



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

MS 7462 Adela C. Breton drawings of  
frescoes at Chichen Itza, 1902-1917

National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 7462 Adela C. Breton drawings of frescoes at Chichen Itza
<b>Date:</b>	1902-1917
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS7462
<b>Creator:</b>	Breton, Adela, 1849-1923
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Drawings (visual works)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The drawings were donated by Adele C. Breton to the United States National Museum in 1915, 1916, and 1917. The drawings were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1973.

### Related Materials

The Department of Anthropology object collections holds artifacts donated by Adela C. Breton.

### Processing Information

The drawings were originally cataloged by the National Anthropological Archives under MS 7462 and MS 7480. In 2022, the collection was reprocessed and all drawings were incorporated into a single collection under MS 7462.

### Preferred Citation

MS 7462 Adele C. Breton drawings of frescoes at Chichen Itza, 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

Adela Catherine Breton (1849–1923) was an English archaeological artist. She made watercolor copies of the wall paintings of Mexican temples. Many of her drawings are the only remaining record of the temples' appearance in

the early twentieth century. Breton first visited Chichen Itza in 1900, and spent the next several years drawing and painting at several Mayan sites.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of five (5) drawings of frescoes at Chichen Itza made by Adela C. Breton. Three frescoes are represented; two of the drawings are duplicates. The collection also contains a reprint of a conference paper by Breton.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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 7462

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## Variant Title

Copies of frescoes at Chichen Itza

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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:

Maya (archaeological culture)

### Cultures:

Maya (archaeological culture)

### Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Watercolors  
Works of art

### Places:

Chichén Itzá Site (Mexico)  
Mexico  
North America

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## Container Listing

- Box 7462, Folder 1      [Part of painting in vault of large upper chamber. Casa de las Monjas. Chichen Itza, 1902](#)  
2 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and ink; 14 x 11.75 inches)  
Notes:                  USNM Catalog Number 290849 USNM Accession Number 59784  
                                 Two drawings of the same fresco.
- Box 7462, Folder 2;  
Folder 7462              [Lower part of roof. South end of inner chamber. Temple A. Ball court. Chichen Itza, 1903](#)  
1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and ink on board; 22.25 x 14 inches)  
1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and ink on paper; 23 1/2 x 14 inches)  
Notes:                  Two drawings of the same fresco.  
  
                                 One of the drawings is in two parts. Note on drawing: "Cut in two to save filing space. W.H. Holmes, 1918."  
  
                                 USNM Accession Number 58033  
  
                                 USNM Catalog Number 286679
- Box 7462, Folder 3      [Border and lower part of central scene. North building, \(Chamber C\). Chichen Itza, 1917](#)  
1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and ink on paper, glued to board; 12 x 6.75 inches)  
Notes:                  "From photographs and drawings made 1903-1917"  
  
                                 Published in:  
  
                                 Breton, Adele C. "Preliminary Study of the North Building (Chamber C), Great Ball Court, Chich'en Itza, Yucatan." *Proceedings of the Nineteenth International Congress of Americanists: Held At Washington, December 27-31, 1915* (1917): Plate V.
- Box 7462, Folder 4      "The Ancient Frescoes at Chichen Itza", 1911  
Notes:                  Reprint of Breton's paper delivered at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting at Portsmouth, 1911.