



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to Illustrations for History of Fire Making and Illumination exhibit

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Illustrations for History of Fire Making and Illumination exhibit
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NAA.MS178157
Extent:	3 Items (watercolor)
Language:	English .
Container:	Box 176622 / 178159, Folder 2; Box 176622 / 178159, Folder 2

Administrative Information

Provenance

The drawings were purchased from M. E. Leiter; the accession number and date is unknown. The drawings were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in July 1969.

Processing Information

The drawings in the collection were previously cataloged individually as MS 178157, MS 178158, and MS 178159. In 2023, the collection was reprocessed and all drawings were described as a single collection under MS 178157. The archivist replaced the titles previously assigned to the drawings with the titles associated with the published drawings.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of three (3) watercolor drawings depicting an erupting volcano, lightning over a forest, and a camp fire. The drawings were used in a History of Fire Making and Illumination exhibit presented at two world's fairs.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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.

Exhibition Note

The drawings were used in the History of Fire Making and Illumination exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha, Nebraska (June-November 1898) and the Pacific-Panama International Exposition in San Francisco, California (February-December 1915).

Publication Note

The drawings were published in:

Hough, Walter. "Synoptic Series of Objects in the United States National Museum Illustrating the History of Inventions." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*. Vol. 60. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1922. Plate 1.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Firemaking

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Watercolors
Works of art

Container Listing

Volcano in action; lava setting fire to forests

1 Drawing (9.75 x 6.5 inches)

[Image\(s\): View of Active Volcano During Eruption and Landscape Painting](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515700

USNM Catalog 178157

Lightning setting a forest on fire

1 Drawing (9 x 6.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): View of Lightning Over a Forest and Landscape Painting](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515800

USNM Catalog 178158

Camp fire; man borrowing fire

1 Item (9.25 x 6 inches)

[Image\(s\): Campfire Scene Painting](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08515900

USNM Catalog 178159