



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

Victor Wolfgang von Hagen collection  
of photographs and negatives

2011

National Museum of the American Indian  
4220 Silver Hill Rd  
Suitland, Maryland 20746-2863  
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1400  
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.3038  
nmaiarchives@si.edu  
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

## Table of Contents

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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Victor Wolfgang von Hagen collection of photographs and negatives
<b>Date:</b>	1936-1938
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.001.019
<b>Creator:</b>	Von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang, 1908-1985 Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation
<b>Extent:</b>	285 Photographic prints (albumen) 122 Negatives (photographic) (acetate)
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
<b>Summary:</b>	Includes images of the indigenous people of Ecuador, primarily the Tsatchela (Tsachila, Colorado) of Pichincha province and the Shuar-Achuar of Oriente province. Also includes 51 images of the indigenous people of Honduras, primarily the Xicaque and Maya.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Dr. von Hagen

### Provenance

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

NMAIA Review

### Preferred Citation

Victor Wolfgang von Hagen collection of photographs and negatives, 1935-1937, National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Smithsonian Institution (negative, slide or print 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

Copyright: National Museum of the American Indian

## Biographical Note

Victor Wolfgang von Hagen was an American explorer, archaeological historian, anthropologist, naturalist, zoologist, and travel writer. In the 1930s, he led several Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation collecting expeditions to Central and South America and continued to travel throughout the region into the 1970s.

---

## Scope and Contents

The von Hagen collection primarily contains photographs and negatives made by von Hagen during his 1935 and 1936 travels in Ecuador on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. The 1935 materials depict adult and child members of the Shuar-Achuar culture group engaged in weaving, drumming, and cooking. In addition there are representations of indigenous dwellings and of individuals dressed for ceremonies and using blow guns. The 1936 materials overwhelmingly depict Tsáchila (Colorado) peoples preparing food, weaving, potting, playing instruments, and participating in ceremonies, but also include depictions of the Runa (Otavaleño/Otavalo) people spinning cotton and sitting for portraits. The collection also contains photographic materials dated to 1937 that depict Mayan artifacts and Jicaque men of Honduras building rafts, fishing, and standing for their portraits. Von Hagen's Tsáchila and Jicaque photographs illustrated his contributions to the Museum's series Indian Notes and Monographs, The Tsáchila Indians of western Ecuador (no. 51) and The Jicaque (Torrupan) Indians of Honduras (no. 53).

---

## Arrangement

Negatives: organized in individual sleeves; arranged by negative number

Prints: organized in folders; arranged by print number

---

## Arrangement

Negatives Arranged by negative number (N36360, N36648, N36654-N36656, N36661, N36733-N36740, N36749-N36752, N36755, N36758-N36769, N36772-N36779, N36781-N36797, N36803-N36853, N37366, N37386, N41444) Prints Arranged by photograph number (P11502-P11510, P12316-P12473, P12522-P12525, P12596-P12657, P12855-P12859, P12941-P12949, P13329-P13362, P15428, P15491, P15585, P16246)

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Colorado Indians (Ecuador)
- Indians of Central America
- Indians of South America
- Jicaque
- Maya (archaeological culture)
- Tsáchila (Colorado)

Cultures:

Colorado Indians (Ecuador)  
Jicaque  
Maya (archaeological culture)  
Tsáchila (Colorado)

Types of Materials:

Albumen prints  
Negatives  
Photographic prints  
Photographs

Places:

Ecuador  
Honduras