



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

MS 7463 Book of Cheyenne drawings by Little  
Skunk and unknown Cheyenne artists, with  
correspondence concerning drawings, 1878-1902

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/>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 7463 Book of Cheyenne drawings by Little Skunk and unknown Cheyenne artists, with correspondence concerning drawings
<b>Date:</b>	1878-1902
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS7463
<b>Creator:</b>	Little Skunk (Artist)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Volume (152 pages, including 89 drawings with 3 leaves inserted; hard-bound in slipcase; 5.5 x 8.5 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): MS 7463 Book of Cheyenne drawings by Little Skunk and unknown Cheyenne artists, with correspondence concerning drawings</a>
<b>Container:</b>	Box 7463

---

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was acquired by W.H. Kelly of Glasgow, Scotland. Kelly worked for Nicol and Halliday, a firm of auctioneers in Glasgow. The collection and other objects were found during a clean-up of the firm's storage areas in the 1950s, and Mr. Kelly was told he could have them. The items were believed to have belonged to a Presbyterian minister from Clyndor, Gareloch, Scotland.

The book was purchased by the Smithsonian from Kelly in 1987, and transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1989.

### Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds MS 7567 Miscellaneous specimen tags and newspaper clippings, which were also donated by W.H. Kelly. Artifacts donated by Kelly are held in the Department of Anthropology object collections (Accession 380486).

### Preferred Citation

MS 7463 Book of Cheyenne drawings by Little Skunk and unknown Cheyenne artists, with correspondence concerning 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.

## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a bound notebook, slip case, and three inserted letters. The notebook contains 89 drawings on ruled paper, primarily scenes of warfare. The drawings are the work of several different artists and depict battles with several different tribes as well as with White civilians and Army troops. The slip case is embossed with title "Outbreak of the Cheyenne Indians 1878. Sign Language Written by the Chief 'Little Skunk.'"

The first letter is dated September 10, 1892, and signed by A. Wernher. It states: "this book was presented to me in 1879 by Hermann Hauser of the Q[uar]ter M[aste]r Dep[artmen]t at Fort Reno, Ind[ian] Terr[itory] Hauser was affiliated by marriage to the Cheyenne tribe of Indians and assured me that the book represented in sign language the outbreak of the Cheyenne Indians at Fort Reno Ind[ian] Terr[itory] and their raid through Kansas to the North in 1878, written by the Cheyenne Indian "Little Skunk." However, the content of the images is not consistent with the accompanying identification. The names "Little Skunk" and "Hermann Hauser" do not appear in the index to the records of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency held at the Oklahoma Historical Society, but the latter's name appears as "Herman Hauser" in separate material at the Oklahoma Historical Society relating to Fort Reno.

The second letter is dated February 2, 1897, and written by Frank Hamilton Cushing on Bureau of American Ethnology letterhead. The note returns the book to a Colonel Cushing and asks to see it again later.

The third letter is dated March 11, 1902, and written by P. C. Knox to Colonel William C. Sanger with thanks for letting him see the book.

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 7463

OPPS SLIDE 22,227-22,297

USNM Accession 380496

---

## Variant Title

Outbreak of the Cheyenne Indians, 1878 / sign language written by the Chief "Little Skunk"

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Types of Materials:

Ledger drawings  
Works of art

Places:

Fort Reno (Okla.)  
North America