

Rhoda Bubendey Métraux

A Register of Her Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Margaret McAleer



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2008

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Collection Summary

Title: Rhoda Bubendey Métraux Papers

Span Dates: 1905-1980

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1948-1970)

ID No.: MSS83228

Creator: Métraux, Rhoda Bubendey, 1914-

Extent: 49,000 items; 128 containers plus 4 oversize; 56.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Anthropologist and author. Correspondence, lectures and writings, field notes and notebooks, reports, proposals, minutes, programs, interview transcripts, questionnaires, statistical analyses, drawings, photographs, financial records, and printed matter pertaining to Métraux's career as an anthropologist and her professional and personal relationship with anthropologist Margaret Mead.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Abel, Theodora Mead, 1899---Correspondence.

Belo, Jane, 1904-1968--Correspondence.

Benedict, Ruth, 1887-1948.

Cobb, Edith, 1895-1977--Correspondence.

Emory, Kenneth Pike, 1897---Correspondence.

Epple, Annamarie Bubendey--Correspondence.

Gluckman, Max, 1911-1975--Correspondence.

Gorer, Geoffrey, 1905---Correspondence.

Hilger, M. Inez (Mary Inez), 1891---Correspondence.

Lowenfeld, Margaret, 1890---Correspondence.

Mead, Margaret, 1901-1978--Correspondence.

Métraux, Alfred, 1902-1963.

Metraux, Daniel Alfred--Correspondence.

Métraux, Guy S. (Guy Serge)--Correspondence.

Métraux, Rhoda Bubendey, 1914-

Mitchell, William E.--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Museum of Natural History.

Institute for Intercultural Studies.

Subjects

Adoption.

Anthropology--Research--Bali Island.

Anthropology--Research--Canada.

Anthropology--Research--Montserrat.

Anthropology--Research--Pakistan.

Anthropology--Research--Papua New Guinea.

Anthropology--Research--Samoa.

Anthropology--Research--United States.

Artificial satellites.

Body language.

Education, Higher.

Ethnology--France.

Food habits--Mexico.
Imagery (Psychology)
Music and anthropology.
Oral communication.
Outdoor recreation.
Peasantry--Caribbean Area.
Peasantry--Haiti
Peasantry--Montserrat.
Perception.
Projective techniques.
Psychology.
Race relations--Religious aspects.
Regional planning.
Scientists--Rating of.
Space perception.
Space race--Soviet Union.
Space race--United States.
Time perception.

Locations

Outer space--Exploration--Public opinion.

Occupations

Anthropologists.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Rhoda Bubendey Métraux, anthropologist and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Métraux in 1980.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Rhoda Bubendey Métraux is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Rhoda Bubendey Métraux Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1914, Oct. 18	Born, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1927-1932	Student, Packer Collegiate Institute, New York, N.Y.
1934	B.A., Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
1934	Married Arthur B. Proctor (died 1935)
1935-1939	Worked for Oxford University Press

1940-1941 Postgraduate studies, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

1941 Married Alfred Métraux (divorced 1959)

1941-1949 Fieldwork, Haiti (1941, 1946, 1948-1949)

1942-1943 Research assistant, Committee on Food Habits, National Research Council

1943 Fieldwork, Mexico

1943-1945 Planning staff, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D.C.

1946 Fieldwork, Mendoza, Argentina

1946-1947 Postgraduate studies, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

1947-1948 Convener, French Group, Research in Contemporary Cultures, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

1947-1952 Research on contemporary cultures, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

1951 Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

1952-1953 Assistant director, Studies in Contemporary Cultures, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y.

1953 Published with Margaret Mead *The Study of Culture at a Distance*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

1953-1954 Director, Montserrat Anthropological Expedition

1954 Published with Margaret Mead *Themes in French Culture*. Stanford: Stanford University Press

1954-1957 Research fellow, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

1957-1980 Consultant, Institute for Intercultural Studies

1960-1965 Associate director, Studies in Allopsychic Orientation, American Museum of Natural History

1965-1969 Project director, Cultural Structure Perceptual Communication, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y.

1967-1973 Fieldwork, Papua New Guinea (1967-1968, 1971, 1972-1973)

1970-1980 Research associate, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y.

1970 Published with Margaret Mead *A Way of Seeing*. New York: McCall Publishing Co.

1974 Published with Theodora Mead Abel *Culture and Psychotherapy*. New Haven, Conn.: College and University Press

1979

Edited *Margaret Mead: Some Personal Views*. New York: Walker

2003, Nov. 26

Died, Barton, Vt.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rhoda Bubendey Métraux (1914- 2003) span the years 1905-1980, with the bulk of material dating from 1948 to 1970. The collection documents Métraux's work as a cultural anthropologist through correspondence with colleagues; memoranda, minutes, and reports from professional organizations and institutions; notes and proceedings from conferences and meetings; field notes and research files; and drafts of lectures, articles, books, and reviews. Métraux undertook much of her work in collaboration with anthropologist Margaret Mead with whom she shared a close personal relationship. The papers reveal many facets of their friendship and working partnership. The collection is arranged in five series: [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Projects](#), [Lectures and Writings](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) series has been maintained in its original order and consists of an alphabetical and a chronological file. The alphabetical file contains correspondence with some of Métraux's closest friends and colleagues. The largest amount of correspondence is with Margaret Mead. Exchanges between Métraux and Mead focus largely on their professional collaboration. A small amount of their personal correspondence is included, primarily during the 1950s. Other correspondents represented in the alphabetical file include Theodora Mead Abel, Jane Belo, Edith Cobb, Kenneth Pike Emory, Max Gluckman, Geoffrey Gorer, M. Inez Hilger, Margaret Lowenfeld, and William E. Mitchell. The file also contains family correspondence including letters to and from her son, Daniel Métraux, her brother-in-law, Guy S. Métraux, and letters from her mother, Annamarie Bubendey Epple. The chronological file traces Métraux's professional activities from 1948 to 1980 including research projects, administrative positions, teaching, lecturing, and publishing.

The [Subject File](#) series largely concerns Métraux's organizational affiliations. Included is correspondence, memoranda, minutes, and reports from the American Museum of Natural History, the Institute for Intercultural Studies, and from various professional committees and associations. A conference and meetings file, spanning the years 1951-1980, comprises the bulk of the series. It features Métraux's notes from conference sessions and committee meetings which provide levels of detail often omitted from official proceedings and minutes. The series also contains subject files relating to Mead, anthropologist Ruth Benedict, and Métraux's husband, anthropologist Alfred Métraux, and background material on projective testing developed by Margaret Lowenfeld and used by Métraux in her research and fieldwork.

The [Projects](#) series constitutes more than half of the collection and contains files from three major research endeavors as well as a miscellaneous grouping of smaller projects. The largest amount of material is from the Image of the Scientist project in which Métraux investigated high school students' attitudes toward science and scientists through a series of questionnaires distributed to more than 130 public and private schools in the winter of 1956-1957. Included is a random sampling of questionnaire responses analyzed by Mead and Métraux in their article "Image of the Scientist among High-school Students," published in *Science* magazine in August 1957, and a larger group of unanalyzed responses. The series also contains elementary school essays and drawings and a series of questionnaires answered by college students and adults. When Sputnik was launched in October 1957, Mead issued an emergency call to colleagues across the country for evidence of popular reaction to the Soviet satellite. The Sputnik files include elementary school essays and drawings and responses to interviews and questionnaires by high school students, college students, and adults in the United States and Canada.

Two other large projects are featured in the [Project](#) series. In the Studies in Allopsychic Orientation project, started around 1959, Mead and Métraux explored differing perceptions of time, space, and the unknown. The project files include questionnaire responses from various groups in the United States, including high school, college, and deaf students and the elderly, as well as cross-cultural data from Bali, Montserrat, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, and Samoa, among other places. Through the Cultural Structure of Imagery project, begun in 1965, Métraux explored cultural differences in communication evident in music, speech, and body motion. The project's files consist largely of notes, proposals, reports, and diaries from her fieldwork in Montserrat (1953-1954, 1966) and Papua New Guinea (1967-1968, 1971). Notes from Métraux's fieldwork in Haiti during the 1940s are located in the [Subject File](#).

The [Project](#) series also contains material from several smaller projects, including Métraux's studies of Mexican food habits, French national character, adoption, outdoor recreation, and regional planning; an American Association of University Women

questionnaire on higher education; and a study of lay and clerical attitudes toward race undertaken for the Riverside Church in New York City in 1959.

The [Lectures and Writings](#) series documents the breadth of Métraux's research interests including Caribbean peasant cultures in Haiti and Monserrat; contemporary national cultures, especially that of France; and public opinion research, particularly popular attitudes toward science. The series contains lectures and articles spanning four decades, from 1941 to 1980, and drafts of books written in collaboration with Mead and Theodora Mead Abel. Also in the series is a draft and other material relating to Métraux's dissertation on kinship in Haiti; books reviews; and drafts of *Redbook* magazine columns.

Related Material

Other information on Métraux's work, particularly her collaboration with Mead, can be found in the papers of Margaret Mead located in this division.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1933-1980](#)
- [Subject File, 1905-1980](#)
- [Projects, 1936-1971](#)
- [Lectures and Writings, 1938-1980](#)
- [Oversize, 1938-1969](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-12

General Correspondence, 1933-1980

Letters sent and received with related attachments.

Organized in two groupings: an alphabetical file by name of person and a chronological file.

BOX 13-27

Subject File, 1905-1980

Correspondence, reports, minutes, notes, programs, photographs, addresses, bibliographies, writings, and printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and thereunder chronologically.

BOX 28-112

Projects, 1936-1971

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, proposals, financial records, interview transcripts, questionnaires, drawings, notebooks, photographs, statistical analyses, and printed matter.

Arranged by alphabetically by name of project and alphabetically thereunder by subject or type of material.

BOX 112-128

Lectures and Writings, 1938-1980

Drafts of lectures, articles, books, dissertation, magazine columns, and reviews with related correspondence, notes, and outlines.

Organized into lectures and writings. Lectures are arranged chronologically. Writings are arranged alphabetically by type of publication.

BOX OV 1-OV 4

Oversize, 1938-1969

Oversize material consisting of drawings and a map.

Organized and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-12	General Correspondence, 1933-1980 Letters sent and received with related attachments. Organized in two groupings: an alphabetical file by name of person and a chronological file.
BOX 1	Alphabetical file Abel, Theodora Mead, 1954-1979 Bateson, Gregory, 1933-1938, 1946, 1953-1957, 1962-1978, n.d. <i><u>See also Oversize</u></i> (2 folders) Bateson, Mary Catherine, 1963-1976 Belo, Jane, 1954-1968 Benedict, Ruth <i><u>See Container 14, same heading</u></i> Bubendey, Paul (brother), 1954-1976, n.d. Cobb, Edith, 1950-1979, n.d. Dillon, Wilton, 1959-1979 Eglar, Zekiye, 1955-1964 Emory, Kenneth, 1951-1980 Epple, Annamarie Bubendey (mother) 1954-1959 1960-1978, n.d.
BOX 2	Frank, Lawrence Kelso, 1961-1965 Gluckman, Max, 1963-1974, n.d. Gorer, Geoffrey, 1940-1980 Hilger, M. Inez, 1953-1977 (2 folders) Lowenfeld, Margaret, 1951-1977 <i><u>See also Container 26, Projective tests</u></i> McDowell, Nancy, 1973-1978
BOX 3	Mead, Margaret <i><u>See also Containers 21-23, same heading</u></i> 1949, Oct.-1962, May (7 folders)
BOX 4	1962, June-1964, May (7 folders)
BOX 5	1964, June-1965, May (6 folders)
BOX 6	1965, June-1972, June (8 folders)
BOX 7	1973, Feb.-1978, Oct. (4 folders) Métraux, Alfred (husband) <i><u>See Container 24, same heading</u></i> Métraux, Daniel (son), 1958-1979, n.d. (3 folders) Métraux, Eric (stepson), 1957-1977, n.d.
BOX 8	Métraux, Guy S. and Ruth, 1959-1978

General Correspondence, 1933-1980

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	Mysbergh, James H., 1965-1980, n.d.
	Nurge, Ethel, 1965-1966
	Palmerston, Hanna, 1962-1979
	Schneebaum, Tobias, 1974-1978, n.d. (2 folders)
	Schwartz, Lola and Theodore, 1960-1977, n.d.
BOX 9	Sleeper, Raymond S., 1962
	Stroud, John, 1960-1962
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	1948, July-1959, Dec. (5 folders)
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BOX 13-27	Subject File, 1905-1980 Correspondence, reports, minutes, notes, programs, photographs, addresses, bibliographies, writings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 13	Addresses and lists of names, 1973-1979, n.d. (2 folders) American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1959 American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. Correspondence and memoranda, 1962-1980, n.d. (2 folders) Margaret Mead film festival, 1977-1979 Photographic archives project, 1977-1979 Reports, 1971-1980 (2 folders) Trip to Europe to survey collections from the Sepik region, Papua New Guinea, 1975
BOX 14	Benedict, Ruth Miscellany, 1966-1979, n.d. Writings not included in <i>An Anthropologist at Work</i> , 1905-1948, 1957-1958, 1980, n.d. (2 folders) Caribbean Studies Association, 1974-1979 City University of New York, New York, N.Y., recommendations for restructuring anthropology curriculum, 1976 "Concepts" filmstrip project, 1974 Conferences and meetings 1951

Subject File, 1905-1980

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Contents

- Anthropology Work Conference in Mental Health Research, Chicago, Ill., 1951-1953
International Congress for Mental Health, Mexico City, Mexico
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- BOX 15** 1955
American Anthropological Association, Boston, Mass., 1955-1956
Conference on Providing Experiences with Infants in the Preparation of Home Economics, Washington, D.C., 1954-1956
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World Federation for Mental Health, Istanbul, Turkey
- 1956
Conference on French Community Studies, Haverford, Pa.
International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.
Miscellaneous
The Role of the Interpreter in Small Group Conferences, Washington, D.C., 1954-1956
Washington Conference on International Communication, Washington, D.C.
- BOX 16** 1957, Mental Health in Different Cultures, New York, N.Y.
- 1958
Conference on Community Action, Tuxedo, N.Y., 1958-1960
Miscellaneous
- 1959
International Social Service, symposium on American adoptions of Asian children, 1959-1960
Miscellaneous
Public Housing Design Conference, New York, N.Y.
- 1960
American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, Minn., 1960-1961
American Association for the Advancement of Science, Philadelphia, Pa., 1960-1961
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Symposium on the Teaching of Anthropology, New York Academy of Sciences, New York, N.Y.
- BOX 17** 1961
American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, Pa.
Conference on Toy and Play Materials, New York, N.Y.
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- 1962
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pa.
Public Understanding of Science research meeting, Washington, D.C., 1961-1962
American Management Association, Industrial Preparedness Conference, New York, N.Y.
Miscellaneous
Space Law and Sociology Conference, New York, N.Y.
- 1963, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1964
Conference on Children's Reactions to the Death of the President, New York, N.Y., 1963-1964
Human Needs in Housing Conference, Topeka, Kans.

Subject File, 1905-1980

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- BOX 18** Study Group on Cultural Factors in Delinquency, Topeka, Kans., 1959-1964
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American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C.
George Junior Republic Behavioral Science Conference, Freeville, N.Y.
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1968, miscellaneous
1969
American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, La.
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1973
International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Chicago, Ill.,
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Miscellaneous
Philip E. Mosely and the Zadruga, Bloomington, Ind.
1974, American Anthropological Association
1975, miscellaneous
- BOX 20** 1976
American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
United Nations Forum on Human Settlements, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
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Forum for Correspondence and Contact, Program on Public Conceptions of Science, 1972-1973
Georgetown Day School, Washington, D.C., 1975-1979
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- BOX 21** Institute for Intercultural Studies
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Miscellaneous, 1963-1966, n.d.
- BOX 22** Card-file listing of organizational affiliations, n.d.
- BOX 23** Curricula vitae, 1963-1979, n.d.
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Subject File, 1905-1980

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	Pacific Arts Association, 1978-1980
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	World Federation for Mental Health, 1949-1980
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BOX 28-112	Projects, 1936-1971
	Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, proposals, financial records, interview transcripts, questionnaires, drawings, notebooks, photographs, statistical analyses, and printed matter.
	Arranged by alphabetically by name of project and alphabetically thereunder by subject or type of material.
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	Mosaic protocols, 1953-1954, 1961
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Projects, 1936-1971

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BOX 29	1965 Notebooks 1953-1954 Nos. 0-18 (5 folders)
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	Notes, typed 1953-1954 Vols. 1-2 (2 folders)
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	Papua New Guinea Correspondence, 1966-1968
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	General administrative file Finances, 1965-1970 Insurance, 1967-1968 Memoranda, 1964-1968, n.d. Official correspondence, 1964-1965 Orders and requisitions 1966, Apr.-1967, Jan.
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Apollo Nine, college students' reactions, 1969 *See also Oversize*
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Interviews, 1957-1959
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- BOX 38** Publicity material used by a pharmaceutical company, 1955-1959
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- Elementary school essays and drawings, 1957 *See also Oversize*
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- BOX 40** General source file
American Association for the Advancement of Science, Traveling High School Science
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Education
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Projects, 1936-1971

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	By students and consultants, 1957
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BOX 46	(2 folders)
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Projects, 1936-1971

Container

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BOX 52	Texas, Van High School, Van Utah Cedar City High School, Cedar City Logan High School, Logan (3 folders) Virginia, St. Stephens School, Alexandria West Virginia, Dunbar High School, Dunbar (2 folders)
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Projects, 1936-1971

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	Calexico
	(3 folders)
	Crockett
	(2 folders)
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	Sutter
	Colorado
	Delta
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	(3 folders)
	Englewood
	(2 folders)
	Grand Junction
	(1 folder)
BOX 58	(1 folder)
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	Indiana
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	(2 folders)
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	(2 folders)

Projects, 1936-1971

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Projects, 1936-1971

Container

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Oct.-Nov., lecture series, New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute, Princeton, N.J., 1954-1955

Dec. 15, "Community as the Sample," New York University, New York, N.Y.

Dec. 28, "American Protestant Sects in a Caribbean Setting," Detroit, Mich., 1954-1955

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Mar. 16, "A Holistic View of Reality," Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y., 1954-1955

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Mar. 15, "Childhood Security and Adult Adaptation: Some Effects of Cultural Change among Chinese," American Orthopsychiatric Association, New York, N.Y., 1954-1956

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- Nov. 17, "The Dimensions of Time: A Preliminary Examination," American Anthropological Association, Chicago, Ill., 1958-1962
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- Jan. 9-Nov. 11, miscellaneous, 1962-1963
- Mar. 9, "Immigrants and Natives in the Space Age," American Orthopsychiatric Association, Washington, D.C.
- Oct. 15, "Family Living, 1963," Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Nov. 22, "The Tree: Cultural Backgrounds of a Contemporary Mathematical Model," American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, Calif.
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- Aug., "Cultural Areas and the Study of World-wide Change," International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Moscow, USSR, 1963-1964
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- Nov. 30, "The Interdisciplinary Approach toward Composite Understanding of the In-Between Years," Youth within Our Changing World conference, New York, N.Y.
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- May 14, "Social and Cultural Barriers to Communication," Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
- June 24, "Cultural Patterns and Technical Change," International Study and Research Institute, New York, N.Y.
- Oct. 6, "Planning for an Urban Culture," American Institute of Planners, St. Louis, Mo.
- Dec. 26, "Cultural Implications of Modern Methods of Control of Contraception," American Association for the Advancement of Science, Berkeley, Calif. 1965-1966
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Oct. 21, "Man in the Man-Made, Urban World," Man and Nature in the City symposium, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 22, "Death in Iatmul: Imagery and Cultural Transformation," American Anthropological Association, Seattle, Wash.

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Nov. 24, "An Anthropologist Looks at the Family," Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, N.Y., 1969-1970

1972, Apr. 26, "Change in Iatmul Culture: Innovation in the Interest of Conservation," Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

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Apr. 11, "A New Guinea Journey Through Time," New York Academy of Sciences, New York, N.Y., 1972-1973

Apr. 14, "The Committee on Food Habits: A Reply," Society for Applied Anthropology, Tuscon, Ariz., 1972-1973

1974, Nov. 21, "Cultural Regularities and Universal Regularities: Aspects of Performance on the Lowenfeld Mosaic Test," American Anthropological Association, Mexico City, Mexico

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Feb. 20, "A Projective World View and the Study of Culture," American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, Mass.

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"Implicit and Explicit Values in Education and Teaching as Related to Growth and Development," *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*

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- "Normal and Deviant Behavior in a Peasant Community: Monserrat, B.W.I.," with Theodora Mead Abel, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*
- 1960, "The Dispersion of Significance in a Changing Culture: Montserrat, B.W.I.," *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*
- 1961, "Children's Drawings: Satellites and Space," *Journal of Social Justice*, 1960-1961
- 1962, "The Image of the Scientist," *Science and the Public*
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- "Gaining Freedom of Value Choice," *New Insight and the Curriculum*
- "International Communication of Science Information," *Journalism Quarterly*
- "Some Considerations of Culture and the Meaning of Education," *Education and Culture: Anthropological Approaches*, 1958-1962
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- "Anthropologists and World Affairs," with Margaret Mead, *Current Anthropology*, 1963-1964
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- 1968, "Bronislaw Malinowski," *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 1965-1968
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- "Eidos and Change: Continuity in Process, Discontinuity in Product," *Ethos*, 1973-1976
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- BOX 121 "Iatmul," *Family of Man*, 1974-1975
- "The Life of the World," *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*
- "Margaret Mead," *Internationales Soziologen Lexikon*, 1974-1975, n.d.
- 1979, "The Processes of Metaphor: Symbol and Reality"
- 1980, "Margaret Mead: Anthropologist of Our Time," with Shari Segel, *Studies in the Anthropology of Visual Communication*, 1979-1980
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