

Benjamin Irving Rouse Archives

ANTAR.000001



Nathan P. Utrup

2014

170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-3746
(203) 432-9816
peabody.permissions@yale.edu
<http://peabody.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
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New Haven, CT 06511
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peabody.permissions@yale.edu
<http://peabody.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: ANTAR.000001

CREATOR: Rouse, Benjamin Irving

TITLE: Benjamin Irving Rouse Archives

DATES: 1930-2006

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 100 linear feet

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The archives of Benjamin Irving Rouse, accumulated during his time at Yale.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ymp.antar.000001>

Administrative Information

Cite As

Benjamin Irving Rouse Archives, Anthropology, Yale Peabody Museum

Biographical Sketch

(Benjamin) Irving Rouse (b. 1913, d. 2006) began his career at Yale as an undergraduate in forestry and switched to archaeology while a student employee of the Peabody's Anthropology Division. Intending to go into forestry, Ben Rouse did his undergraduate work in plant science at the Yale's Sheffield Scientific School, but a chance event changed his life and shaped his career.

"When I arrived at Yale in 1930, I put what little money my family was able to give me after the stock market crash the previous year into a bank; the bank went broke, so I had to support myself. Yale had a job placement bureau that gave me a couple of jobs raking leaves in the fall. Then they sent me to Cornelius Osgood, who had just arrived at Yale and discovered that less than half the archeological specimens at the Peabody Museum had been catalogued. Cataloguing those specimens was the first decent job offered to me. At Osgood's urging I started taking graduate courses in anthropology. By my junior year, I had decided I didn't want to be a forester. Osgood persuaded me to come into the Yale graduate program and eventually he directed my dissertation."

In college, Rouse had been drawn towards taxonomy in botany, a mature field of study, but he shifted to the much younger discipline of anthropology because he saw a more urgent need for classification there. He completed his Ph.D. at Yale, and went on to become Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Anthropology at the Yale Peabody Museum. At various times from 1938 through his

retirement in 1984, Professor Rouse was curator, assistant curator, research associate and faculty affiliate. A pioneer in circum-Caribbean archaeology and a major contributor to the development of archaeological methods, particularly ceramic analysis, typology and chronology, Rouse has left the Peabody Museum with the world's and most comprehensive systematically excavated collections from the Caribbean region, comprising 52 percent of the Division of Anthropology's catalog records and hundreds of thousands of individual objects, the largest and most important anthropology collections at the Peabody. Rouse and his colleagues and students excavated on most of the major islands in the Caribbean (Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and others) as well as in Venezuela and Florida. He published several books and articles, including his 1999 publication with colleague and long-time research collaborator Birgit Faber Morse, *Excavations at the Indian Creek Site, Antigua, West Indies*. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, held important roles in national anthropological and archaeological organizations, and helped found the Archaeological Society of Connecticut.

Rouse's interest in the problems of classification was lifelong. His work combined two major themes in archaeological research: the distribution of culture over space and the study of culture change through time. The Peabody's 2005 Curator's Choice exhibition *Detecting Cultures* treated one small part of one excavation among many conducted by Rouse to reconstruct the prehistory of the Caribbean, where he has done so much groundbreaking work.

Rouse passed away in New Haven on February 4, 2006 at the age of 92.

Description of the Material

The Archives of Benjamin Rouse notably include materials used in the writing of his manuscripts, research files and numerous 35 mm slides of images from around the world.

Collection Contents

Series I: Maps, 1930-2006

Base Maps. Includes maps from the Goode Base Maps Series, Nystrom Series of Desk Maps, American Geographical Society of New York, and McKinley's Geographical and Historical Outline Maps. Geographic areas include: South American, Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Australasia, and World.
000364

Connecticut maps.
000250

Florida aerial photograph compilation maps. Series of maps compiled by the United States Coast Guards and Geodetic Survey from aerial photographs by the United States Army Air Corps. East coast of Florida.
000252

Jamaica - Office of Overseas Survey maps. Series of 12 topographic maps encompassing the entire country. (1:50,000). 1959
000321

Land Use in North Central Ifugao, Philippines. Maps: Land Use of North Central Ifugao; Harold Conklin, Yale University; American Geographical Survey, New York; 1972; Scale = 1:5,000; Universal Transverse Mercator Projection, Zone 51, Clarke 1866 spheroid. Series of 8 maps detailing the land use of North Central Ifugao, Philippines. 1972
000165

Map of Hispanic America, American Geographical Society of New York. Map of Hispanic America series published between 1922 and 1943. Scale = 1:1,000,000. 1922-1943
000040

Maps of Venezuela from Army Map Service. 9 maps of Venezuela from Army Map Service. A.M.S. series E884. 1946
000237

Miscellaneous maps.
000143

Other Caribbean Maps. Individual maps of the Caribbean region.
000367

Other Cuba maps. Individual maps of Cuba.
000341

Other Georgia, Florida, and Bahamas maps. Assorted individual maps of Georgia, Florida, and the Bahamas.
000260

Other Hispaniola maps. Individual maps of Haiti and Dominican Republic.
000336

Other Japan maps. Individual maps of Japan.
000362

Other Puerto Rico maps. Individual maps of Puerto Rico.
000295

Other South America maps. Contains individual maps of South America.
000379

Other Southeast Asia maps. Individual maps of the Southeast Asia region.
000370

Other Trinidad maps. Individual maps of Trinidad.
000316

Other Venezuela maps. Individual maps of Venezuela.
000247

Plant maps. A series of maps illustrating the spread of various edible plants around the world through time. Includes 16 maps and four page document of explanations and corrections of the maps.
000144

Puerto Rico USGS maps. 48 United States Geological Survey maps. 7 1/2' quadrangle series.
000270

State maps of Venezuela. Venezuela; Prof. G. de-Agostini, Milano; Scale varies. (Maps in Spanish) Consists of 24 individual state maps and 1 map country of Venezuela.
000174

United Fruit Co. property maps, Cuba. Blueprint maps. 1939-1940
000347

Venezuela - British Guiana Boundary Arbitration Atlases. 1898
000162

[Untitled]
036383

Antilles.
036384

Brazil.
036386

Caribbean.
036388

Central America.
036389

Colombia.
036390

Costa Rica.
036391

Ecuador.
036392

Haiti.
036393

Martinique.
036394

Mexico.
036395

Peru.
036396

Puerto Rico.
036397

South America.
036398

United States.
036399

Trinidad.
036400

Venezuela.
036401

West Indies.
036402

Bahamas.
036408

Jamaica.
036410

Africa.
036428

Japan.
036430

Series II: Correspondence, 1930-2006

Correspondence. One archive box; reviews, revisions, obituaries, artifact research.
042153

Correspondence. One archive box; artifact research, revisions, Japan trips.
042185

Series III: Research Materials, 1930-2006

Antigua. 034147	1930-2006
Cuba. 034148	1930-2006
Haiti. 034149	1930-2006
Misc. Caribbean Countries. 034150	1930-2006
Puerto Rico. 034144	1930-2006
Research card file. One file cabinet, 9 drawers, 3x5 slips. Rouse research notes on Caribbean and World Archaeology. 035884	
Trinidad. 034146	1930-2006
United States. 034143	1930-2006
Venezuela. 034145	1930-2006
Rouse - Ceramic Classifications. 035910	
Africa. 036065	
Antilles. 036069	
Bahamas. 036072	
Caicos. 036074	
China. 036079	
Greece. 036123	
Asia. 036125	
Japan. 036148	
Micronesia. 036150	

Dominican Republic.
036153

Research Materials Applicable to Multiple Sites.
039785

Middle East.
042220

Series IV: Photographs, 1930-2006

Rouse - Aruba.
035894

Rouse - Brazil.
035895

Rouse - Colombia.
035896

Rouse - Connecticut.
035897

Rouse - Costa Rica.
035898

Rouse - Greater Antilles.
035899

Rouse - Guiana.
035900

Rouse - Ecuador.
035902

Rouse - Nicaragua.
035903

Rouse - Puerto Rico.
035904

Rouse - Peru.
035905

Rouse - Tobago.
035906

Rouse - Trinidad.
035907

Rouse - Venezuela.
035908

Rouse - West Indies.
035909

Rouse - Dominican Republic.
035963

Rouse - Haiti.
035965

Rouse - Cuba, Havana.
035967

Rouse - Pennsylvania.
035969

Rouse film archives.
041139

Rouse - Miscellaneous Photographs.
042231

Series V: Manuscript Materials, 1930-2006

A Survey of Indian River Archaeology, Florida - figures. Includes map of Indian River area (Figs. 10 & 11) and copies of maps of the area. Also, copy of map from "Derrotero" and translation. 000319	1951
An Archaeological Chronology of Venezuela. Original material from the publication including figures and plates. 000199	
Antigua - Indian Creek site. Sketches of excavations 1 through 5 from July 1973. Two sheets of drawings of pottery pieces. 000309	1973
Archeology of the Maniabon Hills, Cuba - figures. All of the original figures from publication except no.6. Nos.1, 4, and 9 also have earlier drafts. 000340	1942
Cultural Sequence in Southwest Haiti - figures. Contains Figure 5. 000361	1984
Culture of the Ft. Liberte Region, Haiti - figures. Original figures from publication. 000353	1941
Excavations in the Ft. Liberte Region, Haiti - figures. Original figures from publication. 000352	
Excavations on Upper Matecumbe Key, Florida - figures. Original figure no. 3. 000320	1949
Frontiers Article - final figures. Need to determine which publication this is from. 000373	
Introduction to Prehistory, A Systematic Approach - figures. Contains all of the original figures and tables from the book. 000374	1972
On the Excavation of a Shell Mound at Palo Seco, Trinidad, B.W.I. - figures. Contains sections of excavation trenches, site map and map of Trinidad. 000314	1919-1953
Prehistory in Haiti, A Study in Method - figures. Original figures from publication. 000354	1939
Prehistory in Haiti, A Study in Method - page proofs. Contains the page proofs for the publication. 000355	1939
Prehistory of the West Indies - figures. Original figures nos.1-5 from publication with several iterations of fig.2. 000372	1 May 1964
Seriation in Archaeology - reprint plates. Contains original photographs of pages and printing plates for reprints. 000375	1967

The Circum-Caribbean Theory, An Archaeological Test - figures. Contains original figures 1 and 2. 000376	Apr 1953
The Olsen Collection from Ile a Vache, Haiti - plates. Original plates from article. 000334	December 1982
Unknown Caribbean publication - figures. Contains draft maps of Caribbean cultures and Rouse timeline of Caribbean cultures. Two elevation views of excavations in La Salina, State of Sucre. Also two figures by Cruxent from 2/3/65 of Dominican Republic and Caribbean. 000311	
Unknown Connecticut publication - figures. Illustrations, maps, and plates from unknown publication. 000304	
Unknown Jamaica excavation. Excavation layout map from Bengal estate - Rio Bueno by Francis J. Osborne, S.J. 000360	
Unknown Puerto Rico publication - figures. Illustrations and site maps from Puerto Rico publication. 000302	
Unknown Venezuela publication - figures. Consists of two figures showing elevation views of trench locations at Abalon and La Columbina sites in La Salina, State of Sucre. 000313	
Unkown Trinidad publication. Contains site map and profile of excavation trench from St. John site. Also, two Rouse timelines. 000315	
OVERSIZED: "Migrations in PreHistory", Yale University Press Anthropology catalog and book cover printout. 036359	
OVERSIZED: Drafts and extra copies of text, tables and charts for Chronology revision. 18 p. 036360	
OVERSIZED: "Cultural Sequence in Southwestern Haiti." "Figure 3 (final)," 4 p. some duplicates. 036361	
OVERSIZED: "Illustrations for article on Peopling of the New World 5/10/76." Correspondence, charts & transparencies of & regarding article illustrations 12 sheets/ pages (some stuck together.). 036362	
OVERSIZED: 3 pages from Life magazine article: "The Treasure of Sutton Hoo." 036364	
OVERSIZED: "Inference of Migration from the Archeological Record" slide captions 2p (duplicate). 036365	

OVERSIZED: "Original drawings for Bulletin 24; A.S. of C." 6 cut boards with original sketches & glassine cover sheets (extra board) plus 2 photo cut-out mock ups of sketches for article illustration.
036366

OVERSIZED: 13 illustration plates plus 2 handwritten notes.
036367

OVERSIZED: "(K.Z.to) Scientific Societies Miscellaneous notes etc. ps" 2 newspaper articles re finds; atlas ad, drawing of pot by Bullbrook.
036368

"Japan Trip: Final report" - 2 copies of "Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Tokyo"; handwritten version; "Provisions of the JSPS Research Fellowship" copy.
042240

Series VI: Biographical Materials, 1930-2006

Curriculum Vitae and Bibliographies.
042149

Miscellaneous.
033813

Series VII: Memorabilia

Aves Dominicanas. Reproductions of original drawings of Dominican birds. From the Dominican Development Fund. Six paintings. (translated from Spanish). 1978
000335

El Museo del Barrio. Poster and serigraph by Gilberto. From original packaging: Museo del Barrio, poster and painting 11/18/1982. 1981-1982
000300

Japanese calendars. Japanese calendars featuring historic paintings. 000305

Newspapers from Antigua. Contains three newspapers: Antigua Times, May 16, 1973; The Worker's Voice, May 26, 1973; Antigua Star, June 2, 1973. 1973
000318

Posters. Eclectic collection of Anthropology related posters from around the world. 000312

Ceremony Memorabilia. 036189

Series VIII: Slides

Aegean.
013794

Africa.
013792

Amazonia.
013796

Antilles.
013793

Japan.
013798

MesoAmerica.
013795

Mesopotamia.
013797

Miscellaneous.
024897

North America.
013791

Oceania.
023045

Temperate East.
023044

Throlberia.
024348

Venezuela.
013790

Series IX: Reprint Collection

Caribbean Reprint Collection. 12 labeled boxes. Caribbean reprints. alphabetical.
035875

Non-Caribbean Reprint Collection.
034124

Series X: Teaching Materials, 1930-2006

Coursework and Academic Seminars.
036183

Series XI: Miscellaneous, 1930-2006

Needs to be catalogued.

"Japan Trip: General" - 2 brochures; handwritten notecards; business cards; pages of correspondence.
042239

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Caribbean
Connecticut
Cuba
Florida
Haiti
Puerto Rico
Trinidad
Venezuela

Genres / Formats

Correspondence
Field notebooks
Manuscript materials
Maps
Memorabilia
Photographs

Corporate Bodies

Yale Peabody Museum
Yale University