

**Oswald Werner Collection**  
**1963-1964**  
**Mss.497.3.W50**

American Philosophical Society  
2003  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Werner, Oswald, 1928-
<b>Title</b>	Oswald Werner Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1963-1964
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.497.3.W50
<b>Extent</b>	0.25 Linear feet
<b>Location</b>	LH-MV-E-8
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The anthropologist Oswald Werner was a member of the faculty at Northwestern University from 1963 until his retirement in 1998. A student of Navajo language and culture, he had a particular interest in Navajo medicine and science.</p> <p>The Werner Collection consists of two of Oswald Werner's early works on Navajo language and culture: his dissertation, "A typological comparison of four trader Navaho speakers" (Indiana University, 1963) and a paper "The Navaho ethnomedical domain: prolegomena to a componential semantic analysis" (1964).</p>
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Cite as: Oswald Werner Collection, American Philosophical Society.

## Background note

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Born in Rimavska Sobota in the Slovak Republic in 1928, the anthropologist Oswald Werner emigrated to the United States after the Second World War. Having received a bachelor's degree in Applied Physics from the Technische Hochschule in Stuttgart in 1950, he earned his MA in Anthropology from Syracuse University and doctorate in Anthropology and Linguistics from Indiana University. His dissertation, "A Typological Comparison of Four Trader Navaho Speakers" (1963), was the first in a long list of contributions to the study of Navajo language and culture that included particularly important work in Navajo medicine, botany, and science.

Werner was a member of the Anthropology Department at Northwestern University from 1963 until his retirement in 1998, serving as chair of the Department from 1978-1983 and 1987-1989. His tenure was marked by a deep concern for cultural anthropological methodology. In addition to serving as editor of *Cultural Anthropological Methods*, he was author of *Systematic Fieldwork* (Newbury Park, Calif., 1987), and was founder and director of the Northwestern University Ethnographic Field School in 1974. Situated on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, the Field School provides both undergraduates and graduate students exposure to ethnographic field methods and working in partnership with local communities.

## Scope & content

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The Werner Collection consists of two of Oswald Werner's early works on Navajo language and culture: his doctoral dissertation in anthropology, "A typological comparison of four trader Navaho speakers" (Indiana University, 1963) and a paper "The Navaho ethnomedical domain: prolegomena to a componential semantic analysis" (1964). The latter contains Navajo terms for diseases, the dimensions of intensity, temporal duration, and spatial extension.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 2003

## Provenance

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### Acquisition Information

Gift of Oswald Werner, 1962.

### Processing Information

Recatalogued by rsc, 2003.

## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Other material on Navajo language and culture can be located through the [Online Guide to American Indian Materials at the APS](#).

## Indexing Terms

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### Genre(s)

- Dissertations.

### Subject(s)

- Indians of North America--Languages
- Navajo Indians--Medicine
- Navajo language

## Collection Inventory

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<b>Werner, Oswald</b>	1964	TMsS,
The Navaho ethnomedical domain: prolegomena to a componential semantic analysis		34p. Typed D. 20p.and 14p. preliminary work sheets.

### **Acquisition Information**

Presented by the author; March 1964.

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<b>Werner, Oswald</b>	1963	TMsS,
Mss.497.3.W50.1 A typological comparison of four trader Navaho speakers		153p. Typed D. [5],xiv,153p.

**Acquisition Information**

Presented by author; March 1964.

Ph.D. thesis in department of Anthropology, Indiana Univ.; May 1963.

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