



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to MS 4883 Posters from the  
Indian Court in the Federal Building at the  
Golden Gate International Exposition, 1939

National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20746  
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1310  
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883  
naa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 4883 Posters from the Indian Court in the Federal Building at the Golden Gate International Exposition
<b>Date:</b>	1939
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS4883
<b>Creator:</b>	Siegriest, Louis Bassi, 1899-1989 United States. Works Progress Administration
<b>Extent:</b>	16 Posters (color silkscreen; 25 x 36 inches; 12x 18 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): MS 4883 Posters from the Indian Court in the Federal Building at the Golden Gate International Exposition</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The provenance of the collection is unknown. It is possible that the two sets of posters were received from different sources.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art holds the Louis Siegriest papers and an Oral history interview with Louis Siegriest.

### Preferred Citation

MS 4883 Posters from the Indian Court in the Federal Building at the Golden Gate International Exposition, 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

Louis Bassi Siegriest (1899-1989) was an American painter and commercial artist based in California.

## Historical Note

The Golden Gate International Exposition (1939=1940) was a World's Fair celebrating "Pacific Unity" and the opening of the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of posters created for the Indian Court exhibit at the Golden Gate International Exposition. The posters were created as part of the Federal Art Project (FAP) of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The designs were adapted by Louis Siegriest from work produced by indigenous artists. The artists who contributed resource material received limited recognition for their work; some remain unknown.

Siegriest created eight (8) posters for the Indian Court exhibit. This collection includes one complete set of all eight (8) posters and one (1) explanatory label, and one incomplete set of seven (7) posters.

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 4883

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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:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Apache
- Diné (Navajo)
- Eskimos
- Haida
- Pomo
- Pueblo
- Seneca

### Cultures:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Apache
- Diné (Navajo)
- Eskimos
- Haida
- Pomo
- Pueblo
- Seneca

Types of Materials:

Posters  
Works of art

Names:

Golden Gate International Exposition (1939-1940 : San Francisco, Calif.)

Places:

North America  
San Francisco (Calif.)

## Container Listing

Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">From an Indian painting on elkskin, Great Plains</a> 2 Posters Notes: NAA INV 08818200
Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">Blanket design of the Haida Indians, Alaska</a> 2 Posters Notes: NAA INV 08818300
Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">Eskimo mask, western Alaska</a> 2 Posters Notes: NAA INV 08818400
Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">Apache devil dancer from an Indian painting, Arizona</a> 2 Drawings (visual works) Notes: NAA INV 08818500
Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">Pomo Indian basket, California</a> 2 Posters Notes: NAA INV 08818600
Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">Antelope hunt from a Navaho drawing, New Mexico</a> 2 Posters Notes: NAA INV 08818700
Folder 1; Folder 2	<a href="#">Pueblo turtle dancers from an Indian painting, New Mexico</a> 2 Posters Notes: NAA INV 08818800
Folder 2	<a href="#">Chippewa picture writing, Seneca mask, Eastern woodlands</a> 1 Poster
Folder 1	<a href="#">Exhibit label</a> 1 Poster