Acknowledgments, Notes, and Bibliography for

The Root of Roots:
Or, How Afro-American Anthropology Got Its Start

by Richard Price and Sally Price

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Acknowledgments

Kevin Yelvington, who had been asked to write an article for History of Anthropology on the Herskovitses' Suriname fieldwork, very kindly brought to our attention the existence of the Herskovitses' unpublished documents, most of which, unbeknownst to us, had been available at the Schomburg Center since the late 1980s. He also made available to us copies of relevant correspondence he had obtained from the Melville J. Herskovits Papers at Northwestern University. We are extremely grateful for Kevin's collegial generosity, which launched us on this project.

Several friends have provided comments that helped us to improve the manuscript: Roger Abrahams, Ken Bilby, Vince Brown, Nahum Chandler, John Collins, Virginia Dominguez, Bill Maurer, Phil Morgan, Gert Oostindie, Leah Price, Peter Redfield, and Kevin Yelvington. Gilles Colleu helped recover details in several of the historical photos.

Finally, RP wishes to put on record that he was wrong to criticize David Scott (Price 2001:44) for having suggested that Herskovits "discovered" precisely what he wished to demonstrate regarding Africa among the Saramaka. When that article was written, we had not yet read Herskovits' diaries, which strongly support Scott's claim (1991:269).

Notes

We list here sources for all quotations for which the date of the entry is not provided in the text of The Root of Roots. References cited in these notes (e.g., "Trouillot 2002") are listed in full at the bottom of the document.

The diaries that Melville Herskovits kept while in Suriname are relatively detailed and personal; his ethnographic notes are often included in them, though he also kept some separate notebooks with interview data. Frances Herskovits kept diaries with personal comments only for the beginning of the 1928 summer. Her written materials, which far outweigh those of her husband, are dominated by folktale and other transcriptions in Sranan-tongo but also include ethnographic notes, some from Saramaka but most from her research with Creoles in Paramaribo.

Abbreviations:
FSH D = Frances Herskovits' diaries, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, Melville J. and Frances S. Herskovits Papers.
MJH D = Melville Herskovits' diaries, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New
page number
3. "a sort of anthropological metonym" ... Scott 1991:269
4. "a profound influence ... and the Bantu Zambi" ... F. Herskovits 1966:vii-viii.
5. "Duffy by name" ... MJH D 7/10/28.
5. "have our outfit all ready upon arrival" ... Kahn to MJH, letter of 4/17/28.
7. "a literate young woman" ... F. Herskovits 1966:viii.
7. "a comfortable private house with a garden" ... MJH D 7/18/28.
8. "is a mine of information ... the prize boy to see things wrong" ... MJH D 7/17/28, 7/20/28, 7/23/28.
9. "About two hours and a half" ... MJH D 7/24/28.
9. "reads a great deal" ... MJH D 8/1/28.
10. "He's a good man" ... MJH D 7/26/28.
11. "Toward the stern" ... MJH D 7/31/28.
14. "On our way home" ... MJH to L. Rutgers, the governor of Surinam, letter of 10/7/29.
16. "They certainly look like West Africans" ... MJH to Kahn, letter of 10/26/27.
16. "one of the most valuable things" ... MJH to Kahn, letter of 5/7/28.
16. "working with a Kru informant" ... MJH to van Panhuys, letter of 5/7/28.
16. "He had already moved considerably away from his 1925 assimilationist position" ... Herskovits 1925a, Jackson 1986, Mintz 1990.
17. "The civilized negro must lose his contempt" ... Vandercook 1926: xv-xvi.
17. "So vain" ... Vandercook 1926:227-228.
18. "my primary interest" ... MJH to L. Rutgers, the governor of Surinam, letter of 5/28/28.
18. "this was still the period in his research" ... F. Herskovits 1966:viii.
18. "the organization of the courts" ... MJH D 7/17/28.
18. "I got relationship terms" ... MJH D 7/18/28.
18. "Indian axe-head" ... MJH D 7/21/28.
18. "Just beyond was what I imagine" ... MJH D 7/25/28.
18. "It is African" ... MJH D 7/30/28.
18. "the most indisputably African thing"... MJH D 7/31/28.
19. "The iron pots on sticks" ... MJH N 7/12/29
20. "Lalani ... said that when they returned from digging"... MJH N 7/12/29.
20. "simple projector ... states of possession"... RD:258, 260.
20-21. "Fann showed them pictures ... rest of the village were there"... MJH D 7/17/29, 7/28/29, 7/29/29, 7/31/29.
21. "In the other corner"... RD:156.
21. "They attribute to their canoemen"... RD:55.
21. "today as in the eighteenth-century" ... Schumann 1778, s.v. fundu.
22. "Mamadam, the great falls of the Saramacca"... RD:351.
22. "which was recorded in that form as early as 1778"... Schumann 1778, s.v. buli
22. "found a couple more examples"... MJH D 7/29/28.
22. "These people ... have evolved an art"... M. & F. Herskovits 1930[1966]:158.
23. "the much more nuanced"... M. J. Herskovits 1930a.
23. "A Trip to 'Africa' in the New World" ... M. J. Herskovits 1929.
24. "Their every day language is the usual ‘Talkee, talkee’ of the colony"... Kahn to MJH, letter of 10/18/27.
26. "[Saramakas] said, ... 'You must have strong obia'" ... RD:259-260.
26. "It was whispered"... RD:62.
29. "There are two snakes"... RD:276.
30. "Will Bayo be married?" ... RD:289, 300.
30. "I went over some pictures"... MJH D 8/9/29. Here, MJH actually wrote "Tutui," but later (8/6/29) referred to "Tutui, or Tutú, as I now learn his name to be."
30. "Bayo could take up many of our photographs"... RD:282-283.
31. "If Mrs. Herskovits accompanies us"... Kahn to MJH, letter of 11/2/27.
31. "They have suitable arrangements ... on their boats" ... Kahn to MJH, letters of 5/11/28 and 5/26/28.
34. "Speaking very frankly"... Kahn to MJH, letter of 11/2/27.
34. "I realize, of course"... MJH to Kahn, letters of 11/16/27, 12/6/27.
34. "If it were my wife"... Kahn to MJH, letter of 12/21/27.
36. "I think we will work according to your suggestions"... MJH to Kahn, letter of 2/1/28.
36. "There will be a [winti] dance"... MJH D 7/19/28.
36. "I shall be very happy to have [Bundel] go with"... MJH to Rogalli, letter of 4/23/29.
37. "Soon after they arrive"... MJH D 7/12/29, MJH N 7/14/29.
37. "I explained all the horrors to Frances"... MJH to Kahn, letter of 2/29/28.
37-38. "[the women] swarmed ... twins from the women" ... MJH D 7/24/29, 7/27/29, 7/29/29, 7/30/29, 8/1/29.
39. "From the provision grounds"... RD:169.
40. "[In the Suriname interior] the use of informants"... M. J. Herskovits 1950[1966]:63.
41. "From the point of view of ethnographic field method"... MJH 1929/30:397-398.
42. "[Rebel Destiny] is not an ethnographic treatise ... or has not been witnessed by ourselves"... RD:xii-xiii.
42. "literary rather than ... scientific"... MJH to van Panhuys, letter of 1/5/34.
42. "romantic relativism"... Jackson 1986:121.
43. "After a silence, the Granman spoke"... RD:181.
44. "a lumber factor down the river"... RD:199.
44. "my best informant"... MJH to F. van Haaren (the colonial secretary), letter of 5/13/29.
44. "Schmidt, the school-master at Gansee"... MJH D 7/25/28.
44. "He knows the culture"... MJH to Reverend Burkhardt, letter of 10/1/28.
44. "once in a technical article on social organization"... Herskovits 1930b.
45. "there was a Catholic priest"... MJH D 7/24/28.
46. "It is a sort of ethnological Paradise"... MJH to Kahn, letter of 12/6/27.
49. "The two new boils that developed were ripening"... MJH D 8/1/28.
49. "the thrill of my life"... MJH D 7/10/28.
49. "If I could take a good piano"... FSH D 7/24/28.
49. "It will be nearly impossible to study Bush negroes"... Van Panhuys to MJH, letter of 4/28/28.
54. "I woke up about 8 o'clock"... MJH D 7/12/29.
54. "I got up feeling wretched"... MJH D 8/17/29.
54. "Up feeling rather tired"... MJH D 7/13/29.
54. "I took some castor oil"... MJH D 7/14/29.
55. "Negroes, negroes—scarcely ever a white face"... MJH D 6/27/27.
55. "[Kahn] must be good and lonesome by now"... MJH D 7/19/28.
55. "alone in the interior"... MJH D 8/2/29.
55. "got a good scare"... MJH D 7/26/28.
56. "We sat and talked until half-past ten"... MJH D 7/26/28.
57. "the true, true Saramacca country"... RD:170.
"If they're afraid of what we learned" ... MJH D 8/2/29.
"childish or kiddish attitude" ... Kahn to MJH, letter of 11/27/28.
"plans for presentation of the material"... MJH D 7/17/28.
"I am increasingly confident ... and more." ... MJH D 7/8/28, 7/28/28, 8/2/28.
"I haven't seen much ... but wasn't very successful." ... MJH D 7/27/29, 7/28/29, 7/30/29, 8/1/29.
"confident when he was in full control" ... Simpson 1973:7.
"a bouncing, cheerful, unquenchable extrovert" ... Mead cited in Simpson 1973:3.
"tended to be more concerned" ... Simpson 1973:7.
"We were away by 7" ... MJH D 7/26/29.
"I suppose we came thru all right" ... MJH D 7/27/29.
"In the evening we sat" ... MJH D 7/28/29.
"I showed African pictures" ... MJH D 7/29/29.
"Fann made it plain" ... MJH D 7/30/29.
"We went to A Kissi a mau" ... MJH D 7/31/29.
"Grrr!, what a day." ... MJH D 8/1/29.
"A worse day—and an anxious one" ... MJH D 8/2/29.
"We're alone in the interior" ... MJH D 8/2/29.
"Again an anxious day" ... MJH D 8/3/29.
"putting on his white hat" ... MJH D 8/4/29.
"Two days downriver" ... MJH D 8/5/29.
"both imagine that most of the people" ... MJH D 8/10/29.
"I'm sure if they knew" ... MJH D 8/3/29.
"I am hoping" ... MJH to van Panhuys, letter of 5/28/29.
"I don't know how many kilos" ... MJH D 7/28/29.
"the clipped, rapid 'deep-Saramacca' speech ... informally to one another" ... RD:271.
"When the Bush Negroes converse with outsiders" ... Kahn 1931:33-34.
"As a result we ate cold food" ... MJH D 8/1/29.
"wondered if he was to be paid" ... MJH D 7/19/28.
"They're so damned round about" ... MJH D 7/19/28.
"Djukas appeared with their favorite phrase" ... MJH D 7/26/28.
"I went out and got ... and save me much." ... MJH D 8/3/28, 8/4/28.
"Lalani said ... I shall not pay" ... MJH D 7/20/29, 7/21/29, 7/22/29, 7/23/29, 7/25/29, 8/2/29.
"we started, and talked" ... MJH D 8/3/29.
"MJH complained about Rogalli" ... MJH D 8/3/28.
"[Jacoba] has a tendency" ... MJH D 7/10/29.
"We won't have many more days" ... MJH D 7/23/29.
"Schloss and Jacoba made me furious" ... MJH D 8/7/29.
"obviously very friendly" ... MJH D 7/26/29.
"We had a very unpleasant incident" ... MJH D 7/28/29.
"Wolff has been marvellous" ... MJH D 7/29/29.
"We're here for 9 or 10 days" ... MJH D 7/30/29.
"When we found Jacoba" ... MJH D 8/1/29.
"I was about to test the [wax-cylinder] reproducer" ... MJH D 8/2/29.
77. "From the family plots" ... Trouillot 2002:191.
77. "the miracle of creolization" ... Trouillot 2002:189.
78. "essentially [to] findings of field research" ... M. J. Herskovits 1941:15. One source for MJH's ideas, sometimes claimed by Brazilians, now seems unlikely. Though Gilberto Freyre worked on an M.A. (not a Ph.D.) at Columbia in 1920 and 1921, it appears he and MJH never met during the period, nor did Boas remember, not long after that time, ever having met Freyre (despite being much-praised and thanked by him in print). We are grateful to Olivia Maria Gomes da Cunha for this information.
78. "Some younger, 'postcolonial' scholars" ... See, for example, Scott 1991, 1999.
79. "Africa-centrists" ... See, for example, Lovejoy 1997.
79. "creation theorists" ... See, for example, Alleyne 1988:23.
82. "the classic period of Anthropology" ... Stocking 1992:357.
84. "The career of Ruth Landes" ... See, for example, Cole 1995 and subsequent writings. (See also Gomes da Cunha n.d.)
84. "Her reward for a book" ... J. Lorand Matory adds to the list of sins for which Herskovits (and his Brazilian colleague Arthur Ramos) punished her the fact that she revealed to a North American public (the open secret of) "passive" male homosexuality in the Candomblé priesthood (2004).
85. "any given culture" ... Herskovits 1925b:60.
85. MJH's hand-drawn map is in the Schomburg collection, box 7, folder 27.
85. "We hope to be" ... MJH to Wolff, letter of 1/13/31.
86. "Robert Farris Thompson's Flash of the Spirit" ... see S. Price 2004.
86. "It is difficult to imagine"... Mintz 1990:xviii.
87. "Fandya continued to urge our staying" ... RD:90.

References Cited

Herskovits, Melville J. 1929. "A Trip to 'Africa' in the New World." Northwestern University
Wetenschappen te Amsterdam 14(6), 1914, Amsterdam, Johannes Müller, pp. 46-116.

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