



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to Four drawings by an anonymous Cheyenne artist

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Four drawings by an anonymous Cheyenne artist
<b>Date:</b>	before 1876
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS176622
<b>Creator:</b>	Bourke, John Gregory, 1846-1896 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon, laminated)
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Four drawings by an anonymous Cheyenne artist</a>
<b>Container:</b>	Box 176622 / 178159, Folder 1; Box 176622 / 178159, Folder 1

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The drawings were donated to the Smithsonian by Mary Bourke, widow of John Gregory Bourke, on April 28, 1897 (USNM Accession 31963). The drawings were part of a larger set of Cheyenne drawings (described as "seven pictographs" in the accession papers) that derived from various sources. All drawings were cataloged under number 176622. When the drawings were separated and individually catalogued (1966) only 5 drawings were found. Catalog Numbers 176,622-f,-g were designated to cover two of the seven drawings called for in the accession papers. It is unclear if these drawings were transferred or lost.

One drawing by Howling Wolf (176622-e) was exchanged with Mrs. A. H. Richardson, the daughter of John Gregory Bourke, through the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska on September 9, 1968. Mrs. Richardson owned the notebook to which this drawing belonged. In exchange, the USNM received a drawing by Yellow Nose (now MS 409978).

Five of the drawings from the original accession are now held by the National Museum of American History (GA.08109 - GA.08113).

The drawings in this collection (176622-a through 176622-d) were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in October 1970.

### Related Materials

Other drawings from the same ledger were pasted into Bourke's diary, which is now held by the Special Collections Library at the US Military Academy at West Point.

Five of the drawings collected by Bourke are now held by the National Museum of American History (GA.08109 - GA.08113).

## Preferred Citation

Four drawings by an anonymous Cheyenne artist (MS 176622), 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.

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## Biographical Note

John Gregory Bourke (1846-1896) was an Army captain and prolific writer. A graduate of West Point, Bourke 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 Native people. He compiled ethnological accounts of the Apache and several other tribes in the Southwest.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of four (4) drawings of warfare on two loose pages torn from a ledger book. Bourke records 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.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

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## Local Numbers

NAA MS 176622

USNM Accession 31963

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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:

Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

### Cultures:

Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Ledger drawings  
Works of art

Places:

North America

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## Container Listing

Warrior scalping three U.S. soldiers

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon, laminated; 11.5 x 6.5 inches)

Image(s): [Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of warrior scalping three US soldiers with wagon standing nearby](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515501

NAA MS 176622-A

NAA MS 176622 001

Warrior stripping body of fallen enemy

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon, laminated; 11.5 x 6.5 inches)

Image(s): [Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of warrior stripping body of fallen enemy](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515502

NAA MS 176622-B

NAA MS 176622 002

Warrior counting coup on two U.S. soldiers inside a building compound

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon, laminated; 9.5 x 6.25 inches)

Image(s): [Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of warrior counting coup on two US soldiers inside building compound](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515601

NAA MS 176622-C NAA MS 176622 003

U.S. soldiers shooting from rifle pits scattered amid trees

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon, laminated; 9.5 x 6.25 inches)

Image(s): [Anonymous Cheyenne drawing of U.S. soldiers shooting from rifle pits scattered amid trees](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515602

NAA MS 176622-D

NAA MS 176622 004

A fragmentary inscription on previously used page records an accounts balance. Probably half of a two-page drawing; the location of the second portion of the drawing is unknown.