



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Four drawings by anonymous Cheyenne artist

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Four drawings by anonymous Cheyenne artist
Identifier:	NAA.MS176622
Date:	before 1876
Extent:	4 Drawings (2 leaves; graphite and colored pencil; 16 x 24 cm.-16 x 29 cm.)
Creator:	Bourke, John Gregory, 1846-1896
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Four drawings by anonymous Cheyenne artist

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Bourke, John G. Capt

Provenance

Drawings were donated to the Smithsonian by Col. John Gregory Bourke and are listed under Accession # 31963. They appear to derive from various sources, but were all cataloged under number 176,622, and subsequently lettered a thru g. One by Howling Wolf was exchanged with Mrs. A. H. Richardson, the daughter of Col. John Gregory Bourke, for MS 409978 on September 9th, 1968. Five of these drawings are now in the Graphic Arts Division of the National Museum of American History, cat. No. 8109 through 8113. Four drawings on two sheets are in the NAA collection.

Citation

Manuscript 176,622, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Biographical / Historical

Col. John Gregory Bourke (1846-1896), a graduate of West Point, spent most of his military career in the Northern Plains under Brigadier General George Crook. After serving in these campaigns from 1869-1888, Bourke was given some time off from his military duties to study Indian people where he compiled ethnological accounts of the Apache and several other tribes in the Southwest. For more information on Bourke, see "John Gregory Bourke, Victorian Soldier-Scientist, the Western Apprenticeship, 1869-1886" by Joseph Charles Porter, PhD dissertation, University of Texas, Austin.

Scope and Contents

Four drawings of warfare on two loose pages torn from a ledger book. Other drawings from the same ledger were pasted into the donor's diary, which is now in the Special Collections Library at the US Military Academy at West Point. Bourke records there that the book was captured in June 1876 from a camp then believed to be Sioux. This encounter is now known as the Battle of the Rosebud, and the camp identified as Northern Cheyenne, not Sioux.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 176,622

Local Note

Catalog number 176,622-E was identified by Mrs. Karen D. Peterson as a drawing by Cheyenne artist Howling Wolf; and was exchanged with Mrs. A.B. Richardson (who owned the notebook to which this sketch belonged) through the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, September 28, 1966, for a drawing by Yellow Nose (USNM catalog Number 409,978). Catalog Numbers 176,622-F,-G are Numbers designated by R. Elder to cover two of the "seven pictographs" called for in the accession papers, when this set of drawings was separated and individually catalogued (1966); these last two drawings have not been located (1969).

Album Information

MS 176622 000

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
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Types of Materials:

Ledger drawings

Container Listing

Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of warrior scalping three US soldiers with wagon standing nearby, before 1876

1 Drawing (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon; 16 x 29 cm.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

English.

Local Numbers

NAA INV 08515501

NAA MS 176622

Album Information

MS 176622 001

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of warrior stripping body of fallen enemy, before 1876

1 Drawing (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon; 16 x 29 cm.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

English.

Local Numbers

NAA INV 08515502

NAA MS 176622

Album Information

MS 176622 002

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of warrior counting coup on two US soldiers inside building compound, before 1876

1 Drawing (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon; 16 x 24 cm.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

English.

Local Numbers

NAA INV 08515601

NAA MS 176622

Album Information

MS 176622 003

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of U.S. soldiers shooting from rifle pits scattered amid trees, before 1876

1 Drawing (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon; 16 x 24 cm.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

English.

Fragmentary inscription on previously used page records an accounts balance. Probably half of a two-page drawing.

Local Numbers

NAA INV 08515602

NAA MS 176622

Album Information

MS 176622 004

Genre/Form: Ledger drawings

Culture: Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)