HISTORICAL NOTES

The School of Oriental Studies was founded at Finsbury Circus, London, in 1916, with the intention of training colonial administrators and providing London University with a school to rival the Oriental institutes of Berlin, Petrograd and Paris. Africa was added to the School’s name in 1938. The School moved to Bloomsbury in 1946.

Sidney Herbert Ray (1858-1939) was born in London and was educated at the British School at Bethnal Green in the East End. In 1880 he entered the St Mark’s Training College at Chelsea and in 1884 he was appointed an assistant master at the Board School at Bethnal Green. He remained a teacher at the school until his retirement in 1923. His career as a primary schoolteacher was paralleled by his long career as a comparative and descriptive linguist. He became interested in Pacific languages as a young man and his first paper was published in 1886. In 1888 he became a fellow of the Anthropological Institute. Ray relied heavily on the publications of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the published and unpublished writings of missionaries who had a strong interest in languages, such as the Reverend R.H. Codrington and later the Reverend W.G. Ivens. In 1890 he met the Cambridge anthropologist Alfred Haddon, who remained a friend and supporter for the rest of Ray’s life. They jointly published papers and Ray was a member of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition which Haddon led to the Torres Strait in 1898. His publications included A study of the languages of Torres Straits (with A.C. Haddon, 1893-97), A comparative vocabulary of the dialects of British New Guinea (1895), Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits (vol. 3, Linguistics, 1907) and A comparative study of Melanesian Island languages (1926).

William Marsden (1754-1836) was born in Verval, County Wicklow, Ireland, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. He was appointed to the East India Company and sent to Benkulen, Sumatra, in 1771. He was promoted to the position of principal secretary to the company’s government in Sumatra in 1774. He resigned from the position in 1779 and returned to England. He became acquainted with many leading scholars and writers, including Sir Joseph Banks, Alexander Dalrymple, William Herschel and Nevil Maskelyne. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1783 and was a founding member of the Irish Academy in 1785. He had acquired an extensive knowledge of Sumatra and the Malay language and his History of Sumatra appeared in 1783. In 1795 he was appointed second secretary to the Admiralty, serving under Sir Evan Nepean. Marsden became first secretary in 1804. He retired in 1807 and settled in Hertfordshire in 1812. His later years were devoted to scholarly pursuits. He published A dictionary of the Malayan language (1812) The travels of Marco Polo (1818) and Numismata orientalia illustrata (1823-25), as well as miscellaneous works and contributions to journals. In 1835 he presented his library of books and manuscripts to King’s College, London. Part of Marsden’s manuscript collection was transferred to the School of Oriental Studies in 1916.
Reel M681

Sidney Ray Collection

Box 1

1. Sanana vocabulary (ts)
2. Sanana language (ts)
3. S.H. Ray. Namau vocabulary (ms)
5. Glossary of St Matthew’s Gospel, chapters 1-6, in Kunini, New Guinea (ms)
6. Rev. E.B. Savage. Vocabulary of Daudai (ie Kiwai), Mabuiage and Mer (ie Miriam) (ms)
7. Elema languages (ts)
8. Tate vocabulary, Gulf of Papua (ts)

Box 2

1. J.H.L. Waterhouse. Vocabularies from New Ireland and New Britain, 1927 (ms)
2. C.M. Woodford. Vocabularies from the Solomon Islands, transcribed by Ray (ms)
3. Rev. Copland King. Vocabularies from the north east coast of British New Guinea (ms)
4. Letters of Rev. Copland King (Dogura, British New Guinea), 1898-99 (2 letters)
5. S.H. Ray. Vocabularies of the dialects of Pangkumu and Aulau, Malekula Bay (ms)
9. S.H. Ray. Papuan vocabularies from south west New Guinea (ms)
10. S.H. Ray. A vocabulary of the language of Nuguria, Leuaniua (ie Luangiua) and Sikaiana (ms)
11. C. Oswald Lelean. Fijian vocabularies, 1927 (ms)
12. Rev. William A. Heighway. A vocabulary of Mbau, Kandavu and English, and of Mba, Nandronga and English (ms)
13. Dialects of Bau, Nandronga and Ba, Fiji, with notes for Rev. R.H. Codrington (ms)
14. Nandronga vocabulary (ms)

Box 3

1. Vocabulary of Guadalcanal districts (ms)
Notes on the grammar of San Cristoval, Ulawa and South Mualal languages  (ms)
Rev. R.B. Comins.  Vocabulary of the Bubutana language with vocabularies of Rubians and Marovo  (ms)
Rev. J.R. Metcalfe.  Choiseul vocabularies  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Comparative vocabulary of Oceanic words in languages of Loyalty Islands, New Hebrides and Solomon Islands, parts 1-9  (ms)
W. Mersh Strong.  Vocabularies of languages of the Louisiade Archipelago  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Vocabularies of languages from central and eastern Papua  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Vocabularies of languages from mid-central Papua  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Vocabularies of languages from central Papua  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Vocabularies of languages from western Papua  (ms)

S.H. Ray.  A vocabulary of the language of Futuna, New Hebrides  (ms)
Arthur Capell.  Notes on Eromaga orthography and pronunciation  (ts and ms)
Arthur Capell.  Eromaga vocabulary  (ts and ms)
Arthur Capell.  The Eromaga verb  (ts)
Arthur Capell.  Notes on Eromaga words  (ts)
Erakor grammar  (ms)
Muna o Mai  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Vocabulary of the language of Emae, central New Hebrides  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  A vocabulary of the language of Aniwa, New Hebrides  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Vocabulary of the Baki district, Epi Island
S.H. Ray.  Vocabulary of the Aulua language, Malekula  (ms)
Ambrym grammar  (ms)
Rev. R.C. Nicholson.  Vocabulary of the language spoken by the Bilua tribe at Vella Lavella Island, British Solomon Islands, 1912  (ms)

A. Hoffmann.  Worterverzeichnis der Sprache von Bogadjm, Kaiser Wilhemsland  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  Notes on the Monumbo language  (ms)
S.H. Ray.  The verb in Monumbo  (ms)
Motuna language vocabulary
School textbook for the use of the Methodist Mission, Motuna  (ts)
Motuna, Bougainville: notes on grammar  (ms)
Motuna language school textbook  (ms)
Box 6

1  Rev. R.H. Rickard (Raluana).  A dictionary and grammar of the New Britain district, 1889, pp i-xii, 1-20 (ms)

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Box 6 (contd.)

1  Rev. R.H. Rickard.  A dictionary and grammar of the New Britain district, 1889, pp 21-482 (ms)

Box 7

1  Rev. J.M. Steward.  A Vaturanga-English dictionary and notes on the grammar (ms, 61pp)
2  A dictionary of the language of Vaturanga, Guadalcanal (ms)
2  Fred Isom.  O Vavae ta Laube (ts)
3  The Prodigal Son in Laube, translated from the Mota
4  Laube vocabulary
5  Rev. H. Welchman.  Seventy words in Laube, British Solomon Islands (ts)
6  C.M. Woodforde.  Seventy words in the language of the Russell Island Group, British Solomon Islands (ms)
7  Notes on Russell Island, 27 Feb. 1905 (ts)
8  S.H. Ray.  Notes on Laube (ms)
9  A.C. Tinoni.  O Vavae ta Savo, British Solomon Islands (ms)
10  Letter from Fred Isom (Maravovo, British Solomon Islands) to Ray, 10 March 1931
11  Rev. C.W. Howard.  Seventy words in the language of Savo, British Solomon Islands (ms)
12  S.H. Ray.  Vocabulary of the language of Savo (ms)
13  Letter from S.G. Caulton (Halavo, British Solomon Islands) to Rev. W.G. Ivens, 12 May 1935, with attached notes on Florida grammar
14  English and Bugotu vocabulary, from notes of Rev. H. Welchman (ms)
15  S.H. Ray.  A vocabulary of the Bugotu language of Ysabel, Solomon Islands (ms)
16  Vocabulary of the Gao district, Ysabel Island (ms)
17  Vocabulary of the language of Bogotu, Ysabel Island, from a ms of Rev. H. Welchman, 1902
18  The Song of Solomon, translated into Bogotu by G. Borgese (ms)
19  E. Bourne.  Colloquial phrases in the Bogotu language (ms)
20  Letter from Edward Bourne (Bogotu) to Ray, 20 July 1911
21  Words claimed to be invented in Bogotu (ms)

Box 8

1  S.H. Ray.  Outline of Mekeo grammar from notes of RR Peres Vitoli and Bouillet, 1898 (ms)
2  S.H. Ray.  A vocabulary of the Mekeo language (ms)
J. Lister Turner. Comparison of Motu, Indonesian and Melanesian (ts)

S.H. Ray. A vocabulary of the Are or Mukauan language, Cape Vogel, north-east Papua (ms)

A vocabulary of the Paiwa language, Papua

Vocabulary of the Panaieti language

S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Pokau (Lala or Nara) language (ms and ts)

O. Charles Shaw. English-Taupoto language (ts, 128pp)

S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Bwaidoga language (ms)

S.H. Ray. An English-Keapara vocabulary (ms)

S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Dauil language, Papua (ms)

Kukukuku vocabulary (ms)

J. Percy Money. The language ofMaising, Collingwood Bay district, north-eastern Papua (ts)

G.O. Manning. Vocabulary of the Kworafi language, north-eastern Papua (ms)

W.G. Ivens. Grammar and dictionary of Lamalanga (ms) [Annotations made in 1960 suggest that the dictionary is in Lamalanga, but the grammar is Oba (Lombaha) or Bugotu.]


Reel M683


S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Kuliviu language, Malekula Islands (ms)

S.H. Ray. Notes on Kuliviu grammar (ms)

Lotora vocabulary (dialect of Maewo) (ms)

Tegua word list (ms)

Rev. W. Gray. Notes on Ray's 'Languages of the New Hebrides', 14 July 1894 (ms)

Rev. W. Gray. Vocabularies of New Hebrides languages (ms)

Rev. Oscar Michelsen. Vocabularies of New Hebrides languages (ms)

Letter from Ray to W.G. Ivens, 12 Oct. 1930: criticism of Mota and Roviana Bible translations

Te Talatola khai o Pasikaloa. O kakakai aper Pasikaloa: a Pilheni (Reef Island) story with Mota translation (ms)

Rev. H.N. Drummond and J.W. Blencowe. A vocabulary of the language of Phileni, Matema, Nukuapu and Nupani, collected 1910 (ms)

Letter from J.W. Blencowe to Ray, 3 April: sends vocabulary
4 Letter from J.W. Blencowe to Ray, 27 March [1912]: languages of Reef Island near Santa Cruz
5 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Nifiloli, Reef Islands (ms)
6 Mo-iiki, Bellona Island (ms)
7 The Lord’s Prayer in the language of the Reef Islands (Matema) (ms)
8 Songs in the Marovo, or Eastern, dialect (ms)
9 Arthur M. Hocart. Vocabulary of Mandeghusu and Vesu Ghogoto (ms)
10 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Longu, Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands (ms)
11 E. Bourne. Vocabulary of the language spoken by the Thogokama tribe, Laube, Russell Island, 1911 (ms)

Box 11
1 H.B.T. Somerville and S.C. Weigall. Words and phrases in Roviana and Marovo with their English equivalents, New Georgia (ms)
2 A short story in English, Island-English, Marova and Rubiana (ms)
3 Rev. S.R. Rooney. Vocabulary of the Ruviana language, New Georgia (ms)
4 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Utupua (ms, very faint)
5 Buin (ie Telei) language
6 C.M. Woodford. A vocabulary from Rennell Island (ms)
7 Rev. W.G. Ivens to Thomson, n.d.: Thomson’s Sa grammar
8 C.M. Woodford. Seventy words in the language of Sio, 6 March 1906 (ms)

Box 12
1 E. Bourne. Vocabulary of the Bumbatana (Varese) dialect, Choiseul Island, Solomon Islands, 1900 (ms)
3 S.H. Ray. Notes on Arosi in relation to other languages of the Pacific
4 Rev. Allan H. Cropp. Vocabulary of the Petats district, north Solomon Islands (ts and ms)
5 Rev. Allan H. Cropp. A short grammar of the Petats district (ts)

Box 13
1 Wailevu vocabulary (ms)
2 Somosomo vocabulary (ms)
3 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Rotuma (ms)
4 Noikoro vocabulary (ms)
5 Mathuata vocabulary (ms)
6 Kandavu vocabulary (ms)
7 Letter from A.J. Dawe (Colonial Office) to Ray, 26 Feb. 1937: proposed Fijian-English dictionary
Letter from Juxon Barton (Suva) to William Ormsby-Gore, 27 Nov. 1936: question of preparing third edition of Hazelwood’s *Fijian grammar and dictionary* (copy + attachments)

Caka vocabulary (ms)

Mbua vocabulary (ms)

Mba vocabulary (ms)

Box 14

1. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Uluthi  (Ms)
2. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Sonsorol and Tobi  (ms)
3. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Satawal  (ms)
4. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of St David’s Island  (ms)
5. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Pulawat (Kata Island)  (ms)
7. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Pelew Islands  (ms)
8. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Nuku-oro, Monte Verde Islands  (ms)
10. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Nauru  (ms)
11. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of Mokil, Duperry Island  (ms)
12. F.W. Christian. Vocabulary of the language of lamotrek and Ifalik  (ms)
13. Vocabulary and grammar notes on the language of Ruk  (ms)
14. S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Mortlock Islands, Micronesia  (ms)
15. Rev. H.E.B. Case. Language of Chamorro, Guam  (ms)
16. Rev. H.E.B. Case (Guam) to Ray, 24 April 1909: returns notes on Chamorro
17. S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Yengen  (ms)

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Box 14 (contd.)

S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the island of Yengen  (contd.)  (ms)

Letter from Maurice Leenhardt (Paris) to Ray, 27 May 1909: languages of New Hebrides

S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Wailu language, New Caledonia  (ms)

S.H. Ray. Grammar notes on the language of Houailou, New Caledonia  (ms)

S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Uvean language, Loyalty Islands  (ms)

S.H. Ray. Phrases illustrating the language of Iai  (ms)

Box 15

2. 154 English words with Mota translation  (ms)
3. Makura grammar  (ms)
4 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the Tasiko language of Epi Island, New Hebrides
5 Vocabulary of the Bieri language, Epi Island
6 Letters of Rev. Alexander Morton (Malekula) to Ray, 1889-90: languages of Malekula (2 letters)
7 Rev. Alexander Morton. Notes on the language of Pangkumu (ms)
8 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Pama (ms)
9 S.H. Ray. A vocabulary and grammar notes on the Nogugu language (ms)
10 Grammar of the Urihip language, Malekula (ms)

Box 16
1 Rev. A. Brittain (Norfolk Island). Vocabularies of three New Hebrides languages: Pentecost or Raga, Lepers Island or Opa, Aurora or Maewo (ms)
2 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Lo, Torres Islands (ms)
3 Letter from W.J. Durrad to Ray, 6 Jan. 1915: sends Book of Genesis in language of Loh
4 Book of Genesis in language of Loh (ts and ms)
5 Notes on the Loh grammar (ms)
6 Short stories in the Opa language (ms)
7 Stories about Tarago and Suge (ms)
8 O Vava ta Opa, Leper’s Island, New Hebrides (ms)
9 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Omba (ms)
10 O Vava ta Lotora, Maewo Island (ms)
11 O Vava ta Arata, Maewo Island (ms)
12 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Maewo (ms)
13 S.H. Ray. Vocabulary of the language of Rago, Pentecost Island (ms)
14 Letter from H.N. Drummond (Norfolk Island) to Ray, 5 Dec. 1919: sends a Raga story with Mota translation
15 Veveve huri atatatu ihana Malagira (ms)
16 The languages of Raga (ms)
17 Mota-Tegua vocabulary (ms)
18 Mota-Toga vocabulary (ms)

Loose papers
1 Notebook of Rev. W.G. Ivens
3 Four exercise books including copies of a Melanesian catechism or prayer book
4 Notebook and exercise book
5 S.H. Ray. Native words in a comparative study of the Melanesian island languages (4 exercise books and some loose sheets)
6 S.H. Ray. Comparative vocabulary of Oceanic words, parts 1-3
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Loose papers

Comparative vocabulary of Oceanic words, part 3 (contd.)

7 Vocabularies of languages of Solomon Islands, New Mecklenburg, Bismarck Archipelago and Admiralty Islands taken from manuscript of G. Friederici (4 exercise books)

8 Na Usuusu a Jeremia na Prophet (59pp)

9 Unidentified notebook


11 Letters from Horatio Hule (11 July 1890), Oscar Michelsen (New Hebrides, 18 Feb. 1891), Oscar Michelsen (Christiana, 11 Dec. 1891), Lorimer Fison (Melbourne, 29 Feb. 1892), C. Fox (Cambridge, 12 July 1915)

12 Miscellaneous loose manuscripts


Other Manuscripts

MS 183038

Manuscript index to Alexander Dalrymple’s collection of maps, charts and plans printed between 1773 and 1807. The third volume contains a few charts of Australia and New Zealand and many of the East Indies, New Guinea and parts of South East Asia. There is also a list of six volumes of memoirs.

MS 18945

Papers of Robert Dundas, President of the Board of Control for India, relating to the claims of officers of the 73rd Regiment for allowances due to them for service in India in 1805-6. They comprise a letter from the officers to Lt. Col. Lachlan Macquarie, the commanding officer of the Regiment, and correspondence between Macquarie, Lt. Col. J. Gordon of the War Office, and Dundas, June-July 1808. There is also a minute of the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

MS 40801

Manuscripts of S.H. Ray relating to the Rapanui tablets at Easter Island, including a vocabulary.
MS 40894/1

Copy by S.H. Ray of a vocabulary of the language of the Otate tribe of Cape Granville, Queensland, obtained by C.S. Seligman and G. Pim in 1898. (ms)

MS 40894/2

A short vocabulary of a dialect of the people of Raffles Bay, northern Australia. (ms)

**Marsden Collection**

MS 41645

William Dawes. Two notebooks containing words, translations, snippets of conversations, and explanations of expressions of the people of Sydney, c. 1790-91.

Part a

Grammatical forms of the language of New South Wales in the neighbourhood of Sydney, 1790.

Part b

Vocabulary of the language of New South Wales in the neighbourhood of Sydney. This notebook contains inter alia snatches of dialogue between Dawes and Patyegarang, a young Aboriginal woman, who seems to have been his main language teacher.

William Dawes (1762-1836), a lieutenant in the Marines, arrived in New South Wales on HMS *Sirius* in 1788. He was employed on shore as an engineer, surveyor and astronomer. He built an observatory at what is now Dawes Point and it was there that he became acquainted with the Aboriginal people and made a close study of their language. He returned to England in 1792.

Parts c and d of MS 41645 were filmed on reel M686.

**Ray Collection**

MS 50494

W.G. Ivens. A grammar of the language of Pangkumu, Malekula Island, New Hebrides (ms)

MS 68121

S.H. Ray. Bibliography of printed books, articles and manuscripts on linguistics and Pacific and South East Asian languages held in Ray’s library (ms)

Part 1: Collective works
Part 2: Indonesian languages
Part 3: Micronesian languages
Part 4: Polynesian languages
Part 5: Melanesian languages: Melanesian islands

Reel M686

MS 68121 (contd.)

S.H. Ray. Bibliography of printed books, articles and manuscripts on linguistics and Pacific and South East Asian languages held in Ray’s Library (ms)

Part 5: Melanesian languages: Melanesian islands (contd.)
Part 5: Melanesian languages: New Guinea
Part 6: Papuan languages
Part 7: Australian languages
Index to S.H. Ray’s bibliography
Title pages of vols. 2-6
Volume 7: Philology general
Volume 8: Anthropology, psychology, religion and folklore
Volume 9: Biography, history of missions, travels, exploration, geography

Marsden Collection

MS 41645

Part c

Vocabulary of the language of the people of New South Wales, including names of places, Indigenous men and women, and tribes, c. 1790-91.

This manuscript was probably not written by William Dawes. It is written in at least three hands, in both rough and fair scripts, and judging from the scripts it is likely the writers were Arthur Phillip, David Collins and John Hunter.

Part d

Short vocabularies of the language of the people of Van Diemen’s Land collected by officers of the French frigates La Recherche and L’Esperance in 1793.

Parts a and b of MS 41645 were filmed on reel M685.

Ray Collection

Accession 38277

Vocabularies of native dialects, British New Guinea, extracted from the annual reports, 1889-96.
Marsden Collection

MS 9882

Vocabularies of (a) the language of Tonga and the Friendly Islands and (b) the language of New Caledonia, compiled by officers of the French frigates L’Esperance and Recherche in 1793. (ms, 9 parts)

MS 12023

Daniel Solander. Vocabulary of the language of Tahiti. (ms)

MS 12139

Volume of 18th century Malayan/Sumatran manuscripts comprising:

(i) A Malay poem representing fishes and discussing the duties of Islam
(ii) A Sumatran law code
(iii) A Sumatran romance in free verse
(iv) Sumatran-Malay pantuns (poems)
(v) Malay pantuns collected by Sir Joseph Banks
(vi) Accounts in Malay
(vii) A treaty with the chiefs of the country near Moco-Moco, written in Malay in 1728
(viii) Malay-English vocabulary by W. Rogers
(ix) Vocabulary of English, Malay and Rajang by W. Butler Hummings
(x) English notes by W. Butler Hummings on snakes and lizards
(xi) Ranjang poems, 1783
(xii) Two sets of accounts in Batak for expenses of the country-guard in 1783

MS 12153

Sir Joseph Banks. Vocabularies of the languages of Tahiti, Prince’s Island, Sulu, Samarang, New Holland, New Zealand and Savu, c. 1769-80. Some vocabularies are in Banks’s handwriting and on others Banks has written notes.

MS 12156

Vocabularies of the languages of Tahiti, New Zealand, Savu, Prince’s Island, Samarang, Sulu, Madagascar, the Mandingos, the Eskimos, Malabar and Peru. Some of the vocabularies appear to have been copied from MS 12153.

MS 12892

Sir Joseph Banks. ‘Observations de Otaheite etc’, 1769. The manuscript contains names and descriptions of people and places, and other memoranda.