

Henry Usher Hall Sierra Leone Expedition Records

0043 .1002

Last updated on March 02, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

5/15/13

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Creator	Hall, Henry Usher, b. 1876-d. 1944
Title	Henry Usher Hall Sierra Leone Expedition Records
Call number	0043 .1002
Date [inclusive]	1936-1940
Extent	2.8 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Henry Usher Hall was an American anthropologist who joined his first expedition in 1914. He traveled down the Yenisee River to the Kara Sea in Siberia with Polish anthropologist Maria Antonina Czaplicka. They were accompanied by ornithologist Maud Doria Haviland and artist Dora Curtis. He served as curator of the General Ethnology section of the Penn Museum from 1915 to 1935. He was responsible for the establishment of the African section at the Museum. Following his retirement from the Penn Museum, Hall conducted research on the continent of Africa in Sierra Leone into the Sherbro people. On his return from Sierra Leone, Hall published <i>The Sherbro of Sierra Leone</i> in 1938.</p>

Cite as:

[Item name]. Box [Box number]. Henry Usher Hall collection. Penn Museum Archives. Accessed [Date accessed].

Biography/History

Henry Usher Hall was an American anthropologist who joined his first expedition in 1914. He traveled down the Yenisei River to the Kara Sea in Siberia with Polish anthropologist Maria Antonina Czaplicka. They were accompanied by ornithologist Maud Doria Haviland and artist Dora Curtis.

Hall served as curator of the General Ethnology section of the Penn Museum from 1915 to 1935. He was responsible for the establishment of the African section at the Museum.

Hall had profound interest in prehistoric archaeology and conducted early research at Dordogne, France in the summer of 1923 while a student at the American School of Prehistoric Research. He followed up in this field with special work in London in 1933.

Following his retirement from the Penn Museum, Hall conducted research on the continent of Africa in Sierra Leone into the Sherbo people. On his return from Sierra Leone, Hall published *The Sherbro of Sierra Leone* in 1938. This book included an account of the secret Poro society of the Sherbro men.

Hall was a frequent contributor to the *Museum Journal*.

Scope and Contents

Henry Usher Hall was an American anthropologist who joined his first expedition in 1914. He traveled down the Yenisee River to the Kara Sea in Siberia with Polish anthropologist Maria Antonina Czaplicka. They were accompanied by ornithologist Maud Doria Haviland and artist Dora Curtis.

Hall served as curator of the General Ethnology section of the Penn Museum from 1915 to 1935. He is noted for the establishment of the African section at the Museum. Following his retirement, Hall took on an expedition to Sierra Leone to study the Sherbro people.

The Henry Usher Hall collection is stored in five archival boxes and is divided into two series, research notes and publication drafts and printed material. The majority of the collection is devoted to notebooks of research notes. These also include diaries and daily living descriptions.

Hall prefaces his notebooks with the preparatory chores for the trip and correspondence with colleagues and the necessary people in Sierra Leone. In addition to his notes and research, Hall includes a vocabulary notebook, annotated map and an index to the photographs. The notebooks are labeled in sequence with either lower case or upper case letters; one group "a" to "j", the other "A" to "F." Xerox copies of the notebooks are a part of the collection.

Administrative Information

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Use Restrictions

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Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Site plans

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Sierra Leone

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Czaplicka, Maria Antonina, b. 1886-d. 1921
- Hall, Henry Usher, b. 1876-d. 1944
- Haviland, Maud D., b.1889-d.1941

Collection Inventory

CORRESPONDENCE.

	Box
1936-1940.	1

RESEARCH NOTES.

	Box
Notes.	1
Notebooks 'a' and 'b'.	1
Notebooks 'c' and 'd'.	1
Notebooks 'e,' 'f,' and 'g'.	1
Notebooks 'h,' 'j,' and 'k'.	1

FIELD NOTES, 1936-1940.

Legal Status note

The Collection is restricted in use: Restriction Statement The Sherbo material contained here was obtained as a privileged communication between H.U. Hall and his informant. Its use is restricted to research being done by scholars specializing in Poro and similar societies. Dr. William Davenport, Dr. Igor Kopytoff, and/or Dr. Carol McCormack of London University should be contacted.

Biographical/Historical note

Henry Usher Hall, an American anthropologist worked at the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania from 1915 to 1935 as the Curator of General Ethnology. His term saw the establishment of the African Section of the Museum. HALL was a veteran of World War I serving overseas with the Army for 2 years. Hall was profoundly interested in prehistoric archaeology and conducted excavations at Dordogne, France in the summer of 1923 while enrolled at the American School of Prehistoric Research. Additional prehistoric research was conducted by Hall in London in 1933.

Under the auspices of the University Museum, Hall led several expeditions including an expedition down the Yenesei River to the Kara Sea in Siberia, Russia with Polish anthropologist Maria Antonina Czaplicka in 1914 and 1915. Accompanying them was ornithologist Maud Doria Haviland and artist Dora Curtis.

Following his retirement from the Museum, Hall traveled to Sierra Leone, West Africa in 1937. Hall's papers were donated to the Museum through the administration of his will.

Hall was a frequent and faithful contributor to the Museum Journal.

	Box
Notebook and Photograph Index - Sierra Leone.	1
Notebook 'A' (pp. 1-200).	1
Notebook 'A' (pp. 201-305).	1
Notebook 'A' - Typescript (Folder 1 of 3).	1
Notebook 'A' - Typescript (Folder 2 of 3).	1
Notebook 'A' - Typescript (Folder 3 of 3).	1
Notebook 'B' (pp. 1-150).	2
Notebook 'B'- with inclusions (pp. 151-300).	2

Notebook 'B'- Typescript (Folder 1 of 3).	2
Notebook 'B'- Typescript (Folder 2 of 3).	2
Notebook 'B'- Typescript (Folder 3 of 3).	2
Notebook 'B'.	2
Notebook 'B' inclusions.	2
Notebook 'B' - Typescript.	2
Notebook 'D'.	2
Notebook 'D' inclusions.	2
Notebook 'F'.	2
Notebook 'F' - Typescript (Folder 1 of 4).	3
Notebook 'F' - Typescript (Folder 2 of 4).	3
Notebook 'F' - Typescript (Folder 3 of 4).	3
Notebook 'F' - Typescript (Folder 4 of 4).	3
Notebook 'G'.	3
Notebook 'G' inclusions.	3
Notebook 'L,' 'M,' and 'N'.	3
Notebook 'O'.	3
F. Hall Notebooks.	3
Stories and Accounts - F. Hall.	3

Language Notes.	3
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Miscellaneous Notes.	3
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Plant Matter.	3
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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Box

Publications- Rough Drafts of The Sherbro of Sierra Leone.	3
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Notecards for Lectures.	3
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PHOTOGRAPHS.

Box

Notes and Photograph Index.	4
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A to AJ.	4
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AK to AY.	4
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B to BL.	4
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BM to BZ.	4
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C and D.	4
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E and F.	4
G.	4
H.	4
I and J.	4
K and L.	4
M and N.	4
O and P.	4
Q, R, and S.	4
T, U, and V.	4
W, X, Y, and Z.	4
Unnumbered Photographs.	4