THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1965

Professors

W.E.H. Stanner, M.A.(Syd.), Ph.D.(Lond.).
J.A. Barnes, M.A.(Cantab.), D.Phil.(Oxon.).

Professorial Fellow (Anthropology)

J.D. Freeman, Ph.D.(Cantab.), Dip.Anthrop. (Lond.).

Professorial Fellow (Linguistics)

S.A. Wurm, Ph.D.(Vienna).

Senior Fellows (Anthropology)

Paula Brown, M.A.(Chic.), Ph.D.(Lond.).

Senior Fellows (Prehistory)

J. Golson, M.A.(Cantab.).

Senior Research Fellow (Anthropology)

Ann Chowning, M.A., Ph.D.(Penn.), (from July).

Research Fellows (Anthropology)

R.L. Rooksby, M.A.(Oxon.), B.Litt.(Oxon.), Ph.D.(Lond.).
G.E.T. Wijeyewardene, M.A., Ph.D.(Cantab.).
D.P. Sinha, M.A.(Lucknow), Ph.D.(S.Ill.), (from August).

Research Fellows (Linguistics)

C.L. Voorhoeve, Ph.D.(Leiden), (from Dec.).

Visiting Fellow (Anthropology)


Research Assistants (Anthropology)

Margaret van der Borght, Lic.Phil.Litt., Ph.D.(Natal), (until Nov.).
R.J. Inall.
H.D. Clark, B.A.(Melb.), (until Dec.).
J.C. Abrahams, M.A.(Melb.), (from March).
J. Wilson.
E. Olgay, (from March).
B. Key, (from March).
J. Wheatley, (from March).
C. Krinks, B.A.(Syd.), (June-December).

Research Assistant (Linguistics)

H. Leach.

Research Assistants (Prehistory)

W.R. Ambrose.
Mrs D. Gregory, B.A.

Research Officers (Prehistory)

H. Polach, jointly with Geophysics (from March).

R.L. Lampert.

Mrs D. Gregory, B.A.

R.L. Lampert.

W. Groves, B.A., Dip.Ed.(Melb.).
The Department adopted a new administrative arrangement under which Professors Barnes and Stanner will alternate as Head of Department for periods of two years each. Professor Stanner was appointed Head on Professor Barnes' departure in July for study leave in the United Kingdom and fieldwork in Norway. Professor Stanner was elected a member of the A.N.U. Council, vice Professor N.G. Butlin, by Professors in the Institute. He served also as Vice-President of Section F at the Hobart meeting of ANZAAS in August, as President of the Canberra Sociological Society, and as Convenor of the Social Anthropology Panel of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Dr Paula Brown visited the United Kingdom on study and special leave. Dr Wurm attended a conference on Linguistic Problems in the Indo-Pacific Area which was held in London in January, and visited the Universities of California (Berkeley and U.C.L.A.) and Hawaii. Mr Golson and Dr Laycock took part in the 11th New Zealand Science Congress at Auckland in February. Dr Chowning, Dr Wijeyewardene, Dr Laycock and four students attended the ANZAAS meeting.

During the year seven new members of the academic staff were appointed. Dr A.L. Epstein (Manchester) was appointed Professorial Fellow in Social Anthropology, and proposed to arrive in Canberra in March 1966. Dr Ann Chowning (Columbia, N.Y.) was appointed Senior Research Fellow in Social Anthropology and arrived in July. Dr D.P. Sinha (East-West Center, Honolulu) was appointed Research Fellow in Social Anthropology and took up duty in August. Mr W.C. Groves was appointed Visiting Fellow in Social Anthropology for a year from February. Mr D.J. Mulvaney (Melbourne) was appointed Senior Fellow in Prehistory and commenced duty at the end of January. Dr E.F. Aguas (Manila) and Mr C.L. Voorhoeve (Leiden) were appointed Research Fellows in Linguistics and took up duty respectively in August and December.

The policy, scope and plan of the Department's ethnographic bibliography of New Guinea, including West Irian, were reviewed towards the end of the year. It was decided to organize the work as a specific research project, with its own budget and staff, and to aim in the first instance at the publication of a comprehensive index of authors and titles arranged both alphabetically and by districts. In the first phase of publication, 1963 will be taken as the cut-off year.

Special electronic equipment, designed and built at the A.N.U., was installed in the Linguistics Laboratory to facilitate the study of tonal languages in Southeast Asia and New Guinea.

There were important technical developments in Prehistory also. A start was made with the installation of a radiocarbon dating Laboratory (housed in the Department of Geophysics) and of a conservation workshop with provision for the casting of archaeological specimens and the restoration of pottery etc. Photographic darkrooms and a studio were built.

Student and Teaching Activities

The Department pursued an active seminar programme. Staff members and students prepared a total of 60 papers on current research work and topics of theoretical interest. In Anthropology, 24 papers were given, in Prehistory 26, and in Linguistics 10.
One member of staff, Mr M.A. Jaspan, and seven students - Mr B.L. Abbi (Verma), Mr G.N. Appell, Mr J.M. Matthews, Mr A. Ploeg, Mr R.K. Jain, Mr M. Singarimbun and Mr J.P. Singh Uberoi successfully completed their doctoral courses. Mr Jaspan's thesis was entitled 'From patriline to matriline: structural change among the Redjang of Southwest Sumatra'; Mr Abbi's 'The Mailu: a study of the changing structure of local groups'; Mr Appell's 'The nature of social groupings among the Rungus Dusun of Sabah, Malaysia'; Mr Matthew's 'Aspects of the Hoabinhian in Southeast Asia and elsewhere'; Mr Ploeg's 'Government in Wanggulam'; Mr Jain's 'Migrants, Proletarians or Malaysians? South Indians on the plantation frontier in Malaya'; Mr Singarimbun's 'Kinship and affinal relations among the Karo of North Sumatra', and Mr Singh Uberoi's 'Social organization of the Tajiks of the Andarab Valley, Afghanistan'. One student in Anthropology failed to obtain his doctorate.

Two doctoral students, Mr C. Criper and Mr T. Hara, whose courses had ended, continued work on their theses, the first dealing with 'An ethnolinguistic study of the Chimbu area in the highlands of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea', the second with 'Family and kinship in a Muslim village in East Pakistan'. Mr G. Francillon continued with his thesis on 'Some matriarchic aspects of the social structure of the Southern Tetun of Middle Timor'. During the year 11 new students were enrolled as proceeding towards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy - 3 in Social Anthropology, 5 in Linguistics and 3 in Prehistory.

Four students in Social Anthropology carried out fieldwork during the year: Miss O. van Rijswijck (resettlement of the Kuni people, Central District, Papua-New Guinea); Mr I.S. Chauhan (political processes in Labasa, a Fijian town); Mr M.R. Rimoldi (social change in Buka, Papua-New Guinea), and Mr W. Shapiro (social organization in western Arnhem Land).

In Linguistics, Mr J. Harris, a staff candidate (School of General Studies) for the doctorate, carried out further fieldwork in the Gulf District of Papua-New Guinea and with a native informant in Canberra. Three students were on fieldwork: Mr D. Tryon (the languages of the Loyalty Islands); Mr J. Prentice (the Dusun languages of North Borneo), and Miss J. Kinslow (the Mayali language group of Northern Arnhem Land). Two students were completing their theses in Canberra: Mr N.D. Liem (a contrastive analysis of English and Vietnamese) and Miss A.H.M. Tran (phonemic problems of South Vietnamese). At the end of the year one student was under examination.

In Prehistory, Mr J.M. Matthews completed his work on the Hoabinhian of Southeast Asia. His thesis, for which he was awarded his doctorate, makes a contribution in the field of analytical procedures when dealing with stone industries. Mr J.I. Poulsen was engaged in the analysis of large collections of pottery excavated by him in Tonga in 1964. His study promises a significant breakthrough in the culture history of the Southwest Pacific. During the course of the year Mr J.P. White completed his fieldwork in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea, while Mrs Carmel White completed hers in the Oenpelli region of Arnhem Land. Besides recovering material from four major excavations that should enable a first full description in artefactual terms of the prehistoric
sequence and its regional variations in the Eastern Highlands, Mr White made a film record of the production and use of stone tools for bow and arrow manufacture by men of a village near Goroka who were stone tool users 30 years ago. Mrs White, from five excavations, has data that promise to document the prehistory of her area from its beginnings to its end, with interesting indications of regional diversification between plains and hill dwellers in the later stages. Mr C.D. Smart paid a visit to New Caledonia and Fiji in June and July to select from a number of promising areas one that would best answer his research interests in the archaeology of regional exploitation and settlement. His choice falling on the Bourail area of New Caledonia, he subsequently prepared for his fieldwork there in 1966. Two new doctoral students arrived late in 1965, Mr J.R. Specht in September, and Mr C.L. Cram in October. Mr Specht is to work a well-known site on Watom Island, near Rabaul, New Britain. It has attained considerable significance in recent discussions of Oceanic culture history and will tie in very closely with the work of Mr Poulsen in Tonga and Mr Smart in New Caledonia. He paid a short visit to Watom in November to arrange for major excavations in 1966. Mr Cram, whose major interest is in the identification and analysis of animal remains from archaeological sites, is to work on the prehistoric domesticated animals of Oceania. He has been engaged in making contact with all excavators and institutions with such material from South Pacific sites. Of the two M.A. students in Prehistory attached to the Department, Mrs Josephine Flood has been working on the analysis of rich stone collections excavated by Professor Stanner in the Port Keats district of the Northern Territory. This project constitutes the first detailed study of the point industries so important in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australia. Mr P.J.F. Coutts, who was awarded an M.A. scholarship in the course of the year, has completed the major part of his fieldwork on Wilson’s Promontory, Victoria. He is investigating a cultural change that coincides with important geomorphic changes on the coastline and his work should make a contribution to hotly debated questions of sea-levels in post-Pleistocene times.

Staff Research Programme

Anthropology and Sociology

Professor Barnes continued work on an analysis of kinship studies and on his sociological research in Norway.

Professor Stanner prepared for publication, because of its historical interest, a report originally written in 1935 for the Australian National Research Council, on a survey of social organization, kinship and totemism among aboriginal tribes as they then existed in north-central and north Australia. He continued work on a general text on the Australian aborigines, and in that connection made a short field-visit to north Australia in June-July. He completed a critical analysis of theories of aboriginal territorial organization and an encyclopaedia article on traditional aboriginal life. He worked on a brief study of the military potential of the young male aboriginal population in the Northern Territory.

Dr Freeman presented two papers to a conference of the Australian Society of Psychoanalysts in Melbourne, and two on human ethology to Canberra psychologists and zoologists. He compiled an
introductory bibliography on the biological study of behaviour, and had four papers accepted for publication: 'Totem and Taboo: A Re-appraisal', 'Shaman and Incubus', 'Thunder, Blood and the Nick-naming of God's Creatures' and 'Social Anthropology and the Scientific Study of Human Behaviour'. In December he left for fieldwork in Western Samoa, for which he had prepared throughout the year.

Dr Paula Brown re-visited the Chimbu area of New Guinea for the three months March-May to continue her study of social and political change. At the same time she completed successfully a programme of fieldwork, carried out in collaboration with Dr H.C. Brookfield, of the Department of Geography, on problems of settlement and residence among the Chimbu. From May to August Dr Brown and Dr Brookfield, with the assistance of Miss M.A. Anderson and local helpers, worked in the New Hebrides on a sociological study of the town and environs of Vila. They made a census and a study of the market, and inquired into group formation and interrelations in this ethnically diverse community. The census data were processed by computer.

Dr Marie Reay made four visits to New Guinea during the year. Three were for fieldwork relating to her long-term study of political development among the Kuma of the Middle Wahgi. The fourth was made in connection with the work of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee on Papua-New Guinea Legal Studies. She had four papers published and continued work on five others.

Dr Rooksby, having returned from protracted fieldwork in Kerala State, South India, at the end of 1964, spent the year in the processing of voluminous vernacular (Malayalam) records. These will be used as the documentary basis of a monograph dealing with Kerala caste-associations in their roles as mediators of social change and as political pressure groups.

In August, Dr Wijeyewardene left for his second period of fieldwork in Thailand, where he is studying rural land tenure and inheritance.

Linguistics

Dr Wurm continued his general work on the Papuan (non-Melanesian) languages spoken in New Guinea and the islands situated to the east, as well as his work on Australian languages. He was in particular concerned with the probable existence of hitherto unknown Papuan languages east of the British Solomon Islands, and undertook an exploratory 2 1/2 months' field trip to the Solomon Islands and the New Hebrides. He succeeded in establishing the existence of an interrelated group of five non-Melanesian languages in the Santa Cruz Archipelago and the islands to the north of it. This pushes the known eastern boundary of Papuan languages 500 miles farther east and has very important bearings on the probable history of human migrations into the Western Pacific. He undertook detailed studies in three of these five languages. In the course of his field trip, he also visited the Society Islands to continue the study of Eastern Polynesian languages which he had started a year earlier.
Dr Laycock continued working on linguistic materials collected by Professor R. Thurnwald over half a century ago. In 1966 he will make an extensive field trip to areas in which no significant work has been carried out since Thurnwald's time.

Mr J. Harris established that the coastal languages of a part of the Gulf District in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, which are very closely related to coastal languages spoken farther west, appear to be tonal in nature whereas the related languages are not. It appears that the development of tone in these languages has been caused by special changes in the sound structures during the last two or three generations only. This discovery seems to be an important lead towards the solution of the long-standing problem of the development of word-tone in languages.

Seven numbers of the Linguistic Circle of Canberra Publications were issued during the year. A large number of new manuscripts were completed for publication in the Series which had been initiated, and is edited, by Dr Wurm. The Series has become well known in Australia and overseas during the last two years, and has been very well received as a major outlet for publications in Oceanic Linguistics. The A.N.U. now constitutes one of the three major research centres in the world for Oceanic - i.e. New Guinea, Australian and Pacific - linguistics.

Prehistory

During a visit to New Zealand to attend the 11th New Zealand Science Congress Mr Golson read a paper on 'Some Considerations of the Role of Theory in New Zealand Archaeology'. He visited excavations, university departments and museums in New Zealand to bring himself up to date with work on Pacific culture history, which has been the major subject of his own research in Canberra. In April he visited the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea to inspect the work of a research student, Mr J.P. White.

Mr Mulvaney, who joined the Department from the University of Melbourne in January, prepared for publication (in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society) a major report on important excavations in south central Queensland where, at the bottom of the deposits at Kenniff's Cave, an important new industry, its beginnings radiocarbon dated to the late Pleistocene, has now been defined. In mid-year Mr Mulvaney went to Arnhem Land to look at the field evidence for Macassan contact with northern Australia, the documentary aspects of which have engaged his attention for some time. Late in the year he took a prominent part in the organization of research and the direction of excavations at the site of a new skeletal discovery in an ancient river terrace at Keilor near Melbourne. This skeleton, dated to about 8000 years ago, is one of the most significant discoveries ever made in the field of human palaeontology in Australia. Throughout the year Mr Mulvaney served on the executive committee of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Mr Lampert, the Department's archaeological field officer, conducted rescue excavations early in the year on an old village site on Ocean Island (Banaba) threatened by phosphate digging.
This project was financed jointly by the A.N.U. and the U.S. National Science Foundation through the Bishop Museum, Honolulu. A preliminary report has appeared in cyclostyled form and another publication has been prepared. Mr Lampert also completed his report on excavations at the sea-cave at Durras North (south coast, N.S.W.). In connection with this project he paid visits to the Australian Museum, Sydney, the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, and the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, to study comparative material, and conducted two minor excavations at Nowra and Durras. Mr Lampert read a paper at Section F of ANZAAS on his Durras work. He also participated late in the year in the Keilor excavations under Mr Mulvaney's general direction.

Mr Ambrose, Research Assistant, returned to Canberra in September after spending two years at the Department of Conservation of the University of London's Institute of Archaeology. He attended the second Conference on the Scientific Examination of Works of Art organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He also visited archaeological laboratories at Philadelphia and Berkeley. After his return he prepared for publication a report on a large New Zealand site excavated before his move to Australia.

Minor field visits were made by staff members to the south coast, Mildura, Wagga Wagga and Lockhart to follow up information received from members of the public.

Both staff and students were active throughout the year in the Canberra Archaeological Society's programme of lectures and field excursions. Members of the Society lent valuable voluntary help to the Department in labour for fieldwork and the laboratory processing of materials.

PUBLICATIONS

BROWN, Paula


CHOWNING, Ann


FREEMAN, J.D.


HEALEY, Phyllis M.


LAYCOCK, D.


MATTHEWS, J.M.


MULVANEY, D.J.

'The Aborigines of Victoria'. In Victorian Yearbook 1965, pp.141-149.


REAY, Marie O.


Sinha, D.P.
The Intertribal Market and Cultural Change in Central India.

Smart, C.D.

Stanner, W.E.H.


Voorhoeve, C.L.

White, J.P.


Wijseweerdene, G.E.T.


Wurm, S.A.


