

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

Notes from the Field



Newsletter of the Institute for Intercultural Studies

Fall 2003

Something Old

The work goes on

Since the death of Margaret Mead, the IIS has devoted much of its resources to the preservation and accessibility of Mead's work and the papers of several other anthropologists in her collection, amounting to some half million items now in the Library of Congress. The Mead centennial celebration brought her work to a new generation, and included the reissue of many of her books. We are also involved in the reissue of books by Gregory Bateson and preparations for the centennial of his birth in 2004.

Mead had suggested the Library of Congress as an appropriate repository but recommended that other alternatives be investigated. Conversations with a number of institutions followed her death, to determine what institution could best handle a collection on this scale including material in so many different media, and how it might serve as a model for the preservation of field materials by other anthropologists. In addition to the original gift of Mead's papers to the Library of Congress, her daughter Mary Catherine Bateson has made a series of further gifts to the Library, so that the collection of papers is now, as far as we know, essentially complete and available to scholars. The collection has already led to a number of new ethnographic works as well as works on Mead.

The still photographs have taken longer. As of this year, however, 32,000 field photographs will be accessible in digitized form through some 40 institutions who subscribe to the RLG (see page 3). A grant from the IIS in 1990 was influential in starting up this very expensive and time-consuming project, which was carried through by the Congressionally-funded Deteriorating Negatives Program.

The remaining task is motion picture film. A decade ago we turned to the friends of IIS for contributions to repair and upgrade the edited films using Balinese and New Guinea materials. These films, now available through Penn State Audio-Visual Services, represent only a fraction of the 35,000 feet of film shot by Bateson. More recently, the Library of Congress received a grant from the National Film Preservation Board funded by the Pew Charitable Trust. The basic conservation work has been done on all the Balinese footage and preservation master negatives have been made. The IIS is now committed to raising funds to help support the next step in making these materials available in their original order (see page 3).

As Dr. Patrick Loughney of the Library of Congress comments in his Progress Report, "It is fair to say that preserving a collection of this size and scope must be viewed as something of a generational undertaking."



Mead and Gregory Bateson in Papua New Guinea, 1938.
Photo by Gregory Bateson, from the Mead Collection at the Library of Congress.

Something New

Two workshops focus on youth culture

As we reported last year, IIS has been discussing new directions that would build on the Institute's tradition and on Margaret Mead's own work, while at the same time enabling us to partner with other organizations. One thing we were agreed upon was an increased focus on the kind of research in contemporary cultures which she pioneered, as reflected in the series of books recently reissued by Berghahn Books. In the past year the IIS has continued Mead's basic research interests by sponsoring two workshops on youth, following Mead's long term insistence on including young people in the process.

In November 2002, the IIS was cosponsor of a weekend conference on *Growing Up Multicultural* which was hosted by the Interfaith Center of New York. The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, the Center's president, is a member of the IIS Advisory Board.

Several of the speakers at the conference emphasized the impact of violence on young people, including Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*, who had recently returned from a series of conversations with young Palestinian playwrights and film makers. Other speakers included Carol Artigiani, Executive Director, Global Kids; Sarah Elgart, Creator/Director of The Dream Project; Michelle Morris, Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict; Serge Schmemann, Associate Editor International News, *The New York Times*; Michaela Walsh, Director of Women in Community Leadership at Manhattanville College; and James Gilligan, MD, *Violence: Reflections on a National Epidemic*.

A high point of the program was a performance by a group of young people from City at Peace—New York of a series of vignettes from their lives, dealing with various kinds of conflict. Paul Griffin, founder of City at Peace, Inc., introduced the program and led an extended discussion among the young performers and the conference speakers. The first local City at Peace project, in Washington DC, was a recipient of a Margaret Mead award during the centennial. IIS has also made grants to City at Peace—National to help extend its program to cities around the country, all part of an initiative in using the performing arts to assist intercultural understanding.

In late February 2003 the *Middle East Youth Culture Workshop* at the Watson Institute of Brown University was convened and organized by Professor William O. Beeman, a current member of the IIS Board of Directors, and hosted by Brown University's Watson Center. This two-day workshop brought together a cross-disciplinary group of internationally regarded scholars to explore issues of Middle Eastern youth culture,

(Continued on page 4)

Gregory Bateson Centennial in 2004



Photo courtesy of Lois Bateson.

Gregory Bateson was one of the original trustees of the IIS and Margaret Mead's third husband. The IIS manages his literary estate, along with his pre-World War II papers at the Library of Congress, including the Bali and New Guinea photographs and film footage. The balance of his papers are housed at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Bateson broke ground with Margaret Mead in Bali and New Guinea with an entirely new approach to anthropological research, using the then-modern technology of film and photography to enhance field work and analysis. This landmark work of visual anthropology is already partially digitized and available online. It is hoped that the entire collection of field notes, film, and photos will soon be available as a body of integrated work, thanks to the efforts of the Manuscript Division and RLG Cultural Materials. The IIS hopes to participate in the funding of this enormous and important project (see next page).

Bateson moved away from traditional anthropology in the late 1940s, embracing psychology, behavioral biology, evolution, systems theory, and cybernetics. His legacy lives on, and so with the advent of his centennial, we will introduce a Gregory Bateson section to our IIS online presence. In early 2004 you will find a biography, bibliography, and links to various sites for more in-depth (and sometimes esoteric) treatments of Bateson and his work. Several of his books have been or will be reissued in the coming months. We hope that centennial events will be organized by Bateson's various intellectual communities. For more information, visit www.interculturalstudies.org and www.oikos.org.

20 September 1936

A revolutionary new methodology

Excerpted from an essay by Gerald Sullivan.

Text is available in full at www.interculturalstudies.org

Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson arrived in Bali in March 1936. By the end of April, Mead and Bateson had decided to take up residence in Bayung Gedé: "our village, way up in the mountains, a lovely self-contained square village."

Bayung Gedé had been near the epicenter of a large earthquake in 1917. Many of the walls which had previously surrounded individual houseyards and a number of temples had been severely damaged. The temples had been rebuilt; many of the houseyard walls had been replaced with woven fences. These fences gave the village a unique appearance; they also allowed the ethnographers to walk past many houseyards, see what was happening within, and proceed on without having to stop and engage in the delicacies of Balinese politesse.

Most important, Mead could easily observe the range of social interactions between persons of all ages and gather, thereby, the



Above, Mead medicating the feet of a young child held by her father, Nang Karma, 30 Sep 1936.

Left, Nang Karma holding his daughter and her brother, 30 Sep 1936.

Photos by Gregory Bateson, from the Mead Collection at the Library of Congress.



"pattern of the potentialities of Balinese culture."

Mead set out to use the methods she had already developed. By late August, Bateson was free to explore the uses of photography and cinematography. They were also increasingly aware of the assistance their aide-de-camp, I Madé Kaler, could render. After some partial experiments, they began to improvise a set of methods incorporating the work of all three people on 20 September 1936. The two photographs on this page were taken that afternoon. Bateson's photographs and film footage recorded the encounters. Mead's notes described elements of the interaction of several related adults and children. Madé Kaler's text recounted a conversation about the re-founding of one of the local temples. It quickly became clear that Bayung Gedé was not as socially isolated as had been supposed.

Gerald Sullivan is the author of *Margaret Mead, Gregory Bateson and Highland Bali: Fieldwork Photographs of Bayung Gedé, 1936-1939*, which includes more than 200 photographs from that period.

Mead/Bateson Collection

RLG Cultural Materials provides online access

Combining extensive field notes with the innovative use of still photographs and motion picture film, Mead and Bateson produced a pioneering work in visual anthropology. The multiple layers of research documented such behaviors as parent-child interactions, ritual performances and ceremonies, and artists at work.

The Library of Congress, aware of the great interest in this collection among anthropologists and educators, had been puzzled about how best to provide access. Its geographic coverage doesn't lend itself to inclusion in *American Memory*, and the intimate, ethnographic nature of the pictorial documentation makes its appropriateness for access on the Library's web site questionable. There could also be cultural property issues if it were to be made freely available. A cooperative project with the Research Libraries Group to mount the collection in RLG Cultural Materials and restrict access to scholarly research and educational use offers the Library an opportunity to take advantage of the investment already made in preparation and digitization of these materials and will ensure that an appropriate audience is able to consult the collection.

The South Pacific Ethnographic Archives includes manuscripts, diaries, letters, field notes, drawings, prints, photographs, sound recordings, and film. The various formats are divided among the appropriate custodial divisions at the Library of Congress (Prints and Photographs, Manuscripts, and Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound). The online presentation will reunite these materials. RLG is beginning with the photographs, grouping together photographs from each day of documentation, and presenting them in the form of METS objects, which allows better viewing of complex digital objects. In the next stage of the collaboration, RLG will make the field notes accessible.

The interface for RLG will ultimately allow linking of the field notes, the photographs, and the film footage that were taken in a given location while studying a particular aspect there. Other collections in RLG will provide a broader context for the Mead materials. RLG is offering friends of the IIS two months of free access to RLG Cultural Materials and Anthropology Plus. The access runs from November 19 through January 19, 2004.

Through RLG Cultural Materials, the Library is assured that access is limited to use for genuine research and education through member libraries, while at the same time addressing the Library of Congress's and the donor's desire to increase access to the collection.

Contributed by Ricky Erway, RLG.

A free trial access to RLG Cultural Materials is available Nov 19-Jan 19, 2004. Sign up at www.rlg.org/trial/anthro.html



Mead reaching out to a child in the arms of her mother's brother's wife, Dec 1936. Lower left, Mead and I Madé Kaler interviewing Nang Karma and I Geta, 1937.

The Remaining Task

Excerpted from a piece by Patrick Loughney, Ph.D., M/B/RS Division, Library of Congress. Full text is available at www.interculturalstudies.org

When Mead and Bateson returned to the U.S. and began to show their films to academic and general audiences, they cut up and edited together sequences from most of the original reversal positive motion picture rolls into films of specific subjects for use in the classroom and other venues. In doing so they altered the baseline record of the film images of life in Bali and Papua, New Guinea they had recorded, and inadvertently laid the groundwork for the large scale moving picture restoration and reconstruction project now underway.

In 1999 the Library of Congress's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound division was awarded a grant by the National Film Preservation Board, from general funds provided by the Pew Charitable Trust, to undertake the preservation and reconstruction of the *Bali Field Footage*. The specific goals of this project were 1) to make preservation master negatives of the 226 Bali film rolls in their present arrangement, and 2) to make extra 16mm work print copies to facilitate the reconstruction of all the film rolls to their original scene order when they were produced during 1936-39. The first stage preservation work has now been completed by the Library's Motion Picture Conservation Laboratory. The next steps in the reconstruction process are ready to begin. For the first time since 1939 the conditions now exist to restore the *Bali Field Footage* portion of the Margaret Mead film collection.

The Library of Congress does not offer scholarships in film preservation or have the resources to hire a specialist to undertake the project outlined here. However, a great opportunity exists for a graduate student or post-doctoral intern interested in the history of anthropology to be trained and work under the supervision of the Library's film archivists 1) to reconstruct an important segment of the field research of one of the giants in the field, and 2) to restore an unparalleled moving image record of Balinese culture and history from the pre-World War II era.

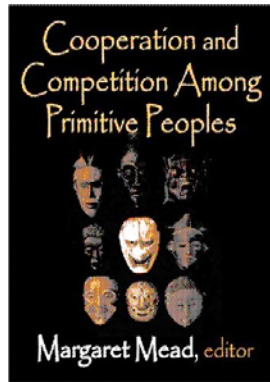
This important phase of work on the Margaret Mead Collection will help the Library of Congress finish the final steps in preserving a major segment of the Mead-Bateson films.

To support this project, please send donations to the IIS designated for the Film Preservation Project.



Resources: More New Editions of Mead and Bateson Books

Transactions Publishing has reissued Margaret Mead's *Cooperation and Competition Among Primitive Peoples*. In 1935, Mead was asked by the Social Science Research Council to prepare a survey of several cultures for publication. She ended up creating a model for future ethnological survey texts, as well as furthering the understanding of cultural variation in anthropological studies. This pioneer effort in anthropological literature remains firmly part of the genre of cooperative or "interdisciplinary research," though at the time of its original publication that phrase had yet to be coined. In addition to serving as editor, Mead wrote three of the dozen pieces included in this collection.



The next of the seven-volume **Study of Contemporary Western Cultures** series has been released by Berghahn Books. *Anticipating the Future*, with an introduction by Robert Textor, collects, for the first time, Mead's writings on the human future and how we can shape that future

Deavere Smith stages Mead/Baldwin rap

Anna Deavere Smith has made important contributions to understanding the racial and ethnic diversity of the United States by creating unique performance pieces. This fall in "An Evening with Anna Deavere Smith," she premiered a piece based on an excerpt from *Rap on Race*, the dialogue between Margaret Mead and James Baldwin that was published in 1971. In this performance she played the parts of both Mead and the African American writer.

The first of two New York performances was on September 14 as part of the series that inaugurated Zankel Hall, the newest venue at Carnegie Hall. The second, on October 21 at the Gramercy Theater, was sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art. Mead had great admiration for Baldwin. Smith brilliantly captured the eloquence and pain of Baldwin's words and Mead's feistiness as she clarified points of difference between them. Bravo!

Something New—Youth culture (Continued from page 1)

especially as it is affected by information technology.

Understanding the youth of this region is of particular importance for Americans and for future productive international relations. Youth culture is difficult to understand even in one's own society, but there is no question that the future of a country or a region lies in the hands of its rising generation. Thus far there has been scant research focusing specifically on Middle Eastern youth.

Speakers for this workshop came from as far away as Saudi Arabia and Turkey and were mainly anthropologists and other social scientists. In addition, a panel of Middle Eastern students from Brown University was invited to participate and contributed comments about their personal world views and perceptions of contemporary youth culture.

It was particularly striking to hear the ways in which young people use technology to become participants in multiple worlds, even where they are highly restricted. "Love will find a way," someone remarked, and often that way is a cell phone or a computer. Personal and family networks link rural villages with guestworker communities in European capitals. The massive numbers of young people involved in computer gaming even across lines of conflict could potentially form cooperative educational programs.

The conference was also co-sponsored by the Office of Analysis of the Department of Defense and the Highland Forum.

through purposeful action. For Mead, the study of the future was born out of her lifelong interest in processes of change. These works show Mead's wisdom, prescience and concern.

Two additional volumes in this series will be published in 2004. In *Understanding Ourselves*, William O. Beeman, the series editor, presents a variety of Mead's essays on research methodology relating to contemporary culture. Many of these essays were printed originally in limited circulation journals, research reports and books edited by others. They reflect Mead's continuing commitment to searching out methods for studying and extending the anthropologist's tools of investigation for use in complex societies.

The final volume in this series is *The Study of Visual Culture*, with an introduction by Ray McDermott. Margaret Mead was a pioneer in the use of film and photography to analyze culture and society. She took film and still cameras to the field and produced a series of ethnographic documents that still rank as classics. This volume collects many of her writings on visual culture together in one volume for the first time.

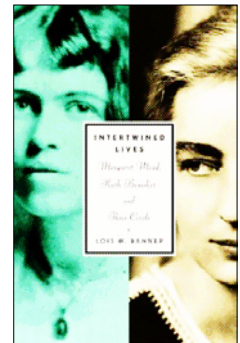
Gregory Bateson's *Mind and Nature* has been reissued by Hampton Press. Stewart Brand, founder of the Whole Earth Catalog, calls this classic "the best distillation of Gregory Bateson's wide-ranging ideas, whose relevance continues to grow in the 21st century. One of the reasons I keep paying attention to Bateson's thinking is that it keeps newly refolding on itself with the complex sweetness of mental baklava." *Sacred Unity* is next in this Hampton Press series.

A new edition of *The Individual, Communication, and Society: Essays in Memory of Gregory Bateson*, edited by Robert Rieber,

offers a collection of original essays on communication written by leading scholars. The volume crosses conventional disciplinary boundaries to advance the study of diverse problems of communication that engaged Bateson in his lifetime.

In her new book, *Intertwined Lives: Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict, and Their Circle*, Lois W. Banner has woven an intriguing study of these lifelong friends, colleagues, collaborators and lovers. This new book reflects intensive research and understanding of these two great women.

Says the author, "The relationship between Benedict and Mead might be viewed as a conversation, carried on in poems and letters, phone calls and personal encounters..."



Annual MM Film & Video Festival at AMNH

The 26th annual Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival was held at the American Museum of Natural History from Thursday, November 6th to Sunday, November 9th, with encore screenings on Saturday, November 15th and Sunday, November 16th. The show then hits the road over the next twelve months. For more information, visit www.amnh.org/mead.

Notes from the Field was published semi-annually from 1999 through 2002 during Mead2001 Centennial activities. It will continue as an annual publication of the Institute for Intercultural Studies.

For address changes, cancellations, and donations, please write to us at the Institute for Intercultural Studies, 67A East 77th Street, New York, NY 10021.

We welcome your comments and suggestions! Send your thoughts to the above address, or e-mail us at institute@mead2001.org

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