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150 YEARS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Founded in 1871, with roots dating back to 1837, the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (RAI) is the world's longest-established scholarly association dedicated to the advancement of anthropology.

With a tradition of scholarship stretching over 150 years, the Institute remains committed to promoting the public understanding of anthropology, and to furthering the contribution of anthropology to public affairs, culture, education and society.

A VISUAL HISTORY OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES

The Institute’s archive comprises two million pieces including fieldwork, notes, maps and correspondence. An extensive photo library, combined with drawings, sketches, and illustrations offers a unique visual history of the arts and culture of people and communities around the world.

Notable anthropologists, ethnologists and ethnographic photographers whose work features in the archive include Bronislaw Malinowski, William Buller Fagg, Rosemary Harris, Charles Gabriel Seligman, Edward Horace Man, Alfred Cort Haddon, Lady Vera Delves Broughton, Thomas Henry Huxley, Audrey Richards, Northcote W. Thomas, Robert Sutherland Rattray, and Peter Morton Williams.
INSIDE THE ARCHIVE

Spanning 1763 to 2016, the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland archive contains two million pieces of unique content, including research data, papers, fieldwork, drawings, and photographs. Amongst these primary source materials is a wealth of previously uncatalogued content. Collections include:

A 150,000-image library of ethnographic photographs, dating back to the 1860s, taken by anthropologists around the world. The library includes historic prints, lantern slides, drawings, and paintings, illustrating a rich diversity of world cultures.

The Africa and African Art Collections, gathering a series of Nigerian art photographs taken by William Buller Fagg and Peter Morton Williams in the 1950s, earlier collections by Northcote W. Thomas (c. 1909), Robert Sutherland Rattray’s images of life in Ghana, and Emil Torday and Hilton Simpson’s images of the Congo.

Photographs by Lady Vera Delves Broughton, one of the first female ethnographic photographers, taken on her world travels with husband, Walter Guinness and daughter Rosamond.

Personal papers, drawings and notes of precocious anthropologist Arthur Bernard Deacon documenting his work in Malekula and the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), where he died of malaria in 1927, at the age of 24. His work documenting the culture, languages, and famous sand-drawing tradition of the area is considered a key record of the heritage of Vanuatu, a visual culture without a comprehensive written history.

The fieldwork and drawings of Edward Horace Man’s studies chronicling the culture, language and botany of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including two volumes of photographs, drawings, and glass-plate negatives, and his studies of the now extinct language of the Aka-bea-da tribe.

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