



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Anonymous Comanche drawing of two  
Comanche men wearing breastplates

National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Anonymous Comanche drawing of two Comanche men wearing breastplates
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS127601
<b>Date:</b>	1868
<b>Creator:</b>	Palmer, Edward, 1829-1911 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Drawing (watercolor; 24 x 23 cm.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Comanche drawing of two Comanche men wearing breastplates</a> <a href="#">Image(s): Anonymous Comanche drawing of two Comanche men wearing breastplates</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Dr. Edward Palmer collected the drawing along the Washita River, somewhere between Fort Cobb and the Wichita and Kiowa and Comanche Agencies located in Eureka Valley in Indian Territory (Anadarko, Oklahoma). Dr. Palmer was present in this region between February and May of 1868. Presented to the USNM Museum by Dr. Palmer. No accession number located as of 8/1969. Note on back of drawing indicates that it was originally catalogued in 1886.

### Available Formats

Photographed by Shindler; see Bureau of American Ethnology negative Number 1781.

### Citation

Manuscript 127,601, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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## Biographical / Historical

In 1868, Dr. Edward Palmer was hired to serve as the agency physician at the newly established Kiowa and Comanche Agency in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Palmer and the rest of the agency personnel set out in January, arriving in the vicinity of Ft. Cobb on February 19th. The agent, Colonel Leavenworth, dismissed Palmer on May 4th, complaining that he spent too much time collecting zoological and botanical specimens and not enough tending to the medical needs of the Kiowa and Comanche. Following his dismissal, Palmer took up residence at the adjacent Wichita Agency. In early June, Palmer received word that some of the Kiowa and Comanche were plotting to kill him. Consequently, he left the Wichita Agency and travelled to Cherokee Town. From Cherokee Town Palmer made several excursions to collect specimens. He left Indian Territory in September, arriving back in Leavenworth, Kansas on October 10, 1868. In addition to the zoological and botanical specimens Palmer collected during his stint in Indian Territory, he also acquired ethnological specimens from the Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita. For further biographic information, see

Rogers McVaugh, Edward Palmer - Plant Explorer of the American West, University of Oklahoma Press, 1956, pp. 35-40. For additional information on the ethnological materials Palmer collected in 1868, see Candace Greene, Southern Plains Graphic Art before the Reservation. American Indian Art Magazine 22(3):49, 1997.

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## Scope and Contents

One drawing on one leaf of unruled paper. The drawing depicts two men wearing breastplates. One of the men is wearing face paint and holding a mirror board. The other man is wearing a set of hairplates. The drawing is inscribed "Drawings Made by a Comanche Indian" and "Presentd by Dr E Palmer".

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## Bibliography

Candace Greene, Southern Plains Graphic Art before the Reservation. American Indian Art Magazine 22(3):49, 1997.

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## Local Numbers

OPPS NEG 91-2261  
OPPS SLIDE 91-2261  
NAA INV 08500400  
OPPS NEG BAE 1781  
NAA MS 127601

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## Local Note

The drawing was created in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). It was likely collected somewhere between Fort Cobb and the Wichita and Kiowa and Comanche agencies in Eureka Valley (Anadarko, Oklahoma). The date and place of creation were assigned based on information regarding Dr. Palmer's travells in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). This information was drawn from: Rogers McVaugh, Edward Palmer - Plant Explorer of the American West, University of Oklahoma Press, 1956, pp. 35-40. pp. 35-40.

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## Place

United States Oklahoma.

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## Place

United States Indian Territory.

## Album Information

MS 127601

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Indians of North America -- Great Plains  
Niuam (Comanche)

### Cultures:

Indians of North America -- Great Plains  
Niuam (Comanche)

### Types of Materials:

Ledger drawings