

*Register of the
Papers of
Virginia D. Watson*

By Laura Lathrop

National Anthropological Archives
2003

Biographical Note

Virginia Drew Watson was born on June 17, 1918, in Tomah, Wisconsin. Her undergraduate work was completed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received the Ph.B. in Sociology (1940). She conducted graduate work for both the M.A. (1943) and Ph.D. (1965) degrees at the University of Chicago. She is a Fellow of both the American Anthropological Association and the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Virginia Watson's early work was in archeology, but later she pursued both archeology and socio-cultural anthropology. She married James B. Watson, a cultural anthropologist, in 1943. During that year they went to Brazil where Virginia Watson's work was primarily ethnographic among the Cayua Indians of Mato Grosso. On the trip returning from the field to Sao Paulo the Watsons stopped at the archeological site of Ciudad Real del Guayra. From 1944-1945 Watson was in the Cultural Relations Department of the American Consulate General in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Virginia Watson often held one or more part-time positions. As a graduate student in 1942, she was a part-time Lecturer in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. On returning from Brazil, the Watsons moved to Oklahoma University in Norman for one year. There Watson supervised archeology students in sorting and putting in order the university collection of artifacts as well as directing them in the field. From 1948-1953 Watson was a Lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and she also directed students in field work. During the St. Louis years the Watsons spent two summers studying the Anglo-Spanish community in Colorado. From 1957-1963 she was a Lecturer at Seattle University and from 1961-1971 she also was an Occasional Lecturer at the University of Washington, Seattle. From 1969-1989 Watson held the position of Affiliate Curator at the Burke Museum, University of Washington. Now retired, Virginia Watson spends the winters in Florida and the summers in Boulder, Colorado.

The Watsons made two trips to Highland New Guinea. The first, 1954-1955, was funded by the Ford Foundation. Watson focused on socio-cultural aspects of the Tairora and Agarabi groups, and her work resulted in the 1965 publication of her dissertation, *Agarabi Female Roles and Family Structure, a study of socio-cultural change*. The Watsons' second Highland New Guinea trip was 1963-1964. It was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and focused on the Tairora and Gadsup groups. For Virginia Watson the second trip was partly connected to archeological work previously carried out by J/ David Cole. Due to illness, he was unable to analyze the mass of material (25,000 objects) that he had collected. Watson analyzed the material and produced publications, one of which was in collaboration with Cole.

Collection Description

The Virginia Drew Watson Papers attest to a variety of interests related to culture and culture change, drawing on resources both archeological and ethnographic. Her work could be conveniently separated into four areas: Brazil, Plains and Caddo Indians, Highland New Guinea ethnographic, and Highland New Guinea archeology with Cole. These files contain catalogs, correspondence, drawings, field notes, grant proposals, manuscripts, maps, photographs, publications, reports, and slides. Most of the correspondence is with colleagues doing related work in other museums or universities in the United States or Australia. A small part of the correspondence is with friends, including missionaries, who report relevant information of interest. The collection includes original field notes from Brazil, including notes from a lecture by Radcliffe-Brown in 1943. There are also original field notes from the Tairora, Agarabi, and Gadsup groups in Highland New Guinea. In addition, this collection includes a list of Watson's publications, a copy of most of them, and some reviews.

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives also has the papers of Virginia D. Watson's husband, James Bennett Watson.

Box and Folder Listing

Series I - Correspondence 1930s-2000

Early correspondence includes letters from Watson's senior year in high school (1936), her undergraduate years and early fieldwork as well as work in Brazil (1943) and the southwestern United States. It continues until the family's departure for their second trip to New Guinea (1963-64). Four folders contain correspondence specific to Papua New Guinea. Correspondence from 1986 to 2001 includes work- and publication-related letters as well as correspondence between Watson and **Jacquetta Hawkes, Margaret Mead, Alex Vincent**, various **Missionaries, Terence E. Hays** (Hays' Highland Fifties), and the **Burke Museum**. Not included in this section is the correspondence between Watson and J. David Cole (see Boxes 12-14).

Box 1

1930s-1940s
1954-1960
1961-63
1964-65
1966-69
1969-74 [PNG]
1975-76 [PNG]
1977-79 [PNG]
1974-85
1980-85 [PNG]
1986
1987
1988
1989

Box 2

1990-91
1992
1993
1994
1995-96
1997-98-99
2000, N.D.
Hawkes (4/71-1/72) & Margaret Mead (1973)
Vincent-Tairora (1965-2001)
Missionaries (1966-94)
Hay's Highlands Fifties (1985-98)
Burke Museum (1976-2001)

Series II - Brazil

The Brazil series begins with background reading notes and notes from a Radcliffe-Brown lecture in Sao Paulo. The series includes field notes focusing on botany and the kinship of the Cayua as well as James B. Watson's papers on Brazil. The Brazil series covers the fieldwork period in Brazil (1943) as well as miscellaneous work in later years.

Box 2 (continued)

Notes: Brazil

Reading Notes-Brazil, 1943

Lecture Notes-Radcliffe Brown, Brazil, 1943

Box 3

Brazil, 1943 (continued)

Cayua Botanical Notes

Field Notes 1943+ Cayua (kinship, kinship terms, thesis outline)

Original Field Notebooks

Field Notes Typed, Cayua

Cayua Kinship-original and translation

Cayua Kinship Charts

Cayua, uncompleted papers

Box 4

Brazil 1943 (continued)

Cayua and Miscellaneous

Brazil Papers of J. B. Watson

Series III - New Guinea

This series covers work in Papua New Guinea from 1954-55 and 1963-64. It is divided into three sections: New Guinea, Trip 1; New Guinea, Trip2-Tairora, Agarabi, Gadsup (TAG); and the Cole Collaboration. Included from 1954-55 are field notes on the Tairora and Agarabi groups as well as notes and results of Thematic Apperception Tests (TAT), a paper about the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea for an American Anthropological Association (AAA) meeting, and a list of the Watson artifacts at the Chicago Field Museum. Information from the second New Guinea trip begins with the 1963 proposal to NSF. Field notes cover myths, the first New Guinea election, residence/space, and kinship for the Tairora, Agarabi, and Gadsup (TAG) groups. It also includes notes, correspondence, and two drafts of Watson's book, *Anyan*, and field notes from Abiera. Of particular interest to Watson were women's roles (see Ph.D. dissertation, Box 19) and adoption. One section (Boxes 10-12) of this series focuses on the Batainabura and contains field notes of both Virginia and James Watson, drawings, photos, and maps. There is also a bibliography on New Guinea prehistory, compiled by Johnston and Bulmer, and files and photos about various artifacts collected by the Watsons (1955-63). The final section of this series focuses on the Watson-Cole collaboration. It includes their correspondence and work on the publication, *Prehistory of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea*.

Box 4 (continued)

New Guinea - Trip 1

Paper for AAA meeting re: Eastern Highlands of New Guinea

Notes-unpublished

Collateral Reading

Field Museum-Watson Artifacts

Box 5

New Guinea - Trip 1 (continued)

Field Notes

Tajdora I, II, III, 1954-55

Arocara, 1955

Tairora Notes

Tairora Lexicon

Tairora Kinship

Thematic Apperception Tests

New Guinea, 1954

New Guinea, 1955

Box 6

New Guinea - Trip 1 (continued)

Agarabi Typed Notes 1954

Agarabi Duplicate

New Guinea - Trip 2 - Tairora, Agarabi, Gadsup (TAG)

1963 Archeology Proposal to NSF Plus Previous Information (map, photos included)

Thematic Apperception Tests, New Guinea, 1963-64

Ota: Myths

Gadsup 1963a

Gadsup 1963b

First Election, PNG, 1964

TAG Residence/Space

TAG Kinship

Box 7

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Anyan

Photo-Ota (Anyan)

Anyan Correspondence (Lua, Ota, etc.)

Reviews

Miscellaneous

University of Washington Press Correspondence

Index

Expenses

Ota Notes and Letters

Ota Notes

Box 8

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Anyan (continued)

First Draft, 1967a

First Draft, 1967b

Abiera

Notes

Field Notes, 1963-64a

Field Notes, 1963-64b

Field Notes, 1963-64c

Box 9

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Agarabi

- Friendship
- Village, Household
- Genealogy
- Kin Terms
- Material Culture
- History
- History (Robin Radford)
- Female Roles Bibliography
- 1964
- Miscellaneous and To Do
- Change
- Environment
- Adoption (Notes, Reading)
- Article Reprints-Adoption [Collateral Reading]
- Adoption Correspondence

Box 10

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Agarabi (continued)

- Field Notes, I-IV
- Field Notes (TAT: Arokara, Agarabi-Tajdora, Tairora)
- Tairora-Adoption Text

Batainabura

- Field Notes I-III
- Field Notes, 1964
- Typed Notes
- Drawing, Related Articles

Box 11

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Batainabura (continued)

- Drawings, 1964a, Related Work of Colleagues
- Drawings, 1964b, Related Work of Colleagues

Batainabura Ethnocentrism Study, 1964

- Field Manual
- Field Notes, I-III
- Field Notes, IV-V
- Virginia D. Watson Books I-V

Box 12

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Batainabura Ethnocentrism Study (continued)

James B. Watson, Books I-V

Photos

Maps, Photos, NG

Bulmer IESE Microfiche, 1976

Bibliography New Guinea Prehistory [Johnston and Bulmer]1976

Cole Collaboration:

[History and Chronology of PEHNG Project]

PEHNG Readers Comments

Reviews: Prehistory of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea

Cole Correspondence 1964-66

Cole Correspondence 1967

Box 13

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Cole Collaboration (continued)

Cole Correspondence 1968

Cole Correspondence no date

Cole Field Reports (includes photos)

Dave Cole: Reports and Prehistory of Eastern Highlands of New Guinea [Cole Field Reports 2A]

Cole-Interim Field Report 1968

Cole Miscellaneous [pre VDW]

VDW/JDC Correspondence 1994-98

Watson-Cole '67, '69, etc.

Permissions-Artifact Removal

NBZ (includes photos)

Cole Article

Cole Comments on Ms Correspondence 1970s

Box 14

New Guinea - Trip 2 (continued)

Cole Collaboration (continued)

Comments on MS and publication of Prehistory of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea

Cole Notes 1970s

Box 14 (continued)

Artifacts

- Watson Arrow and Artifact Collection 1955-63
- Figurine, Abiera 1963 (photos included)
- Tanged Blade, New Guinea (photo included)
- Cord Marked Pottery, PNG (photos included)
- Watson, Kirch, Kahn re PNG artifacts
- Dosedla-Adze (photos included)
- Miscellaneous I
- Miscellaneous II (drawing included)

Series IV - Manuscripts

This series contains two sections: Unpublished Manuscripts (1939-1987) and Published Articles (1940-2001). Watson's degree work, reviews, and Curriculum Vitae are also included. Unpublished articles include early fieldwork in the central and southwestern United States (1939-1951) as well as work in Brazil (1943) (manuscripts, 1949-1951) and the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea (1954-55; 1963-64) (manuscripts, 1954-1971). Published Articles have a similar range but with emphasis on Brazil (socio-cultural) and the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea (archeology and artifacts).

Box 14 (continued)

Unpublished Documents (1939-1987)

- 1939 Wheatley Ridge Ruin: a Mogollon site in the Upper Gila region of New Mexico. 29 pages, 29 figures, 5 tables
- 1941 Social organization of Tomah, a community in West Central Wisconsin. Paper prepared for Anthropology 330, University of Chicago. 25 pages, 1 table.
- 1946 Preliminary report of the Bultman site, Little Sioux River, Iowa. 8 pages, 4 figures
- 1947 A report of archeological reconnaissance in the Canton Reservoir area, Blaine and Dewey counties, Oklahoma. 2 pages, 1 map
- 1947 Wister Reservoir
- 1949 The ethno-historical position of Ciudad Real del Guayra. 19 pages.
- 1950 Puzzling Bundle of copper plaques. 4 pages.
- 1950 They lived before Columbus. 8 pages (Stamper-popular).
- 1951 Untitled. Popular account of Wulfing plates. 4 pages.
- 1951 Some recent studies in Brazilian archeology. 27 pages. Submitted but not accepted. Too critical.
- 1954 Stone objects in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea. 3 pages. With J. B. Watson.
- 1956 Where pigs are people—or almost so. 4 pages.
- 1966 Malvina Hoffman, sculptress. 18 pages. With additions by Eunice Williams Drew. Written for Mother to read at the Club.

Box 14 (continued)

Unpublished Documents (continued)

1967 Environmental reconstruction as a guide to archeological locations.
[N.D.] Stone tools "In search of the sharpest edge."

Box 15

Unpublished Documents (continued)

1970-71 Ecological ethnography of PNG. Incomplete ms. To be joint project with JBW
but he never pursued it.

1970s The Green Thumb Browns

1986 Thumbs-on-pottery construction by a novice. Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico. 7
pages.

1987 Coping, not moping, in the field. 42 pages. Not accepted for *Ethnographic Presents*
because not problem oriented—even though editor originally said it would be OK.

[N.D.] H. L. Tools.

Degree Work, Reviews, Miscellaneous:

Curriculum Vitae,

M.A. Degree 1943

Physical Anthropology Ph.D. Problem 1946

Preliminary Statement of Proposed Project for Ph.D. Dissertation, N.D. [Mountain Town
Kinship] (Slides from Del Norte in Box #2 of slides)

Ph.D. Problem: Archeology 1952

Ph.D. Correspondence Plus

Dissertation Abstract 1965

Dissertation-typed

Box 16

Degree Work, Reviews (continued)

Student Evaluations

U.W. Press-Contract, etc. [PEHNG]

Correspondence: University of Washington Press

Reviews of Books by VDW

[VDW Reviews of Publications by Others]

Relevant Articles (not VDW)

[Work of James B. Watson]

Micro-evolution memorandum #18

Newspaper Clippings '43 '53

Published Articles (1940-2001)

1940 Delving in Pueblo ruins. *The Anchora*, 56: 14-151.

1944 Notas sobre o systema de parentesco dos indios Cayua. *Sociologia* 6:31-48.

1945 An example of rural Brazilian acculturation. *Acta American*, 3: 152-62.

1947 Ciudad Real: a Guarani-Spanish site on the Alto Parana River. *American Antiquity*, 13:
163-76.

Box 16 (continued)

Published Articles (continued)

- 1947 Translated (from Portuguese). The sociological significance of some Tupi-Guarani kinship terms, by J.J. Philipson. *Acta Americana* 5.
- 1948 A note on some projectile points from the Kissimmee region. *American Antiquity*, 14: 127-8.

Box 17

Published Articles (continued)

- 1950 The Optima Focus of the Panhandle Aspect: description and analysis. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society*, 21: 7-68.
- 1955 Pottery in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*, 11: 121-8.
- 1955 An ethnographic account of contemporary Cayua Indian architecture. *Revista do Museu Paulista*, n.s, 9: 235-44.
- 1955 Archeology and proteins. *American Antiquity*, 20: 288.
- 1957 The Smith site: 23LN75. *The Missouri Archeologist*, 19: 11-19 (with J. B. Watson.)
- 1976 Classification in prehistory: a New Guinea case. *Archeology and Physical Anthropology in Oceania*, 11: 81-90.
- 1977 Pottery in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea: postscript. *Mankind*, 11:54-60.
- 1979 New Guinea Prehistory: a model of regional comparison. *Archeology and Physical Anthropology in Oceania*, 14: 83-98.
- 1980 Perspectives, new and old, on New Guinea stone blades and their hafts. *Occasional Papers*, no. 10, Anthropology Museum, University of Queensland.

Box 18

Published Articles (continued)

- 1986 Obsidian as tool and trade: a Papua New Guinea case. *Burke Museum Contributions in Anthropology and Natural History*, no. 4.
- 1993 Adzera and Agarabi: contrastive ceramics in Papua New Guinea. *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 102:305-318.
- 1994 Simple and significant: stone tool production in Highland New Guinea. *Lithic Technology*, 20: 89-99.
- 2001 Toe-hold on the Plains. *Kansas Historical Society*. [originals, drafts, and correspondence]
- Toe-hold on the Plains [originals, drafts, and correspondence]

Series V - Books/Monographs

This series includes Watson's M.A. thesis, her doctoral dissertation, a monograph about the Wulging Plates, three volumes about the Batainabura for the Human Relations Area Files (HRAF), a syllabus for a distance learning anthropology course, *Prehistory of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea*, and *Anyan's Story: a New Guinea woman in two worlds*. It covers the period 1942-1997.

Box 18 (continued)

- 1942 An Analysis of Co-operative Labor in Middle America. MA thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 1950 The Wulging Plates: products of prehistoric Americans. Washington University (St. Louis) Studies, No. 8.
- The Wulging Plates [photos, review]

Box 19

Books/Monographs (continued)

- 1965 Agarabi Female Roles and Family Structure: a study in socio-cultural change. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 1972 The Batainabura. 3 volumes, HRAFlex, Human Relations Area Files.
- 1974 Syllabus for Anthropology C202, University of Washington. Revised 1977, 1982, 1985, 1988.

Box 20

Books and Monographs (continued)

- 1977 *Prehistory of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea*. Vol.3, Anthropological Studies in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press. (With J. D. Cole who collected field data on which my analysis was based.)
- 1997 *Anyan's Story: a New Guinea woman in two worlds*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press.

Series VI - Slides of PEHNG Archeological Sites

The slides focus on various archeological sites of Eastern Highlands of New Guinea. They include views of the environment and fieldwork area, excavations of house sites with particular features, rock paintings, caves and a few current cultural photos, and a series of stone tool types. There are five folders.

Box 20 (continued):

Slides

Folder 1

Views from Arogara, Eastern Highlands of New Guinea

Views of the Tairora Basin, Eastern Highlands of New Guinea

Folder 2

Archeological Sites, Excavations of EH28 and EH29

Archeological Site, EH2

Archeological Sites, Excavations

Folder 3

Rock Paintings

Folder 4

Miscellaneous (caves, men's house, dancing)

Folder 5

Stone Tool Types, Prehistory of Eastern Highland New Guinea