

The Frobenius Collection

The Frobenius Collection is an extremely important record of Ngarinyin life from the 1930s. The expedition included two anthropologists and two artists who travelled from Germany to the Kimberley to learn about Indigenous rock art.

From May to December 1938, they recorded field notes, took photographs, painted large-scale replicas of rock art sites and portraits of Kimberley Aboriginal people, and acquired a range of cultural items. Now, more than 80 years later, a project has begun to work with Traditional Owners to understand these materials, as well as digitise and translate field notebooks currently held in the Frobenius Institute in Germany.

The Frobenius Collection if of high significance to Western Australia and the nation, particularly in relation to the identification and preservation of important cultural sites on Wilinggin country. It is our aim to work in partnership with academic institutions to ensure Ngarinyin people, and other Traditional Owners involved, are the drivers of the decisions being made about this collection and to work towards returning these important materials home.

