



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to Plains Indian drawings of horses
in book made of forms, circa 1880-1884

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Plains Indian drawings of horses in book made of forms
Date:	circa 1880-1884
Identifier:	NAA.MS384176
Creator:	Brotherton, D. H. (David H.) (Collector)
Extent:	6 Drawings (visual works) (graphite, colored pencil, and crayon; 8 x 10 inches)
Language:	English .
Container:	Box 384176 / 395612, Folder 1; Box 384176 / 395612, Folder 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

The drawings were received in 1946, as part of a collection assembled by David H. Brotherton during his military career. The material passed through several hands before reaching the museum, having gone from Brotherton to his widow, to her sister, and to the sister's daughter, Mrs. Thomas T. (Ruth) Brown, the donor. Materials were identified as to tribe primarily by museum staff, almost all as Sioux; a few evidently came with further identifying information. The collection consisted primarily of artifacts and was registered by the USNM as Accession 173740 and cataloged in the general Anthropology collection. In the 1970s materials on paper were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives, including two sets of drawings (now MS 384176 and MS 384177), a series of photographic prints of American Indians (now part of Photo Lot 24, 00615600-00616100 and 00942600), and watercolors by Herman Stieffel, 5th Infantry, of events and locations in Kansas and Montana (now at Smithsonian American Art Museum).

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds other drawings which may be by the same artist in MS 384177 and MS 28804.

Preferred Citation

Plains Indian drawings of horses in book made of forms (MS 384176), 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.

Biographical Note

A chronology of D.H. Brotherton's military career was provided by Major General Edward F. Witsell of the War Department in a letter to John Ewers, SI, dated August 29, 1946:

"Brotherton who was on duty at Ft Snelling, Minn from 4 February 1880 to 13 July 1880 assumed command of Ft Buford, Dakota Territory 20 July 1880 and relinquished command of that post 30 August 1881. He assumed command of Ft Stevenson, D.T. 7 September 1881 and relinquished command of the post 20 October 1881."

War Dept Archives states:

Ft Snelling 12 June 1882 - 16 Jan 1884. Retired 14 April 1884. Died 17 September 1889. D.H. Brotherton accepted the surrender of Sitting Bull at Ft Buford, N. Dakota on July 17, 1881.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of six (6) Plains Indian drawings on the leaves of a book created by stitching together two folded sheets of printed forms, yielding four leaves. Two leaves have drawings on both sides, for a total of six drawings executed in graphite and colored pencil. The paper is unused forms for reports of Quartermaster's Stores with the printed dated 18__.

Drawings are all of horses, with faint figures of a courting couple in one image. The authorship of the drawings is unknown. They appear to be by two hands, one of whose work also appears in MS 384177 and MS 28804. The original identification as "Sioux," subsequently changed to the more specific Lakota, may be in error as noted in the record for MS 384177. Other possible tribal origins include Assiniboine, Arikara, and Crow, the latter two groups a source of Army scouts. The drawings likely date to 1880-1884, the period of Brotherton's western service.

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.

Local Numbers

USNM Accession 173740

NAA MS 384176

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Cultures:

Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Ledger drawings
Works of art

Places:

Dakota Territory
North America

Container Listing

Drawing of a horse
1 Drawings (visual works)
Notes: NAA INV 08528001
NAA MS 384176 001

Drawing of horse
1 Drawings (visual works)
Notes: NAA INV 08528002
NAA MS 384176 002

Drawing of two horses, one connected by lead to a courting couple
1 Drawings (visual works)
Notes: NAA INV 08528003
NAA MS 384176 003

Drawing of two horses
1 Drawings (visual works)
Notes: NAA INV 08528004
NAA MS 384176 004

Drawing of two horses
1 Drawings (visual works)
Notes: NAA INV 08528005
NAA MS 384176 005

Drawing of two horses
1 Drawings (visual works)
Notes: NAA INV 08528006
NAA MS 384176 006