MARGARET MEAD

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Répertoire détaillé \ Descriptive Inventory

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Margaret Mead was born in Philadelphia on December 16th, 1901. Her father was an economics professor at the University of Pennsylvania and her mother was a school teacher with a degree in sociology. Margaret Mead obtained a bachelor and master’s degree in psychology at Barnard College where she then worked at the Anthropology Department.

She embarked on her first voyage to Samoa, in the Pacific Islands, in 1925, where she studied the lives of adolescent girls. With the information gathered on her trip, she wrote *Coming of age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization*. The book got a bad review as some deemed it superficial. Since then she wrote many articles and books that have had much better critics. Her next journey was to Admiralty Islands in 1928-1929. While she gathered information for her next work, *Social Organizations of Manu’a*, she got married to her travel companion Reo F. Fortune. She then researched the cultures of New Guinea from 1931-1933. For that period of time, she and her husband lived among the Arapesh, the Mundugumor and the Chambuli. The trip enabled her to write *Sex and temperament in Three Primitive Societies* which was “the first anthropological study to provide a comparative examination of the situation of women.” To this followed a series of renowned studies that earned her the title of “one of the major anthropologist in American school”. Her work was then centered on mother-child relationships, a theme that constantly resurfaced during the following years. Afterwards, her writings varied from many subjects but all for which she had great convictions, for example, educational standards and greater autonomy for students.

As well as being a globetrotter, Margaret Mead was also curator in ethnology at The American Museum of Natural History in 1928. In 1944, she founded the Institute for Intercultural Studies. Three years later, she joined the staff of Columbia University in the Anthropology Department and became professor in 1954. She also taught at Fordham, Cincinnati and Topeka University.

She died of a cancer to the pancreas on November 15th, 1978 in New York, 4 years after her last trip to Admiralty Islands.

SCOPE AND CONTENT
The fonds is a collection of articles written by anthropologist Margaret Mead. Those articles were written between 1925 and 1978. They cover several subjects, the most commons being primitive societies, education and political issues. The files of textual documents have been divided by year and contain mostly reprints of periodical and magazine articles. They also contain book reviews written by Margaret Mead as well as some information on her life.

The fonds also contains 53 slides and 1 photograph that have been taken between 1925 and 1971, on Mead’s various trips in the South Pacific Islands. They were used to illustrate her many articles on primitive societies. The original order of slides has been kept. While most of them are in color, there is a small number in black and white. Please note that “Manus” refers to a location also known as “Manu’a”.

The fonds has two finding aids: one for textual documents and the other for graphic materials.

NOTES

Note on biography


Note on language

The material contained in this fonds is in English with the exception of one or two documents in French.

Note on access

There are no restrictions to this fonds.

Note on reproduction

Photocopying is permitted, according to Canadian Copyright Law and general practice in Canadian archives, and if the document is in good condition.
# BOX 1381

1381.1  Primitive societies: articles and book reviews, 1930-1939 (1 of 2)  
1381.2  Primitive societies: articles and book reviews, 1930-1939 (2 of 2)  
1381.3  Societies, youth behavior and science: articles and book reviews, 1940-1942 (1 of 2)  
1381.4  Societies, youth behavior and science: articles and book reviews, 1940-1942 (2 of 2)  
1381.5  War and post-war societies and child education: articles and book reviews, 1943-1945 (1 of 2)  
1381.6  War and post-war societies and child education: articles and book reviews, 1943-1945 (2 of 2)  
1381.7  Age, family and culture: articles and book reviews, 1947 (1 of 2)  
1381.8  Age, family and culture: Articles and book reviews, 1947 (2 of 2)  
1381.10  Culture, social character and mother-child relationships: articles, 1950-1955 (1 of 2)  
1381.11  Culture, social character and mother-child relationships: articles, 1950-1955 (2 of 2)  

# BOX 1382

1382.1  The study of anthropology and urban culture: articles, 1956-1958 (1 of 3)  
1382.2  The study of anthropology and urban culture: articles, 1956-1958 (2 of 3)  
1382.3  The study of anthropology and urban culture: articles, 1956-1958
1382.4  Primitive societies, education and religion: articles and book reviews, 1959-1961 (1 of 3)
1382.5  Primitive societies, education and religion: articles and book reviews, 1959-1961 (2 of 3)
1382.6  Primitive societies, education and religion: articles and book reviews, 1959-1961 (3 of 3)
1382.7  Mental health, human behavior and education: articles, 1962 (1 of 2)
1382.8  Mental health, human behavior and education: articles, 1962 (2 of 2)
1382.9  Communication, anthropology and violence: articles and book reviews, 1963-1964 (1 of 2)
1382.10 Communication, anthropology and violence: articles and book reviews, 1963-1964 (2 of 2)
1382.11 Urban development, culture and education: articles, 1965-1966 (1 of 4)
1382.12 Urban development, culture and education: articles, 1965-1966 (2 of 4)
1382.13 Urban development, culture and education: articles, 1965-1966 (3 of 4)

**BOX 1383**

1383.1  Miscellaneous information on Margaret Mead.
1383.2  Human development, nation services and primitive society rights: articles, 1967 (1 of 4)
1383.3  Human development, nation services and primitive society rights: articles, 1967 (2 of 4)
1383.4  Human development, nation services and primitive society rights: articles,
1383.5 Human development, nation services and primitive society rights: articles, 1967 (3 of 4)

1383.6 Communication, culture, moral issues and religion: articles, book reviews and participations in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1968 (1 of 2)

1383.7 Communication, culture, moral issues and religion: articles, book reviews and participations in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1968 (2 of 2)

1383.8 Generation gap, women status, sexuality and human development: articles, 1969 (1 of 3)

1383.9 Generation gap, women status, sexuality and human development: articles, 1969 (2 of 3)

1383.10 Generation gap, women status, sexuality and human development: articles, 1969 (3 of 3)

1383.11 Social sciences, anthropology, politics and women: articles and book reviews, 1970 (1 of 3)

1383.12 Social sciences, anthropology, politics and women: articles and book reviews, 1970 (2 of 3)

1383.13 Social sciences, anthropology, politics and women: articles and book reviews, 1970 (3 of 3)

**BOX 1384**

1384.1 Family, the women’s movement, education and drugs: articles and book reviews, 1971 (1 of 3)

1384.2 Family, the women’s movement, education and drugs: articles and book reviews, 1971 (2 of 3)

1384.3 Family, the women’s movement, education and drugs: articles and book reviews, 1971 (3 of 3)

1384.4 Family, education and communication: articles, 1972 (1 of 2)

1384.5 Family, education and communication: articles, 1972 (2 of 2)
1384.6 UFOs and Margaret Mead: article and interview, 1974.
1384.7 America’s 200th birthday, women and bisexuality: articles, 1975.
1384.8 Sex at work and an interview-style article on different subjects, 1978.