



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

United States Army Medical Museum
photographs of skulls, probably 1870s-1880s

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National Anthropological Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	1
Scope and Contents	2
Names and Subjects	
Bibliography	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	United States Army Medical Museum photographs of skulls
Date:	probably 1870s-1880s
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.73-26C
Creator:	Army Medical Museum (U.S.)
Extent:	100 Negatives (photographic) (circa; glass)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Photographs probably transferred by the Army Medical Museum. They were turned over to the Smithsonian's central photographic laboratory in the early to mid 20th century. They were returned to the Department of Anthropology in 1973.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Photographs previously filed in Photo Lot 73-26D have been relocated and merged with Photo Lot 73-26C. These are also Army Medical Museum negatives of skulls and form part of this collection.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional Army Medical Museum photographs of skulls can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 6A, Photo Lot 6B, Photo Lot 78-42, Photo Lot 83-41, and Photo Lot 97.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 73-26C, United States Army Medical Museum photographs of skulls, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

The United States Army Medical Museum (AMM, renamed the National Museum of Health and Medicine in 1989) was established by US Army Surgeon General William A. Hammond in 1862. Its initial focus was on collecting specimens of unusual pathology, mostly taken from victims of the American Civil War. By 1867, the museum had

expanded to include medical, microscopical, anatomical, comparative anatomics, and other sections. The anatomical collection grew in part as a result of Circular No. 2 of 1867, which authorized military medical officers to collect cranial specimens from deceased Native Americans. Additionally, the AMM made an arrangement with the Smithsonian Institution, by which the Smithsonian transferred their collection of human remains in exchange for ethnological artifacts. AMM photographed and measured many of the specimens in its collection as part of the museum's anthropological research.

Scope and Contents

Photographs of skulls in the United States Army Medical Museum collection, which appear to have been collected for physical anthropological purposes. Included are archeological remains and remains of Native American tribes and some other ethnic groups. Other than tribe or location, data for the specimens include Army Medical Museum specimen number, AMM negative number, and sex; for some, there is also collection data and information on physical or medical conditions. There are also notes identifying donors who included army officers, physicians, scientists, and explorers such as Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden, Edward Palmer, Frederic Ward Putnam, George Rolleston, Paul Schumacher, and many others. Some of the photographs may have been made as part of the Army Medical Museum's program of distributing images of its specimens.

Represented are Africans, Chinook, Choptank, Dakota, Eskimo of Greenland, Taiwanese peoples, Hawaiians, Hidatsa, Nisqually, Philippine peoples, Ponca, Potowatomi, Pueblo, Tonkawa, and Ute. Archeological specimens are from the Aleutian Islands, California, the Dakotas, England (Roman period), Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, Peru, Vancouver Island, and Vermont. For some, there is also information about the status or physical condition of the individual or observations of medical conditions shown in the specimens. Some additional photographs appear to show specimens at the American Museum of Natural History.

Bibliography

Some of the images also relate to John Shaw Billings and Washington Matthews' publication in the *Memoirs of the National Academy of Science*, volume, 1886.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 73-26C, NAA Photo Lot 73-26D

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Africans -- United States -- depicted
- Chinook
- Choptank Indians
- Eskimos -- depicted
- Hawaiians
- Indians of North America -- Great Basin
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains
- Indians of North America -- Northeast

Indians of North America -- Northwest Coast of North America
Nisqually
Pomo
Potawatomi
Pueblo
Sioux
Taiwan aborigines
Taiwanese
Tonkawa
Ute

Cultures:

Africans -- United States -- depicted
Chinook
Choptank Indians
Eskimos -- depicted
Hawaiians
Indians of North America -- Great Basin
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Indians of North America -- Northwest Coast of North America
Nisqually
Pomo
Potawatomi
Pueblo
Sioux
Taiwan aborigines
Taiwanese
Tonkawa
Ute

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Billings, John Shaw, 1838-1913
Guiteau, Charles J. (Charles Julius), 1841-1882
Hayden, F. V. (Ferdinand Vandever), 1829-1887
Matthews, Washington, 1843-1905
Palmer, Edward, 1829-1911
Putnam, F. W. (Frederic Ward), 1839-1915
Rolleston, George, 1829-1881
Schumacher, Paul J. F.