



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 1929-a Drawings of war deeds of Sitting Bull and Jumping Bull, circa 1970

November 2020

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 1929-a Drawings of war deeds of Sitting Bull and Jumping Bull
Date:	circa 1870
Identifier:	NAA.MS1929A
Creator:	Jumping Bull (Artist) Sitting Bull, 1831-1890 (Artist) Kimball, James P. (James Peleg), 1840-1902 (Collector)
Extent:	55 Drawings (visual works) (54 leaves; ink and colored pencil)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): MS 1929-a Drawings of war deeds of Sitting Bull and Jumping Bull
Container:	Box 1929-a

Administrative Information

Provenance

The drawings were purchased by Army surgeon James P. Kimball from a Yanktonai man visiting Fort Buford, Dakota Territory in 1870. Kimball numbered the drawings 1 through 55 and prepared an explanatory text, which identified all the pictures as representing the Hunkpapa leader Sitting Bull. Kimball sent the drawings and index to the Medical Director's Office, Department of Dakota, which marked them received on March 14, 1871; they forwarded them to the Army Medical Museum (AMM) in Washington DC where they were registered March 29, 1871. The AMM transferred the drawings and index together with associated correspondence to the Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) in May 1915. The original introductory statement by Kimball explaining how he had acquired them is no longer with the collection, however a transcription of it is in the David H. Strother Papers at the archives of the University of West Virginia.

In 1881 the AMM sent the drawings to Fort Randall for comment by Sitting Bull, then held prisoner there, and the collection includes a letter from Reverend John Williamson documenting that interview. Sitting Bull identified the drawings as copies of ones he had made some years previously together with copies of drawings by his adopted brother Jumping Bull. The pictures of Sitting Bull are distinguished by inclusion of a pictorial representation of his name.

Processing Information

This finding aid was reviewed and revised in 2020 based on further research into original sources by Candace Greene (2021), who suggests that the copies may have been made at Fort Buford by the Yanktonai who sold them. The tribal identification of Indian enemies is uncertain, with frequent discrepancies between Kimball, Campbell, and Sitting Bull's own 1881 identifications of events depicted in MS 1929B. The majority of tribal enemies are Assiniboine or Crow.

Preferred Citation

MS 1929-a Drawings of war deeds of Sitting Bull and Jumping Bull, 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.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of fifty-five (55) copies of drawings of war deeds of Sitting Bull and Jumping Bull on 54 leaves: 53 drawings are on blank backs of printed roster sheets for the 31st US Infantry, dated 1868; one leaf has drawings on both sides; one unfinished drawing is on an abstract of an Army order relating to contractor services, Ft. Totten, DT, dated 1868. The collection also includes a 7 page handwritten explanation by Kimball, based on information gained from Native community members, interpreters, and others at Fort Buford, an 1881 letter from the Reverend John Williamson, regarding his interview with Sitting Bull, and typed notes from Matthew Stirling (circa 1930s).

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.

Arrangement

The drawings are arranged in the order given by James Kimball, who numbered them. Kimball's numbers appear in the inventory along with NAA's inventory numbers.

Publication Note

Reproductions of a few of the drawings were published in *Harper's Weekly* in 1876 together with information from the introductory statement and the index, which the author had examined at the AMM. Most of the drawings were published in a biography of Sitting Bull by Walter Campbell, writing under the pen name Stanley Vestal. He provided speculative identifications of each scene and unsupported identification of the original artist as Four Horns. This information was repeated by Matthew Stirling in his 1938 publication *Three Pictographic Autobiographies of Sitting Bull*, and entered into the catalog record.

Porte Crayon. "Sitting Bull - Autobiography of the Famous Sioux Chief" *Harpers Weekly*, July 29, 1876: 625–628.

Stirling, Matthew W. "Three Pictographic Autobiographies of Sitting Bull," *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* Vol 97, No 5. 1938.

Vestal, Stanley. *Sitting Bull, Champion of the Sioux: A Biography*. Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1932 and Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1957.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Hunkpapa Lakota (Hunkpapa Sioux)
Yanktonnai Nakota (Yankton Sioux)

Cultures:

Hunkpapa Lakota (Hunkpapa Sioux)
Yanktonnai Nakota (Yankton Sioux)

Types of Materials:

Ledger drawings
Pictographs
Works of art

Places:

North America

Container Listing

Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584300: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian enemy, circa 1870 Image(s): NMNH-ms1929A_08584300 Image(s): NMNH-ms1929A_08584300b Notes: According to the Williamson letter, this was his first coup at age 14. MS 1929A 001
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584400: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian enemy and capturing three women, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a Crow woman Notes: MS 1929A 002
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584500: Sitting Bull counting coup on a mounted Indian enemy, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians Notes: MS 1929A 003
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584600: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian woman mounted on a mule, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a Crow woman Notes: MS 1929A 004
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584700: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian enemy, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians Notes: MS 1929A 005
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584800: Sitting Bull exchanging gunfire with a tribal enemy; both wounded, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians Notes: MS 1929A 006
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08584900: Sitting Bull counting coup on a wounded Indian enemy amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians Notes: MS 1929A 007
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585000: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian enemy, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Atsinas Notes: According to Campbell's consultants, the enemy is the Assiniboine boy later known as Jumping Bull, whose war deeds appear in this series.

MS 1929A 008

Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585100: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian enemy, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians Notes: MS 1929A 009
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585200: Sitting Bull counting coup on an Indian enemy, 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians Notes: According to the Williamson letter, the enemy is an Arikara. MS 1929A 010
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585300: Sitting Bull, mounted double with a rescued comrade, counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Whites, rescuing Jumping Bull Notes: MS 1929A 011
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585400: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 012
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585500: Sitting Bull in battle with a White man, both wounded, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 013
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585600: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 014
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585700: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 015
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585800: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 016
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08585900: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 017
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586000: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 018

Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586100: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 019
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586200: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 020
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586300: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 021
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586400: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 022
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586500: Sitting Bull shooting a mounted White man with a fringed buckskin jacket, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 023
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586600: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White teamster, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 024
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586700: Sitting Bull counting coup on a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 025
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586800: Sitting Bull facing a White man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 026
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08586900: Sitting Bull capturing a mule, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a mule Notes: MS 1929A 027
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587000: Sitting Bull capturing a horse, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse Notes: MS 1929A 028
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587100: Sitting Bull capturing a mule, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a mule Notes: MS 1929A 029
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587200: Sitting Bull capturing two horses, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing two horses Notes: MS 1929A 030

Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587300: Sitting Bull capturing a horse, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse Notes: MS 1929A 031
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587400: Sitting Bull capturing a herd of horses, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a herd of horses from the Crow Notes: MS 1929A 032
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587500: Sitting Bull capturing mules, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a mules from a Crow camp Notes: MS 1929A 033
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587600: Sitting Bull capturing a horse, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse from Whites Notes: MS 1929A 034
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587700: Sitting Bull capturing horses, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing horses from the Crow Notes: MS 1929A 035
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587800: Sitting Bull capturing a herd of horses, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a herd of horses from the Crow Notes: MS 1929A 036
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08587900: Sitting Bull capturing a horse, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse Notes: MS 1929A 037
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588000: Sitting Bull wearing no-retreat sash capturing a herd of horses, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself capturing horses from the Crow Notes: MS 1929A 038
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588100: Jumping Bull driving off a mule amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse Notes: MS 1929A 039
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588200: Jumping Bull capturing horses amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing horses Notes: MS 1929A 040
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588300: Jumping Bull capturing a horse amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse

	Notes: MS 1929A 041
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588400: Jumping Bull capturing a mule, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing a mule Notes: MS 1929A 042
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588500: Jumping Bull capturing horses amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing horses Notes: MS 1929A 043
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588600: Jumping Bull counting coup on a white man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 044
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588700: Jumping Bull capturing horses, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing horses Notes: MS 1929A 045
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588800: Jumping Bull driving off a herd of mules amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing horses Notes: MS 1929A 046
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08588900: Jumping Bull counting coup on a white man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 047
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08589000: Jumping Bull counting coup on a white man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 048
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08589100: Jumping Bull capturing a horse, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing a horse Notes: MS 1929A 049
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08589200: Unidentified warrior, perhaps Jumping Bull, dismounting to count coup on a wounded white man, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle with Whites Notes: MS 1929A 050
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08589300: Jumping Bull charging around a group of entrenched enemies amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle Notes: MS 1929A 051
Box 1929A	NAA INV 08589400: Sitting Bull counting coup on two enemies amidst heavy fire, circa 1870 Image(s): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle with Crow Indians

Notes: MS 1929A 052

Box 1929A

NAA INV 08589501: Jumping Bull capturing a herd of mules, circa 1870
[Image\(s\): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself capturing a herd of mules](#)
Notes: MS 1929A 053

Box 1929A

NAA INV 08589502: Drawing of intertribal warfare with warrior wearing no-retreat sash counting coup with a saber on group of entrenched enemies amidst heavy fire, circa 1870
[Image\(s\): Four Horns copy of Jumping Bull drawing of himself in battle with Crow Indians](#)
Notes: This drawing is located on the verso of NAA INV 08589501.
MS 1929A 054

Box 1929A

NAA INV 08589601: Unfinished drawing, perhaps by two hands. Horse and shield of Sitting Bull without rider, overlaid with image of unidentified warrior striking three enemies with his bow, circa 1870
[Image\(s\): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians](#)
[Image\(s\): Four Horns copy of Sitting Bull drawing of himself with shield in battle with Crow Indians](#)
Notes: This drawing is on the back of an extract of an Army order dated April 27, 1868.
MS 1929A 055

Box 1929A

[Letter, index, and notes](#)
Notes: Includes a letter from John P. Williamson to Col. George L. Andrews, dated December 12, 1881; an index to the drawings; and related notes by Matthew Stirling.

Box 1929A

[Original binder cover](#)
Notes: Original binder for drawings. Labelled: "Hieroglyphic Autobiography of Sitting Bull"