Anthropology and Archaeology

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Historical Overview

by Richard I. Ford, Director Museum of Anthropology

Major contributions to understanding the history of American archaeology - anthropological, Classical, avocational - are preserved and made accessible through the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. These primary sources include personal correspondence and manuscripts of key participants in the early phases of all fields of American archaeology. At first glance the diversity of papers appears unrelated, but after further examination, one recognizes that they are inter-connected by historical circumstances and personal relationships. This brief introduction will explain the significance of archaeological history at the University of Michigan by relating it to manuscripts ranging from a former president of the University of Michigan to the first curators in the Museum of Anthropology, members of the Department of Anthropology, Classical archaeologists at Michigan, and amateur archaeologists who founded the Michigan Archaeological Society with support and assistance of professional archaeologists at Michigan.

Archaeological collections became part of the University Museum in the 19th century as a result of donations from Michigan citizens and the Smithsonian Institution. They were not systematic in a scientific sense until Francis W. Kelsey began his investigations in Egypt and Carl E. Guthe initiated fieldwork in the Philippines as the first anthropological archaeologist hired at Michigan. Professor Kelsey offered the first academic course in American archaeology to two undergraduate students, including Harlan I. Smith, in 1892. Another thirty years would pass before the Museum of Anthropology would exist to curate the anthropological collections, which were rapidly accumulating in the Museum of Zoology, the museum that predated the Museum of Anthropology.

The anthropological archaeology collections and all ethnographic objects were housed in the Museum of Zoology under the direction of Alexander G. Ruthven, who in 1929 became president of the University of Michigan. As director, Ruthven had to handle an ever-increasing number of anthropological collections and requests from professionals, including Harlan I. Smith, to initiate an archaeological survey of Michigan. By 1920 Ruthven was prepared to create an anthropology division within the Museum of Zoology, pending permission from the Board of Regents. With that position approved in 1921, Ruthven began a search with the assistance of Francis Kelsey for an anthropologist. The new position was offered to Dr. Carl E. Guthe, who had recently received his Ph.D. from Harvard with archaeological training in the American Southwest and Guatemala.

Guthe's arrival in Ann Arbor was almost immediately followed by a three-year archaeological excavation project in the Philippines. Before he left, however, he established the first research unit in anthropology, the Great Lakes Division, under the direction of Dr. Wilbert B. Hinsdale, who had recently retired as director of the Homeopathic Hospital. Hinsdale had assistance in his field

investigations from an enthusiastic student who would become the first Ph.D. in anthropological archaeology at Michigan, Emerson F. Greenman.

When Guthe returned, he had an administrative design for a four-field museum of anthropology with each anthropologically-trained curator controlling all four sub-disciplines for his particular geographic region. This quickly proved difficult and he soon wanted curators in each of three sub-fields of anthropology - archaeology, ethnology, and physical anthropology. After Hinsdale and himself, the next curator hired was the ethnologist Julian Steward, who left within a year and was replaced by Melvin R. Gilmore. By the time Guthe left Michigan in 1944 he established a considerable anthropological legacy at Michigan. He founded the Museum of Anthropology as an independent museum within the university. He initiated stellar research programs in archaeology and ethnobotany. He was the first chair of the Department of Anthropology while also serving as director of the Museum of Anthropology and the University Museums.

Guthe created the modern research museum of anthropology. He believed that a museum should provide identification services to professionals and some museums should be acknowledged for this nation-wide. He initiated the Ethnobotanical Laboratory with the support of the University of Michigan to provide the identification of plant remains from archaeological contexts. Gilmore's papers reveal his historic contribution to their interpretation, the application of ethnographic analogy and phytogeography for understanding plant communities in the upper Midwest. Jones developed many new methods for identifying archaeological plant remains and for conducting fieldwork to learn about how plants are processed to make artifacts. The beginnings of paleoethnobotany in the United States are found in Gilmore's and Jones's papers at the Bentley Library.

Guthe further recognized that museum archaeological collections could have a special value for understanding the past. He viewed ceramics as a seminal way to date sites and to link prehistoric cultures. To achieve this end he convinced the National Research Council to establish the Ceramic Repository of the Eastern United States at Michigan to maintain type collections to identify pottery. As this project grew he received support from Eli Lilly to fund a graduate student with a fellowship (Griffin) to dedicate his services to this repository and later to continue it when he received his Ph.D, in 1936. Griffin's photo archive and voluminous correspondence illustrate how the ceramic repository grew and how archaeologists used it for several decades to solve chronological problems. When radiocarbon dating replaced comparative studies of ceramics to date sites, Griffin initiated a dating program at Michigan with Dr. H. Richard Craine of the Department of Physics. All the correspondence related to the Michigan radiocarbon program is available for research at the Bentley Library.

Guthe's curators all trained graduate students in a museum research context and each succeeded his mentor. Greenman succeeded Hinsdale, Volney H. Jones replaced Gilmore, and James B. Griffin, who was the second Ph.D. at Michigan in anthropological archaeology, became the second director of the Museum of Anthropology in 1946. Griffin's 215 linear feet of research papers and

correspondence reflect the professional development of American archaeology and the interdisciplinary basis of contemporary research.

Michigan was instrumental in the establishment of American archaeology as a profession. Guthe worked extensively with the National Research Council to advance archaeological concerns, to inventory archaeological sites, and to convene conferences that would address archaeological interests. Guthe and most of his museum curators were among the original signers of the articles of incorporation that established the Society for American Archaeology. Many details of its beginning are found in the correspondence of all these Museum of Anthropology specialists.

At Michigan, archaeology has always been a division of anthropology. The Museum of Anthropology began by curating the material collections in archaeology, ethnology, and later physical anthropology. Guthe believed that a museum should be the research venue for curators and students but an academic department should teach disciplinary theory and topical courses. Guthe worked with the deans of the Graduate School and the College of Literature, Science and the Arts to establish a Department of Anthropology in 1929. Guthe was its first chair and he hired his successor from outside the university, Dr. Leslie A. White. White began his distinguished Michigan career with an office in the Museum of Anthropology and professional working relations with Jones and Griffin in the Museum. Although White gained professional fame for his theories and ideas about cultural evolution, his extensive field notes based upon his research in the Eastern Pueblos of New Mexico hold the most new surprises for the researcher. As the number of ethnology faculty in the Department of Anthropology increased, several had experience in archaeology as graduate students - Richard K. Beardsley and Roy A. Rappaport - or used archaeology in their personal research as Eric Wolf demonstrated in Sons of the Shaking Earth.

Throughout the 20th century the number of archaeologists and the value of archaeology to the University of Michigan increased. In addition to those in the Museum of Anthropology, archaeologists who worked in the Old World brought vitality to the humanities and interacted with archaeologists in the Museum of Anthropology. Guthe served on most university committees that fostered archaeological research abroad. Leroy Waterman was an early Bible scholar who combined ancient text translations with archaeology. Archaeological interest in the Near East received support from the university administration and the Committee for Near East Research for field investigations by Kelsey and other Classical archaeologists and for the storage of excavated artifacts and notes from their expeditions in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology which was founded in 1929. George C. Cameron continued a regional archaeological specialization in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. Elsewhere in the university, Walter Koelz collected anthropological materials during his biological collecting expeditions from many localities in Asia and the Arctic. The increased significance of archaeology led the university's Media Resources Center to produce a number of visual programs based upon specialized knowledge or research conducted by University of Michigan archaeologists. Scripts and broadcast programs are also available through the Bentley.

Archaeologists in the Museum of Anthropology helped to found the Michigan Archaeological Society, which strove to professionalize the activities of avocational students of archaeology throughout Michigan. The research notes and correspondence of three of its pioneers, George R. Fox, Fred Dustin, and Amos R. Green, illustrate notable contributions to the state's prehistory by citizen-scholars. Judge Ira W. Butterfield continued their important scholarly tradition by the next generation of avocational archaeologists. The Bentley holdings are a special tribute to the collaboration between non-professional and university anthropological archaeologists.

Much remains to be researched and written about the archaeological knowledge of many sites and the research activities and development of professional archaeology in a university context. The faculty at Michigan made major contributions to these foundations of modern archaeology. The Bentley Library provides an opportunity for future investigators to explore and to understand these intellectual developments.

Collections

	1944		church files and materials related to his legal and military careers.	information about Butterfield may be found in the Michigan Archaeological Society records.	
Cameron, George Glenn, 1905-	1952- 1978	1 linear ft.	George G. Cameron (1905-1979) was the founding professor of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan and served as the head of the department from 1949 to 1969.		Finding Aid
University of Michigan. Dept. of Anthropology	1945- 1983	2 linear ft.	Established in 1929, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan is one of the top-ranked academic programs in the country and has played a significant role in the development of the field of anthropology.	The records include chair correspondence, meeting minutes, memos, and descriptions of course and degree requirements. Other materials relating to the Department of Anthropology can be found in the papers of faculty members such as Richard K. Beardsley, Roy A. Rappaport, Leslie A. White, and Eric R. Wolf, as well as Museum of Anthropology directors and curators such as James B. Griffin, Carl Eugen Guthe, and Volney H. Jones.	Finding Aid
Dustin, Fred, 1866-	1886- 1957	4.5 linear ft. and 1 volume	Fred Dustin (1886-1957) was a Saginaw, Michigan building contractor, archaeological surveyor, and amateur archaeologist.	Dustin's papers include correspondence, newspaper clippings, sketches, diaries, and record books relating to his interest in the archaeology of Michigan, including the archeological survey of Isle Royale, 1929-1930, and the survey and mapping of the Ogemaw County Earthworks in 1931. The papers also include material relating to the history	Finding Aid

				of Saginaw and to Dustin's interest in the archaeology of Native Americans in Michigan.	
Fox, George R., 1880-	1915- 1973	1.5 linear ft.	George Randall Fox (1880-1963) was an amateur Michigan archaeologist and author.	Fox's papers include writings about Cass County, Michigan, manuscripts related to archaeology and history, a small amount of correspondence, and photographs. (Additional information about Fox may be found in the Michigan Archaeological Society records.)	Finding Aid
Gilmore, Melvin R. (Melvin Randolph), 1868-1940	1905- 1938 and undate	4.25 linear ft.	Melvin Randolph Gilmore (1868-1940) was one of the preeminent ethnobotanists of his generation, and served as curator of Ethnology and director of the Ethnobotanical Laboratory at the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology from 1929 to 1938. He was one of the first researchers to recognize the enormous botanical knowledge of Native Americans and did much of his ethnographic and ethnobotanical field work among the Arikara, the Omaha, and other Native American groups of the American Plains and Prairies. Before coming to the University of Michigan, Gilmore worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Historical Society of North Dakota, and the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian.	Gilmore's papers contain correspondence, topical files, manuscripts, and rich photograph files and field notes from his work among	Finding Aid

Green, Amos R., 1887-1968	1932- 1967	2 linear ft. and 5 items	Amos R. Green (1887-1968) was an amateur archaeologist and historian from Niles, Michigan.	Green's papers contain materials relating to his interest in the archaeology, Native American anthropology, and history of the area around Berrien and Cass Counties. The papers include archaeological site notes and reports, maps, photographs, and research files relating to his activities on his own and with the Michigan Archaeological Society.	Finding Aid
Greenman, Emerson Frank, 1895-1973	1888- 1984 (bulk 1924	6 linear ft.	Emerson "Doc" Frank Greenman (1895-1973) was a prominent Michigan archaeologist who served as curator of the Great Lakes Division of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Michigan from 1945 to 1965. Greenman was an active field archaeologist, conducting excavations at many sites around the Great Lakes, including in the Manitoulin district of Ontario, Canada. Greenman also did much to foster cooperation between professional and amateur archaeologists in Michigan, and was particularly active in the growth of the Michigan Archaeological Society.	Ontario archaeological sites, and a small number of photographs, topical files, and personal mementos.	Finding Aid
Griffin, James Bennett, 1905-	1922- 1997	215 linear ft. and 1 outsize notebook	James "Jimmy" Bennett Griffin (1905-1997) was one of the major forces in the development of North American archaeology. He served as	Griffin's papers contain extensive research and photograph files on North American archaeological sites, cultures and artifacts (including the	Finding Aid

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			the director of the Museum of	files of the Ceramic Repository for the	
			Anthropology at the University of	Eastern United States), and	
			Michigan from 1946 to 1975.	information on Griffin's writing,	
			Known for his piercing intellect,	professional activities, and teaching	
			encyclopedic memory and vast	within the Department of	
			knowledge of the prehistory of	Anthropology and the Museum of	
			North America, he contributed	Anthropology. Griffin's	
			greatly to the development of a	correspondence is a veritable "Who's	
			unified theory of North American	Who" of North American archaeology	
			archaeology, and published widely	from the 1930s to 1990s, featuring	
			on a variety of subjects. Griffin was	Griffin's discussions with figures such	
			most identified with his work with	as Fay-Cooper Cole, James A. Ford,	
			ceramics, and led the Ceramic	Philip Phillips, Gordon Willey, Eli	
			Repository for the Eastern United	Lilly, Betty Meggers, and Stephen	
			States, a centralized source for	Williams.	
			information about pottery that was		
			based at the University of Michigan.		
			Griffin was also a pioneer in the		
			development and promotion of tools		
			for the scientific analysis of		
			archaeological specimens. He co-		
			founded the university's		
			Radiocarbon Laboratory (in		
			operation from 1949 to 1970) with		
			H.R. Crane of the Department of		
			Physics, and collaborated with		
			chemist Adon Gordus in the use of		
			neutron activation analysis for		
			sourcing obsidian.		
			Carl Eugen Guthe (1893-1974)	Guthe's papers include	
Guthe, Carl	1919-	2 1:	advocated for the founding of the	correspondence, research notes, and	Title attended A 1 1
Eugen, 1893-	1943	3 linear ft.	Museum of Anthropology and	photographs related to his university-	Finding Aid
			served as its director from 1929 to	sponsored archaeological expedition	
<u> </u>	_[per rea as its director from 1727 to	sponsored archaeorogical expedition	

			1944. He was also one of the founders of the Department of Anthropology at the university, and served as the director of the University Museums.	to the Philippine Islands from 1922 to 1925 to collect Chinese porcelains. The papers also include correspondence and topical files related to Guthe's university and museum activities.	
Hinsdale, W. B. (Wilbert B.), 1851-1944	1893- 1942 (bulk 1922	4.25 linear ft. and 1 outsize	Often termed the "father of Michigan archaeology," Wilbert B. Hinsdale (1851-1944) developed and cared for the collections of the Great Lakes Division of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Michigan from 1922 to 1944, after retiring from his position as the dean of the Homeopathic Medical College at the university. Hinsdale was responsible for the first systematic attempts to identify, organize, and record the prehistory of the state of Michigan, and established strong connections between professional and amateur Michigan archaeologists.	IIIVII chigan and perconal ceraphooks I	Finding Aid
Jones, Volney H. (Volney Hurt), 1903-	1909- 1979 (bulk 1930	6.5 linear ft.	Volney Hurt Jones (1903-1982) was a leading ethno-botanist who served as curator of Ethnology at the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology from 1945 to 1969. His ecological perspective on the field of ethnobotany, which he defined as "the study of the interrelationships between primitive man and plants," was instilled in the	Jones' papers include correspondence, administrative files, biographical information on anthropologists, teaching files for Jones' courses within the Department of Anthropology, and notes for unpublished textbooks on ethnobotany.	Finding Aid

			many students he mentored over the years and shaped the discipline's future development. Jones was particularly notable for his pioneering work in paleoethnobotany and for his commitment to teaching.		
Kelsey, Francis W. (Francis Willey), b. 1858	1894- 1928	2 linear ft. and 28 volumes	Francis Willey Kelsey (1858-1927) was a prominent classics scholar and noted classical archaeologist. He organized and led the University of Michigan's first Near East Expedition, as well as other expeditions to Antioch, Carthage, and Karanis, and brought back a wealth of archaeological materials that later served as the basis for the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.	Kelsey's papers include correspondence, diaries, photographs, and other materials related to his archaeology and university work. The papers also include correspondence and writing related to the \$Soper frauds,\$ a series of archaeological forgeries found in Michigan and other states.	Finding Aid
Kelsey Museum of Archaeology	1890- 1979	128 linear	Established in 1928, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology houses artifact collections from the ancient and Byzantine cultures of Egypt, Rome, Greece, and the Middle East and sponsors field work in classical archaeology.	The record group consists of 12 individual collections documenting the administration, research, and teaching of the museum and its associates. Individual collections include the papers of Francis W. Kelsey; papers of museum directors and curators, principally Orma F. Butler, Enoch E. Peterson, Louise A. Shier, and John G. Winter; papers of university faculty associated with the museum or the study and teaching of classical and medieval studies, notably Arthur E.R. Boak, Campbell Bonner, Thomas S. Jerome, and	Finding Aid

				Robert H. McDowell; as well as records of the Institute of Archaeological Research, and material on the 1975-1979 Carthage expeditions.	
Koelz, Walter, 1895-	1873- 1989 (bulk 1910	8 linear ft.	the MacMillan-Byrd Arctic Expedition in 1925. With his	Koelz's papers document his travel and work in South Asia and the Middle East in the 1930s and 1940s, as well as his life in Michigan, both before and after traveling abroad, and include photographs and films.	Finding Aid
Media Resources Center (University of Michigan)	1948- 1986	35 linear ft. and ca. 2500 fil	The Media Resources Center and its predecessor units produced films, videos, and television programs for broadcast on educational and commercial stations.	Among the records are scripts, films and videos of programs related to anthropological and archaeological topics or that feature University of Michigan faculty in those subject areas. There are a total of 11 television programs dealing with archaeological topics including programs about the Hopewell Indian Excavations, the Aleutian Islands, and the Karanis Expedition, as well as a limited amount of \$archival\$ footage produced or collected in the course of the programs' production.	Finding Aid
Michigan	1924-	3.75 linear	The Michigan Archaeological	The records include constitutions and	Finding Aid

Archaeological Society	1991 (bulk 1954	ft.	of aboriginal sites and artifacts in Michigan and is comprised mainly of amateur and avocational archaeologists.	bylaws, minutes, reports, correspondence, newsletters, and scattered photographs detailing the administration and operation of the organization. The records also document major projects, such as an effort to preserve aboriginal petroglyphs found in Sanilac County, and the activities of local chapters, particularly in the Clinton, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids areas.? Additional information about the Society can be found in the papers of members such as Ira W. Butterfield, Fred Dustin, George R. Fox, and Amos R. Green.	
University of Michigan. Museum of Anthropology	1894- 1990	2.5 linear ft.		Other records relating to the history of the Museum of Anthropology can be found in the papers of individual directors and curators, including James B. Griffin, Melvin R. Gilmore, Volney H. Jones, W.B. Hinsdale, Emerson Frank Greenman, and Carl E. Guthe. This section also includes information on collections related to Francis W. Kelsey and the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, as well as Alexander G. Ruthven and the University Museums.	Finding Aid
University of Michigan. Museums	1863- 1976 (bulk 1930	4 linear ft.	for museum collections at the	The record group consists of committee files, records related to the construction of the Museums building (including correspondence with architect Albert Kahn), topical files of	Finding Aid

	Anthropology, Zoology, and Paleontology, the Herbarium, and the Exhibit Museum. The individual museums were later recognized as separate, independent administrative units reporting to the College of Literature, Science and the Arts by a revision to the University of Michigan Board Regents' bylaws in 1956.		
Published Material and Other Sources Related to Michigan Archaeology		All publications and other research resources are cataloged individually in MIRLYN. Many can be found by searching for the subject headings: Michigan—Antiquities Excavations (Archaeology)Michigan Notable titles include: Archaeological Atlas of Michigan by W.B. Hinsdale (University of Michigan Press, 1931), Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past: the Archaeology of the Great Lakes State, edited by John R. Halsey (Cranbrook Institute of Science, ca. 1999), Excavations at Fort Michilimackinac report series by Donald P. Heldman (Mackinac Island State Park Commission, ca. 1977-ca. 1981), the journal The Michigan Archaeologist	Search Mirlyn
Publications and Secondary Sources in Anthropology		All titles are cataloged individually in MIRLYN. Notable titles include the Occasional Contributions and Anthropological Papers series, both	Search Mirlyn

				published by the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology.	
Rappaport, Roy A., 1926-1997	1959- 1997	17.5 linear ft.	Roy "Skip" Rappaport (1927-1997) was a professor at the University of Michigan from 1965 to 1997 and chairman of the Department of Anthropology from 1975 to 1980. He was particularly known for his ethnographic field work in New Guinea and his interest in relating anthropology to policy issues, particularly the social impact of oil well drilling and nuclear waste disposal.	Rappaport's papers include correspondence, writings, speeches and lectures, teaching and course materials, consulting work files related to environmental projects, and topical files.	Finding Aid
Ruthven, Alexander Grant, 1882-	1901- 1961 (bulk 1906	65 linear ft. and 1 outsize fo	Prior to assuming the office of President of the University of Michigan in 1929, Alexander Grant Ruthven (1882-1971) served as director of the University Museums and the Museum of Zoology. He was one of the strongest supporters of the museum programs at the university, and greatly encouraged the development of anthropological collections.	While the bulk of his papers relate to his activities as university president, Ruthven's papers also include correspondence and administrative files related to his museum work and the growth of the museum.	Finding Aid
University of Michigan Near East Research Expedition	May 1925- Septembe r 1	1 folder		These memos written to President C.C. Little and the Committee for Near East Research contain detailed descriptions of the University of Michigan expedition to the Near East led by Francis W. Kelsey.	Search Mirlyn
Waterman,	1887-	5 linear ft.	Leroy Waterman (1875-1972),? a	Waterman's papers include	Finding Aid

Leroy, 1875- 1972	1972		Biblical scholar, archaeologist, and translator, was a professor of Semitics at the University of Michigan from 1915 to 1945.	correspondence, diaries, lecture and research notes, speeches, essays, and photographs, including material relating to his archaeological field work in Egypt, Palestine, and Iraq from 1927 to 1932.	
White, Leslie A., 1900-1975	1921- 1974	26 linear ft.	Leslie Alvin White (1900-1975), an influential anthropologist and anthropological theorist,? was a professor at the University of Michigan from 1930 to 1970 and served as chair of the Department of Anthropology from 1945 to 1957. He was particularly known for his theories and writings on evolution and human cultural development.	White's papers include correspondence, articles and reviews relating to all phases of his anthropological interests, research notes on Lewis H. Morgan, field notes pertaining to his trips among the Pueblo Indians, a collection of scholarly publications, and photographs.	Finding Aid
Wolf, Eric R., 1923-	1946- 1999	8.5 linear ft.	Eric R. Wolf (1923-1999) was a prominent anthropologist whose interdisciplinary studies of Latin American peoples and European peasants challenged many of the field's long-held assumptions and prejudices. Wolf was a professor in the University of Michigan Department of Anthropology from 1961 to 1971 and served as its chair from 1970 to 1971.	His papers include correspondence, field notes, teaching materials, lecture notes, and notes Wolf kept as a graduate student.	Finding Aid