

## **P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

*Date Range:* 1948 - 1992

*Quantity:* 3.50m

*Accession No:* 1563, 1735

### *Administrative History*

Annie Margaret McArthur was born in Ararat, Victoria in 1919. She originally studied biochemistry and bacteriology at the University of Melbourne, graduating BSc in 1941 and MSc 1942, and went on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in nutrition in 1946 at the Australian Institute of Anatomy.

Her long and distinguished career involved working as an assistant Research Officer at the Industrial Chemistry Division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial research Organisation (CSIRO) from 1943-1946; in 1947 she was a member of the New Guinea Nutrition Research Unit for the Commonwealth Department of Health; and, a nutritionist with the Australian-American Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land, 1948-1949. This early work with people in non-Western societies led to Margaret's interest in other cultures and her formal study of anthropology. By 1952 she had completed a post graduate Diploma in Social Anthropology at the University of London.

From 1953-1957, McArthur carried out anthropological and nutritional fieldwork among the Kunimaipa people of Papua, whose language she learned to speak. She was awarded both the Walter Mersh Strong research Fellowship from the University of Sydney, 1953-1955 and, the Emslie Horniman Studentship from the Royal Anthropological Institute in London, 1955-1956. McArthur's expertise resulted in international work as a consultant. Between 1958 and 1960 she was the Social Anthropology Consultant in Malaya for the World Health Organisation (WHO). In 1961 she was a nutrition consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The following year she was appointed as a Research Officer in the Department of Economics, Institute of Advanced Studies at the Australian National University. That same year she was awarded her PhD in social anthropology with her thesis *The Kunimaipa: The Social Structure of a Papuan Society* (1962). In 1963 she took up temporary lectureship in Anthropology at the University of Manchester. In 1964 she worked for the FAO again, this time in Africa, returning to teach part-time at the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene. In 1965 she was offered a lectureship at the University of Sydney- she was the first woman to be offered a tenured position in the Department.

While at Sydney, Margaret maintained her interest in Papuan affairs and in 1968 she returned to Papua to not only cover their election but to also study the social changes in the Kunimaipa Valley since 1957. By 1970 she had been promoted to Senior Lecturer. In 1971 she gave advice on nutritional matters to a research team from the Institute of Dental research who were carrying out a preliminary survey in New Guinea, and in that same year she was an expert witness for the New Guinea wage case. The following year she was again advising the Dental team, and between June 1973 and May 1974 she was a Senior Fellow in the Food Institute of the East-West Centre, Hawaii.

She left Sydney for Honolulu in 1976 to marry Dr Douglas Oliver a retired Professor of Anthropology from Harvard, who shared her interest in PNG. She died after a long illness on May 12 2002.

(de Lepervanche, Marie, "Annie Margaret McArthur, 1919-2002" *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, 13 (2), pp. 230-231

## **P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

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**Series List**

**Box No**

25. New Guinea Nutrition Survey, 1947

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**P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

Series 1: Arnhem Land Expedition

Date Range: 1948

*Accession No:* 1563, 1735

*Quantity:* 0.2m

***Series Description:***

This series contains notebooks on the food habits of Australian Aborigines, language notes; draft manuscript "Aboriginal Women and Children"; 7 articles from *Records of the American Australian Science Expedition to Arnhem Land*; a printed copy of "Food consumption and dietary levels of groups of Aborigines living on naturally occurring foods" by McArthur; *American Australian Science Expedition to Arnhem Land, March-November 1948*. "Personal experiences on the 'coast of adventure'". Arnhem Land Reunion, Sydney 27-28 June 1998"; and, 'Report of the Nutrition Unit, National Geographic Society, Australian Department of Information. Joint Expedition to Arnhem Land 1948' ed by M McArthur

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Series 2: Arnhem Land Photographs

Date Range: 1948

*Accession No:* 1563, 1735

*Quantity:* 0.07

***Series Description:***

This series contains a number of photographs taken during the American Australian Science Expedition to Arnhem Land, March-November 1948.

2/1 Photographs stamped FD McCarthy, Australian Museum

2/2 Photographs stamped FD McCarthy, Australian Museum

2/3 McArthur photographs of Groote Eylandt; Nightcliff, Darwin; Delissaville; Yirrkala; Oenpelli; and, Port Bradshaw.

Permission required from relevant communities for reproduction.

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Series 3: Kunimaipa photographs, slides & negatives

Date Range: 1953-1968

*Accession No:* 1563, 1735

*Quantity:* 0.4m

***Series Description:***

The images were taken on both of McArthur's trips to Kunimapia. The colour slides are from McArthur's second trip in 1968.

1953-1957 Trip

- 1 envelope black & white images
- 1 packet of negatives & photographs annotated
- 5 packets of negatives
- box of black & white images – Tapini-Goraina
- 3 rolls of negatives
- 5 boxes of slides labelled: Tapini-Goraina; Goroka; Woitape/Omu families; Guari

1968 Trip

- 2 metal boxes labelled Kunimapia
- Aiwara
- Tapini
- Lobdon
- Bipi to Guari around Jevi-Hataiz
- Omu-Tapini
- Omu

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## **P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

Series 4: Field notes on both trips to Kunimaipa

Date Range: 1954-1968

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 1.0m

### ***Series Description:***

This series comprises notes on various topics relating to the Kunimapia. Also includes articles and a manuscript "New Guinea Politics in Transition"

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Box No</b>
1	Voting, elections & politics	5
2	Information on Kunimaipa (2 files)	5
3	Roads	5
4	Uncertain	5
5	Marriage & marital histories	5
6	Kinship & marriage	5
7	Maps	5
8	Homicide	5
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10	Land	6
11	Dancing general	6
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15	Absok	6
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18	Adoption	6
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20	Kinship lists	6
21	Outstanding	6
22	Life Histories	6
23	Homicides (2 files)	6
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25	Genealogies	6
26	Political systems	6
27	Kinship	6
28	Kapotakari	6
29	Sickness	6
30	1968 – government schools	6
31	Disputes regarding women	6
32	Muz	6
33	Pacific linguistics (incl. maps of patrol reports)	6
34	Migrations – Goilala open electorate map	6

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## P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002

Series 4: Field notes on both trips to Kunimaipa

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Box No</b>
35	Reports on dancing, nutrition, kinship (August 1953-1957)	6
36	Kapot	6
37	Pigs and pig exchanges	6
38	Leaders	7
39	Magic	7
40	Pandanus	7
41	Questions on kinship and marriage	7
42	Notes for a seminar	7
43	Magic	7
44	Food consumption – includes correspondence Relating to food	7
45	Other sociétés, death and rizop	8
46	Trade	8
47	Unlabelled basel	8
48	Patrol reports	8
49	Dances – sundry	8
50	More sundry	8
51	Dancing Geni	8
52	Dancing guests	8
53	Dancing targets	8
54	Zet Zes – houses	8
55	Sundry – distribution of groups	8
56	Death – burial	8
57	Rites	8
58	Nutrition	8
59	Shame	8
60	Studies in cross cultural psychology	8
61	Kavis Pulgap (non English notes)	8
62	Aiwara Taude	8
63	Intra-parish relationships	8
64	Disputes – property	9
65	Disputes	9
66	Residence	9
67	Political units	9
68	Property	9
69	Getizais Dance Village	9
70	Leadership	9
71	Friendship	9
72	Hamlets	9
73	Announcements	9

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Series 5: Field notes from the first trip to Kunimaipa

Date Range: 1953-1956

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.15m

***Series Description:***

There are 7 notebooks containing information on kinship, informants, dance village songs, and, data on dates of birth, height and weight of village inhabitants. There are also index cards listing biographical data on village inhabitants including marriages and number of children.

- 1 Unlabelled 27/8/53 – kinships, informants
- 2 Unlabelled 15/9/53 – dance village songs, language notes
- 3 'Language' (n.d.) – definitions of terms
- 4 'residence' 7/12/53 – house lines
- 5 'Stories' (n.d.)
6. Unlabelled 8/1/54 – notes on changing houses
- 7 'Infants' 1954-1956
- 8 Index cards
- 9 Population statistics
- 10 Index cards – men
- 11 Index cards – women
- 12 & 13 index cards

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Series 6: Kunimaipa language

Date Range: n.d.

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.02m

***Series Description:***

This series contains a set of language notes (fragile) prepared by Father Willem of the R. C. Mission at Kunimaipa

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Series 7: Kunimaipa Vocabulary

Date Range: n.d.

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.07

***Series Description:***

Alphabetical card index of vocabulary

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Series 8: Diaries during first visit to the Kunimaipa

Date Range: 1953-1957

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.07m

***Series Description:***

Series contains 3 notebooks/personal diaries detailing McArthur's time in Kunimaipa. The first notebook contains a letter to McArthur from a friend. The second notebook includes a village population register for PNG.

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Series 9: Diary during second visit to the Kunimaipa

Date Range: 1968

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.02m

***Series Description:***

One diary detailing McArthur's second trip to the Kunimaipa in 1968.

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**P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

Series 10: Malay photographs & slides

Date Range: 1958-1960

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.15m

***Series Description:***

This series contains black & white photographs and 11 boxes of slides taken in Malay while McArthur was the Social Anthropology Consultant for the WHO to the Malay government. Some of the photographs and slides are annotated.

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Series 11: Malay Notes

Date Range: 1958

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.06m

***Series Description:***

Series contains a notebook providing data about village inhabitants from Kampong Giubah-Nyales including occupants of houses and the food eaten. Includes colour and black and white images.

There are also notes on recipes, remedies, kinship, taboo and health, a draft copy of a manuscript "Cultural and social customs of Malays relating to child weaning and feeding of children" and one photograph dated 1958.

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Series 12: WHO manuscripts Malay

Date Range: 1958-1959

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.08m

***Series Description:***

Original and draft copies of a WHO manuscript relating to nutrition and reports on the health of the Malays in relation to cultural and social customs.

1. Assignment report, (June 1958 - November 1959)
2. 'Health of Malays'
3. Cultural and Social Customs of Malays Relating to Child Rearing and Feeding of Children

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Series 13: Letters to McArthur's parents while in Malay

Date Range: 1958-1959

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.02m

***Series Description:***

Letters written by McArthur to her parents while WHO consultant in Kampong Panchar, Malay.

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Series 14: Food consumption data Malay

Date Range: 1954-1956

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.5m

***Series Description:***

Series contains a number of index cards providing information on food consumption data. It also includes notes on the nutritional value of foods, their edible portions and a series of photographs labelled "identification of plants".

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Series 15: WHO Dental Caries Etiology project in PNG

Date Range: 1967-1988

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.02m

***Series Description:***

McArthur consulted on the WHO Dental Caries Etiology project on nutritional matters. Series includes correspondence and *WHO Study of Dental Caries Etiology in PNG*. (WHO publication No 40, 1978) and document 5 “Appreciation of dietary regime’

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Series 16: Correspondence

Date Range: 1954-1955

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.05cm

***Series Description:***

Correspondence between McArthur, A. P Elkin, Professor of Anthropology, University of Sydney' Dr C. R Hallpike of Dalhousie University Canada; and, Jim Howell of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney.

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Series 17: Africa

Date Range: 1964

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.2m

***Series Description:***

In 1964 McArthur worked for the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Africa. The series contains 9 boxes of slides and a “Study to improve the planning of applied nutrition projects in Africa” by Margaret McArthur.

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Series 18: Maps of Malay & PNG

Date Range: 1949-1959

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.01m

***Series Description:***

The series contains 5 maps:

2 x “Languages – Eastern, Western and Southern Highlands territory of Papua and New Guinea”, May 1958 – January 1959

Map of Malay, 1950

2 x “Goilala sub district” – copy of Adamson’s map. Survey office PM 1949

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Series 19: Criticisms of studies

Date Range: 1974

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.05m

***Series Description:***

McArthur's criticisms on Hipsley's Port Moresby Regiment and, a letter from? McArthur re Roy Rappaport's "Pigs for the Ancestors" and a letter from Roy to McArthur re the review. Includes a copy of 'Pigs for the Ancestors by Roy A Rappaport. A Review Article' by McArthur, *Oceania*, Dec 1974

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Series 20: Personal

Date Range: 1946-1992

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.02m

***Series Description:***

Information on the McArthur family tree and newspaper clippings re Margaret's sister Norma, who was also an anthropologist. The series also contains McArthur's certificate from the School of Nutrition Management and a photograph of Margaret's house in Glebe.

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Series 21: Slides, Negatives and Contact Sheets

Date Range: 1961-1963

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.2m

***Series Description:***

An assortment of slides, contact sheets and negatives from Bangkok, Egypt, Port Moresby, Ceylon and Singapore. There are boxes of slides marked:

- Sepik – Karowari – Sago making
- Gianjar – Lae war cemetery
- Ifugao

(The date range marks the slides for Bali (1961) and The Valley of the Kings (1963) only.)

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Series 22: Published & unpublished material by McArthur

Date Range: 1941- 2000

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.05m

***Series Description:***

The series includes: Thesis for McArthur's M.Sc (March, 1942); *Food & population seminar. Summary of Nutrition Surveys in Asia; Some factors involved in estimating food requirements with special reference to persons engaged in agricultural labour in Asian countries*; 'Note on the oil of subterranean clover seed (midseason variety)' Royal Society Victoria, (read 11 December 1941); lecture notes and a notebook containing references and notes. Also includes a disc containing McArthur's monograph.

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Series 23: Published material by others

Date Range: 1948

*Accession No:* 1563

*Quantity:* 0.01m

***Series Description:***

Papuan Conquests by A Dupeyrat (Melbourne, 1948)

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**P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

Series 24: Arbitration Case, PNG

Date Range: 1966-1967

*Accession No:* 1735

*Quantity:* 0.02m

***Series Description:***

McArthur was called to give evidence on behalf of the Local Officers' of PNG arbitration case in 1966. The series includes her statement, letters from the Public Service Association of PNG to McArthur and transcript of proceedings.

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**P.205 Papers of Dr Annie Margaret McARTHUR, 1919-2002**

Series 25: The New Guinea Nutrition Survey Expedition, 1947  
Date Range: 1947

*Accession No:* 1735  
*Quantity:* 0.04m

***Series Description:***

The 1947 New Guinea Nutrition Survey was undertaken at the request of the Administrator of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, and the External Territories. The survey aimed to collect information on the food patterns of native groups living exclusively on indigenous foods, and at the same time ascertain the nutritional status and health of these same groups. McArthur was a member of the field staff as one of two biochemists.

The Series contains the *Report of the New Guinea Nutrition Survey Expedition, 1947*; photographs taken during the visit; "A Nutritional Study of New Guinea Natives by E H Hipsley & D Langley (extract from *The Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Pacific Science Congress*, Vol VII, 1953); and, a cartoon depicting McArthur.