Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 7119 Henry Wood Elliott drawings, 1866-1892

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 7119 Henry Wood Elliott drawings
Date:	1866-1892
Identifier:	NAA.MS7119
Creator:	Elliott, Henry Wood, 1846-1930
Extent:	20 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor, pencil, ink)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Fifteen of the drawings in this collections were transferred from Department of Anthropology Processing Lab to the National Anthropological Archives on December 6, 1974. These drawings may have been loaned to the United States National Museum by the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior in 1956. The provenance of the remaining five drawings in the collection is unknown.

Separated Materials

An oil painting by Elliott, Tlingit Indians Raking in Eulachon, was transferred to the Smithsonian American Art Museum (1985.66.397,304).

Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives hold an additional drawing by Henry Wood Elliott in MS 18229.

Drawings by Henry Wood Elliott are held by the Smithsonian Institution Archives; Archives of American Art; Cleveland Museum of Natural History; University of Alaska Museum; Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks; and others.

Processing Information

The drawings in this collection were originally cataloged under MS 7119 and MS 397353. "MS 397353" does not correspond to a USNM accession or catalog number.

In 2023, the collection was reprocessed and the drawings were incorporated into a single collection under number MS 7119. The archivist replaced the titles previously assigned to the drawings with titles provided by the artist. These include captions on the drawings themselves and captions from published versions. Untitled drawings were assigned titles in square brackets [].

Preferred Citation

MS 7119 Henry Wood Elliott drawings, 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

Henry Wood Elliott (1846-1930) was a conservationist, naturalist, artist and scientist. From 1862-1878 he worked for the Smithsonian Institution, studying and sketching natural history. In 1864 he traveled to British Columbia in his first field expedition. From 1869-1871 Elliott worked on the U.S. Geological Survey. Between 1872 and 1890 Elliott made three trips to Alaska to investigate seal conditions on the Pribilof Islands, Bering Sea. His sketches of St. Paul's Island provided persuasive evidence of the need to stop the seal slaughter. He authored the first international wildlife conservation treaty, the Hay-Elliott Fur Seal Treaty of 1911. When not in the field Elliott lived in Cleveland, tending to local business matters and his vineyards.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of twenty (20) drawings by Henry Wood Elliott. There are fifteen large black-and-white watercolor and pencil views of fishing and hunting in Alaska, two small watercolors made in British Columbia, and three ink sketches made while Elliott was serving with the Hayden Survey in Wyoming in 1870.

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

NAA MS 7119

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Eskimo/Inuit
Makah
Shoshone
Tsimshian
Unangan (Aleut)

Cultures:

Eskimo/Inuit
Makah
Shoshone
Tsimshian

Unangan (Aleut)

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Watercolors
Works of art

Names:

Geological Survey of the Territories (U.S.) (1862-1872) (Hayden Survey)
Washakie, approximately 1804-1900

Places:

Alaska
Arctic regions
British Columbia
North America
Wyoming

Container Listing

Folder 1	[A man fishing with a harpoon on ice], undated 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor; 30 x 40 inches) Image(s): Man in Costume and Fishing with Harpoon on Ice; Second Harpoon Nearby Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594100 NAA MS 7119 (001)
Roll 6	[Group men running at seals in a rookery], 1892 July 27 1 Item (watercolor and pencil; 92 x 33 inches) Image(s): Group of Non-Native Men Running at Seals in Rookery Near Shore; Mountainous Coastline in Background Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594200 NAA MS 7119 (002)
Folder 1	[A group fishing with wicker baskets and drying fish], undated 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and watercolor; 40 x 30 inches) Image(s): Group in Costume with Wicker Baskets Fishing and Drying Fish Near Shore; Landscape with Moon Riding at Horizon Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594300 NAA MS 7119 (003)
Roll 1	[Two men clubbing seals on a rocky shore], undated 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 54 x 24 inches) Image(s): Two Non-Native Men Clubbing Seals on Rocky Shore; Surf Pounding on Beach Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594400 NAA MS 7119 (004)
Roll 2	Eskimo whaling and walrus camp. Icy Point, Arctic Ocean, Alaska. Lookout erected of drift logs., 1891 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 54 x 24 inches) Image(s): Group in Costume Near Shore; Tipis, Canoes, and Drift Wood; Lookout Near Water Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594500 NAA MS 7119 (005)
Roll 3	Interior or "stick" Indians. Spearing salmon in the canyon of the Fraser River., 1891 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 54 x 24 inches) Image(s): Two Men in Costume with Spears, Fishing Salmon from Wooden Platform Secured to Rocky Ledge in Gorge of Frazer River Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594600 NAA MS 7119 (006)
Folder 1	Aleutes catching Halibut, Akootan Pass, Bering Sea, 1872

	1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 39 x 30 inches) Image(s): Five Men in Three Kayaks, All in Costume Fishing on Water Near Shore Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594700 NAA MS 7119 (007) Reproduced in: Reproduced in: Elliott, Henry Wood. *Our Arctic Province: Alaska and the Seal Islands*. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1886, p 212.
Folder 1	[View of settlement near shore with mound houses, lookout towers, and a fish trap], undated 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 39 x 30 inches) Image(s): View of Group in Settlement with Mound Houses and Look-Out Towers; Fish Trap Near Shore Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594800 NAA MS 7119 (008)
Roll 4	Aleuts striking humpback whales. Off Akootan Island, Bering Sea, undated 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 54 x 24 inches) Image(s): Group of Fishermen in Costume and in Kayaks Hunting School Of Humpback Whales; Akootan Island in Background Painting Notes: NAA INV 08594900 NAA MS 7119 (009)
Roll 5	Aleutian sea otter hunters in camp. Tigalda, Aleutian chain., 1891 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and watercolor; 54 x 24 inches) Image(s): Group of Sea Otter Hunters in Costume, Some with Weapons In Camp; Kayaks Nearby Painting Notes: NAA INV 08595000 NAA MS 7119 (010)
Roll 7	[Group clubbing and skinning seals], 1891 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 94 x 33 inches) Image(s): Group of Non-Natives Clubbing and Skinning Seals Painting Notes: NAA INV 08595100 NAA MS 7119 (011)
Roll 8	[Group of men with clubs on the edge of a seal rookery on St. Paul's Island], 1890 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 94 x 33 inches) Image(s): Group of Men in Costume with Clubs on Edge of Rookery of Seals Painting Notes: NAA INV 08595200 NAA MS 7119 (012)
Folder 1	Oonalashkan Natives Cod-Fishing; An Aleutian Fisherman and Bidarka hooking "Treesca" in Oonalashkan Harbor, Oonalashkan Island, 1892 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil; 40 x 39 inches) Image(s): Group in Costume and in Kayaks Fishing Near Shore Painting

	Notes: NAA INV 08595300 NAA MS 7119 (013) Reproduced in: Elliott, Henry Wood. *Our Arctic Province: Alaska and the Seal Islands*. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1886, p 169.
Roll 9	[Seal rookery], 1872 July 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 94 x 34 inches) Image(s): Seal Rookery Painting Notes: NAA INV 08595400 NAA MS 7119 (014)
Folder 2	Dropping an Aleutian sea otter hunting party off the Avatanak Island. Aleutian chain., 1892 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 54 x 24 inches) Image(s): Group in Costume Leaving Sailing Ship in Kayaks To Hunt Sea Otters Painting Notes: NAA INV 08595500 NAA MS 7119 (015)
Box 7119, Folder 1	[Two women with a painted dugout boat and paddles outside a plank house at Port Essington], 1866 1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor; 9 x 6 inches) Image(s): Painting of two women with painted dugout boat and paddles outside plank house Notes: NAA INV 08534300
Box 7119, Folder 2	[A group of fishermen paddling five dugouts with sails], 1874 June 3 1 Paintings (visual works) (watercolor; 9 x 6 inches) Image(s): Painting of a group of fishermen paddling five dugouts with sails Notes: NAA INV 08534200
Box 7119, Folder 3	[Reclining man with silver disc hair plates down his back (at Washakie's camp)], 1870 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink; 10 x 7 inches) Image(s): Drawing of reclining man in costume with silver disc hair plates down his back (at Washakie's camp) Notes: NAA INV 08533900 OPPS NEG MNH 444?
Box 7119, Folder 4	[An old woman wearing a buffalo robe near a group of tipis at Washakie's camp], 1870 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink; 7 x 10 inches) Image(s): Drawing of an old woman wearing a buffalo robe near a group of tipis at Washakie's camp Notes: NAA INV 08534000
Box 7119, Folder 5	[A man showing Shoshone hair dressing at Washakie's camp], 1870 1 Item (ink; 8 x 8 inches) Image(s): Portrait of a man showing Shoshone hair dressing at Washakie's camp

Notes: NAA INV 08534100