
Ann Chowning Papers

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Descriptive Summary

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego

9500 Gilman Drive

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Title: Ann Chowning Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0242

Physical Description: 2.4 Linear feet(6 archives boxes)

Date (inclusive): 1957-1994

Abstract: Papers of Ann Chowning, American anthropologist, related to her fieldwork in Papua New Guinea among the Molima people of Milne Bay Province on Fergusson Island in 1957-1958 and 1975-1976, the Sengseng people of West New Britain Province in 1962-1966 and 1980-1981, and the Kove people of West New Britain Province in 1966-1968 and 1975-1976. Included are typescripts of field notes organized according to George Murdock's Human Relations Area Files arrangement, language notes largely comprising Sengseng vocabulary lists, essays by Chowning, and 35mm color slides documenting daily life, customs, song performances, and dance of people in West New Britain Province. The slides are complimentary to those found in Jane Goodale Papers (MSS 643) and cover those times when Chowning conducted joint fieldwork with her friend and co-fieldworker Jane Goodale in 1963-1964.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Ann Chowning papers relate to some of Chowning's work in Papua New Guinea. The files included with this accession mainly pertain to her fieldwork among the Molima (Milne Bay Province, Fergusson Island, 1957-1958 and 1975-1976), the Sengseng (West New Britain, 1962-1966, and 1980-1981), and the Kove (West New Britain, 1966-1968 and 1975-1976) peoples. Materials contain Murdock's human relations area files, language notes, essays, and slides. The writings by Chowning are based on her long-term fieldwork conducted in West New Britain Province from 1954 through 1992. A significant part of this collection is slide materials from nearly 240 rolls taken while in West New Britain in 1963-1964. The slides cover those occasions when Chowning was doing joint fieldwork with Jane Goodale, her friend and co-fieldworker, who was working at that time among the Kaulong people in Umbi of West New Britain.

The collection is arranged in four series: 1) HUMAN RELATIONS AREA FILES, 2) LANGUAGE NOTES, 3) WRITINGS BY CHOWNING, and 4) SLIDES.

SERIES 1: HUMAN RELATIONS AREA FILES

The HUMAN RELATIONS AREA FILES series contains typescript notes and photocopies of typescript notes extracted from field notes and compiled by Chowning according to subject categories described in George Murdock's classification system for cultural anthropology. Chowning brought together all pages dealing with a particular aspect of culture and compiled them preserving the chronological order in which they appear in her field notes. Compiled notes are extracted from field notes written while Chowning was among the Molima people of Milne Bay Province in 1957-1958 and 1975-1976, the Sengseng people in West New Britain Province in 1962-1966 and 1980-1981, and the Kove people of West New Britain in 1966-1968 and 1975-1976. The files are arranged in three subseries: A) Molima Materials, B) Sengseng Materials, and C) Kove Materials. Each subseries is arranged in numerical order according to numbers assigned to subject categories used in Murdock's classification system.

SERIES 2: LANGUAGE NOTES

The LANGUAGE NOTES series documents Chowning's study of Sengseng language in the field and contains handwritten and typewritten notes with vocabulary lists extracted from notebooks. The series is arranged in alphabetical order.

SERIES 3: WRITINGS BY CHOWNING

The WRITINGS BY CHOWNING contains published and unpublished writings arranged in two subseries: A) General Writings and B) Grant Reports. The General Writings subseries contains typescripts and reprints of articles on various aspects of Melanesian culture, as well as typescripts of papers given at various conferences and meetings. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by title. The Grant Reports subseries consists of progress reports written to various granting agencies, including the National Science Foundation, and is arranged chronologically.

SERIES 4: SLIDES

The SLIDES series contains 35mm color slides and documents the joint fieldwork of Chowning and her co-fieldworker Jane Goodale in 1963-1964 while in New Britain. The slides were largely made when Chowning visited her friend in Umbi or on occasions when they traveled together from their field sites to nearby communities for the observation of rituals and celebrations. The slides are complementary to those found in Jane Goodale Papers (MSS 643) and document daily life,

costumes, rituals, song performances, and dance. The series is arranged numerically using roll numbers assigned by Chowning.

Biography

Ann Chowning, American anthropologist, received her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her doctoral thesis was based on her 1954-1956 fieldwork with the Lakalai people of West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea. She retired as professor of anthropology at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Earlier she taught at Bryn Mawr and Barnard Colleges in Pennsylvania and at the University of Papua New Guinea, and was a senior research fellow at the Australian National University. She carried out long-term fieldwork in four distinct Papua New Guinea societies from 1954 through 1992. Studied groups included the Lakalai of West New Britain Province, the Molima of Milne Bay Province on Fergusson Island, the Sengseng of West New Britain Province, and the Kove of West New Britain Province. She studied economic and religious organization, beliefs, practices and relations. Chowning especially focused on Austronesian languages and their comparative aspects, on folklore and religion, and on patterns of insanity.

Publication Rights

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Acquired 1995, 1996, 2011, 2013.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Milne Bay Province (Papua New Guinea) -- Social life and customs

West New Britain Province (Papua New Guinea) -- Social life and customs

Oceania -- Anthropology

Molima (Papua New Guinean people)

Anthropology -- Oceania

Kove (Papua New Guinean people)

Sengseng (Papua New Guinean people)

Anthropology -- Melanesia

Chowning, Ann -- Archives

HUMAN RELATIONS AREA FILES

Molima Materials

Molima. Fergusson Island. Milne Bay Province

Box 1, Folder 1	Subjects 103 through 512 (Photocopies) 1957 - 1958
Box 1, Folder 2	Subjects 522 through 597 (Photocopies) 1957 - 1958
Box 1, Folder 3	Subjects 600 through 750 (Photocopies) 1957 - 1975
Box 1, Folder 4	Subjects 760 through 789 (Photocopies) 1957 - 1975
Box 1, Folder 5	Subjects 792 through 886 (Photocopies) 1957 - 1958

Sengseng Materials

Box 1, Folder 6	Place Names (103) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1968
Box 1, Folder 7	Acculturation (177) - Contains typescript 1963 - 1966
Box 1, Folder 8	Language (19) - Contains photocopy 1980 - 1981
Box 1, Folder 9	Food Quest (22) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1964
Box 1, Folder 10	Domesticated Animals (231) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1964
Box 1, Folder 11	Tillage (241) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1964
Box 1, Folder 12	Adornment (30) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966

Sengseng Materials

Box 1, Folder 13	Property (42) - Contains typescript 1958 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 1	Literary Texts (539) - Contains typescript 1964 - 1968
Box 2, Folder 2	Ingroup Antagonisms (578) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 3	Marriage (58) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1981
Box 2, Folder 4	Residence (591) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 5	Kinship (60) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 6	Headmen (622) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 7	War (72) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 8	Sickness (75) - Contains typescript 1957 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 9	Sorcery (754) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1981
Box 2, Folder 10	Death (76) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1981
Box 2, Folder 11	Religious Beliefs (77) - Contains typescript 1963 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 12	Mythology (773) - Contains typescript 1963
Box 2, Folder 13	Spirits and Gods (776) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1981
Box 2, Folder 14	Religious Practices (78) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1966
Box 2, Folder 15	Avoidance and Taboo (784) - Contains typescript 1980 - 1981
Box 2, Folder 16	Time (805) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1963
Box 2, Folder 17	Ethnozoology (825) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1963
Box 2, Folder 18	Sex (83) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1981
Box 2, Folder 19	Childbirth (844) - Contains typescript 1963 - 1964
Box 2, Folder 20	Infancy and Childhood (85) - Contains typescript 1962 - 1965

Kove Materials

Kove. West New Britain

Box 2, Folder 21	Subjects 103 through 591 (Photocopies) 1966 - 1976
Box 2, Folder 22	Subjects 600 through 760 (Photocopies) 1966 - 1976
Box 2, Folder 23	Subjects 772 through 844 (Photocopies) 1966 - 1976

LANGUAGE NOTES

Box 3, Folder 1	Miu - Language Notes, collected by Jane Goodale - Contains typescript Sengseng - Language Notes
Box 3, Folder 2	Contains photocopy and handwritten notes
Box 3, Folder 3	Contains typescript
Box 3, Folder 4	Some Examples of Proto-Malayo-Polynesian Reflexes in Sengseng - Contains typescript

WRITINGS BY CHOWNING

General Writings

Box 3, Folder 5	List of publications relating to Chowning's work in Melanesia - Contains typescript
Box 3, Folder 6	Acculturation and the Role of Spirits in the Passismanua. American Anthropological Association meeting paper 1964
Box 3, Folder 7	Adolescence in Four Papua New Guinea Societies 1994
Box 3, Folder 8	Antagonistic Siblings and Wandering Creators undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Austranesian Languages of New Britain - Contains typescript 1969
Box 3, Folder 10	Changes in Staple Crops in West New Britain undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Changes in West New Britain Trading Systems in the 20th Century. Published in <i>Mankind</i>, Vol. 11, No. 3. Contains typescript 1978
Box 3, Folder 12	Choice of Kin Roles in Lakalai 1966
Box 3, Folder 13	The Contaminating Woman. Written with Jane C. Goodale undated
Box 3, Folder 14	Culture and Biology Among the Sengseng of New Britain - Contains typescript undated
Box 3, Folder 15	The Elections in Kombe, West Britain undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Family Fertility Among the Kove. Published in <i>Reproductive Decision Making and the Value of Children</i>. Contains typescript 1988

General Writings

Box 3, Folder 17	Honoring the Firstborn: Changes in the Nature and Focus of Ceremonies in Two West Britain Societies 1987
Box 3, Folder 18	Introduction to the Peoples and Cultures of Melanesia. Published in <i>Addison-Wesley Module in Anthropology</i>, No. 38. Contains a copy of the publication 1973
Box 3, Folder 19	Journey of the Soul: Dreams, Divination, and Dying. Conference paper undated
Box 3, Folder 20	'A Kept Woman of the Administration': A Personal View of Relations Between One Ethnographer and Administration Personnel, 1954-1975. Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania meeting paper undated
Box 3, Folder 21	Kove Political Organization, conference paper 1970
Box 3, Folder 22	Lakalai Kinship. Published in <i>Anthropological Forum</i>, Vol. 1, No. 3-4. Contains reprint 1965 - 1966
Box 3, Folder 23	Lakalai Religion and World View and the Concept of "Seaboard Religion." Australian National University seminar ca. 1970
Box 3, Folder 24	Leadership in Melanesia. Published in <i>The Journal of Pacific History</i>, Vol. 14, Part 1 and 2. Contains reprint 1979
Box 3, Folder 25	Living with the Dead undated
Box 3, Folder 26	The Massim as a Culture Area. First International Kula Conference paper ca. 1978
Box 3, Folder 27	Maturing as a Lakalai Woman, 1954-1992. Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania meeting paper 1994
Box 3, Folder 28	The Molima of Fergusson Island 1958
Box 3, Folder 29	Pleasures, Pains, and Surprises of Returns to the Field. Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania meeting paper undated
Box 3, Folder 30	Rapid Lexical Change and Aberrant Melanesian Languages: Sengseng and Its Neighbours. Published in <i>Pacific Linguistics</i>, C-88. Contains typescript 1985
Box 3, Folder 31	Real Melanesia: An Appraisal of Parsonson's Theories. December. Published in <i>Mankind</i>, Vol. 6, No. 12. Contains reprint 1968
Box 3, Folder 32	Recent Grandparenting in Three PNG Societies. Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania meeting paper undated
Box 4, Folder 1	The Sengseng of New Britain undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Tradition and Change in One Woman's Life: Biato of Lakalai. American Anthropological Association meeting paper undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Witchcraft Among the Molima of Fergusson Island. Philadelphia Anthropological Society meeting ca. 1959

Grant Reports

Box 4, Folder 4	National Science Foundation progress report 1958
Box 4, Folder 5	National Science Foundation - The Ethnography of New Britain. Two reports, written with Jane C. Goodale 1964, 1965
Box 4, Folder 6	Report on research in Sengseng, West Britain, Papua New Guinea, November 1980-February 1981 ca. 1981
Box 4, Folder 7	Victoria University of Wellington research grant ca. 1987

SLIDES

Box 4, Folder 8	Roll YB-1 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 9	Roll Y-YA-YB-2 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 10	Roll Y-YA-YB-3 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 11	Roll Y-YA-YB-4 July-September 1963
Box 4, Folder 12	Roll Y-YA-YB-5 July-September 1963
Box 4, Folder 13	Roll YA-YB-8 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 14	Roll YB-9 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 15	Roll Y-12 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 16	Roll Y-13 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 17	Roll Y-15-16 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 18	Roll Y-17 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 19	Roll Y-18 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 20	Roll Y-19 September 1963

Box 4, Folder 21	Roll Y-YA-20 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 22	Roll Y-21 September 1963
Box 4, Folder 23	Roll Y-22 October 1963
Box 4, Folder 24	Roll Y-23 November 1963
Box 4, Folder 25	Roll Y-24 October-November 1963
Box 4, Folder 26	Roll Y-25 November 1963
Box 4, Folder 27	Roll Y-26 October 1963
Box 4, Folder 28	Roll Y-27 November 1963
Box 4, Folder 29	Roll Y-28 November 1963
Box 4, Folder 30	Roll Y-29 October 1963
Box 4, Folder 31	Roll Y-30 November 1963
Box 4, Folder 32	Roll Y31 - Y35 October-November 1963
Box 4, Folder 33	Roll Y36 - Y40 October-December 1963
Box 4, Folder 34	Roll Y41 - Y45 December 1963
Box 4, Folder 35	Roll Y46 - Y47 December 1963
Box 4, Folder 36	Roll Y50 - Y56 December 1963
Box 4, Folder 37	Roll Y57 - Y60 December 1963
Box 4, Folder 38	Roll Y61 - Y65 December-January 1963 - 1964
Box 4, Folder 39	Roll Y66 - Y69 January 1964
Box 4, Folder 40	Roll 72 - 75 January-February 1964
Box 5, Folder 1	Roll 77 - 80 February 1964
Box 5, Folder 2	Roll 81 - 85 February-March 1964
Box 5, Folder 3	Roll 78 - 89 February-April 1964
Box 5, Folder 4	Roll 90 - 98 March 1964
Box 5, Folder 5	Roll 99 - 104 March-April 1964
Box 5, Folder 6	Roll 105 - 110 March-April 1964
Box 5, Folder 7	Roll 111 - 115 April 1964
Box 5, Folder 8	Roll 116 - 120 April 1964
Box 5, Folder 9	Roll 121 - 126 April 1964
Box 5, Folder 10	Roll 127 - 130 June 1964
Box 5, Folder 11	Roll 131 - 136 June 1964
Box 5, Folder 12	Roll 137 - 141 June 1964
Box 5, Folder 13	Roll 142 - 146 June 1964
Box 5, Folder 14	Roll 147 - 150 June 1964
Box 5, Folder 15	Roll 151 - 154 June 1964
Box 5, Folder 16	Roll 155 - 157 July 1964
Box 5, Folder 17	Roll 158 - 161 July 1964
Box 5, Folder 18	Roll 162 - 165 July 1964
Box 5, Folder 19	Roll 166 - 169 July 1964
Box 5, Folder 20	Roll 170 - 174 July 1964
Box 5, Folder 21	Roll 176 - 180 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 1	Roll 181 - 184 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 2	Roll 185 - 186 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 3	Roll 187 - 190 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 4	Roll 191 - 195 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 5	Roll 196 - 199 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 6	Roll 200 - 203 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 7	Roll 204 - 207 July 1964
Box 6, Folder 8	Roll 208 - 210 July-August 1964
Box 6, Folder 9	Roll 211 - 215 August 1964
Box 6, Folder 10	Roll 216 - 221 August 1964
Box 6, Folder 11	Roll 222 - 225 August 1964
Box 6, Folder 12	Roll 226 - 230 August 1964
Box 6, Folder 13	Roll 231 - 235 August 1964
Box 6, Folder 14	Roll 237 - 240 August 1964