

MS-223

The Museum of Northern Arizona
Harold S. Colton Memorial Library
3101 N. Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928)774-5213 ext. 256

Title

P. David Seaman collection

Dates

1954-1977

Extent

1.7 cm textual material, 19 vinyl records, 1 7" reel magnetic audio tape, 9 DDS-1 data cartridges, 35 CDs

Name of Creator(s)

Seaman, P. David
Ekstrom, Jonathan O.
Goossen, Irvy W.
Nuvanisa, Bennie
Gospel Broadcasters
Mission Aides, Inc.

Biographical History

Dr. P. David Seaman (January 31, 1932 –) was born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, and grew up in a series of foster homes. He worked at the local YMCA and was a reporter for The Daily Courier in Connellsville in high school.

Seaman served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, from February 1951 to February 1954. He participated in military maneuvers at Yucca Flats, Nevada in 1952 during which a live atomic bomb test took place. In January 1953, just before leaving for Korea, he married Mary Miller of Louisville, Kentucky, and the couple later had three children: Nancy, Mark, and Don.

Returning home from Korea, Seaman enrolled in Asbury College near Lexington, Kentucky in February 1954, and received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in May 1957. In August 1958, he completed his Master of Arts in Ancient Languages and Literatures at the University of Kentucky. He then received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Indiana University, Bloomington in 1965. His dissertation, entitled *Modern Greek and American English in Contact*, was published in 1972.

Seaman accepted a position at Northern Arizona University in 1967, where he was a professor of linguistics in the department of Anthropology until his retirement in 1994. In 1980 he received the Outstanding University Professor award at Northern Arizona University for his involvement in establishing linguistics courses in Education, English as a Second Language, Modern Languages, and Speech Pathology.

His interest in the languages and cultures of the Native American tribes of Northern Arizona fuelled his research. He has been published in newspapers and scholarly journals, his most well-known article perhaps being "Hopi Linguistics: An Annotated Bibliography" in *Anthropological Linguistics* (1977, vol. 19, no. 2, p. 78-97). In addition, Seaman has published books about Native American language and culture, including *Hopi Dictionary* (1985), *Havasupai Habitat* (with graduate student Stephen Weber, 1985), and *Born a Chief* (1993). All proceeds from book sales go into a scholarship fund for Hopi students at Northern Arizona University, endowed by P. David and Mary M. Seaman in 1986.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of audio recordings of Navajo and Hopi language lessons and printed materials concerning the Cora language of Mexico. There are two sets of Navajo language learning records: *Useful Words and Phrases* and *Navajo Literacy Lessons*. The Hopi language recordings consist of 10 lessons with Bennie Nuvanisa, recorded under the supervision of Professor Irvy Goossen at NAU, and another set of unmarked Hopi recordings made by (probably) Jonathan Ekstrom in the 1960s. Collection also includes a Cora-English, English-Cora dictionary on computer printouts from 1977.

System of Arrangement

Collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Navajo Language Materials

Series 2: Hopi Language Materials

Series 3: Cora-English, English-Cora Dictionary

Technical Access

This collection includes sound recordings housed on 78 rpm vinyl records, a 7" reel of 1.0mm mylar recording tape, and DDS-1 data cartridges. The Museum of Northern Arizona does not have the equipment to use these materials at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Languages and Scripts of the Materials

English, Navajo, Hopi, Cora

Finding Aids

Preliminary inventories were created for each accession (#MS-223, #MS-224) and are available upon request.

Custodial History

All materials were given to or found by P. David Seaman from various sources. The Navajo language records were originally shipped to a professor at Asbury College, and it is presumed that they were given to Seaman while he was a student there. He was also involved in creating the Hopi recordings with Bennie Nuvanisa, and found the unmarked tapes at Oraibi in 1976. The Cora-English, English-Cora dictionary was left at the Northern Arizona University library

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without any documentation or explanation. It was given to Seaman, who subsequently donated it to the Museum.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

All materials were donated by P. David Seaman. The Navajo language materials were donated in 1976 as accession #MS-223, and an accrual of the Cora-English, English-Cora Dictionary was added in 1978. The Hopi language materials were donated in 1976 as accession #MS-224. Both accessions were united as collection MS-223 in 2012.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Related Archival Materials

MS-203, P. David Seaman collection. Historic Reference Material Collection. Museum of Northern Arizona Archives.

NAU.OH.26. P. David Seaman collection. Cline Library, Special Collections and Archives Department, Northern Arizona University.

NAU.MS.28. P. David Seaman collection. Cline Library, Special Collections and Archives Department, Northern Arizona University.

Description Control

Finding aid written by Melissa VanOtterloo using *DACS*, 14 June 2012.

Title

Series 1: Navajo Language Materials

Dates

1954, 1957, 1976

Extent

.1 cm textual material, 19 78 rpm vinyl records, 1 7" reel mylar 1.0mm audio tape

Scope and Content

Series contains Navajo language learning an original pamphlet packaged with the records, an index of the records, the vinyl records, and copy and index of the sound recordings on a 7" reel of audio tape created by Seaman.

There are two separate Navajo language learning series: *Useful Words and Phrases* (7 records) and *Navajo Literacy Lessons* (12 records). Both were produced and distributed by Gospel Broadcasters, a division of Mission Aides, Inc., to be used by missionaries to learn the Navajo language. Originally released in 1954, the copies in this series are from a 1957 re-release. These records were copied onto the 7" audio tape reel by Seaman in 1976 for the Museum of Northern Arizona. No transcripts of the recordings are available.

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Series 1: Navajo Language Materials				
File/Item #	File/Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-223-1-1	Pamphlet and Indexes	1957, 1976	.1 cm textual material	1.1
MS-223-1-2	Useful Words and Phrases	1957	7 records	1
MS-223-1-3	Navajo Literacy Lessons	1957	12 records	1
MS-223-1-4	Duplicate Audio Tape Reel	1976	1 reel	1

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Series 2: Hopi Language Materials

Dates

1976

Extent

9 DDS-1 data cartridges, 35 CDs

Scope and Content

Series consists of Hopi language learning sound recordings, duplicates created by Seaman in 1976. The first is a recording of 10 Hopi lessons by Bennie Nuvanisa under the supervision of Professor Irvy Goossen at NAU. The other 5 tapes are duplicates of unmarked tapes found by Seaman at Oraibi, which he thought were most likely made by Jonathan Ekstrom.

Originally donated to the Museum of Northern Arizona on 6 7" reel audio tapes, MNA staff were unable to locate these original tapes in 2012. **[moved to Historic Reference collection]** It is unclear when the recordings were transferred to DDS-1 tapes, but the copies were made sometime after 1990. At some point, the recordings were also transferred to CDs, which are available to users. There are no transcripts.

Series 2: Hopi Language Materials				
File/Item #	File/Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-223-2-1	Box of DDS-1 data cartridges	ca.1960s, ca. 1974-1975	9 data cartridges	1
MS-223-2-2	3 sets of CDs: 1 master, 1 reference, and 1 extra CDR copy	ca.1960s, ca. 1974-1975	35 CDs	1

Title

Series 3: Cora-English, English-Cora Dictionary

Dates

1977

Extent

1.6 cm textual material

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Scope and Content

Series contains 2 copies of a Cora-English, English-Cora dictionary on 8 1/2 x 14 7/8 in. computer printouts. These printouts were left at the Northern Arizona University library in the fall of 1977 and given to Seaman to determine their potential use and provenance. Unclaimed by the spring of 1978, he donated them to the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Series 3: Cora-English, English-Cora Dictionary				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-223-3-1	Cora-English, English-Cora Dictionary [copy 1]	1977	.8 cm textual material	1.2
MS-223-3-2	Cora-English, English-Cora Dictionary [copy 2]	1977	.8 cm textual material	1.3

LCSH Access Points

Hopi language
Navajo language
Navajo language--Study and teaching--Bilingual
Cora language
Southwest, New—Languages
Seaman, P. David
Ekstrom, Jonathan O.
Goossen, Irvy W.
Nuvanisa, Bennie
Gospel Broadcasters
Mission Aides, Inc.