

Register to the Records of the  
Institute of Social Anthropology  
Smithsonian Institution  
1942–1952

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1974

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2004

National Anthropological Archives  
Smithsonian Institution

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Institute of Social Anthropology was an autonomous unit of the Smithsonian Institution which existed from 1942-1952. The objectives of the Institute of Social Anthropology were to work in cooperation with the institutions in certain Latin American republics which had requested assistance in anthropological work; the Institute of Social Anthropology had two main objectives:

- 1) Training of personnel in the concepts and techniques of anthropology;
- 2) Acquisition of a body of scientific information concerning the basic rural populations that is fundamental to any program affecting Latin Americans as well as to science and education.

The research provided an understanding of the manner of living, agricultural systems in relation to environmental factors, economic life, crafts and industries, food habits, health status, social organization, religion, language, literacy, and basic attitudes and interests of the people. From a scientific point of view, these studies revealed the most recent changes and the factors making for change in cultures that in many instances can be traced back more than 2,000 years through archaeology and post-conquest written history. From a practical point of view, the findings were indispensable to any action programs, both governmental and private, concerned with matters of health, education, soil erosion, commercial development, colonization, marketing, and so on.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

These documents reflect the correspondence and other office records of the Institute of Social Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Included are annual reports, correspondence, memoranda, printed material, and financial records that cover the period of the Institute's existence 1942-1952. The majority of the material relates to the office files of the Institute and its correspondence with its social scientists in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru.

Also included are documents that relate to the Institute of Social Anthropology and its relations with the State Department. There is also correspondence concerning the ISA and Acta Americana, Bollingen Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, National Indian Institute, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO, Wenner-Gren Foundation, Inter-American Society of Anthropology and Geography, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Escola Livre de Sociologia e Política, Instituto de Antropología Social.

Other material in the National Anthropological Archives that relates to the Institute of Social Anthropology can be found among the correspondence files of the Bureau of

American Ethnology 1907-1950, consisting of fifty linear feet files in one continuous alphabet in ninety seven boxes.

## **HISTORY**

The Institute of Social Anthropology was established under the directorship of Julian H. Steward on September 8, 1943, as an autonomous unit of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Its purpose was to set up cooperative Institutes of Social Anthropology for scientific research and training in certain Latin American countries, each working under the guidance of the Smithsonian Institution. This program was carried out under the auspices of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation in Latin American of the U.S. Department of State, and was financed by funds transferred from the State Department to the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Steward directed the Institution of Social Anthropology until September, 1946, when he was succeeded by George M. Foster, who continued as director until the Institute was abolished in 1952.

At its outset, the ISA staff consisted of eight social scientists (four social anthropologists, two cultural geographers, a linguist, and a sociologist) stationed in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru (for a short time in 1950 a station was established in Guatemala, but it was discontinued the same year for lack of funds). Their duties consisted in instructing local students (in collaboration with Latin American universities and other institutions) in social science research techniques through classroom, laboratory, and field situations, and in assisting with publication projects. (See Ms. 4646, Box 1, Folders 1 & 2, for more detailed information as to ISA personnel, projects, and publications for each year.) In 1948, the budget was cut to allow for only six scientists. The ISA continued in this capacity until 1949, when the Inter-departmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation was abolished, and it was placed under the Division of International Exchange of Persons, another State Department Committee. The ISA did not form an organic part of this new program, and the State Department decided to terminate its support as of December 31, 1951.

Following this time, the ISA integrated its activities with the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. In the spring of 1952, the IIAA requested that all ISA personnel who so desired be permanently incorporated into the IIAA organization. This terminated the activities of the Institute of Social Anthropology as such.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**SERIES 1: ANNUAL REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS**  
1942-1952 (0.25 linear feet) Arranged chronologically

Included are annual reports, correspondence, memoranda, and printed material. The records place emphasis on explanations and justification for the Institute of Social Anthropology and its programs in Latin America. Includes the correspondence relating to the Point IV legislation and the integration of anthropology with Point IV. In addition are membership lists of Latin American Committees through which ISA works and a copy of



Included are correspondence, agreements, announcements, briefs, reports of the Institute Conventions, decisions, memoranda, publicity notes, and printed material as they deal with the Institute of Social Anthropology, 1942-1956. Includes Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; Guatemala; Mexico; Old World (China); Panama; Peru; Venezuela; Washington, DC.

#### **SERIES 6: SUBJECT FILE**

1944-1952 (0.25 linear feet) Arranged alphabetically by research foundation - material within each folder arranged by date

Included are correspondence, circulars, bulletins, notifications, instructions, plans, resolutions, and printed matter. The records emphasize the various research foundations and their correspondence with the Institute of Social Anthropology. Included are Acta-Americana; Bollingen Foundation; Guggenheim Foundation; National Indian Institute; National Research Council; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; Rockefeller Foundation; UNESCO; and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

#### **SERIES 7: ACCOUNTS AND FISCAL RECORDS**

1946-1952 (0.75 linear feet) Arranged chronologically and partially by particular country

Included are correspondence, allotments, awards, bids, commissions, contracts, directives, endorsements, instructions, journals, ledgers, notes, receipts, tabulations, and vouchers of the Institute of Social Anthropology. The records contain several folders on the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, 1950-1952 and provide information regarding its relationship with the Institute of Social Anthropology.

#### **SERIES 8: BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RECORDS**

1944-1951 (1.25 linear feet) Arranged chronologically by subject

Included are correspondence, allotments, financial estimates, journals, ledgers, payrolls, tabulations, vouchers, printed matter, directives, and instructions.

### **FOLDER LIST**

#### **Series 1 ANNUAL REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS**

Box 1                      Organizational Records, Annual Reports 1942-1952  
                                 Information on Anthropologists, 1942-1952  
                                 Point IV Proposals, 1949-1952  
                                 Project Proposals

Series 2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL RECORDS

Box 1 (cont.) Instructions and Memoranda, 1944-1952  
Shipping Records, 1943-1952  
Allowances, Salaries, and Leaves, 1945-1952

Box 2 Authorizations, 1942-1952  
Loyalty Data, 1948-1952  
Memoranda to All Field Personnel, 1950-1952  
Permission to Publish, 1946-1952  
Personnel Action, 1952  
Personnel, Job Description, Etc., 1944-1952  
Recruitments, 1950-1951

Series 3 STATE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDA AND RELATED MATERIALS

Relating to the State Department  
Committees Under Which ISA Operated

Box 3 Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Memos, 1948-1949  
Interdepartmental Committee, 1942-1949  
ExScientific and Cultural Cooperation, 1947-1949  
Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, 1947-1950  
Division of Exchange of Persons, 1949-1951

Series 4 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence A (1942-1952)  
Adams, Richard N. (1950-1952)  
Correspondence B (1942-1952)  
Beals, Ralph (1943-1952)  
Bennett, Wendell C. (1941-1952)  
Borbolla, Daniel F. (1942-1950)  
Brand, Donald (1943-1944)  
Brand, Donald (1944-1952)

Box 4 Bruman, Henry (1943-1944)  
Buitron, Anibel (1944-1952)  
Correspondence C (1943-1952)  
Carrasco, Pedro (1950-1951)  
Chaves, Milciades (1950-1952)  
Christ, Raymond E. (1948-1951)  
Clark, Virginia L. (1951-1953)  
Collier, Donald (1943-1950)  
Comas, Juan (1945-1952)  
Cooper, John (1943-1946)

- Box 5  
Correspondence D (1948-1952)  
Diaz, Jorge (1950-1952)  
Duque, Luis Gomez (1949-1952)  
Correspondence E (1943-1951)  
Erasmus, Charles J. (1949-1953)  
Correspondence F (1943-1952)  
Fejos, Paul (1943-1951)
- Box 6  
Foster, George M. (1942-1945)  
Foster, George M. (1946-1953)  
Correspondence G (1941-1952)  
Gillin, John (1942-1944)  
Gillin, John (1945-1952)  
Correspondence H (1941-1952)
- Box 7  
Hanke, Lewis (1943-1952)  
Hernandez de Alba, Gregorio (1943-1951)  
Holmberg, Allan (1941-1947)  
Holmberg, Allan (1948-1952)  
Correspondence I (1948-1950)  
Correspondence J (1945-1946)  
Johnson, Frederick (1942-1951)  
Correspondence K (1942-1950)  
Kelly, Isabel (1946-1947)  
Kelly, Isabel (1947-1948)
- Box 8  
Kelly, Isabel (1949)  
Kelly, Isabel (1950)  
Kelly, Isabel (1/51-7/51)  
Kelly, Isabel (8/51-1953)  
Kubler, George A. (1948-1952)  
Correspondence L (1940-1952)  
Lowie, Robert H. (1942-1949)  
Correspondence Mc (1943-1952)  
McBryde, Webster (1944-1951)  
Correspondence M (1942-1952)
- Box 9  
Martinez del Rio, Pablo (1946-1952)  
Correspondence N (1947-1952)  
Newman, Stanley S. (1943-1946)  
Newman, Stanley S. (1947-1950)  
Northcott, Lois C. (1947-1952)  
Correspondence O (1943-1952)  
Oberg, Kalervo (1946-1949)  
Oberg, Kalervo (1950-1953)  
Correspondence P (1947-1952)

- Box 9                    Pecora, Ethelwyn Carter (1942-1949)  
                              Pierson, Donald (1942-1945)  
                              Pierson, Donald (1946-1947)
- Box 10                    Pierson, Donald (1948-1949)  
                              Pierson, Donald (1950-8/1951)  
                              Pierson, Donald (9/1951-1952)  
                              Correspondence Q (1952)  
                              Correspondence R (1946-1952)  
                              Reichel-Dolmatoff (1944-1951)  
                              Rowe, John M. (1943-1947)  
                              Rowe, John M. (1948-1953)  
                              Correspondence S (1942-1952)  
                              Simmons, Ozzie (1949-1950)
- Box 11                    Simmons, Ozzie (1951-1961, mostly 1951-52)  
                              Steward, Julian H. (1942-1945)  
                              Steward, Julian H. (1946-1952)  
                              Strong, William Duncan (1944-1950)  
                              Correspondence T (1948-1951)  
                              Tax, Sol (1945-1952)  
                              Tschopik, Harry (1943-1945)  
                              Tschopik, Harry (1946-1951)  
                              Correspondence U-V (1945-1952)  
                              Valcareel, Luis (1943-1952)  
                              Correspondence W (1944-1952)  
                              Wagley, Charles (1941-1952)  
                              West, Robert (1945-1949)
- Box 12                    Willey, Gordon (1943-1951)  
                              Wonderly, William (1950-1951)  
                              XYZ Correspondence (1947-1952)

**Series 5    AREAL SUBJECT FILE**

- Box 12 (cont.)            Bolivia, 1942-1945  
                              Brazil, 1942-1951  
                                       Mailing List  
                                       Publicity  
                              Chile, 1945-1946  
                                       Publicity, Review, Etc.  
                              China, 1945-1947  
                              Colombia, General, 1943-1950  
                                       Agreements, 1944-1952  
                                       Publicity, 1949-1950  
                              Costa Rica and Cuba, 1943-1950

Box 13                   Ecuador, 1947-1950  
                              Guatemala, 1947-1951  
                                  Agreements  
                              Mailing List  
                              Mexico, 1942-1943  
                              Mexico, 1944-1949  
                                  Agreements  
                              Old World, 1945-1950  
                              Panama  
                              Peru, General, 1943-1945  
                              Peru, General, 1946-1951  
                                  Agreements, 1943-1952  
                                  Conferences, 1948-

Box 14                   Publicity, Reviews, Etc., 1946-1951  
                              Venezuela, 1948-1951  
                              Washington, DC, 1945-1956

**Series 6   SUBJECT FILE**

Box 14 (cont.)           Acta-Americana, 1944-1949  
                              Bollingen Foundation, Correspondence, 1951-1952  
                              Circulars and Instructions, Bureau of Budget, Comptroller-  
                                  General, 1951-1952  
                              Human Relations Area File, 1949-1950  
                              National Indian Week, 1950-51  
                              National Indian Institute, 1950  
                              National Research Council, 1949-1952  
                              Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, 1944-1951  
                              Rockefeller Foundation, 1951  
                              State Department, Institute of Inter-American Affairs, 1950-1952  
                              Wenner-Gren Foundation, 1952

**Series 7   ACCOUNTS AND FISCAL RECORDS**

Box 15                   Accounts, 1946  
                              Accounts, 1947  
                              Fiscal, 1948  
                              Fiscal, 1949  
                              Old World, 1949  
                              Fiscal, 1950  
                              Budget, 1952  
                              Budget and Finance, 1944-1945

Box 16                   Budget and Finance, 1945, 1946, 1947

Budget, Eastern Hemisphere, 1947  
Budget and Finance, 1948

**Series 8 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RECORDS**

Box 16 (cont.)	1946-1948
Box 17	1947-1949 1948-49-1950 1950-51-52
Box 18	Fiscal Year, 1947 Fiscal Year, 1948 Fiscal Year, 1949 Fiscal Year, 1950 Fiscal Year, 1950