

**P129: The Personal Archives of Alfred Reginald RADCLIFFE-BROWN (1881- 1955),
Professor of Anthropology 1926 – 1931**

Contents Date Range: 1915-1951

Shelf Metre: 0.16

Accession: Series 2: Gift and deposit register p162

Alfred Reginald Radcliffe-Brown was born on 17 January 1881 at Aston, Warwickshire, England, second son of Alfred Brown, manufacturer's clerk and his wife Hannah, nee Radcliffe. He was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, and Trinity College, Cambridge (B.A. 1905, M. A. 1909), graduating with first class honours in the moral sciences tripos. He studied psychology under W. H. R. Rivers, who, with A. C. Haddon, led him towards social anthropology. Elected Anthony Wilkin student in ethnology in 1906 (and 1909), he spent two years in the field in the Andaman Islands. A fellow of Trinity (1908 - 1914), he lectured twice a week on ethnology at the London School of Economics and visited Paris where he met Emily Durkheim. At Cambridge on 19 April 1910 he married Winifred Marie Lyon; they were divorced in 1938.

Radcliffe-Brown (then known as AR Brown) joined E. L. Grant Watson and Daisy Bates in an expedition to the North-West of Western Australia studying the remnants of Aboriginal tribes for some two years from 1910, but friction developed between Brown and Mrs. Bates. Brown published his research from that time in an article titled "Three Tribes of Western Australia", *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 43, (Jan. - Jun., 1913), pp. 143-194.

At the 1914 meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Melbourne, Daisy Bates accused Brown of gross plagiarism. Brown taught at Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) before becoming director of education in Tonga (1916-19). From 1921 he was foundation Professor of Anthropology at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In 1922 he published 'The Andaman Islanders'.

In 1926, Radcliffe-Brown changed his name by deed poll from Brown to Radcliffe-Brown and accepted the new chair of Anthropology at the University of Sydney, which was partly funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. He soon had a dozen scholars in the field in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific islands, was prolific in delivering papers before various conferences, and founded the journal 'Oceania' in 1930, its first monograph being his 'Social organisation of Australian tribes' (1931). With the financial difficulties during the Depression years, it seemed likely that the Department of Anthropology would no longer receive funding, and Radcliffe-Brown left in 1931 to take up a chair at the University of Chicago.

In 1937, he moved to a new chair at Oxford, from which he retired in 1946. He died in London on 24 October 1955, survived by his daughter.

Source: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, 1891 - 1939

Ownership: The University of Sydney

Related Records: P130 The Personal Archives of AP Elkin, Series 6.

Guide prepared RMG 16/07/1997, updated JM 22/06/2009

P129:

Creating Agency: Alfred Reginald RADCLIFFE-BROWN (1881- 1955), Professor of Anthropology 1926 – 1931

Previous Custodian: Department of Anthropology.

Series: 1 Field Notebooks and other research
Date Range: 1911 – 1930
Accessions: not provided
Quantity: .08
Item List: Yes

Series Description:

The series consists of correspondence, two bundles of cards and sheets of paper, two compiled notebooks with blue covers and nine 'Freehand' note books, all containing field notes on the vocabulary and social relationship of various Australian Aboriginal tribes, including one notebook entitled 'Notes on Polynesia, 1916'.

According to AP Elkin, the field notebooks dating from 1911, were located in the Department of Anthropology in 1976 (See Elkin's footnote 44 in "R.H. Mathews", *Oceania*, Vol XLVI No 3, March 1976, p228 – 229). A photocopy was provided to AIATSIS in 1977 (their reference MS 995). Professor Peter Sutton created transcripts, name and language indexes for some of the notebooks, which are available to researchers on request from the Archives. Both the AIATSIS references and Sutton's notes have been incorporated into the information about languages and places in this Guide but have not yet been independently verified by the University Archives.

Additional field research notes by Radcliffe-Brown are located in P130 The Personal Archives of AP Elkin Series 6.

Please note that only photocopies of the items are issued to researchers due to the fragility of the original records.

Access Copy: B10/2/g Box 1 & 2

Access: Open.

Ownership: University of Sydney

Copyright: Indeterminate

University of Sydney Archives
P.130 Personal archives of Professor A P Elkin

Series 1

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Box</i>
1	Letter from Secretary, Office of Board for Protection of Aborigines, Sydney 8.11.29 to Managers of Aboriginal Stations and Officers in Charge of Police. [letter of introduction for Radcliffe-Brown].	1929	1
2	Far north-eastern N.S.W, Brisbane region c 1914. Loose sheets (21) written on in pencil. brief notes from publications containing notes on lanuage groups and their areas, kinship terms, totems, with references to individuals; copy of Davis, George R. <i>The Aborigines of Australia: their birthrights and lines of life</i> . n.d. Printed in Sydney. These loose notes may have been originally located within Notebook E3 (see AIATSIS reference to MS995/Item 5).	1914	1
3	Tribes of Burduna Type. Index of Local Groups. 157 large cards. The key entries appear to be site names and indicate the region is mainly the Pilbara, some down to about the Gascoyne. Digitised.	1912	1
4	Notebook F2 - Dangati Vocabulary, A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, Bellbrook, November 1929. Includes ordinary words, ceremonial terms, kinship, on about 80 small slips.	1929	1
5	Notebook F1 - North-west NSW Tribes (Elkin's writing on cover) Mostly kinship terms (including Dangati from the coast), some names and locations of tribes, some data on Wanjawaljku moiety totemism, on about 150 small slips.	n.d.	1
6	Field Notebook E1 Circa 1930. Topics are mainly kinship and social organisation. Languages mentioned are all from north-central and north-east NSW: Yularai, Weilwan, Ngiamba, Wirazari, Murawari, Badjeri, Kamilaroi, Wongaibon, Bigambal, Kambalbal, Gwamu, Badjerri, Pijara, Ongabula, Kogai, Yularai, Kamilaroi, Anewan, Yukumbil, Yegara, Kumbainggir, Banbai, Dangati, Ngaku, Ngambar, Birpai, Kattang, Wanyawalku. Places mentioned: Walgett, Collarenabri, Coonamble, Pilliga, Brewarrina, Weilmoringle, Terrihaihai, Burra Bee Dee, Coomeragunge [sic], Toomelah, Moree, Quambone, Bidjiribin, Walgett Gaol, Angledool, Durumbandi [sic], Weir River, Gundiwindi [sic], Weilmoringle, ?Pinegabra, Mitchell, Dawson River, Mooni, Boomi, Bindibangu (Kogai language)	1930	1

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Box</i>
7	<p>Field Notebook E2. Northern Coast of N.S.W. 1915-1916. [Sutton notes: all of it is from the area west of the Great Divide. Contains a sheet of Barwon Hotel (Brewarrina) letterhead with Wongaibon kinship terms on it.] Languages mentioned: Murawari, Wongaibon, Bijara, Bidara, Barumbinya (Bourke), Ngiamba, Kurnu, Guamu, Kairi, Wurawauraka, Kadwori, Birria, Bunthamara, Kalali, Bederi, Barindi, Baroindi, Wailwan, Baranbinyi, 'Wara[a]ndi on the Bogan talk like Wonga[ibon]', Kangarama;</p> <p>Places mentioned: Culgoa, Chailin, Talguna, Brewarrina, ?Narrin, Balonne River, St George?, Cunnamulla, Bourke, Guduga [sic], Angledool, Thomson River, Thargominda, Wanaaring, ?Mulgoa, Cobar, Ivanhoe, Wiland[ra?], ?Cunand, Angledool.</p>	1915 - 1916	1
8	<p>Field Notebook E3 - North Coast N.S.W. [n.d. at start of book but R-B was at Nambucca Heads on 26 January 1929.] Languages mentioned: Yukumbil, Yagara, Wilabal, Wizabal [z interdental], Walubal, Wilubal, Kidjabal, Minangbal, Ngarangbal, Minyangbal, Kalyibel, Kalibal, Dingabal, Meribal, Kumbainggari, Ngarabal, Ngwulangbal, Bulibal, Yiegara, Djangati, Thangati, Burgati, Bandjelang, Yuungai, Wiradjeri, Ngaiyubal, Ngambar, Perpe, Kadjang, Katthang, Burgate, Ngaku, Birpai, Gelil, Gwenyum [tile], Djandai, Wangeribara, Djariwan,</p> <p>Places mentioned: [sequence of field work:] Sydney, Kyogle, Stony Gully, Kyogle, Woodenbong, Lismore, Mechan(?), Urunga, Nambucca, Kempsey; Purfleet, Broadwater, Coraki, Ettrick, Tabulam, Coochin, Clarence, Richmond Range, Bunalbo, Wiangarie, Tooloom Range, ?Korcelah, Killarney, Maryland, Beaudesert, Albert Creek, Warwick, Mt Brown, Mt Lindsay, Coraki, Bungawalbin Creek, ?Machien, Ulmarra, Lawrence, Clarence River, Tweed Heads, Brunswick, Byron Bay, Ballina, Bean Tree, Casino, Rockhampton, Tadam?, Tamburine [sic], Dugong Creek, Purga, Wurumbinda, Juringa [sic], Taroomb (?), Iron Pot ?Creek, Gindigai Creek, Rosebery Creek, Djulgabil, Bululgung, Dome Mt, Yugilbar, Ulmarra, Maclean, Yurara, Wilgulga, Sherwood Creek, Nyimbuei (= Nymboida), Armidale, Ben Lomond, Yuralla [sic], Lawrence, Trial Bay Gaol, Nambucca, Yulgilbar, Neance?? Glen, Evans Head, ?Nana Glen, Taree, Yamba, Ballina, ?Yarara River, Port Stephens, Hastings River, Port MacQuarie, Bellingen, Hastings River, ?Coramba, ?Glennagh, Deep Creek, Mt Ralegh, Bowraville, Mackay River, Urunga, Wattle Creek, Green Hills, Burnt Bridge, Bellbrook, Kumane Creek, Moseley, Taylor's Arm, Warrell Creek, Manning River, La Prouse, Crescent Head, Claibaca [sic], Sherwood.</p>	1929 - 1930	1
9	Field Notebook E4 - Notes on Polynesia 1916	1916	1
10	<p>Field Notebook E5 Western Australia, Pilbara: kinship and vocabulary in Buduna, Targari, Ingarda, Baiong, Maia; social organisation Maia, Baiong; notes on sociology. Digitised.</p>	1910 - 1912	1

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Box</i>
11	Field Notebook E6 Lower Murray and Adelaide regions. mainly Adelaide and Fowlers Bay: names of informants; kinship terms; vocabulary; tribes mentioned include Yaralde, Tanganalum		1
12	Field Notebook E7 - New England 1930. Notes on informants, kinship terms and vocabulary in Anewan, Bandjalang, Yukambal, Burgati	1930	1
13	Field Notebook E8 Misc notes for talks, papers etc. Some Pilbara material. kinship notes; informants; Yaralde marriage rules and kinship terms; weapons and decorative art; notes on publications; lecture notes.		1
14	Field Notebook E9 – Bellbrook November 1929. North Coast of N.S.W. The Itinerary in the fronts-piece notes: Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell, Moree (x), Narrabri, Burson Junction, Pilliga (x), ?Coonamble, ?Quambone (x), ?Coonamble, Walgett (x), Pokataroo, Angledool (x), Goodooga (x), Brewarrina (x), Sydney. Languages mentioned: Dangati, Bandjalang, Kattang, Kuinbaingeri, Anewan, Birpai, Wangan, Banbai; list of languages spoken in the visited area.	1929	1

P129

Creating Agency: Alfred Reginald RADCLIFFE-BROWN (1881- 1955), Professor of Anthropology 1926 – 1931

Previous Custodian: Department of Anthropology.

Series: 2 Lecture Transcripts

Date Range: 1911 – 1930

Accessions: 2 March 1979 (Gift and Accessions Register, p 162).

Quantity: .08

Item List: No

Series Description:

Set of eight typed Josiah Mason Lectures given by Radcliffe-Brown, Professor Emeritus of the University of Oxford, from 8 - 30 October 1951 at Birmingham University on the subject of 'Primitive Cosmology'. The notes were made by someone else, possibly from a recording, and in some cases include some questions and answers following the main talk.

The focus is on Aboriginal Australia and on the relationship between cosmology and the social order.

Number of pages: I (8), II (9), III (9), IV (9), V (11), VI (10), VII (10), VIII (12).

A leaflet advertising the Josiah Mason Lectures is included.

Location: P129, Box 1

Access Copy: B10/2/g Box 2

Access: Open.

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