

Baniwa of the Aiary and Içana Collection of Robin M. Wright Finding Aid

Preparation Note: Prepared March-April 2020 by Ryan Sullivant and Robin Wright. Updated December 2021-January 2022.

Repository: Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA)

Repository URL: <https://ailla.utexas.org>

Collection ID: ailla:263497

Collection URL: <https://ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:263497>

Collection Dates: 1976-2010

Collection Published: 2020-04

Language(s) with ISO-639-3 code(s):

- Baniwa [bwi]; spoken and written throughout the collection
- Portuguese [por]; spoken and written throughout the collection
- English [eng]; written throughout the collection
- Tukano [tuo]; written in a few items
- Spanish [spa]; spoken in one video, written in a few items
- Latin [lat]; written in a few items
- French [fra]; written in a few items

Location(s):

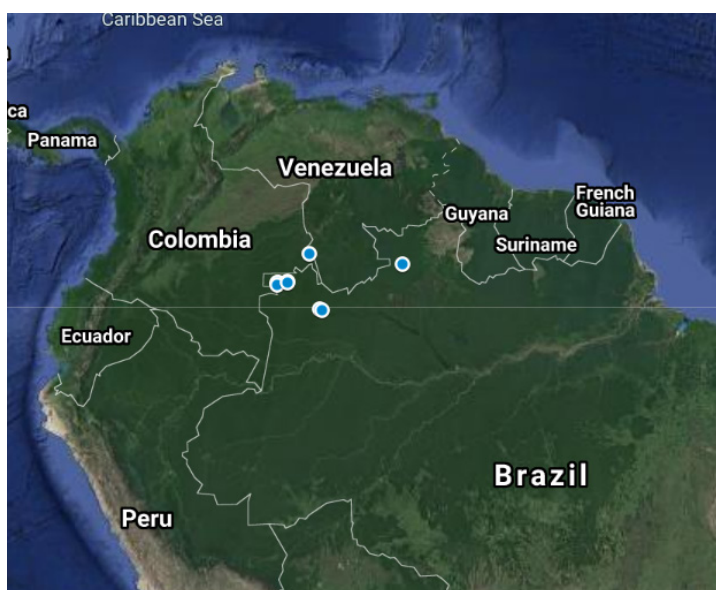
- In Brazil
 - Uapui Cachoeira, Amazonas
 - Ucuqui Cachoeira, Amazonas
 - Itacoatiara-Mirim, Amazonas
 - São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas
 - Loiro-Poço, Amazonas
 - Pana-panã, Amazonas
 - Areial, Amazonas
 - Camarão, Amazonas
 - Yanomami, Roraima
- In Venezuela
 - Maroa, Amazonas

Depositor:

- Robin M. Wright

Collectors:

- Robin M. Wright
- Luiza Garnelo



Approximate locations where audio-visual recordings in this collection were made



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- Yara dos Santos Costa
- André Baniwa

Extent and scope:

This is a multimedia collection focusing on the Baniwa people of the Northwest Amazon, and in particular on shamanic practices, ceremony, mythology, prophet movements, traditional knowledge about illnesses and healing, and the history and ethnography of the Baniwa people. Most of the materials in this collection was collected or created by Robin M. Wright during trips to Baniwa communities of the Aiary and Içana rivers of the Upper Rio Negro region of the Brazilian Amazon, and visits to museums and archives. During his career as an academic researcher in Brazil and the United States, Wright has focused on the history of the Baniwa people and their religious practices, including the effects of prophet movements and evangelization within the region, publishing several books on these subjects (see *Related Materials* below).

The materials in this collection correspond to two major periods. The first corresponds to Wright's field trips to Baniwa communities were to the villages of Uapui and Ucuqui (sometimes spelled Wapui and Ukuki, respectively) during 1976 and 1977. The second is a longer span covering the period from 1990-2010 when Wright was working on projects including the creation of the *Waferinaipe lanheke* collection of Baniwa myths, collaborative research projects on traditional Baniwa knowledge surrounding diseases and their treatments, and collaborative projects with shamanic knowledge and



Baniwa shaman Manuel da Silva (*left*) and Robin Wright (*right*) in São Gabriel da Cachoeira, circa 2000. [[ailla:273100](#)]

sacred sites. Other events recorded in the collection is the building and inauguration of the Malikai Dapana in Uapui in 2009, an event during which Robin Wright presented Manuel da Silva with the Living Treasure award for his life's work as a Baniwa shaman, and a ceremonial dance house in Ucuqui in 2008.

Some materials in this collection were collected by others. These include materials created by Luiza Pereira on health issues relevant to the Baniwa people in 2000 and 2001 and materials created by Yara dos Santos Costa on Baniwa dances in 2007 and 2008 as part of her master's research.

The collection as of the writing of this finding aid has:

- 264 PDF documents totaling 2,385 pages
- 219 WAV audio files and 6 MP3 files totaling 81 hours 47 minutes

- 185 JPG images
- 63 MP4 video files totaling 16 hours 46 minutes

Access and use conditions:

Some materials in this collection, listed below, are restricted. They are password protected and access to these materials can be requested from the individuals listed on each restricted item's page.

All other materials in this collection are public access and subject to AILLA's general [conditions of use](#).

Processing note:

A large amount of analog material was digitized for this collection. Full-size audio cassettes were digitized in AILLA's digitization lab, and microcassettes were digitized by Digitization Services at the University of Texas Libraries. Paper documents and photographs were digitized at AILLA with a flatbed scanner. Digital files in unsupported formats, including Microsoft Office documents and WMA audio, were migrated to supported PDF and WAV formats. All video files, including materials originally recorded on film or videotape, arrived at AILLA already digitized or were born-digital. Some digital video files housed on CDs were concatenated into a single MP4 video.

Some duplicated image files were omitted, and some filenames were changed to remove unsupported characters (especially spaces) or to clarify the contents of the files. For digitized paper materials, archival TIF master files were created, and access copies in PDF format (for documents) and JPG format (for images) were created and ingested into the AILLA repository. Archival formats are available by request to ailla@ailla.utexas.org.

Arrangement of these materials was done in close collaboration with depositor Robin Wright.

This material is based upon work supported by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) under grants PD-260978-18 and ZPA-283989. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the collection guide do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Last updated January 2022.

Accruals:

A small number of additional files may be added irregularly as the depositor finalizes them.

Related materials:

Anthropology Resource Center. 1981. *The Yanomami Indian Park: A Call for Action*. ARC: Boston, 25 pp. booklet.

Cornelio, José Marcellino and Robin M. Wright. 1999. *Waferinaipe Ianheke. A Sabedoria dos Nossos Antepassados*. ACIRA & FOIRN: São Gabriel da Cachoeira.

Hill, Jonathan. 2007. [Curripaco Collection of Jonathan Hill](#), Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America. [Audio-visual materials on the folklore and music of the Curripaco people of Venezuela, who are closely related to the Baniwa people. Materials collected by a collaborator of Robin Wright's.]

Wright, Robin M. 1998. *Cosmos, Self and History in Baniwa Religion. For Those Unborn*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Wright, Robin M. 2005. *História Indígena e do Indigenismo no Alto Rio Negro*. Campinas: Mercado de Letras & Instituto Socioambiental.

Wright, Robin M. 2013. *Mysteries of the Jaguar Shamans of the Northwest Amazon*. University of Nebraska Press, Omaha.

Materials in the Baniwa of the Aiary and Içana Collection of Robin M. Wright

I. *Unrestricted Materials*

Arawak Languages and Historical Sources

[Arawak Languages and Historical Sources](#) (1 item)

Baniwa Dances

[Baniwa Dances - Panapaná - Aiary River - 2007 - Yara Costa \(author\)](#) (4 items)

[Analysis of Indigenous Dances of the Baniwa People \(Aiary River - Yara Costa - Master's Thesis\)](#) (2 items)

[Pudali Dances in Camarão \(2008\), filmed and interpreted by Yara Costa \(M.A. in Anthropology\)](#) (2 items)

[Wethiriapan Songs and Dances \(José Cornelio, 1977\)](#) (20 items)

[House of Shamans' Knowledge; House of Dancing 2008-9](#) (2 items)

Baniwa History

[Powerpoint presentations of images from 18th-21st centuries](#) (5 items)

[Notes on archival material from 18th - 20th centuries, Upper Rio Negro](#) (29 items)

[Archival Research Notebook 19th - 20th centuries](#) (2 items)

[Wars with the Uanano of the Uaupes, and other peoples](#) (3 items)

[Collection of oral histories, historical narrative, and archival notes on Baniwa and Tukanoan prophets](#) (3 items)

[Narratives of Keruaminali \(Hohodene chief\), histories of Aiary communities, prophets](#) (4 items)

[Interviews with shamans of Uapui on cosmology, equipment, stories of prophets](#) (9 items)

[Interviews on the prophet Wetsu; on the history of the Dzauinai of Jui Uitera; on Baniwa political associations](#) (5 items)

[Interviews about Sofia Muller and witchcraft](#) (3 items)

[Various annotations about the Indigenous History of the Aiary](#) (1 item)

(see other restricted materials below)

Catalogs of Field notebooks and incantations

[Catalog of Fieldwork Notebooks and Incantations](#) (3 items)

Creation Narratives

[Stories and Incantations related to Kaali](#) (4 items)

[Creation narratives of the Hohodene and Walipere-dakenai of the Aiary River \(transcribed and translated\)](#) (29 items)

[Narratives from the volume *Waferinaipe Ianheke* \(1997\)](#) (11 items)

[Creation narratives of the Hohodene and Walipere-dakenai of the Aiary River \(narratives from the book\)](#) (9 items)

[Young Scientists Program - Narrators and Narratives from the Içana River \(Luiza Pereira Garnelo\)](#) (69 items)

[Manuel da Silva tells a story](#) (4 items)

[Drawings by Thiago Aguilar \(Uapui Cachoeira, 2010\)](#) (11 items)

Sacred Narratives - Ooni; Inaro kalidzamai	(4 items)
The beginning of the rivers (ooni)	(1 item)
Stories of the Creation of the World - Matteo Pereira, Loiro-Poço, Aiary River, 1998	(27 items)
Malaria story and others by Mandu and Cristina of Mauá, Içana	(5 items)
Mateo Pereira Stories Translated and Commented	(17 items)
<i>(see other restricted materials below)</i>	
Ethnographic information	
Ethnographic Data from the Aiary River (1976)	(4 items)
Field Notebooks	
Fieldwork Notes 2000-2001	(6 items)
Field Notebooks on Social Organization, and Life Histories from the Upper Aiary River 1976-77	(2 items)
Fieldnotes by Maria Luiza Pereira (formerly Garnelo) on Illnesses and Cures - 2000	(11 items)
Incantations	
Incantations: collection of various	(14 items)
<i>(see other restricted materials below)</i>	
Initiation Ceremonies	
Kuwaipan (2008) film (Ukuki Cachoeira)	(2 items)
Girl's pepper chants (kalidzamai); 'the beginning of the rivers' (ooni kenyuwa)	(4 items)
Kuwaipan Ethnography and notes	(5 items)
Kuwaipan (2008), Ukuki Cachoeira - recordings of songs and chants	(10 items)
<i>(see other restricted materials below)</i>	
Interviews on Illnesses and Cures	
Interviews and Stories of Illnesses and Cures (Itacoatiara mirim, Sao Gabriel), 2000	(14 items)
Interviews with Pedro, Isaías, and Luis about Illnesses and Cures, the Kuwaipan Ceremony, the soul, images, and shadows (2000)	(10 items)
Interviews on Illnesses and their cures, Initiation ceremony (2000)	(37 items)
Life History of Manuel da Silva	
Life Story of Manuel da Silva (1920-2009) in Baniwa, Translated into Portuguese	(20 items)
Linguistic Notes	
Linguistic Notes (1976-7) - Baniwa of the Aiary and Içana	(6 items)
Names of Plant Remedies and their uses	
Names of Plant Remedies and their uses	(1 item)
Photos	
Images of the Içana (Nimuendajú and Galvão - 1927 and 1952)	(7 items)
Photographic Images 1976 - 2000	(30 items)
Images - Photos 2000-2002 (SGC, Itacoatiara mirim)	(58 items)
Shamans' Knowledge	
Explanation of Hakuíta (wood darts) - Manuel da Silva	(1 item)

Dzawinai lamakane (Jaguar shirt) - Ercilia da Silva	(2 items)
Narrative for 'Making Parika' video	(10 items)
Incantations, cosmology, illnesses and cures, creation narratives, curing ritual	(20 items)
Schematic Drawings and explanations of the cosmos	(3 items)
Inauguration of the shamans' House of Knowledge and Power - Malikai Dapana - 2009	(2 items)
(Maliri ianheke) narrated by Manuel da Silva, Uapui Cachoeira, 2009	(2 items)
José Felipe narrates how to make pariká; story of origin of pariká; plant remedies	(5 items)
Malikai Stories (Manuel da Silva and Ercilia da Silva, 2009)	(2 items)
The Origin of Shamans' Snuff (Dzato) and Shamans' Powers (Malikai) (Manuel da Silva and Ercilia da Silva, Uapui Cachoeira, 2010)	(2 items)
Shamans' knowledge: A Cure - 1977 - Uapui - Hohodene	(22 items)
Ethnography of the Shamans of the Aiary River	(1 item)
Shamans' Stories (Manuel da Silva, Uapui, 1997)	(4 items)
Dzawinai lamakane (Jaguar shirt) and Haikuita (darts)	(5 items)
<i>(see other restricted materials below)</i>	

Video Documentaries

Yanomami – A People in Crisis (1981)	(2 items)
Voyage to the Aiary, 2008, Pedro de Jesus & The Hipana Rapids	(2 items)
The Warnings of Mandu	(2 items)

Works and Publications by Robin M. Wright

Works and Publications by Robin M. Wright	(20 items)
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II. Restricted Materials

Baniwa History

Uapui Cachoeira, Aiary River (1970s - 2000)	(1 item)
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Creation Narratives

The beginning of Kuwai (various versions), Names of Flutes, Ikapethakethi Project	(3 items)
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Incantations

Incantations to facilitate childbirth; to protect natal family; and to name child	(6 items)
Incantations to protect from witchcraft (Hiwiathi, Iraidalimi), to bring back the soul of the sick	(3 items)
Incantations to protect against Yoopinai, Walama (darts), Hfetchi (flu)	(10 items)
Incantations at the time of death	(2 items)
Incantation to prevent sickness from attacking natal family	(1 item)

Initiation Ceremonies

Initiation ceremonies: pepper chants (Kalidzamai) for Girls and Boys	(11 items)
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Shamans' Knowledge

Incantations, cures (1976-77); shamans' songs and their transcriptions; observations of a cure (1977)	(10 items)
Incantations, origin of shamans' snuff	(7 items)
Shamans' Songs – Manuel da Silva – 2009	(7 items)