



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to Fort Marion drawings
collected by Richard Pratt, circa 1877

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Fort Marion drawings collected by Richard H. Pratt
Date:	circa 1877
Identifier:	NAA.MS30740
Creator:	Pratt, Richard Henry, 1840-1924 (Collector) White Buffalo Head (Cheyenne) (Artist) Minimic (Cheyenne) (Addressee) Wo-Haw, 1855-1924 (Artist)
Extent:	3 Drawings (visual works)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Richard Pratt donated a set of eleven (11) drawings to the United States National Museum circa 1877 (Catalog Numbers 30740-30750; No Accession Number). Three of the drawings are now held by the National Anthropological Archives in this collection. Eight of the drawings are held by the National Museum of American History.

Related Materials

The National Museum of American History holds eight of the drawings donated by Pratt to the Smithsonian Institution (see 2008.0175.52-2008.0175.59).

Processing Information

The collection was reprocessed in 2022. Three drawings donated by Pratt to the Smithsonian had been described as three separate collections (MS 30740, MS 30747, and MS 30750). The archivist incorporated all three drawings into a single collection under MS 30740.

Preferred Citation

Fort Marion drawings collected by Richard Pratt (MS 30740), 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.

Historical Note

Fort Marion, also known as Castillo de San Marco, is a stone fortress in St. Augustine, Florida. Between 1875 and 1878, seventy-two prisoners from the southern plains were incarcerated in the fort. Captain Richard Pratt supervised the prisoners during their incarceration at Fort Marion. The prisoners consisted of 27 Kiowas, 33 Cheyennes, 9 Comanches, 2 Arapahos, and a single Caddo. With the exception of one Cheyenne woman, all the prisoners were men. They had been accused of participating in the recent Red River War, earlier hostilities, or both. With the exception of the wife and daughter of one of the Comanche men, the prisoners families were not allowed to accompany them to Fort Marion.

Biographical Note

White Buffalo Head's father, Minimic or Eagle Head, was a Cheyenne prisoner at Fort Marion, Florida.

Biographical Note

Wohaw, also known as Wo-Haw, Beef, Gu hau de, and Wolf Robe, was a Kiowa born in 1855. He was accused of being a combatant in the Red River War of 1874 and 1875. On October 3, 1874, he surrendered at the Cheyenne-Arapaho Agency at Darlington, Indian Territory. He was transferred to Fort Sill, where he was held in the guard house. He was among the Kiowa warriors who were subsequently imprisoned at Fort Marion in San Augustine, Florida. Following his release in 1878, Wohaw returned to the Indian Territory, arriving in Anadarko on May 1, 1878. He served in the Indian Police between 1879 and 1880 and in Troop L of the 7th U.S. Cavalry from 1891 to 1895. He was a member of the Ohomah society and is believed to have been an adherent of the Ghost Dance and Peyote religions. Wohaw died in Oklahoma in 1924.

Biographical Note

Richard Henry Pratt (1840-1924) was a United States Army officer and organizer of the Indian Division of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia. Pratt's theories about education of American Indians and their assimilation into American society led to the founding of the Carlisle School in 1879, where he served as superintendent until 1904.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of three (3) drawings made by prisoners at Fort Marion and forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution by Richard Pratt.

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.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Kiowa
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

Kiowa
Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Types of Materials:

Ledger drawings
Pictographs
Works of art

Places:

North America

Container Listing

Box 30740, Folder 1

Pictographic letter from White Buffalo Head to Minimic

1 Drawings (visual works) (2 leaves, laminated; graphite, colored pencil, and ink; 10.5 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): White Buffalo Head pictographic letter to Minimic](#)

[Image\(s\): White Buffalo Head pictographic letter to Minimic](#)

[Image\(s\): White Buffalo Head pictographic letter to Minimic](#)

Notes:

A letter from White Buffalo Head and family to his father, Minimic, then imprisoned at Fort Marion in St. Augustine, Florida. The letter, which spans two sheets of paper, was annotated in red ink by Richard H. Pratt. The letter shows White Buffalo Head, his father Minimic, members of Minimic's family and other Cheyenne people. Also included is a map showing the North Canadian River and tributaries and neighboring trails, camps (identified by chief's name), the Cheyenne and Arapaho agency, and fields identified by owners. A legend and a note in the hand of Richard H. Pratt identifies elements of the drawing and its provenance. One leaf of paper has letterhead of Cheyenne and Arapaho Manual Labor and Boarding School for Indian Children at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency.

The letter was collected and signed by "R.H. Pratt, 1st Lieutenant, 10th Cavalry, Fort Marion, June, 30, 1877."

NAA MS 30,740

NAA INV 08500000

NAA INV 08500100

Box 30740, Folder 2

[Wohaw drawing of camp scene](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and watercolor; 7 x 4.5 inches)

Notes:

NAA INV 08500200

NAA MS 30747

OPPS NEG 92-11407

A drawing of a Kiowa camp with painted tipis. It is inscribed on the verso "Drawn Wohaw Kiowa."

Box 30740, Folder 2

[Wohaw drawing of tightrope walker](#)

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and watercolor; 7 x 4.5 inches)

Notes:

NAA INV 08500300

NAA MS 30750

OPPS NEG 88-19,335

OPPS NEG 92-11256

A drawing of a tight rope walker. It is inscribed on the verso "Drawn by Wohaw Kiowa."