on the Everglades. The group of cultural materials includes a synopsis of Josie Billie's discussion of religion and magic, which Mrs. Freeman recorded in private sessions at the Archbold Biological Station in 1954.

Series VI – North American Indians, 1936-63 (4 .5 linear feet)

The largest section of this series is also ECF's notes and diaries from her field trips. Her studies involved the Arapaho, Shoshone, and Navajo in particular. There is also material on the Alaskan land question, general Indian problems, the Hoover Commission on Indian Affairs (of which she was a member), the Southwest Indians, and Oklahoma Seminoles. The rest of the series includes correspondence with government officials and organizations, information on culture and cultural change, and government materials in the form of policies, proposals, legislation, and official reports.

Series VII – Cultures other than North American Indian, 1946-68 (2.75 linear feet)

The largest part of this series is the material from ECF's 1950 field trip to study the cultures of several African tribal groups including the Zulu, Masai, and Pigmies. She was particularly interested in tribal music and chants. This series contains materials from studies of other cultures including Samoa, Haiti, the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands. Her interest on these trips was the correlation between different cultures.

Series VIII – Meetings, 1959-68 (0.75 linear feet)

This series consists of materials gathered during three meetings which ECF attended: the American Anthropological Association annual meeting in Mexico City, 1959-60; the VII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Moscow, 1964; and the VIII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Japan, 1968.

Series IX – Printed Materials, 1939-70 (2.5 linear feet)

This series is arranged in three groups: articles by ECF in final printed form; copies, reprints, and typescripts of articles by other persons; and newspaper clippings primarily concerned with the Seminoles.

Series X – Pamphlets (7 feet)

This series contains a wide range of informational pamphlets relating to Indians, culture, environment and history.

Series XI- Sound Recordings (0.5 linear feet)

Unarranged. Includes recordings of Josie Billie's discussion on religion and magic and African tribal chants and music.

Series XII – Lists of Photographs (0.5 linear feet)

Several lists of photographs made by ECF.

Series XIII – Photographs (10.5 linear feet)

Photo albums, negatives, prints, and slides. Unarranged.

Series XIV – Index Cards (3 linear feet)

Bibliographies, Dictionaries, and Notes.

CONTAINER LISTING

Series I - Biographical Information and Miscellaneous Personal Papers, 1944-70.

- Box 1 Autobiographical sketches
 Talks, speeches, and interviews
 University records
 Miscellaneous personal papers
- Box 2 Miscellaneous personal papers

Series II - Correspondence

- Box 2 Anthropological Colleagues (A-B)
- Box 3 Anthropological Colleagues (B-M)
- Box 4 Anthropological Colleagues (M-Z)
 Committee Correspondence
- Box 5 Organizations of personal membership (A)
- Box 6 Organizations of personal membership (A-N)
- Box 7 Organizations of personal membership (N-S)
- Box 8 Organizations of personal membership (S-Z)

Series III - Manuscripts, 1941-68

- Box 9 Correspondence
 Published articles (1941-44)
- Box 10 Published articles (1944-64)
- Box 11 Published articles (1964-68)
 Unpublished articles
- Box 12 Unpublished articles
- Box 13 Unpublished articles
- Box 14 Unpublished articles
 Unfinished monographs

- Box 15 Unfinished monographs
- Box 16 Unfinished monographs
Collection of talks
- Box 17 Collection of talks
Criticisms and reviews by ECF
- Box 18 Criticisms and reviews by ECF
Advice and ideas on writing style

Series IV – Source Materials, 1934-70

- Box 19 Columbia University course notes (1934-36, 1957)
- Box 20 Research notes and ideas (1942-49)
- Box 21 Research notes and ideas (1965-69)
Religion (1967)
- Box 22 Religion (1967)
Seminoles
- Box 23 Seminoles (1943-58)
- Box 24 Seminoles (1958-63)
- Box 25 Seminoles (1966-70)
Trait List
Vocabularies
- Box 26 Vocabularies
Southeast Indians (1946, 1967-68)
- Box 27 Working material for articles and books (1942-63)
- Box 28 Working material for articles and books (1963-66)
Bibliographies

Series V – Seminole Indians, 1939-71

- Box 29 Correspondence (A-W)
- Box 30 Correspondence (Y & General Inquiries)
Culture
- Box 31 Culture
- Box 32 Culture
- Box 33 Seminole claims and ECF proposals
Photo lectures
History: Seminoles, Florida
- Box 34 Florida environment
Bibliographies
- Box 35 Notes and diaries (1939-49)
- Box 36 Notes and diaries (1940)
- Box 37 Notes and diaries (1941-42)
- Box 38 Notes and diaries (1942-44, 1946)
- Box 39 Notes and diaries (1943-44, 1946)
- Box 40 Notes and diaries (1946-47)
- Box 41 Notes and diaries (1948)
- Box 42 Notes and diaries (1951-53)
- Box 43 Notes and diaries (1953-54)
- Box 44 Notes and diaries (1954-55, 1957-58)
- Box 45 Notes and diaries (1960-62)
- Box 46 Notes and diaries (1962-64)
- Box 47 Notes and diaries (1965, 1967,1970)
- Box 48 Notes and diaries (1971)

Series VI - North American Indians, 1936-63

- Box 49 Correspondence
 Culture and cultural change
- Box 50 Culture and cultural change
- Box 51 Culture and cultural change
 Government materials and proposals
- Box 52 Government materials and proposals
- Box 53 Southwest tribes
 Bibliographies
- Box 54 Notes and diaries, Arapaho and Shoshone (1936)
 Notes and diaries, Southwest Indians (1945)
 Notes and diaries, Navajo (1945-48)
- Box 55 Notes and diaries, Navajo (1945-48)
- Box 56 Notes and diaries, Hoover Commission (1948)
 Notes and diaries, Alaskan Land Question (1947-49)
 Notes and diaries, General Indian Problems (1951-52)
 Notes and diaries, Oklahoma Indians (1963)
- Box 57 Notes and diaries, Oklahoma Indians (1963)

Series VII - Cultures other than North American Indian, 1946-68

- Box 58 Anthropological theory
 Miscellaneous cultures
- Box 59 Africa (1950-51)
- Box 60 Africa (1950-51)
- Box 61 Africa (1950-51)
- Box 62 Africa (1950-51)
 Russia (1964)
- Box 63 Russia (1964)

Series VIII – Meetings, 1959-68

- Box 63 American Anthropological Association, Mexico City (1959-60)
VII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences,
Moscow (1964)
- Box 64 VIII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences,
Japan (1968)

Series IX – Printed Materials, 1939-70

- Box 65 Articles published by ECF
- Box 66 Articles published by ECF
Articles published by others
- Box 67 Newsclippings: Florida Seminoles (A-Z)
- Box 68 Newsclippings: U.S. Government and Florida Seminoles (1939-42)
Newsclippings: Development of Everglades and Florida Seminoles
Newsclippings: Everglades and Florida Seminoles
Newsclippings: Florida Seminoles, Environment and Problems
- Box 69 Newsclippings: Florida Seminoles, Government and Organization
Newsclippings: Part I Seminole Political Organization: Part II Local
History (1968-69)

Series X – Pamphlets

- Box 70 Seminoles
- Box 71 Seminoles
- Box 72 Indians other than Seminoles
- Box 73 Indians other than Seminoles
Cultures other than North American Indian
- Box 74 Cultures other than North American Indian
Cultural Change
- Box 75 Archaeology

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Box 76 | Art
Ecology
Flora & Fauna |
| Box 77 | Flora & Fauna
Florida
Education
Health |
| Box 78 | Florida's agriculture and industry
Juvenile delinquency |
| Box 79 | Juvenile delinquency
Government policy |
| Box 80 | Government policy
History |
| Box 81 | History
Linguistics |
| Box 82 | Music
Religion
Bibliographies |
| Box 83 | Bibliographies
Maps |

UNPROCESSED MATERIALS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Box 84 | Manuscripts
Scrapbook
Population & Material Culture
Notebooks from field trips |
|--------|---|

Series XI – Sound Recordings

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Box 85 | Josie Billie on religion and magic
African tribal chants and music |
|--------|---|

Series XII – Lists of Photographs

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| Box 86 | Lists of photographs by ECF |
|--------|-----------------------------|

Series XIII – Photographs

Boxes 86-94 Negatives, prints, etc.

Boxes 95-105 Photo Albums

Series XIV - Index Cards

Boxes 106–109

Boxes 110-111 Bibliography

Box 112 Seminole/English & English/Seminole Dictionary