Expanding Public Understanding of Anthropology since 1871

With a distinguished tradition of scholarship stretching over 150 years, the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (the Institute) has been committed to its core goal of promoting public understanding of anthropology, education, and the contribution of anthropology to public affairs. The Institute is the world's oldest scholarly association dedicated to furthering anthropology in its broadest and most inclusive sense.

Bringing the Past into the Future

With 150-plus years of research, the Institute faced the reality that their deep well of rich historic archives were accessible only to those who visited their campus in London. Over one million pieces of rich research lay at their fingertips. But what to do with all these rediscovered, one-of-a-kind materials?

While the task of organizing and disseminating the archives seemed insurmountable, the Institute recognized the indisputable value of these original sources and the impact access could have on both its members and the researcher community at large. As a result, when Wiley Digital Archives presented the Institute with the opportunity to digitize its archives, the decision was easy.

Armed with newly reclaimed evidence of their rich history, the Institute partnered with Wiley to restore and digitize its collection, ensuring discovery and access to scholars around the globe.

Accessible through the Wiley Digital Archives platform, the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland collection contains the vast range of original sources that have shaped over a century of academic progress, and represents a unique opportunity for scholars to reinvigorate their research with previously unexplored historical context.

Today, the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland is proud to continue its dedication to advancing research in their global community:

- Publishes journals that circulate throughout the world
- Awards several international prizes annually
- Administers multiple trust funds that award research grants
- Has a privileged link with the Anthropology Library (British Museum)
Integrating 150 Years of Historical Evidence into Everyday Research

Inspire your researchers to go beyond published conclusions by empowering them to explore primary source material within its historical context, encouraging a more critical interpretation of modern research and the acceleration of novel discoveries.

From archaeology and historical research to geographical and religious studies, the Wiley Digital Archives: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland collection contains an extensive body of diverse and interdisciplinary original materials, available to researchers via institutional access.

Designed to facilitate critical research activities, the Wiley Digital Archives platform enables unprecedented engagement with exclusive archive materials, including tools for visualizations, mapping, and textual analysis; enhanced metadata; indexing; and MARC records that support the cataloging, search, and discovery needs of your library.

A range of unique materials include:

- Administrative Records
- Correspondence
- Data
- Ephemera
- Fieldwork
- Gray Literature
- Illustrations
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Monographs
- Pamphlets
- Periodicals
- Personal Papers
- Photographs
- Proceedings
- Reports
- & More!

Spanning a vast range of disciplinary anthropological research:

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Colonial History
- Cultural Studies
- Dance
- Ethnic Studies
- Geography
- Gender Studies
- Area Studies (African, East Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Caribbean, South Asian, Indian, Pakistani, and Pacific)
- & More!

Peek inside the Collection

PERSONAL PAPERS

Memory of the World, Arthur Bernard Deacon (1903–1927)

This is a nominated collection of Deacon's materials, describing his travels to Malekula and the islands of the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) in 1926.

This collection includes original drawings and notes detailing the rich and fascinating cultures that were in danger of being superseded by Western culture. Deacon's notes and drawings intricately record the language, customs, traditional tales, and famous sand-drawing tradition of the people he studied.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Ethnographic Photographic Library (Originates in the 1860s)

This collection holds historic prints, negatives, lantern slides, drawings, paintings, and other images, the earliest of which date from the 1860s. The Library illustrates the great diversity and vitality of the world's cultures, as well as the history of photographic image-making itself.

- Includes over 125,000 images
- Ranges across cultures, chronologies, and geographies
- Used as a resource for cultural, religious, and visual studies
- Serves as a key component of anthropological research

FIELDWORK

Edward Horace Man Collection

Edward Horace Man (1846–1929) became interested in anthropology soon after his arrival in the Andaman Islands as a colonial officer. He kept meticulous notes on the language and culture of the people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The collection includes his studies of a now extinct language, that of the Aka-bea-da tribe; notes on various things, including botany; and also press cuttings and personal papers. In addition, it holds two volumes of photographs, which include some delightful drawings, and numerous glass-plate negatives.
The Wiley Digital Archives platform has been specifically designed to meet modern archival research needs.

- Intuitive interface
- Full-text searchability for printed documents
- Visual search results
- Enhanced metadata
- Downloadable optical character recognition (ocr) text
- Term frequency, chronology, and analysis tools
- Exportable datasets for charts, tables, statistics, and handwritten fieldwork notes
- Geotagged historical maps
- Textual analysis
- Headers—names, places, and dates—and core metadata have been manually keyed in
- Collections are browsable at archive, collection, box, and folder levels
- Print, download, save, and share documents

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