Singsings and Storytelling: Digitizing Audio Recordings

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University of California, San Diego • Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology
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“For many practitioners, ethnography and the act of writing it, is a gift in kind to the people who made it possible. ... The gift is made by way of memorializing to others, remote in space or time, this instance of cultural humanity.”

Tuzin Archive Ongoing Projects

- Collaborations with Pacific Libraries and Archives
- Several digitization projects, including collaborations with Anthropologists
- Papua New Guinea Highlands Dissertations
- Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports
- Kwaio Community Archive

https://lib.ucsd.edu/oceania
Grant Opportunity

https://www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk/applicant-resources/
Collections

- Anthony Forge Papers (69 reels)
- Jane Goodale Papers (64 reels, 38 cassettes)
- Edwin Cook Papers (63 cassettes)
- Roy Rappaport Papers (18 reels, 27 cassettes)
- Stephen Leavitt Fieldnotes and Recordings (153 cassettes)
- Roger Keesing Papers (151 reels, 181 cassettes)
- Harold Scheffler Papers (21 reels)
Selection of Materials

- Size
- Level of description
- “Rights”
- Geography

https://library.ucsd.edu/speccoll/findingaids/mss0187.html
Description

https://library.ucsd.edu/speccoll/findingaids/mss0027.html
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Takes a Village

Project Team:

• **Erik Mitchell**, Audrey Geisel University Librarian, Principal Investigator

• **Lynda Claassen**, Director of Special Collections & Archives, Project Administrator

• **Cristela Garcia-Spitz**, Curator of the Tuzin Archive of Melanesian Anthropology, Subject Specialist

• **Stefan Elnabli**, Media Curation Librarian, Project Manager

• **Gabriela Montoya**, DAMS Product Manager, Liaison to the vendor

• **Ryan Johnson**, Metadata Analyst

• **Jennifer Donovan**, Special Collections & Archives Coordinator

• **Daniel Perdew**, Library Fiscal Administrator

• **Lea Kolesky**, Student Library Assistant

[https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb0172231g](https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb0172231g)
Culturally sensitive material

• Field interviews contain confidential information and may need to be restricted
• Recognize the barriers to access
• Challenge to determine appropriate level of access and cultural protocols for each specific community
• Require partnerships to carry out the work
Discussion

- Build and strengthen collaborations made possible in the digital era
- Find partnerships and models for sharing the recordings once digitized

House-building: men construct frame, vertical poles are notched at top, betel nut palm (l) taboo with coconut frond tied around it, 1975. Edwin Hutchins and Dona Hutchins Collection, UC San Diego Library.

https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object(bb8772989q)