

*SOAS Special Collections Guides:***Archival Sources for Anthropology**

*This guide highlights a selection of archives at SOAS Library containing source material for anthropology*



*Anthropologist Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf interviewing a Toda woman during fieldwork, Tamil Nadu, India, 1948 [Fürer-Haimendorf collection].*

**SOAS Archives & Special Collections**

SOAS Library Special Collections specialises in the collection of primary source material, including archives, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and audio-visual recordings, relating to Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, the South Pacific and Australasia.

Our collections include archives of Western Christian missionary societies, businesses, NGOs and charities, campaign groups, and the

papers of individuals, including anthropologists and other academics, missionaries, journalists, diplomats and colonial administrators. The collections primarily relate to the period between 1800 and 2000.

We actively seek to avoid appropriating the cultural heritage of other countries and local communities. To this end, we do not seek to acquire material created by foreign nationals or indigenous peoples overseas.

**Archival Sources for Anthropology**

The archival collections at SOAS Library can provide valuable source materials for anthropological research.

The collections include fieldnotes, research data and audio-visual material compiled by anthropologists and other academic researchers, including Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf, Melvin Perlman, Pat Caplan and Lionel Caplan, as well as non-professional practitioners, such as D.L.R. Lorimer and R.G.B. Moore.

These collections often offer unique written and visual representations of world cultures and indigenous communities, as well as valuable illustrations of historical anthropological and ethnological practice.

In addition, archival records created by other organisations such as missionary societies, charities and NGOs working in Asia and Africa can also include unique historical traces of the culture, language and social life of the peoples and communities of these regions, as well as the history of Western attitudes and interactions with indigenous communities.

The following pages include a listing of possible source material for anthropology held at SOAS Archives Special Collections.

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**I. Individual Collections****Africa Collections****Arkell, Anthony John (MS 210522)**

Reports, articles and notes, dated c.1919-1947, of Anthony John Arkell (1898-1980). Arkell worked for the Sudanese Government as Commissioner for Archaeology and Anthropology from 1938-1948. He subsequently became Reader in Egyptian Archaeology at the University of London. The collection chiefly concerns archaeology, history and ethnology of the Sudan, together with some administrative papers. **17 boxes**

**Boyd, Jean (PP MS 36)**

Material collected by Jean Boyd, relating to northern Nigeria from the late 18th century to the 1990s. Includes material on the Nigerian woman poet, Nana Asma'u (1793-1865); papers relating to the situation of women and women's organisations in Northern Nigeria during the 1980s; papers on the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial history of the city of Sokoto; 500 postcards, many in colour, relating to Nigeria, including images of people, cultural events, various places, and other aspects of Nigerian life [late 20th century]. **19 boxes**

**Centre for African Studies (SOAS/CAS)**

Records of the Centre of African Studies (CAS) at SOAS, consisting of files relating to conferences, symposiums, workshops, seminars and other events organised by Centre on its own or on conjunction with other organisations. **11 boxes**

**Earthy, Emily Dora (MS 380515)**

Field work and language material of Emily Dora Earthy, missionary in Mozambique 1917-1930 and researcher at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. The collection contains her manuscript on Valenge women which was published under the title 'Valenge Women: the Social and Economic Life of the Valenge Women of Portuguese East Africa', in 1933. **3 boxes**

**Fisher, Humphrey (MS 380641)**

Reader in the History of Africa at SOAS. Journals, 1973-1978, of trips to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Ghana with appendices of relevant documents and source material. **4 Volumes.**

**Green, Margaret Mackeson (PP MS 15)**

Linguistic and anthropological papers of Margaret Green (1895-1979), Reader in West African Languages and Cultures at SOAS, 1939-51. Chiefly concerning the Igbo language. **29 boxes**

**Hake, Andrew (PP MS 46)**

Correspondence and papers of Andrew Augustus Gordon Hake (born 1925). Hake worked as an industrial missionary in Kenya, 1957-1969 under the auspices of the National Christian Council for Kenya. In 1977 he authored the book 'African Metropolis: Nairobi's Self-help City'. The papers detail his interest and work in the urban and industrial life of Nairobi, his attempts to establish fairer working conditions in Kenya's industrial sector and to present the case of the unemployed, homeless and refugees to government officials. **95 boxes**

**Huntingford, George Wynn Brereton (PP MS 17)**

Correspondence, seminar papers and reports relating to the history, languages and culture of the peoples of East Africa, collected by George Wynn Brereton Huntingford, Lecturer in East African Languages and Cultures, SOAS, 1950-1966. Papers dated 1920's-1974. **13 boxes**

**Kaduna Housing Survey (PP MS 41)**

Completed questionnaires on households, by district, in Kaduna province, Nigeria. Survey undertaken by the Centre for the Social and Economic Research at Ahmadu Bello University, and the Division for Urban and Rural Planning at Kaduna Polytechnic, in 1978. **12 boxes**

**Kirwan, Archibald Laurence Patrick, (MS 380711)**

Papers of Sir Archibald Kirwan, archaeologist and geographer. Comprises: publications; slides and photographs; reports and correspondence, largely relating to East Africa and the Middle East. **4 boxes**

**Mackenzie, Melville Douglas (MS 380483)**

Copies of papers and photographs of Dr Melville Douglas Mackenzie as Special Commissioner, League of Nations Mission to the Kru peoples of Liberia, 1931-1932. **3 boxes**

**Millman Papers (PP MS 34)**

Correspondence, educational and language (Lokele) material, dated 1890-1957, concerning missionary work in Yakusu, Belgian Congo [D.R.C.], Central Africa, of William Millman and Edith Millman. **13 boxes**

**Moore, Reginald John Beagarie (MS 380399)**

Correspondence and papers, 1926-1945, concerning the missionary work of Reginald John Beagarie [Mike] Moore (1900-1943). Served with the London Missionary Society's Central African Mission and the United Missions in the Copperbelt. A copy of his anthropological study, 'The Witchdoctor's Prescription' is included. **2 boxes**

**Perlman, Melvin Lee (PP MS 38)**

Collection of research data gathered by Melvin Lee Perlman (1933-1988), American anthropologist, during 1959-1962 for a study on Toro marriages in Uganda. Also data gathered for research on Tea Estate Workers in Uganda and articles and transcripts of lectures. **42 boxes**

**Tucker, Archibald Norman (PP MS 43)**

Linguistic expert of non-Arabic languages, Sudan Government, 1929-1931. In 1932 he became member of staff at SOAS. Collection comprises orthographic language materials on both East African and Bantu languages. **10 boxes**

**Uganda (Bunyoro) Materials (MS 380513)**

Copies of papers, dated 1944-1971, concerning parties and politics in Uganda and particularly the Bunyoro district. Collected by Roger Southall. **1 box**

**Werner, Alice, (MS 380393)**

Professor of Swahili and Bantu languages, School of Oriental Studies, 1930. Documents and papers relating to African languages and folklore, collected by Alice Werner. **1 box**

**Whiteley, Wilfred Howell (PP MS 42)**

Language material on over 30 Bantu languages, collected by Wilfred Howell Whiteley (1924-1972). Government Anthropologist in Tanganyika 1950-1952; and Head of Africa Department at SOAS, 1959-1972. The papers contain a major section on Swahili, (including papers on the socio-political issues raised over the adoption of Swahili as a national language). **23 boxes**

**East Asia Collections****Aylward, Gladys (MS 291571)**

Letters and artefacts of Gladys Aylward, missionary to China. Miss Aylward worked chiefly in Shansi Province from 1931-1951. The collection includes papers and artefacts relating to her interest in the practice of foot-binding. Gladys Aylward see Alan Burgess, 'The Small Woman', (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1957). **1 box**

**Geller Diaries (MS 380482)**

Diaries of Wilson Herbert Geller and of Mabel Geller. Wilson Geller was appointed to Siaokan in Central China as Lay



*Pair of shoes for the bound feet of a girl, China, 1930s [Aylward collection]*

Evangelist of the London Missionary Society. 16 diaries dated 1901 to 1934. **1 box**

#### **Mann, Ebenezer and Mabel (MS 380302)**

Papers, dated 1913-1967, of the Rev. Ebenezer Mann (born 1881) and his wife Mabel Mann (born 1883), who served with the China Inland Mission in Kansu Province. Ebenezer Mann went out to China in 1903, his cousin Mabel Mann in 1905. They married in 1907 and worked mainly in Fukiang until their retirement in 1944. In 1921 Ebenezer was appointed chairman of the Famine Relief Committee set up after an earthquake in Kansu Province. **1 box**

#### **Scott Family Papers (PP MS 49)**

The North China and Shantung Mission, originally the Church of England North China Mission, was founded in 1872. Several generations of the Scott family served with the Mission, including Rev. C.P. Scott (1872-1927) and his son, Rev. P.M. Scott (1909-1931). Their papers, together with those of fellow missionaries, form part of the collections. Also included is a run of the North China and Shantung Mission Quarterly Papers and correspondence and diaries of M.W. Scott, son of P.M. Scott, who worked for Butterfield and Swire in Shanghai and Hong Kong from 1934 to 1937. **3 boxes, 12 volumes**

#### **Sewell, William Gawan (PP MS 16)**

Letters, diaries, drafts of published works, miscellaneous papers and photographs, dated 1924-1980, of William Gawan Sewell (1898-1984). William Sewell and his wife Hilda went out to China with the Friends Service Council in 1924. He became Lecturer and later Professor of Chemistry, West China University, Chengdu and remained in China until

1952. From 1942-1945 he and his family were interned in Hong Kong by the Japanese. **7 boxes**

#### **South Asia Collections**

##### **Baké, Dr Arnold A. (PP MS 21)**

Indian music and folklore – songs in various languages with related material and translations, by Dr Arnold A. Bake. **7 boxes**

##### **Banks Photograph Collection (MS 380389)**

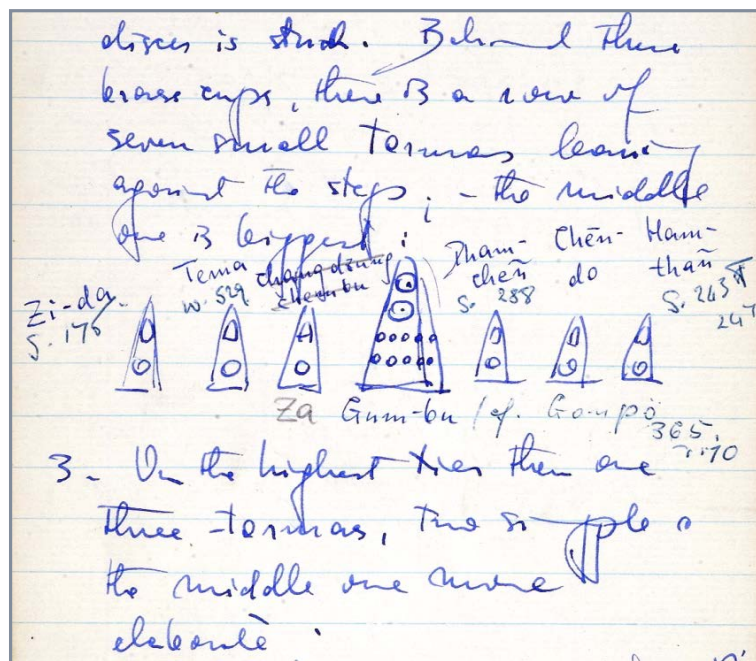
Photographs dated c.1897-1917 and chiefly taken in North East India by A.L. Banks, missionary of the Regions Beyond Missionary Union. The photographs show groups of missionaries, Indian Christians, Hindus and Muslims, local festivals, buildings and views. **11 albums**

##### **Caplan, Lionel (PP MS 77)**

Papers, 1965-2003, of Lionel Caplan, Professor of Anthropology at SOAS. Lionel Caplan was the author of a number of studies, including: 'Land and Social Change in East Nepal: a study of Hindu-tribal relations'; 'Administration and Politics in a Nepalese Town: the study of a district capital and its environs'; 'Class and Culture in Urban India: fundamentalism in a Christian community'; 'Warrior gentlemen : "Gurkhas" in the Western imagination'; and 'Children of colonialism : Anglo-Indians in a postcolonial world'. Archive comprises field notes, comprehensive census data, questionnaires, genealogical charts, and extensive details on economic, kinship, ritual and other everyday activities concerning the subjects of research. **29 boxes**

**Caplan, Patricia (MS 381062)**

Papers, 1969-1980, of Patricia Caplan, Professor of Anthropology at Goldsmiths College. Relating to fieldwork on inter-caste relations, land tenure, migration to India by low castes and new source of cash income in the Far Western Hills of Nepal in 1969, as well as material relating to the subsequent publication of books and articles based on the fieldwork. **2 boxes**



**A section from Christoph Von Furer-Haimendorf notes on a religious ritual, Khumjung, Nepal, 1957 [Furer-Haimendorf Collection].**

**Cousins, (Ethel) Constance (MS 380325)**

Letters and papers concerning the life of Constance Cousins (1882-1944). Worked with the Church of Scotland's medical mission at Kalimpong and Almora, 1911-1944; went to Bhutan, 1911 to help combat a cholera epidemic there. **4 boxes**

**Furer-Haimendorf, Christoph Von (PP MS 19)**

Papers of Professor Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf, a leading anthropologist of the South Asia region. Furer-Haimendorf conducted extensive fieldwork in south & central India, northeast India and Nepal. over forty years in his roles as a Special Officer Subansiri, External Affairs Department, Government of India, 1944-1945; Professor of Anthropology in the Osmania University, 1945-1949; and Professor of Anthropology at SOAS, 1951-1976. During his career, Furer-Haimendorf published seventeen books, most of them ethnographies of South Asian cultures. He was President of the Royal Anthropological Institute (1975-77) and a pioneer in the field of visual anthropology.

The collection comprises diaries (some in German), anthropological field notes, published and unpublished papers (in English) relating to the peoples of South Asia.

Also includes Furer-Haimendorf's collection of audio-visual material including over 20,000 photographs and slides and several films made during his fieldwork. Many of these have been digitised and are available online [<http://digital.info.soas.ac.uk>]. **56 boxes**

**Higgins, John Comyn (MS 95022)**

Notes and narratives, dated c.1910-1946, of political and social significance regarding Manipuri State, India by John Comyn Higgins (1882-

1952). Entered the Indian Civil Service in 1906, Political Agent, Manipur State 1917-1933, Chairman, Assam Public Service Commission 1944-1945.

**2 boxes**

**Lorimer, David Lockhart Robertson (PP MS 66)**

Papers of Lieutenant-Colonel David Lockhart Robertson Lorimer (1876-1962), Indian Political Service 1903-1924, Political Agent, Gilgit 1920-1924. The collection chiefly relates to his work on the Burushaski, Khowar, Shina and Bakhtiariti languages. Also photographs and film of anthropological field trips to the Hunza Valley in the mid 1930's. **62**

**boxes**



*Women spinning wool, Hunza Valley, Pakistan, c.1935. [Lorimer collection]*

**Mills, James Philip (PP MS 58)**

Anthropological research notes, 1924-1958, of J.P. Mills (1890-1958). Mills joined the Indian Civil Service in 1913 and was appointed Honorary Director of Ethnography for Assam in 1930 and Advisor to the Governor with overall responsibility for tribal matters in North East India in 1943. In 1948 Mills was appointed Reader in Language and Culture of South East Asia at SOAS. He was a founder member of the Department of Cultural Anthropology at SOAS in 1951, along with his long-term friend and collaborator Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf. Mills served as President of the Royal Anthropological Institute from 1951 to 1953. **1 box**

**South East Asia and the Pacific****Blagden, Charles Otto (MS 360895)**

Reader in Malay Studies, SOAS. Vice-President of the Royal Anthropological Society and Royal Asiatic Society. Academic interests included a comparative vocabulary of indigenous peoples of the Malay Peninsula and Mon inscriptions, Burma [Myanmar]. Collection comprises 1883 to 1938, on personal and scholarly subjects. **4 boxes**

**Furnivall, John Sydenham (PP MS 23)**

Papers, dated 1948-1960, of John Sydenham Furnivall (1878-1960). Worked for the Indian Civil Service (Burma), 1902-1923; Lecturer on Burmese Language, History and Law, Cambridge University 1936-1941. The collection contains draft chapters of Furnivall's work on the social and economic history of Burma [Myanmar], related research material, various published articles and correspondence with C.W. Dunn, co-editor with Furnivall of a Burmese-English dictionary. **13 boxes**

### Henderson, Eugenie Jane Andrina (PP MS 45)

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Papers of Eugenie Henderson, Head of the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics at SOAS, 1966. Henderson was a specialist in South East Asian languages, notably Karen, Khasi, Thai and Chin. The collection comprises material relating to phonetics and socio-linguistics of South East Asia. **105 boxes**

### Hughes, Henry Goronwy Alun (PP MS 29)

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Lecturer, Linguistics with reference to Oceanic Languages at SOAS, 1949 to 1954. Collection comprises the papers and research notes, microfilms and audiotapes relating to the languages of the Pacific region. **4 boxes**

### Powell Collection on the Philippines (PP MS 26)

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Correspondence and Philippine reference material dated 1926-1986 collected by Ifor Ball Powell (1902-1985), historian and Philippine specialist. Includes photographs taken during his field trips in the 1920's. **164 boxes**

### Ray, Sidney Herbert (PP MS 3)

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Papers, dated 1900-1939, of Sidney Herbert Ray (1858-1939). Schoolmaster and scholar of Oceanic languages, chiefly relating to the languages and ethnology of the Pacific Islands. **18 boxes**

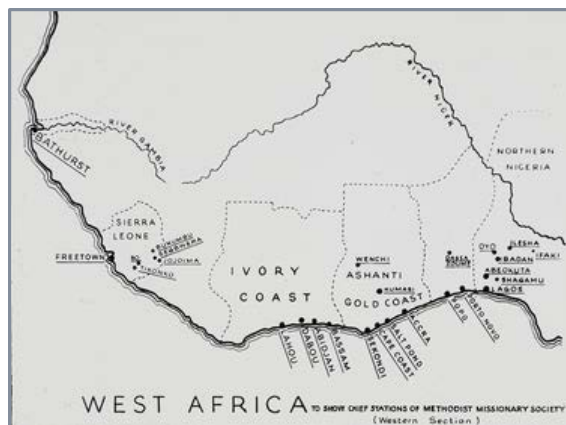


## II. Organisational Collections

In addition to the papers of individuals listed above, the Library also holds the archival records of a number of organisations which can include papers of anthropological interest.

### Missionary Society Collections

SOAS is a major centre for the study of the Western missionary movement and its interaction with the peoples of Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean. SOAS Special Collections holds an estimated 750,000 original documents, some 70,000 photographs and many thousands of published works comprising histories, memoirs, annual reports, missionary magazines, bible translations and hymnals.



*Map of the chief mission stations of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society in West Africa, 1926 [MMS Collection]*

Missionary collections often provide some of the earliest written and visual representations of Western interaction with indigenous communities overseas. Furthermore, they include some of the earliest surviving examples of the written language of these peoples as missionaries attempted to translate the Bible and other Christian texts into the local

vernacular. The collections are also a rich source for the social, medical, educational and political history of these regions.

SOAS Special Collections holds a number of missionary society archives, including:

#### Council for World Mission/London Missionary Society (CWM/LMS)

The London Missionary Society (LMS) was a Protestant missionary society formed in England in 1795, active across the world. The foreign mission papers are arranged geographically by region and country. **2,660 boxes**

**Regions:** Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Australasia, the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean

#### The Methodist Missionary Society (MMS)

The Methodist Missionary Society (MMS) was formed in 1932 from the merger of several different British Methodist missionary societies which had been operating from the early 19th century onwards. A notable sub-section includes the personal papers of Rev. Edwin William Smith, missionary and later prominent anthropologist of the study of indigenous African religious beliefs. **1,341 boxes**

**Regions:** Africa, South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia, Australasia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean

#### The China Inland Mission (CIM)

The China Inland Mission (CIM) was an interdenominational Protestant missionary society, probably the most active and widespread in China, founded in 1865. **161 boxes**

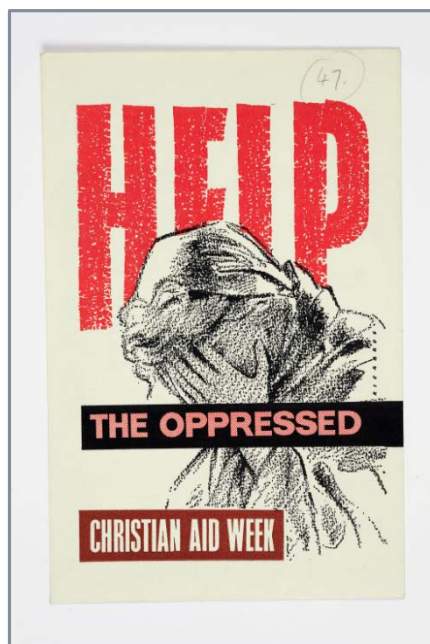
**Regions:** East Asia and South-East Asia

### The Melanesian Mission (MM)

The Melanesian Mission was founded in 1849 to evangelise the Melanesian islands of the South West Pacific Ocean. **44 boxes**

**Region:** The Pacific

### NGO, Charity and Campaign Group Collections



*Christian Aid Week donation envelope, 1958 [Christian Aid Collection]*

SOAS Special Collections holds a growing collection of archives from UK-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs), charities and pressure groups who work or campaign on issues relating to Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

These collections include research papers and field-trip data, overseas development project files, relief work, campaign and advocacy material.

The collections can offer a valuable resource for the study of the anthropology of development, health, food, migration, and the media.

SOAS Special Collections holds the papers of the following NGOs, Charities and Campaign Groups:

### Christian Aid (CA)

Christian Aid is a faith-based charity. It has a global focus, working for poverty relief, international development and poverty eradication. **508 Boxes**

**Regions:** Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe

### War on Want (WW)

War on Want is a non-governmental organisation, which campaigns against poverty, inequality and injustice across the world. **261 boxes**

**Regions:** Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe

### Survival International (SI)

Survival International is a global human rights organisation which campaigns for the rights of indigenous and uncontacted peoples across the world. SOAS holds papers relating to campaign against villagisation and resettlement in Ethiopia (1980s). **8 Boxes**

**Region:** East Africa

### III. Allied Resources at SOAS

#### Digital Archives and Special Collections

SOAS has created an online portal which aims to provide access to digital versions of its collections, including archives and manuscripts.

The first collection to be made available was the photographic and film archive of the anthropologist Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf (1909-1995), comprising over 20,000 photographs. The collection is widely recognised as one of the world's most comprehensive visual representations of indigenous cultures of South Asia and the Himalayas.

The most recent addition to our digital collections is a series of glass lantern slides from the Methodist Missionary Society collection. Comprising more than 4,000 glass lantern slides (1920s-1940s) relating to the society's work in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

- <http://digital.info.soas.ac.uk>



*Carved village gate at Khonoma village, Nagaland, India, detail shows stylised Mithun horns and a warrior wearing Angami headdress, 1936 [Fürer-Haimendorf Collection].*

#### Guide to Published Sources – SOAS Library

SOAS Library has also produced a guide to published secondary sources relating to anthropology, such as books, journals and research papers available in SOAS Library and beyond. This includes bibliographies and indexes, internet gateways, and online tutorials and sources for anthropological research.

- <http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/anthropology>

#### The Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)

ELAR is a digital repository for documentation of endangered languages. ELAR is a programme of the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project based at SOAS. It collects, manages and provides access, according to the wishes of the originating speakers, to recorded materials and associated content from endangered languages communities around the world.

- <http://www.elar-archive.org>

### IV. Anthropological Collections Held Elsewhere

The following section aims to help researchers locate archival sources for anthropology outside SOAS Library.

#### Other UK Archives

The following institutions hold notable archival material relating to anthropology:

[London School of Economics Archives](#)

## SOAS Library

Collections include the records of the Association of Social Anthropologists, and the papers of notable anthropologists, including Sir Raymond Firth, Ernest Gellner, Phyllis Kaberry, and Bronislaw Malinowski.

- <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/library/archive/holdings/anthropology.aspx>

### Royal Anthropological Institute Collection

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The archival records of the Royal Anthropological Institute and personal papers of a number of anthropologists, as well as photographic and film collections.

- <http://www.therai.org.uk/archives-and-manuscripts>

### The Anthropology Library, Centre for Anthropology, British Museum

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The Anthropology Library, located within the Centre for Anthropology at the British Museum, incorporates the original Library of the Royal Anthropological Institute and the Museum's Ethnography Library

- <http://www.therai.org.uk/anthropology-library>

### Digital Anthropology Resources for Teaching (DART)

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A project between Columbia University and the London School of Economics which aims to explore the potential of digital resources for the teaching of undergraduate anthropology. It includes digitised images from Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf's field notebooks as part of modules designed to focus on his methodology.

- <http://dart.columbia.edu/main/>

## [www.soas.ac.uk/library/archives](http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/archives)

### Pitt Rivers Museum Research Centre, University of Oxford

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Collections include the papers of Henry Balfour, Sir Edward Taylor, Sir Baldwin Spencer and Beatrice Blackwood.

- <http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/researchnotes.html>

### Locating Archival Sources for Anthropology Held Elsewhere

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The following catalogues, databases and directories can assist researchers in locating archival sources for anthropology held in the UK and overseas.

#### The Council for the Preservation of Anthropological Records

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The Council for the Preservation of Anthropological Records (COPAR) website provides an online directory of anthropological and ethnographic archives and a listing of unpublished anthropological field notes in archival repositories. The COPAR website is primarily, but not exclusively, focused on the USA.

- <http://copar.org>

#### Archives Hub

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On-line descriptions of archive collections held in universities and colleges throughout the UK.

- <http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/>

#### Access to Archives (A2A)

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The Access to Archives website provides on-line catalogues describing archives held throughout England and Wales.

- <http://www.a2a.org.uk>

#### National Register of Archives (UK)

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The National Register of Archives provides a listing of manuscripts and historical records in the UK

- <http://www.nra.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra>

#### V. Contact Details

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