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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Bruce, James Stuart

**Title:** James Stuart and Stevey Bruce Papers,

**Date (inclusive):** 1957 - 1985

**Extent:** 2.00 linear feet(2 archives boxes and 2 oversize folders)

**Abstract:** Papers and photograph collection of James and Stevey Bruce, anthropologists, photographers, and filmmakers, specifically of New Guinea native tribes. The collection contains mainly narratives (scripts) to films of his expeditions, plus many photographs and slides. Bruce made expeditions from 1961 to 1982 to New Guinea to study, photograph, and film tribes inhabiting many of the islands, including the John Frum Cult on Vanuatu Island, a cult based on a belief system around the Gods living in the USA, who are responsible for the "magical" appearance of manufactured items that cannot be fashioned from the jungle or sea; and other tribes inhabiting Malaita, Solomon Islands and tribes in Indonesia. Many of his photographs, taken principally by his wife Stevey Bruce, are of ceremonial dances and rituals and document the ceremonial dress of the native tribes as well as depicting village life.

**Repository:** University of California, San Diego. Geisel Library. Mandeville Special Collections Library.

La Jolla, California 92093-0175

**Collection number:** MSS 0673

**Language of Material:** Collection materials in English

## Access

Collection is open for research.

## Acquisition Information

Not Available

## Preferred Citation

James Stuart and Stevey Bruce Papers, MSS 0673. Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD.

## Publication Rights

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

## Biography

James Stuart Bruce was born in Butte, Montana June 12, 1919. At the age of six he and his family moved to the island of Cyprus where his father was the managing director of Cyprus Mines Corporation. James Bruce lived in Cyprus from 1926 to 1938 and spent three years at school in Beirut, Lebanon. He then attended Pomona College and graduated with a B.A. in 1942. From 1942 to 1945, James Bruce served in the Army Corps of Engineers with duty in New Guinea and the Philippines. His service in New Guinea brought him in contact with native tribes and contributed to his interest in studying New Guinea tribes later on in his life. After the war, from 1947 to 1954, James Bruce was self-employed as a ceramic manufacturer in Pasadena, California.

James Bruce had a continuing interest in Melanesian cultures. He traveled to various locations to film, photograph, and study the native populations of New Guinea. One group of natives he documented were members of the John Frum Cult, a culture based on a belief system around the "gods" living in the USA, who are responsible for the "magical" appearance of manufactured items that cannot be fashioned from the jungle or seas. During World War II, generous American soldiers with their abundance of goods gave freely to the people and unwittingly helped solidify the beliefs of the cult. He also filmed and photographed tribes on the islands of Malaita and Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. James Bruce published multiple articles in EXPLORERS JOURNAL and PACIFIC MAGAZINE and authored, "BEYOND THE RANGES," published in 1991.

James was married to Stevey Bruce, who traveled with him on many expeditions. She helped with research, filming, and maintaining their expedition diaries.

## Scope and Content of Collection

The James and Stevey Bruce papers, arranged in four series, contains scripts, photos and tapes. The scripts correspond with James' videotapes of his expeditions to New Guinea. The photographs are also of his expeditions to New Guinea. Of particular note within the

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collection are two scrapbooks of color photographs documenting James' expeditions. The papers are arranged in four series: 1) MISCELLANEOUS, 2) FILM SCRIPTS AND VIDEOTAPES, 3) AUDIOCASSETTE TAPES, and 4) PHOTOGRAPHS.

**SERIES 1: MISCELLANEOUS**

This series contains news clippings, a vita and James' dissertation from UCLA titled "Cargo Cults of the South Seas with a Special Emphasis on the John Frum Cult and the Maasina Cult."

**SERIES 2: FILM SCRIPTS AND VIDEOTAPES**

This series is arranged in two subseries: A) Scripts and B) Videotapes. The Scripts subseries is a compilation of scripts to the films of James' and Stevey's expeditions to New Guinea. They include scripts (narratives) of films that pertain to James' dissertation on Cargo Cults in the South Seas. The Videotapes subseries includes 3 videos of his travels in New Guinea, titled "The Valley Beyond," "The Island That Time Forgot," and "John Frum Cargo Cult Festival."

**SERIES 3: AUDIOCASSETTE TAPES**

This series is arranged in two subseries: A) New Guinea Tapes and B) Miscellaneous. The New Guinea Tapes subseries records rituals of, ceremonies of, songs by and interviews with New Guinea natives. The Miscellaneous tapes are more recent conversations between Stevey Bruce and UCSD Melanesian Collection colleagues.

**SERIES 4: PHOTOGRAPHS**

This series is arranged in three subseries: A) Prints, B) Slides and C) Scrapbooks. The Prints subseries portrays village life as well as natives in ceremonial dress. The Slides sub-series document James' expeditions to New Guinea from James expeditions from 1961 to 1982. The Scrapbook subseries contains two scrapbooks entitled New Guinea and New Guinea Patrol, which document the 1961 expedition to Dutch New Guinea, including Waina Suanda, Amgotro, Poenda, and Oebroeb. The photographs depict ceremonial dances, including a Fertility Dance and Dance of the Dead, as well as pictures of village life.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Bruce, James Stuart -- Archives

Bruce, Stevey -- Archives

**Contributors**

Bruce, Stevey

**MISCELLANEOUS**

box 1, folder 1      **News Clippings: Copies**  
box 1, folder 2      **Thesis 1983**  
box 1, folder 3      **Vita, Lists of Publications, Unpublished Writings and Films 1985**

FILM SCRIPTS AND VIDEOTAPES

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Scripts

box 1, folder 4	<b>Scripts, An Account of a Voyage to New Guinea, Manus, New Ireland and New Britain 1957</b>
box 1, folder 5	<b>The Cannibal Murderers of Malaita 1979</b>
box 1, folder 6	<b>Cargo Cults of the South Seas, [1970s]</b>
box 1, folder 7	<b>The Gourdmn of New Guinea 1961</b>
box 1, folder 8	<b>The John Frum Cult [1970s]</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>John Frum-he came [1970s]</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>Lost in the Jimi River</b>
box 1, folder 11	<b>Land Divers of Pentecost 1985</b>
box 1, folder 12	<b>Naghol. The Tower (Synopsis) 1983</b>
box 1, folder 13	<b>New Guinea Highlands 1963</b>
box 1, folder 14	<b>New Guinea patrol 1961</b>
box 1, folder 15	<b>Rebellion on Vanuatu 1981</b>
box 1, folder 16	<b>The Solomon Islands 1979</b>
box 1, folder 17	<b>The Valley Beyond 1963</b>
box 1, folder 18	<b>A Walk in the Jimi Valley 1979</b>
box 1, folder 19	<b>Whatever Happened to Mike? [re. Michael Rockefeller] 1975</b>

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Videotapes

box 1, folder 20	<b>"John Frum Cargo Cult Festival"</b>
box 1, folder 21	<b>"The Island That Time Forgot"</b>
box 2, folder 1	<b>"The Valley Beyond"</b>

AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES

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**New Guinea Tapes**

box 3, folder 1      **Singing by Girls at our house, Shellmoney Story, Bride Money Lionel Fagasi 1979**  
box 3, folder 2      **Sing Sing Lae, George Washington, Turnem Head**  
box 3, folder 3      **New Guinea, Tuareg Music**  
box 3, folder 4      **Dance of School in Wairokai, Story of Former Cannibal, Talk to Chief George Washington, Completo 1979**  
box 3, folder 5      **Mille Wall-Bouganville, Merle Wall, Leve (Carver) Munda 1970 - 1979**  
box 3, folder 6      **Interview with Reverend John Gina Munda, Solomon Islands, St. Joseph's Cathedral Kieta Bouganville 1970 - 1979**  
box 3, folder 7      **1st Story Luke Sosota, End John Gina Music, Tal of Battles and Maasina Rule by Sgt. Vouza 1979**  
box 3, folder 8      **Kava Talk, Tanna, Bungalow's Talk with Tanna 1980**  
box 3, folder 9      **Interview with Tuk, Tuk Interview Tanna 1980**  
box 3, folder 10     **Pentecost Ceremony 1982**

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**Miscellaneous**

box 3, folder 11     **Tape #4, User Copy**  
box 3, folder 12     **Tape 2, Stevey Bruce 2000**  
box 3, folder 13     **Stevey Bruce, Conversation with Stevey Bruce, Joel Robbins, Kathy Creely 2000**

PHOTOGRAPHS

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Prints

box 4, folder 1	<b>Photographs of Artifacts</b>
box 4, folder 2	<b>Malaita, Solomon Islands</b>
box 4, folder 3	<b>New Guinea 1981</b>
box 4, folder 4	<b>New Guinea (Dutch New Guinea/Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea)</b>
box 4, folder 5	<b>Vanuatu-Pentecost</b>
box 4, folder 6	<b>Vanuatu-Tanna Island</b>

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Slides

box 4, folder 7	<b>Papua New Guinea-Amgotor and Waina 1961</b>
box 4, folder 8	<b>Papua New Guinea 1963</b>
box 4, folder 9	<b>Papua New Guinea 1966 - 1975</b>
box 4, folder 10	<b>Solomon Islands, Especially Malaita 1979</b>
box 4, folder 11	<b>Vanuatu-Pentecost (Island) 1982</b>
box 4, folder 12	<b>Vanuatu-Tanna, John Frum Cult Sulphur Bay 1977 - 1981</b>

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Scrapbooks

box 5, folder 1, oversize FB4421	<b>Scrapbooks: New Guinea Patrol 1966 - 1968</b>
box 5, folder 2, oversize FB4422	<b>Scrapbooks: New Guinea 1961</b>