

## **ANTHROPOLOGISTS MUST CONFRONT, OPENLY DISCUSS, AND HONESTLY TEACH THE TRUTH**

To the detriment of the internees, a significant number of anthropologists working in the WWII internment camps committed unethical acts, including spying, informing, and gathering intelligence data. In addition to these War Relocation Authority (WRA) anthropologists, the two Berkeley anthropologists with the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS) also engaged in unethical activities. JERS, headquartered on the Berkeley campus, and partially funded by the University, was a covert research project carried out in the camps. It also included some 25 Nisei field researchers.. Two of the JERS Nisei researchers' hands were not clean either . This project was in operation from 1942-1948.

Only 2 of the 8-10 books projected for JERS publication came off the press. The anthropologist Marvin K. Opler, in a lengthy review of *The Spoilage* in *American Anthropologist*, intimated that it bordered on fraud.

Dorothy S. Thomas, JERS director, attempted to suppress publication of a book based on the Berkeley Ph.D. dissertation by Morton Grodzins, a JERS researcher, because it was deemed critical of Earl Warren. She pressured Chancellor Robert M. Hutchins to prevent its publication. William Couch, director of the University of Chicago Press, refused to yield; *Americans Betrayed* appeared in 1949. Couch, a tenured professor, was fired .

American anthropologists must confront in an honest and open way the unethical activities of the camp anthropologists, which took place within the borders of the U.S.A. against fellow Americans. The facts in my articles about the anthropologists have never been disputed; just ignored.

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- See also: *Linguistic Change in a Unique Cohort: Isseis, Kibei, and Niseis in the WWII Internment Camps*. 2005. Omaha: School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha.  
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