



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Edwin F. Coffin negatives and photographs, 1918-1932

Heather Shannon

2012

National Museum of the American Indian
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Edwin F. Coffin collection of negatives and photographs
Date:	1918-1932
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.001.009
Creator:	Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation Coffin, Edwin F. (Edwin Francis), b. 1883
Extent:	93 Acetate negatives
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Historically, the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation managed all photographic and related manuscript collections separately. This collection description represents current management practices of organizing and contextualizing related archival materials.

Processing Information

Processed by Heather Shannon, Photo Archivist, in 2012.

Preferred Citation

Edwin F. Coffin collection of negatives and photographs, 1918-1932, National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Smithsonian Institution (negative, slide or catalog number).

Restrictions

Access is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Some materials are restricted due to cultural sensitivity.

Biographical Note

Around 1922, George G. Heye hired former racecar driver Edwin F. Coffin to be the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation's first official staff photographer, a position he retained until 1932. Coffin was a capable archaeological photographer--in 1918, 1921, and 1923, he also photographed the activities of the Hendricks-Hodge Hawikku Expedition excavations--and eventually conducted fieldwork in Texas.

Scope and Contents

The Edwin F. Coffin collection consists of photographs made by Coffin on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. Aside from a number of views of New York real estate owned by the Museum (1924), the remainder of the collection contains Museum of the American Indian excavation photographs made in the Bee Cave Canyon rockshelter in Brewster County, Texas (1929); in the Burson Bell Farm in Montague, New Jersey (1932); and in the Bronx and on Staten Island, New York City (1918 and 1922 respectively).

Arrangement

Negatives Arranged by negative numbers (N02289-N02302, N03374-N03375, N07787-N07791, N08591, N08767-N08775, N18677-N18735, N20566)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Excavations (Archaeology) -- New Jersey -- Photographs
- Excavations (Archaeology) -- New York (State) -- Photographs
- Excavations (Archaeology) -- Texas -- Photographs

Types of Materials:

- Albumen prints
- Negatives
- Photographic prints
- Photographs

Names:

- Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation -- Photographs

Places:

- Hawikuh (N. M.)