

Barbara Freire-Marreco

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Francis Knowles, Henry Balfour, J.A. Harley, and Barbara Freire-Marecco in the Pitt Rivers Museum.
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In 1908 Barbara Freire-Marreco was the first female to graduate from Oxford in Anthropology, where she had studied under Tylor, Balfour, Marett, and Thomson exposing her to key anthropological debates of the time. Freire-Marreco was the first female British anthropologist to undertake fieldwork in the US, where she worked with Pueblo Indians of New Mexico and Arizona in 1910 and 1913. By the time she had graduated it was considered standard to collect data as an anthropologist.

Understandings of such work as "salvage ethnography" were founded on the belief of the inevitable disappearance of Indigenous lives. In this context her own collecting and research practices are very unique and novel as she focused on the ethical responsibility she had as a researcher to the communities. Her contribution to *Notes and Queries on Anthropology* (1912) provides unique access to her understanding of how research and collecting should be executed: she highlights the importance of collecting 'not only fine specimen, but objects in common use' and tangible as well as intangible material and at the same time emphasises the importance of ethics in collecting (Freire-Marreco, 1912, p.27).

She built long-lasting relationships with her informants that outlasted her anthropological career and her field notes present the personal ties and affection she had for the people. Today, the Pitt Rivers Museum houses a well-documented collection of around 300 objects from the South West of the US collected by her accompanied by an extensive amount of field notes, receipts, and photographs.

Surprisingly Freire-Marreco only published a few articles on the content of her fieldwork itself. Still, in letter exchanges and other anthropological works like Dozier's *Pueblo Indians of North America* (1970) one can find evidence that her knowledge on the communities of the area was highly valued as she was consulted and quoted regularly. Her inability to contribute more to the academic field compared to contemporaries like Margaret Mead or Elsie Clews Parsons might be responsible for her less known status as a female anthropologist and the lack of research conducted on her work so far, making it even more relevant to raise awareness about her and her contribution (as a female) to the anthropological discipline at Oxford and the UK in general.

*Diversifying Portraiture
in Anthropology*