

Ruth Murray Underhill papers, 1959-1965

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Underhill, Ruth Murray, 1884-1984
Title	Ruth Murray Underhill papers
Dates	1959-1965 (inclusive) 1959 1965
Quantity	3.5 linear feet, (3 containers)
Collection Number	Ax 570
Summary	Ruth Murray Underhill (1884-1984) was a social worker, anthropologist, and teacher. She studied the Papago tribe of Southern Arizona while attending Columbia University. The collection includes her manuscripts, minor correspondence, and mementos of George W. Ingalls (1838-1920), Indian agent and superintendent of religious work among Indians for the American Baptist Home Mission Society.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Ruth Murray Underhill was born in Ossining, New York, an wealthy suburb outside of New York City, on August 22, 1884. She was the oldest of four children born to Abram Sutton Underhill and Anna Taber Murray. At age sixteen, she traveled with her family across Europe, which sparked her interest in languages and human culture. After graduating from Vassar College in 1905, with a degree in English, Underhill taught Latin at a boys military academy in Ossining.

Underhill became interested in social issues and became a social worker in Boston, working for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Shortly after, she worked at a settlement house in Brooklyn, where she decided that social work did not change society as much as she would have liked. Taking a break for two years, she traveled Europe, returning to New York City where she continued social work. After World War I, Underhill worked for the Red Cross in Italy, helping Italian orphans.

For a brief time, Underhill was married, but quickly divorced. By 1930, Underhill began attending Columbia University, taking various classes until she found an interest in anthropology. Under the direction of Franz Boas, the head of the department, and Ruth Benedict, a professor, Underhill studied the Papago tribe of Southern Arizona. At the same time, she assisted at the anthropology department at Barnard College. In 1934, Underhill received her PhD from Columbia.

While studying the Papago, Ruth Underhill learned their language. She was adept at learning languages, as she learned French, German, Spanish and Italian before studying the Native American tribal language of the Papago. The tribe did not have a written language, so Underhill wrote each word phonetically, and also translated the writings to English. She wrote several books from the information gathered on the tribe, which were published a few years later. After three summers studying the Papago, her fellowship funding ended and she decided to work for the federal government.

Working first as a soil conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Underhill soon began work at the Bureau of Indian Affairs as an anthropological consultant. From 1942 to 1948, she supervised Indian education. Her work at the department focused on a study of the Mohave tribe, but later included brief studies of almost every tribe in the United States. Underhill wrote pamphlets for the Bureau, as well as continuing her professional writing.

In the late 1940s, Underhill accepted a position as an anthropology professor at the University of Denver. She wrote many books, articles and other publications while teaching. After retirement in 1952, Underhill continued to write and lecture across the country. Ruth Murray Underhill died on August 15, 1984.

Source: Paton, Pat. "Ruth Underhill Remembered: A Backwards Glance into the Life of a Noted Anthropologist." *Colorado Heritage*, 1985 (1): 14-21.

Content Description

The Ruth Murray Underhill Papers consist of various versions and states of research material for three books. Also included are her manuscripts, minor correspondence, and mementos of George W. Ingalls (1838-1920), Indian agent and superintendent of religious work among Indians for the American Baptist Home Mission Society. The major Ingalls manuscript, "Customs and Legends of the Indians," told by Ingalls and written by Vernille DeWitt-Warr about 1915, is included in the collection.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g. a cause of action for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's

private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the University of Oregon assumes no responsibility.

If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ruth Murray Underhill Papers, Ax 570, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following series: Series I, *Antelope Singer*; Series II, *Beaverbird*; Series III, *Red Man's Religion*; Series IV, Correspondence; Series V, Addenda: Red Man's Religion; Series VI, Publications included in the collection; Series VII, Major G. W. Ingalls.

Processing Note

Collection processed by staff.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Antelope Singer

New York, Coward-McCann, 1961. (Original title: Nummer Boy)

Container(s)	Description	
Box	Folder	
1	1-2	First Draft. Original with holograph and pasted up revisions
1	3	Manuscript as submitted to Alice Torrey. Original and carbon. Chapters 2-12
1	4	Early versions. Fragments discarded after rewritten. Chapters 10-16. (Originally 6-12). Original with holograph revisions
1	5	Fragments. Chapters 1-3. Original without revisions. (Still titled Nummer Boy, so are early versions). 23. Loose pages. Carbon with extensive revisions. 9. Loose pages. Original pp. 166-170 without revisions

Container(s)	Description
1 6	Research materials. 1 folder. Plus two linear inches of 3 x 5 note cards

Beaverbird

New York, Coward-McCann, 1959

Container(s)	Description
Box Folder	
1 7	Carbon typescript
1 8	Early version, probably first draft. Original with extensive holograph and pasted-up revisions. Fragments
1 9	Second version. Original with extensive holograph and pasted up revisions. Fragments
1 10-11	Third version. Original with extensive holograph and pasted up revisions. Fragments
1 12	Plot outline. Original. 4. Chapter 1. Original and carbon. 7. each. Chapter 2. carbon
1 13	Galley proofs. Complete
1 14	Research materials. 1 folder plus two linear inches of 3 x 5 note cards

Red Man's Religion

Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1965

Container(s)	Description
Box Folder	
1 15-17	Carbon typescript as submitted to University of Chicago Press. 365. plus footnotes
1 18	Correspondence with University of Chicago Press, notes. The following chapter headings in subsequent folders reflect at least six rewritings of the manuscript. In some cases it will be noted that the same chapter bears several titles. An

Container(s)		Description
		attempt has been made to establish the following in rough chapter order. Materials include originals, carbons, holograph leaves, working notes, past-ups
1	19	Foreword. Fragments
1	20	The Tangles Skein
1	21	Angela. Fragments
1	22	Indians and the Supernatural
1	23	Not Religion but Religions
1	24	Religion has a Geography and a History
1	25	Geography of Religions. Fragments
1	26	Impersonal Power
1	27	Impersonal Power. Fragments
1	28	World Origins
1	29	Indian Theology: The Genesis Story
1	30	World Origins. Fragments
1	31	Indian Theology: The Spirits
1	32	The Spirits
2	1	Ceremonies of the Planting Indians. Eastern Woodland
2	2	Ceremonies of the Planting Indians. Fox. Potawotami, Winebago
2	3	Agricultural Ceremonies. East. Iroquois. Fragments
2	4	Agricultural Ceremonies. Pueblo. Fragments
2	5	Agricultural Ceremonies. Pawnee. Fragments
2	6	Modern Religion. Religion Post White. Fragments

Container(s)	Description
2 7	Untitled
2 8	Maps and Illustrations. Captions
2 9	Footnotes
2 10	Notes. One folder on archaeology, plus eight linear inches of 3 x 5 note cards on Indian religion and ceremonies
2 11	<i>Singing for Power: The Song Magic of the Papago Indians of Southern Arizona.</i> Berkeley, University of California Press, 1938. Fragments
2 12	Shaman and Medicine Man
2 13	Shaman, Medicine Man and Priest
2 14	The Vision
2 15	Indian Ceremonialism
2 16	Indian Ceremonialism. Sundance. Notes
2 17	Hunting and Gathering Rituals
2 18	Hunting and Gathering Rituals. Fragments
2 19	Ceremonies of the Planting Indians
2 20	Ceremonies of the Planting Indians
2 21	Woman Power. Fragments
2 22	The Mysteries of Birth
2 23	Death in the Afterworld
2 24	Death. Fragments
2 25	Medicine Man, Shaman and Priest
2 26	Correspondence

Container(s)		Description
2	27	Early drafts
2	28	Early drafts
2	29	Early drafts, miscellaneous pages and insertions
2	30	Early drafts, miscellaneous pages and insertions
2	31	Late drafts
2	32	Late drafts
2	33	Late drafts
2	34	Notes, bibliography, and index
2	35	Galley: Planting Ceremonies, Pueblos

Publications included in the collection

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
2	36	<i>Indian and the Law</i> . T. H. Hass. Washington, D. C., United State Indian Service	1949
2	36	<i>Mushroom of Colorado and Adjacent Area</i> . M. H. Wells and D. H. Mitchell. Denver, Colorado, Denver Museum of Natural History	1966
2	36	<i>Navajo Times</i> (Window Rock, Arizona) Vol. IV (1963). Nos. 24, 32-37, 39-41, 45-48 Vol. V (1964). Nos. 3-21, 23-24, 26, 29, 33-35, 46, 48, 50-53. Vol. VI (1965). No. 1	1963-1965
2	36	<i>Pine Ridge Research Bulletin</i> . Pine Community Mental Health Program, Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Nos. 1-9	1968-1969
2	36	<i>Ten years of Tribal Government under IRA</i> . T. H. Hass. Washington, D. C., United States Indian Service	1947
2	36	Miscellaneous publications (5 items)	

Major G.W. Ingalls

Container(s)	Description
Box	Folder
3	1-3
	Miscellaneous research files of Major G. W. Ingalls, including manuscripts, publications, research files, etc. These files seem to be concerned with legends, customs, and traditions of Indians of the Southwest.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Indians of North America--West (U. S.)--Religion
Tohono O'Odham Indians
Women anthropologists--United States

Personal Names :

Ingalls, George W., 1838-1920
Underhill, Ruth Murray, 1884-1984--Archives

Form or Genre Terms :

Manuscripts for publication

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Vida Germano
2004



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