

Register to the
William Louis Abbott
Collection

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National Anthropological Archives
Smithsonian Institution
www.nmnh.si.edu/naa

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INTRODUCTION

William Louis Abbott was a self-trained and self-sustaining collector who donated large numbers of ethnological artifacts, zoological specimens, and funds to the United States National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution around the turn of the twentieth century. The Abbott Papers in the National Anthropological Archives were apparently compiled by the staff of the Department of Anthropology, especially Otis Tufton Mason, curator of ethnology, in order to process incoming collections. The correspondence and printed materials relate primarily to Abbott's collecting activities and to Mason's research on Abbott's collections.

The collection occupies 13 feet (3.4 meters) of shelf space.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

William Louis Abbott, although formally trained in medicine, chose instead to devote his time and inherited wealth to worldwide exploration and the collection of natural history specimens and ethnological artifacts. The Abbott papers in the National Anthropological Archives reflect his collecting activities in the East Indies, and the work on his collections from that region by United States National Museum personnel, especially Otis Tufton Mason, curator of ethnology. The collection includes correspondence, maps, illustrations of artifacts, manuscripts, lists of objects in the Abbott collection in the Smithsonian Department of Anthropology, and photographic prints and negatives. In addition, there is a subject file which contains information on a variety of topics relating to Indonesia and Malaysia. The materials date from the 1890s to the early decades of this century.

This archival collection forms a valuable complement to the collection of artifacts housed in the National Museum of Natural History. (Abbott's collections from Indonesia are described by Dr. Paul M. Taylor, curator of Asian ethnology, in the *Museum Anthropology Newsletter*, April, 1985.) The subject file and lists of objects provide data on certain specific artifacts and their uses and Abbott's correspondence contains his observations of the daily life of the various peoples from whom the objects were collected. These documents are supplemented by a generous photographic record and sketch maps which outline the routes he followed. The papers focus on the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, the region closest to Abbott's heart and to which he dedicated over a decade before eye disease forced him to leave the tropics.

In addition to Abbott's own materials, there are notes by museum staff, including descriptions of artifacts, and manuscripts of articles mostly by Mason who was particularly interested in basketry. The bulk of the correspondence is between Abbott, Otis Mason, Walter Hough, and Cecil Boden Kloss who accompanied Abbott on several expeditions. Other correspondents include Cyrus Adler, Jesse Walter Fewkes, William H. Furness, Alfred Cort Haddon, Ales Hrdlička, Mary Lois Kissell, Elmer D. Merrill, William Palmer, Richard Rathbun, and Charles Clark Willoughby. Most of the letters are

brief and discuss proposed work on the Abbott collections, bibliographic sources, and basketry.

Additional material in the National Anthropological Archives relating to William Louis Abbott is contained in the papers of Ales Hrdlička and of Herbert W. Krieger, the Manuscript and Pamphlet File of the United States National Museum Department of Anthropology, and the photographic collection of the United States National Museum Division of Ethnology. Because Abbott donated material to a variety of departments in the Smithsonian, his original written material is located in several other Smithsonian departments as well. There are personal letters to his mother and sister as well as Smithsonian personnel in the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Field notebooks including detailed sketch maps of collecting stations are in the libraries of the departments of Mammals and of Birds.

The spelling of place names used here are those of Abbott who frequently wrote them as they sounded to him.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM LOUIS ABBOTT

February 23, 1860	Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1880	Collected birds in Iowa and North Dakota
1881	Bachelor of Arts, University of Pennsylvania
1883	Collected birds in Cuba and Santo Domingo
1884	Doctor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
1884-1886	Postgraduate work in England Licentiate of Royal College of Surgeons and Royal College of Physicians
1886	Received inheritance and discontinued formal practice of medicine
1887-1889	Exploration of Taveta region near Mt. Kilimanjaro with William Astor Chandler. Collection donated to United States National Museum
1890	Exploration and collection in Zanzibar, Seychelles Islands, and Madagascar
1891	“Ethnological collections in the U.S. National

Museum from Kilima-Njaro, East Africa,”
*Annual Report of the U.S. National Museum
for 1891*, pages 381-398

- Exploration and collection in India, including
Baltistan, Karachi, Kashmir, and Srinagar
- 1892 Exploration and collection in Vale of Kashmir,
Baltistan, Aden, Seychelles Islands, and
Aldabra Island
- 1893 Exploration and collection in Seychelles Islands;
India, including Kashmir and Srinagar; Leh
Ladakh; Sinkiang, China; and Eastern
Turkistan
- 1894 Continued exploration and collection in region of
Eastern Turkistan, Pakistan, India, and
Ceylon
- 1895 Exploration and collection in Madagascar and
Kashmir
- 1896 Exploration and collection in Malay Peninsula,
including:
Jan-Feb – Perak
Feb-Mar – Canton
Apr-Nov – Trang Province, Siam, including
Pramon, Tyching, and Penang
- 1897 Exploration and collection
Jan -- Trang
Apr-May -- Penang
May-Dec -- India
- 1898 Volunteered in Spanish-American War with
William A. Chambers as “Irregular Horse”
in Florida, and served in Cuba
Travel in Singapore and China
- 1899 Construction of schooner “Terrapin”
Exploration and collection accompanied by Cecil
Boden Kloss
Jan-Mar -- Trang
March -- Singapore
Mar-Apr -- Java
Jul-Sept -- Lingga and Anamba islands

- Oct-Nov - Singapore, Penang
Dec - Junkseylon
- 1900 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss
Jan-Mar -- Burma, Mergui Archipelago
Jun-Aug -- Natuna Archipelago
Nov-Dec -- Penang, Burma, Mergui Archipelago
- 1901 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss
Jan -- Andaman Islands
Jan-Mar -- Nicobar Islands
Apr-Nov -- Northern Sumatra, Rhio-Lingga Archipelago, Johore, Penang
Nov-Jan 02- Simalur
- 1902 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss
Jan-Feb -- Banjak Islands, Lasia, Babi
Feb-Mar -- Western Sumatra
Mar -- Nias
Apr-May -- Pahang, Malaya; Singapore and Straits Islands
Aug-Sep -- Bintang, Rhio Archipelago
Oct-Nov -- Simalur
Nov-Jan 03 -- Pagi Islands
- 1903 Exploration and collection
Jan -- Western Sumatra
Feb -- Pulo Tello
Apr -- Penang, Singapore
May-June -- Karimun Islands
July-Aug -- Rhio-Lingga Archipelago
Aug-Sep -- Eastern Sumatra
Oct -- Penang
Nov-Mar 04 -- Burmese coast, including Victoria Point, Mergui Archipelago, and Tenasserim
- 1904 Exploration and collection
Apr -- Penang and Straits of Malacca
May-Jun -- Banka Island
Jul-Aug -- Billiton Island
Aug-Sep -- Karimata Island
Oct -- Benkulen, Sumatra
Nov-Dec -- Engano

- 1905 Exploration and collection
 Dec 04-Feb- Western Sumatra
 Feb-Mar -- Nias
 Jun-Sep -- Western Borneo, including
 Pontianak and Kapuas rivers
 Nov-Jan 06 -- Eastern Sumatra
 Designated Honorary Associate in Zoology by the
 U.S. National Museum
- 1906 Visited Hong Kong and Japan (April-May)
 Exploration and collection accompanied by Kloss
 Oct-Feb 07 -- Easter Sumatra, including
 Bengkalis and Rupat islands and
 Siak River
- 1907 Exploration and collection
 Mar -- Rhio Archipelago
 May -- Islands of South China Sea,
 including Direction Island, Datu,
 Temayer, Lamukutan,
 Panebangan, and Pelapis
 May-Sep -- Western Borneo, including
 Kapuas and Simpang rivers
 Nov-Dec -- Java Sea, including Bawean
 Island
- 1908 Exploration and collection
 Dec 07-Mar- Southeastern Borneo,
 including Pulo Laut and Pulo Sebuku
 Jun -- Southwestern Boreno
 Nov -- Java Sea
- 1909 Exploration and collection
 Dec 08-Apr -- Pulo Laut and eastern
 Borneo, including Pasir River
 Onset of partial blindness caused by spirochetosis,
 and treatment in Aachen, Germany. Illness
 forced Abbott to suspend collecting
 activities in tropics.
- 1910-1915 Exploration and collection in Kashmir
- 1912-1915 Donated funds to United States National Museum
 for expedition to Borneo by Henry Cushier
 Raven

1914	Brief visit and collection in Molucca Islands and Celebes, accompanied by his sister
1915-1916	Donated funds for expedition by Raven to Dutch East Indies, especially Celebes
1916	Exploration and collection in Dominican Republic
1917-1918	Exploration and collection in Haiti
1918	Interruption of field work by Abbott because of severe illness (dysentary) and by Raven because of the war
1919-1923	Exploration and collection in Hispaniola
1920	Donated funds to United States National Museum for botanical collection in Haiti by Emery C. Leonard, aid in Division of Plants
1920-1922	Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to Australia by naturalist Charles M. Hoy
1923-1924	Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to China by Charles M. Hoy until Hoy's death in the field; work concluded by Reverend David Crockett Graham
1925-1927	Donated funds to United States National Museum for expeditions to Hispaniola
1928	Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to China
1928	Donated funds to United States National Museum for expedition to Hispaniola by Arthur J. Poole, Division of Mammals
1928-1931	Donated funds to United States National Museum for archeological expedition to Hispaniola by Herbert William Krieger, curator, Division of Ethnology

- 1932 Donated funds to United States National Museum
for archeological expedition to Cuba
- 1934 Purchase and donation of birds of the Himalayas for
the United States National Museum
- April 2, 1936 Death of William Louis Abbott at his farm near
North East, Maryland of heart disease after
a long illness
Bequest to Smithsonian Institution any of books and
papers desired (278 volumes accepted) and
approximately \$100,000 (1/5 of estate) to
promote zoological researchers

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1896-1919

Original handwritten documents as well as typed copies and excerpts of letters make up this file. Most of the letters are from Abbott to Otis Mason and later to Walter Hough. There are also some typed copies and excerpts of letters to museum officials George Brown Goode and Frederick William True. Accession numbers penciled on the top of typed documents refer to the registrar's accession file in which the original is stored. These files are housed in the Smithsonian Institution Archives and microfilmed copies are available in the Office of the Registrar in the Museum of Natural History.

Abbott's letters provide information about his collecting activities, possible plans for future expeditions, and shipment of objects. He describes native peoples, their way of life, customs, use of certain artifacts, food, dress, racial and physical features, character, and intelligence. Abbott refers to the work of Elio Modigliani and W.W. Skeat, accompaniment by Cecil Boden Kloss on expeditions, opinions of colleagues, and various people encountered in the field. These letters are mostly from and about the Malay region, with a few later documents to Hough concerning Haiti and Santo Domingo.

There are four letters to Abbott from Mason and Hough, mostly about manuscripts and work on the collections; attached to one is a rough draft of a paper on the Haitian pree-pree (type of raft). Correspondence concerning Abbott and the Abbott collections are generally to or from Mason or Hough. Other correspondents include Cyrus Adler, assistant secretary of libraries and exchanges; Jesse Walter Fewkes, of the Bureau of American Ethnology; William H. Furness, of the University of Pennsylvania; Alfred Cort Haddon, of Cambridge, England; Ales Hrdlička, Smithsonian curator of physical anthropology; Cecil Boden Kloss; Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of Smithsonian Institution; Elmer D. Merrill, of the Bureau of Science in Manila; William Palmer, in Java; Mary Lois Kissell, of the American Museum of Natural History; Charles Willoughby, of the Harvard Peabody Museum. They discuss proposed work on the Abbott collections, bibliographic sources, and basketry. Correspondence with Kloss mainly concerns publications and exchanges of photographs.

Additional correspondence is included in several of the series described below.

Box 1

Letters from Abbott 1896-1902

Letters from Abbott 1903-1905

Letters from Abbott 1906-1919

Letters Sent Abbott 1908-1909, 1919

Correspondence Concerning Abbott and the Abbott Collection at United States National Museum 1902-1919

SERIES II: SUBJECT FILE

This series consists primarily of notes compiled by Otis Mason on a variety of subjects relating to the Abbott collections from Malaysia and Indonesia. Information contained in these folders was derived largely from Abbott's letters, of which this series includes originals as well as Mason's notes and excerpts from them. Files on places and people contain data on native populations, their physical characteristics, way of life, clothing, food, dwellings, character and intelligence, fertility, health and medicine, and local vegetation and wildlife. In addition, Abbott's collecting activities, some objects collected, and their shipment to the United States may be discussed. Abbott also refers to the works of Modigliani, photographs, and other sources of information.

Box 1 (cont'd)

Andaman Islands (description of artifacts)

Includes a list of negative numbers of photographic plates.

Bibliography and Dictionary

Includes a series of cards on the Andamans, apparently sent by Haddon; dictionary-type references by Mason with short definitions and sources of information; short "Bibliography" organized by geographic location with some references and notes; series of cards written by Mason on "names," "geography-Abbott," and "tribes-Abbott," some with references to Abbott's letters or to publications.

Box 2

Engano

Includes references to an Englishman named Francis who had lived there 25-30 years previously and to indebtedness to Johannes Winkler of Barmen Mission for his data.

Illustrations (mostly references to)

Lists of Abbott's references to illustrations of objects from Engano, mostly in the works of Elio Modigliani; similar lists, ordered alphabetically, of objects from Engano and Nias; list of some of Abbott's objects in the United States National Museum which have been illustrated.

Illustrations (figures and plates) from Mason's "Vocabulary of Malaysian Basketwork" Original drawings labeled by Mason and printer's proofs of illustrations.

Jakuns

Includes a list of vocabulary from Rumpin River, Pahang; reference to W.W. Skeat quoting Rudolf Martin of Zurich (from *Journal of Anthropological Institute*, London, 1902, pages 124-138, reprinted in *Smithsonian Institution Report*, 1902, pages 463-478). Poem entitled "Song of The Batin's Hut" written in Mason's hand.

Joinerwork

Illustrations of various types of joinerwork.

Kashmir, India (minnowing fan)

One sheet describing a minnowing fan from Srinagar written by Mason.

Knotwork

Mason's notes, including translation of terms from Lehmann; a letter to Mason from John L. Cox of Philadelphia describing and illustrating the Malay knot; list of knots and illustrated list apparently taken from a standard dictionary; letter from the Bishop Museum in Honolulu answering questions about knots.

Land Dyak - Miscellaneous

Includes Abbott's original sketch map of Dyak collecting stations of 1907 and of 1908.

Land Dyak - Houses

Malay - Basketry

Notes by Mason with general definition of basketry and some plans for study of Malay works; original excerpt and Mason's notes from Abbott's letter on vocabulary of Malay asketwork. Letter to Mason from Thomas key of Breasted Chart, Seven Oaks, answering questions about basketry.

Malay and Orang Laut - Medicine

Includes reference to two objects in the collection.

Maps

Abbott's original sketch maps with collecting stations marked, from various locations; also, printed map of the Molucca Islands with Abbott's collecting stations marked; manuscript maps of "Trong."

Note: There are many more detailed sketch maps with collecting stations marked in Abbott's field notebooks in the library of the Smithsonian Division of Mammals.

Metawi Islands

Includes Abbott's notes with diagrams of tattooing; references to Reverend August Lett, and to written accounts by a German named Alfred Maas and by a Dr. Morris.

Miscellany

A variety of documents relating to Abbott's collections and to Malaysia and Indonesia, including a photograph, outline for a paper, lists of objects, terms, and questions to ask Abbott; illustration of sword types.

Musical Instruments

Mason's excerpt of an Abbott letter; duplicate catalog cards of Malay musical instruments.

Nias

Includes Abbott's notes on Batu Islands, which were colonized from Nias, and on Nias headhunting; excerpt from an Abbott letter to C.W. Richmond (original in Smithsonian Institution Archives) on shipment of three Mentawai Island canoes.

Nicobar

Box 3

Notes on Sumatra from Marsden

- Notes in Mason's hand with page references to Marsden [William, The History of Sumatra?] on various topics concerning Sumatra.
- Ornamentation (on basketry)
Notes by Mason on ornamentation on basketry in the Abbott collection, including a list of types of ornamentation.
- Selungs
Includes brief reference to the Nicobarese.
- Simalur
Includes reference to Nias and information on Engano.
- Subject Index (Partial) To Abbott's Letters
Cards by Mason, arranged by subject, with references to some of Abbott's letters in the correspondence file. Reference list of some letters from Abbott and Cecil Boden Kloss, some of which are in the correspondence or subject files.
- Textiles - Malaysian and Hawaiian
Notes by Mason on technique and plant types used in Malaysian textiles; notes by Hough about Abbot textiles.
- Textile Plants - Polynesia
Short list of plants with scientific and native names, some with notes on use.
- Traps
Includes some publication-quality illustrations and a reference to Skeat's *Pagan Races*; notes may have been used for draft of paper on traps.
- Vocabulary - Geographical
Information on localities visited by Abbott, including a letter written by Hough in reply to Mary Lois Kissell (of American Museum of Natural History) listing exact locations of Abbott's collections in Borneo prior to 1908; maps printed in *Proceedings of the National Museum*, vol. XXVI.
- Vocabulary - Peoples
Notes, lists, and newspaper articles about various Malay peoples, islands, and dialects, with references to Abbott and printed sources.
- Vocabulary - Relating to Artifacts
Vocabulary lists by Hough and Mason, and outline by Mason of "Abbott Collections--Topics."

SERIES III: REGISTER OF ACCESSIONS

Box 3 (cont'd)

Partial Register of Accessions (1890-1906)

"Abbott Accessions Abstracted": cards with locality, accession and catalog numbers, and date accessioned; list of collections received from Abbott (not exhaustive for years covered).

SERIES IV: LIST OF OBJECTS BY ACCESSION NUMBER AND LOCATION

These lists are of two basic types: 1) one type is based on the accession number and includes a separate sheet for each object providing catalog number, name of object in English and frequently in the native tongue, dimensions, material of construction, and further physical description; and 2) the other type is based on the provenance and provides the catalog number, name of object, and specific locality of collection and sometimes includes a list of objects in other accessions from the same location. Each folder may contain either or both types of listings or a similar variation. Although catalog numbers listed in folder titles refer to all objects in the accession, the enclosed lists may not provide information on every artifact mentioned.

Box 4

Accession 31,341 (cat. 175,973-176,051) – Trong -- Trapping Equipment

Many include publications-quality illustrations.

Accession 32,376 (cat. 176,710-712) -- Trong, Lower Siam

Contains only one original label by Abbott from cat. #176, 710, a chopping knife.

Accession 33,299 (cat. 178,105-146) -- Ledakh, Tibet

Accession 35,322 (cat. 202,848-853) -- Lower Siam

Objects listed are mostly quivers and blowguns.

Accession 35,505 (cat. 203,670-674) -- Java Objects listed are mostly krises and daggers.

Accession 36,053 (cat. 204,573-574) -- Anambas Islands

A canoe and its parts, and a sleeping mat.

Accession 37,007 (cat. 206,515-522) -- Mergui Archipelago and Java

Accession 37,335 (cat. 208,042-043) -- Natuna Islands

Accession 37,409 (cat. 209,201-212) -- Trengganu, Malay Peninsula

Accession 38,307 (cat. 211,701-874) -- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Accession 38,608 (cat. 213,441-480) -- Andaman Islands

Box 5

Accession 39,649 (cat. 216,276-361 ; 218,156-171) -- Simalur

Accession 40,243 (cat. 219,901-987) -- Jakuns of Johore

Accession 41,161 (cat. 219,094-096) -- Mentawi Islands

Brief note on boats.

Accession 41,342 (cat. 221,501-997) -- Nias, Pagi, and Siberut --

Part I: (cat. 221,501-646)

Part II: (cat. 221,647-799)

Part III: (cat. 221,800-997)

Box 6

Part IV: (cat. 221,501-959)

Part V:

- Includes some objects from Batu and possibly New Guinea.
 Accession 42,168 (cat. 229,401-429) --
 Rhio-Lingga Archipelago (and other locales)
 Includes original page of notes by Abbott about a shed in which sago is processed.
- Accession 43,017 (cat. 232,501-580) -- German New Guinea, Singapore Straits Settlement, Mergui Archipelago (and other locales)
 Includes objects from Sumatra or Borneo and Renong, Lower Siam.
- Accession 43,559 (cat. 232,621-706) -- Banka, Billiton, and Karimata Islands and Mergui Archipelago
 Includes Abbott's original notes on a quail trap, deer net, and whirligig.

Box 7

- Accession 44,682 (cat. 237,001-525) --
 Part I: Engano and Nias
 Part II: Engano only
- Accession 45,397 (cat. 244,101-532) -- Western Borneo
 Includes newspaper article about the collection.
- Accession 47,566 (cat. 247,736-801) -- Eastern Sumatra

Box 8

- Accession 48,220 (cat. 249,001-520; 249,539-540)
 -- Western Borneo
 Includes Abbott's original label for cat. #249,379.

SERIES V: LISTS OF OBJECTS BY TYPE OR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

These lists generally include catalog number, name of object, location of collection, dimensions, and description of structural parts and technique of construction. Some have accession numbers penciled on the top, and some include illustrations.

Box 8 (cont'd)

Basketry I

Basketry II

Includes lists of catalog numbers and basket types mostly from Engano, western Borneo, Pagi, Nias, Simalur, Banka, and Billiton.

Basketry III

Includes objects mostly from Simalur, Nias, Pagi, Engano, and Sumatra.

Basketry IV

Dyak Basketry I (acc. 45,397, cat. 244,215-229)

Box 9

Dyak Basketry II (acc. 45,397, cat. 244,300-527)

Jakuns

Nias

Sumatra

Traps I

Includes original diagram and notes by Abbott on a bamboo rat trap and photograph of a Dyak weir in a stream.

Traps II

Includes typed excerpt of a letter from Abbott from Trong Bangdee on a method of fishing and Abbott's diagram and notes on a Jakun trap for arboreal mammals.

Box 10

Trong

Weaponry, Fishing and Hunting Gear

SERIES VI: DRAFTS OF UNPUBLISHED ARTICLES AND WORKING MATERIALS

Box 10 (cont'd)

Anyam Gila (Mad Weave)

Material concerning manuscript of "Anyam Gila (Mad Weave) A Malaysian Type of Basketwork" by Otis Mason. Correspondence includes letters between Hough and the assistant secretary of the Smithsonian about publication after Mason's death; also, letters between Mason and Mrs. L.E. Bland, and a copy of her publication "A Few Notes on the Anyam Gila."

"First Account of the W.L. Abbott Basketry from Southern Malaysia, Now in the U.S. National Museum"

Typed manuscript by Otis Mason, possibly unfinished.

"Preface" to Handbook to Abbott Collection

Author unknown, unfinished.

"The W.L. Abbott Ethnographic Collections in the U.S. National Museum from Western Malaysia"

Manuscript by Otis Mason and Walter Hough. Includes outline of Abbott's collecting activities, 1895-1905, and general description of the collections.

"Traps in the Abbott Collections of the U.S. National Museum from Southwestern Malaysia"

Manuscript by Otis Mason, illustrated by Mary Wright Gill.

SERIES VII: PRINTED MATERIAL

Mostly newspaper clippings and reprints of articles about Abbott, his collections, Malaysia, and related topics, including book prospectuses. Also, printed maps and exhibit labels.

Box 10 (cont'd)

“Current Literature for Paper” (i. e., Mason)

Newspaper clippings and reprints of articles about Abbott, his Andaman collection, and Malay topics. Includes articles by Kloss, W.W. Skeat, Mrs. L.E. Bland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Mason and correspondence from A.B. Meyer in Dresden.

Exhibit Labels

Labels from various exhibits of Abbott objects in the United States National Museum.

Box 11

Maps

Several printed maps of Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Pacific area, from various sources.

Newspaper Clippings and Reprints I

This folder and the following include published articles, notes, reprints, and excerpts about Abbott and his collections, the Malays, and voyages and finds in the East Indies by persons other than Abbott; also catalogs for ethnographic specimens, maps, equipment, books and reprints from Smithsonian publications of short articles about mammals collected by Abbott.

Newspaper Clippings and Reprints II

SERIES VIII: PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS

Arranged alphabetically by region, people, and locality.

The majority of these photographs were taken by Abbott, although a few are by Henry Cushier Raven from the Borneo expeditions funded by Abbott, and some were probably taken by Cecil Boden Kloss. Many are labeled on the back by Abbott, or mounted on paper and labeled by Mason. A few folders also contain Abbott's written remarks about the photographs, in which he elaborates on the subjects of certain prints and related customs.

Abbott took many portraits of natives with only a plain backdrop for physical anthropology purposes. These photographs provide information primarily on facial features, although some show native dress as well. In addition, these are supplemented by village scenes showing streets, dwellings, and surroundings. Most are marked with Abbott's negative numbers, some of which refer to the glass negatives in the negative file

described below. Some also include a five-digit Smithsonian negative number indicating negatives stored in the Institution's Office of Printing and Photographic Services.

Raven's photographs, while far fewer, tend to portray native peoples in natural settings, going about daily activities. All are labeled on the back. Raven's negatives have not been located.

Many prints are duplicated in the same or other folders.

Box 11 (cont'd)

Abbott, W.L.

Studio photographs taken in old age and portraits and views taken at Abbott's farm on Thackery Point, Elk Neck, near North East, Maryland in 1927 and 1930.

Banka and Billiton Islands I

Includes prints of hand-born litter, boat model, and a dogfish.

Banka and Billiton Islands II

Box 12

Batu Islands

Borneo--Bajans

Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes photographs of people fishing and a mother with her child.

Borneo--Beraoe Malays

Taken by Raven, 1914.

Borneo--Dwellings and Village Scenes

Includes village scenes and shore scenes with boats, bridges, and a fish weir. Many duplicated elsewhere.

Borneo--Dyaks--Bark Canoe, Semandong River

Photographs of a canoe in the Singapore Museum labeled and sent by Abbott, with a note referring to a letter in the Correspondence File.

Borneo--Dyaks--Bayu

Borneo--Dyaks--Birang River

Taken by Raven, 1914.

Boreno--Dyaks--Bukan or Bukang

These portraits appear to be in the same setting as those from Dadap (see below).

Borneo--Dyaks--Dadap

Borneo--Dyaks--Denuku

Borneo--Dyaks--Granary, Benti (Sakaia River)

Borneo--Dyaks--Kamintung

Borneo--Dyaks--Karangan

Taken by Rave, 1914. Include people planting rice and boating.

Box 13

Borneo--Dyaks--Laham (Upper Mahakam River)

Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes boys at a mission school and a mock fight.

Borneo--Dyaks--Long Ayan (Segah River)

Taken by Raven, 1914.

Borneo--Dyaks--Long Huree (Upper Mahakam River)

Taken by Raven, 1914.

Borneo--Dyaks--Miscellaneous

Most are portraits of people, some showing ornamentation. One is of an orangutan. Some were taken by Raven, 1914, and have labels including personal names of subjects. Most of Abbott's photographs in other Dyak folders duplicate prints here.

Borneo--Dyaks--Nadjo

Borneo--Dyaks--Pessing (Sakaiam River)

Includes yard with piles of bamboo and carved wooden images. Duplicates in other folders.

Borneo--Dyaks--Petong

Borneo--Dyaks--Pulo Saparo (Kapuas River)

Borneo--Dyaks--Renduku

Includes picture of a camp and a crew.

Borneo--Dyaks--Sanggan (Kapuas River)

Includes "Kampong China," boats on river, and area of construction with wood carvings.

Borneo--Dyaks--Sintass (Sakaiam River)

Includes fish weir and bridge.

Borneo--Dyaks--Tambeling

Borneo--Dyaks--Toembil (Kalei River)

Beraoe District. Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes boats along shore, interior of house, girl grating coconut, and men making charms at a feast.

Borneo--Dyaks--Tyan (Kapuas River)

Includes scenes of town and house of controleur.

Borneo--Dyaks--Wood Carvings

Includes field photograph of carvings *in situ* and museum photograph of specimen (cat. #211,785) from Katchall, Nicobar Islands.

Borneo--Dyaks--Rabah

Box 14a

Borneo--Miscellaneous

Taken by Raven, 1914. Most show boats and river scenes, but also include a Dyak grave and a bamboo on which are offerings for goodwill of spirits.

Borneo--Pulo Derawan

Taken by Raven, 1914. Includes people gambling and a wedding procession.

Borneo--Punans

Taken by Raven, 1914.

Engano

Box 14b

- Malay Peninsula (i.e., Malaysia, Burma, Thailand)-- Jakuns--Klaydong
 Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Komel
 Includes mailing label from London.
 Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Menchelli
 Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Miscellaneous
 Includes portraits labeled with names of subjects and the “Terrapin” anchored at Batu Umpor, Rumpin River.
 Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Pow
 Includes mailing label and Abbott’s notes about exposure.
 Malay Peninsula--Jakuns--Sungei Gyung
 Includes mailing label and Abbott’s notes about exposure.
 Malay Peninsula--Miscellaneous
 Most of these photographs are duplicated in other Malay Peninsula folders. Also, includes photographs from eastern Sumatra, Banka and Billiton islands, a dogfish, people riding elephants, and a wooden model canoe.
 Malaya Peninsula--Selungs--Mergui Archipelago
 Includes Selung camp and canoes on Festings Island.
 Malay Peninsula--Siam--Chantaboon
 Print of natives at market.
 Malay Peninsula--Siam, Lower--Renong
 Includes elephants with riders and baskets on their backs.
 Malay Peninsula--Victoria Point

Box 15

- Nias--Miscellaneous I
 Includes a few pages of typed notes elaborating on subjects of certain prints and related customs. Some show people with artifacts similar to those collected by Abbott; however, none show people engaged in daily activities. Few of these are from negatives in this collection, and the numbering system differs from Abbott’s; it is therefore likely that these photographs were taken by Kloss who accompanied Abbott on the expedition. Prints in other Nias folders duplicate those in this and the following folder.
- Nias--Miscellaneous II
 Many duplicate prints in previous folder.
- Nias--Basketry
 Photographs of three baskets in Abbott collection, used in Mason’s basketry article.
- Nias--Dwellings
 Various dwellings, including some unfinished; detail of wood carving on house; and a blacksmith’s bellows.
- Nias--Wood Carvings
 Photographs of carvings *in situ* on Nias.
- Nicobar Islands--Wood Carvings
 Pagi Islands--Basketry

Prints of baskets collected by Abbott labeled with catalog and accession numbers, some with page of descriptive notes attached.

Pagi Islands--Dwellings

Includes photographs of boathouses and a print of Abbott surrounded by natives.

Pagi, Simalur, and Siberut Islands--Miscellaneous I

Typed pages of Abbott's remarks on photos, including descriptions of communal houses, dances, women's refusal to be photographed, burial places, and other subjects. Prints include scenes of natives fishing and a child's grave. Many portraits are labeled with the name of the subject. Photographs from Simalur include a rice pounder, nut store, basket like one collected by Abbott, graffiti on a mosque, and some people with tattoos.

Box 16

Pagi, Simalur, and Siberut Islands--Miscellaneous II

Most duplicate prints in previous folder. Also photographs accessioned as prints.

Rhio Archipelago--Orang Kwala

Portraits include Dutch aid at Singapore Straits.

Rhio Archipelago--Orang Mantong

Rhio Archipelago--Orang Utan

Includes Malay clubhouse and Sultan's palace at Siak.

Siberut Island

One print shows a group of natives and another a shield in the collection (cat. #221,689).

Simalur

Includes portraits of two men with tattoos and women in boats from Siberut; boys from northern Nias; descendants of Nias emigrants; and a prau and granary. Also, a binder with Abbott's original list of photo negatives with information on location, date, number, subject, and exposure.

Sipora Island

Sumatra--Little Siak River

Photographs taken on the river that include the crew pulling the boat through floating vegetation, surrounding vegetation, Abbott bathing, Abbott's camp, a Chinese trader's boat, a lisang (similar to a civet), the "Terrapin," Siak Town including "Chinatown," and a river turtle.

Unmarked

Unlabeled Abbott prints, duplicating prints elsewhere in the collection. Most were taken on islands off western Sumatra. Also prints of an unidentified house, a few wood carvings from Nicobar, and a basket used in Mason's article.

Includes two photographic illustrations clipped from a journal.

Enggano Is - Description of Negatives

SERIES IX: PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES

Five-by-seven-inch dry plate glass negatives arranged alphabetically and numerically by negative number.

Abbott's numbering system consists of a letter (a-j including hh) or a number (1-56) followed by a decimal point a number from 1-14 (e.g., a.1, a.2, ... or 1.1, ... 54.12). (Note: not every number in these ranges is represented.)

The subject of the photographs, all apparently taken by Abbott, is generally similar to that of the photographic prints described above. A few of the negatives were labeled with names of the locality of people depicted. Two unnumbered negatives are of "Javanese." Those labeled with letters were generally of "Orang Mantong," "Orang Utan," or "Orang Kwala" from the Malay Peninsula and area off eastern Sumatra, especially the Rhio Archipelago, Pulo Kundur, and Pulo Sanglar. Images numbered from 1-4 show Selungs and Malays from the Malay Peninsula, including Victoria Point and Festings Island, and a "Malay house on Lingga Id" (#2.11). Most other negatives with numbers ranging through 24 are portraits from unspecified Malay localities.

Abbott used 25-47 to catalog his photographs from Engano. His list providing negative numbers, name, sex, age, physical measurements, and brief description of the person depicted is in box 16.

Nias is the subject of negatives numbered 48-56. Whereas most of the images in this series are portraits of natives before a plain white backdrop, those of Nias tend to show people in more natural settings with views of streets, dwellings, stone carvings, and other features of their environment. Among the photographs of Nias are negatives numbered a9-a12 and b.9-10 of the body of a girl who was a victim of headhunting and the head hanging in the village. Note that the numbers duplicate some previously used, and that the events depicted are referred to by Abbott in the Nias folder of the subject file.

Few of the negatives have been printed.