

# Guide to the Frederick M. Bayer Photograph Collection on Ifalik Atoll, 1953

<b>Photo Lot</b>	2008-20
<b>Creator</b>	Bayer, Frederick M. (photographer, collector)
<b>Title</b>	Frederick M. Bayer Photographs on Ifalik Atoll
<b>Date Span</b>	1953
<b>Quantity</b>	159 prints (1 document box): silver gelatin 122 negatives (1 negative box): acetate Total extent: 7 linear inches

**Summary:** Photographs of the people and marine life of Ifalik Atoll in the Caroline Islands, Micronesia made by Frederick M. Bayer while conducting research for the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia program. Also included are aerial photographs of the Atoll.

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**Biographical Note:** Frederick M. Bayer (1921-2007) was a Research Zoologist who specialized in the study of Octocorallia (soft corals). He worked at the Smithsonian from 1947-1961 and 1975-1996, and taught at the School of Marine Science at the University of Miami in the interim years.

The Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History hired Bayer as a curator in 1947, and right away sent him to survey marine fauna at the Bikini Atoll. In 1950, the Office of Naval Research sponsored a program of Scientific Investigations of Micronesia (SIM) administered through the Pacific Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Bayer was a SIM team member that surveyed the Ifalik Atoll in 1953.<sup>1</sup>

**Note on Ifalik Atoll:** Ifalik Atoll is comprised of several small islets: Falarik, Falalap, Ella, and Elangalap. The atoll forms part of the Caroline Islands archipelago in Yap County of Micronesia.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of 122 photographs of people and marine life made by Bayer while on Ifalik Atoll in 1953, as well as 68 aerial photographs of the Atoll. The aerial photographs are stamped on verso as official Navy photographs. Bayer's marine life photographs include underwater images of coral, fish, crustaceans, and other invertebrates. Photographs of Ifalik Atoll inhabitants include images of the Atoll's chiefs, as well as a gathering to welcome for visitors from Woleai, and women

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<sup>1</sup> Bayer, Frederick M. *Atoll Research Bulletin* No. 494, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC: 2001.

performing a dance for the Woleai visitors. Several images show the Fan Nap, or public assembly house, and outrigger canoes. SIM team members, including ocean geologist Joshua I. Tracey, and their local assistants are shown surveying the area and collecting specimens.

**Arrangement:** The collection is organized into 2 series. Series 1: People and marine life of Ifalik Atoll, and Series 2: Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll.

**Preferred Citation:** Photo Lot 2008-20, Frederick M. Bayer Photograph Collection on Ifalik Atoll.

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open to the public.

**Restrictions on Use:** Contact the repository for terms of use.

**Acquisition Information:** Frederick M. Bayer donated the photographs along with a collection of artifacts from Ifalik Atoll to the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in 2003. The photographs were transferred to the NAA in 2008.

**Separated Material:** The photographs are part of a donation that contained 8 artifacts purchased by Bayer while on Ifalik Atoll. The artifacts, which include a conch shell used for signaling, grass skirts, fishhooks, and basketry, form accession no. 2028523 in the Department of Anthropology ethnology collections at NMNH.

**Related Material:** The Joshua Irving Tracey, Jr. Papers, Accession No. 02-021 in the Smithsonian Institution Archives contains materials relating to the Scientific Investigations of Micronesia, including field notes and photographs from the 1953 survey of Ifalik Atoll.

**Note on Processing:** Not all of the negatives have associated prints. The collection does not include the negatives for the aerial photographs. The collection was processed by Gina Rappaport, 2009.

**Finding aid prepared by:** Gina Rappaport, 2009.

**Note on Description:** Collection and image descriptions provided in this finding aid were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material (i.e. documents, publications, and websites), and subject matter experts. While every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is understood that errors may reveal themselves following review by other subject experts, and new information is welcome.

**Repository Information:**

National Anthropological Archives  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, MD 20746  
(301) 238-1300  
[www.nmnh.si.edu/naa](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa)

## Inventory

Box/Folder*	Item	Description
<b>Series 1: People and marine life of Ifalik Atoll</b>		
1/1 and N1	B1.1- B1.2	SIM researcher Joshua Tracey working at plane table with Ifalik islander assistants looking on
N1	B1.3	SIM ocean geologist Joshua Tracey and Ifalik high chief Fagolier looking at plane table
1/1 and N1	B1.4- B1.12	Reef views under water of coral and other marine life
1/2 and N1	B2.1- B2.9	Reef views under water of coral and other marine life
1/2 and N1	B2.10	"Fan Nap" or "Big House," A-frame structure made of wooden poles and woven grasses used for public assembly <sup>2</sup>
N1	B2.11	SIM outdoor work area under tent behind Fan Nap
1/2 and N1	B2.12	SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants performing survey work
1/3 and N1	B3.1	Shore of Falarik Island, Ifalik Atoll
N1	B3.2	Shallow water "poison station" for collecting marine specimens <i>A "poison station" typically uses Rotenone to enable collection of specimens; a small amount is released into a shallow pool which sedates or kills the marine life.</i>
1/4 and N1	B3.3-5	Men collecting marine specimens in shallow water "poison stations"
1/4 and N1	B3.6-7	SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants at camp with collected specimens
N1	B3.8-9	Men at lake on Ella Islet
1/4 and N1	B3.10	SIM researcher Ted Arnow at lake on Ella Islet
1/4 and N1	B3.11- 12	SIM researchers and Ifalik Atoll assistants having lunch at lake on Ella Islet
1/4 and N1	B4.1-5	Bivalve, "Sample no. 40"
1/4 and N1	B4.6	Ifalik Atoll man Gavilesei
1/4 and N1	B4.7	Ifalik Atoll children near beach beneath palm trees

<sup>2</sup> Burrows, Edwin G. "From Value to Ethos on Ifaluk Atoll," *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring, 1952).

<b>Box/Folder*</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
1/4 and N1	B4.9	Spotted shrimp
1/4 and N1	B4.11	Snapping shrimp and Trapezia crab
1/4 and N1	B4.14	Ifalik Atoll man Wetrilliar
1/5 and N1	B5.1-2	Ifalik Atoll boy on lagoon reef at low tide
1/5 and N1	B5.3	Ifalik Atoll lagoon reef at low tide
N1	B5.4	SIM researcher and Ifalik Atoll boy at lagoon
1/5 and N1	B5.5	Ifalik Atoll lagoon with small boat at right
1/5 and N1	B5.6-7	Outer reef of Falarik Islet
1/5 and N1	B5.8	Ella Islet
1/5 and N1	B5.9	Men and canoes in water with Elangelap Islet in background
1/5 and N1	B5.10-11	Canoes in lagoon
N1	B5.12	Ifalik Atoll man "Tom" in small outrigger canoe
N1	B6.1	Ifalik Atoll boys with dead monitor lizard
1/6 and N1	B6.2-4	Ifalik Atoll Second Chief Maroligar wearing feathered headdress and other decoration
1/6 and N1	B6.5-12	Underwater views of coral reef
1/7 and N1	B7.1-11	Canoes from Woleai arriving at Ifalik Atoll
1/7 and N1	B7.12	Woleai visitors on Ifalik Atoll
N1	B8.1	Woleai visitors on Ifalik Atoll
1/8 and N1	B8.2-4	Woleai chiefs and palus (navigators) on Ifalik Atoll
1/8 and N1	B8.5-12	Woleai canoes on shore of Ifalik Atoll, showing canoe structure and rigging
1/9 and N1	B9.1-8	Ifalik Atoll women and girls performing dance for Woleai visitors
1/9 and N1	B9.9-10	Son of "Tom" with wife and children
1/9 and N1	B9.11-12	"Tom" with son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren
1/10 and N1	B10.1-2	Ifalik Atoll men writing letters prior to departure of SIM researchers
1/10 and N1	B10.3	Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier
1/10 and N1	B10.4	Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier and boy
N1	B10.5	Ifalik Atoll fifth chief Wolpaitik
1/10 and N1	B10.6	Ifalik Atoll third chief Toroman
1/10 and N1	B10.7	Ifalik Atoll high chief Fagolier, third chief Toroman, and Awelligar

Box/Folder*	Item	Description
1/10 and N1	B10.8	Ifalik Atoll third chief Toroman and fifth chief Wolpaitik
N1	B10.9-10	Ifalik Atoll fifth chief Wolpaitik and Maroligar
1/10 and N1	B10.11	Ifalik Atoll men Mangyan and Wetrillar and boy
1/10 and N1	B10.12	Ifalik Atoll man Maroligar laying across lap of third chief Toroman in "death scene"
N1	B11.1-4	Views of village or buildings at edge of bay with hills or mountains in background. Not Ifalik Atoll

### Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll

These aerial photographs were made on April 23, 1953, and cover the four islets that comprise Ifalik Atoll. In addition to showing the reefs and lagoon of the atoll, dwellings and cultivated land can be seen on the larger islets.

All photographs in this series are stamped on verso "VU-5 Photographic Laboratory, U.S. Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam," and "Official Photograph, not to be used for publication by order of the Chief of Naval Operations." Items USNB1-34 have the additional stamp "Restricted security information."

1/11	A66-79	Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
1/12	A80, 83-89	Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
1/13	A90-95, 97-101	Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
1/14	USNB1-10	Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
1/15	USNB11-20	Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll
1/16	USNB21-34	Aerial photographs of Ifalik Atoll

**\*Box 1 contains prints; box N1 contains negatives.**

### Subject Headings for catalog record

Ifalik Atoll (Micronesia)

Bayer, Frederick M., 1921-2007

Tracey, Joshua I. (Joshua Irving), 1915-2004

Aerial photographs

Caroline Islands--Social life and customs

Ethnology--Micronesia (Federated States)--Ifalik Atoll.  
Crustacea--Micronesia (Federated States)--Ifalik Atoll.  
Octocorillia--Micronesia (Federated States)--Ifalik Atoll.  
710 United States, Navy (photographer)