



SEYFARTH, SIEGFRIED (*1930; †2014)

Siegfried Seyfarth grew up in Falkenstein/Vogtland, Saxony. In 1949 he left for Berlin and made his way to Weißenburg (Mittelfranken), where he learned to weave. In 1954, he began studying German philology, history and art history at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main. After listening to Adolf Ellegard Jensen's lectures, he settled on anthropology as his major subject. He was later offered a position in the library of the Frobenius Institute and subsequently became its head, extending the library's inventory and becoming a recognized expert on the collection and on cataloging. In 1963, Seyfarth accompanied Eike Haberland on an expedition to New Guinea.

He finished his studies in anthropology with a dissertation on the material culture and cultural history of Sepik district in 1969. In 1970–71 and 1972–74, he undertook field research in Ethiopia with Eike Haberland, Ulrich Braukämper, Karl Heinz Striedter and Werner Jürgen Lange. Although he did not publish any of his findings from those expeditions, his field notes, questionnaires, photo documentation and collection of ethnographic objects today enrich the Frobenius Institute's archive. Between 1973 and 1992 Seyfarth, as deputy chairman of the Frobenius Institute, was responsible for a wide range of organizational tasks. He retired in 1995 and died in 2014.