**Malinowski, Bronisław (1884-1942)**

Born Bronisław Kasper Malinowski to a family in the Polish nobility (the *szlachta*), Malinowski made contributions to anthropology through his text *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (1922) and to linguistic anthropology in *Coral Gardens and their Magic* (1935). Travelling to the Trobriand Islands, Malinowski documented the life, customs and traditions of Melanesian people using systematic observation in ethnographic field notes and photography. This rich description of the Trobrianders set the standard for scientific ethnographic practice in his book *A Scientific Theory of Culture* (1944). Malinowski was a participant within modernist conversations about language, sexuality and culture in monographs that would engage the ideas of Joseph Conrad and Sigmund Freud, such as *Crime and Custom in Savage Society* (1926), *Freedom and Civilization* (1947)and *Sex*, *Culture and Myth* (1962). C. K. Ogden and I. A. Richards would publish a précis of his linguistic anthropology in their statement on language, *The Meaning of Meaning* (1923). The publication of Malinowski’s diaries marked the end of the modern period for anthropology. Clifford Geertz and others would use the tension between the alleged objectivity of the ethnographic text and the personal demons Malinowski grappled with in the diaries to illustrate that the claim to objectivity in ethnographic writings is illusory. Having eroded claims to objectivity, Geertz ushered in postmodern discussions of the making of knowledge in anthropology as a discipline.

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**List of works**

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------ (1944) *Freedom and Civilization*, New York: Roy Publishers.

------ (1944) *A Scientific Theory of Culture*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

------ (1962) *Sex, Culture and Myth*, New York: Harcourt, Brace & World.

(1967) *A Diary in the Strict Sense of the Term*, New York, Harcourt, Brace & World.

**References and further reading**

Geertz, C. (1988) *Works and Lives: The Anthropologist as Author*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Ogden, C. K. and Richards, I. A. (1923) *The Meaning of Meaning: A Study of the Influence of Language upon Thought and of the Science of Symbolism*, London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co.; New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co.

Young, M. W. (1998) *Malinowski’s Kiriwina: Fieldwork Photography 1915-1918,* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

------ (2004) *Malinowski: Odyssey of an Anthropologist 1884-1920*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

**Paratextual material**

Plate 21, Page 68, of Young *Malinowski’s Kiriwina*. In the Malinowski collection, that is the photo coded 350/8.

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