



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Elizabeth H. and Sarah S. Metcalf photographs

Gina Rappaport

2024

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
Biographical Note	1
Scope and Contents	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Papers	4
Series 2: Photographs	5

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Elizabeth H. and Sarah S. Metcalf photographs
Date:	circa 1882-1944
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.107
Creator:	Metcalf, Elizabeth H.
Extent:	9 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs and material relating to the Metcalf sisters are held in the National Anthropological Archives in the Department of Anthropology records, series 17.

Philippine ethnographic objects and collected by the Metcalf sisters are held in the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and in the National Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology collections in accessions 114868, 124603, 123977, and 57787.

The Penn Museum archives also holds correspondence with the Metcalf sisters.

Available Formats

Polyester copy negatives are available for viewing in place of the nitrate negatives.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 107, Elizabeth H. and Sarah S. Metcalf photographs, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Access to the nitrate and glass negatives is restricted. Contact the repository to discuss access to the negatives.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Sisters Elizabeth Henshaw and Sarah Sprague Metcalf became interested in the Philippines and Bagobo peoples after attending the Philippine "Reservation" at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis in 1904. They were particularly impressed by the Bagobo gong music, and developed acquaintances with several of the participants.

The following year, the Metcalfs attended the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon, and again interacted with the Philippine peoples there, who were mostly Igorot.

Middle-aged and unmarried, the sisters set off for Mindanao the following year. They spent several months in Zamboanga before moving to Santa Cruz where they were closer to the Bagobo people. During their stay in the Philippines (1906-1910), the Metcalfs photographed and advocated for their Bagobo friends and amassed an extensive collection of indigenous material culture. Uncertainties relating to the First World War brought the sisters back to the United States in 1910 and Elizabeth presented their ethnological research to the American Anthropological Association the following year.

Around 1915, they returned to the Philippines, where they settled in Manila and sold indigenous handicrafts in their "Little Home Shop." Elizabeth and Sarah remained in Manila until their deaths in 1925 and 1939, respectively.

Biographical information mostly taken from Cherubim A. Quizon, "Two Yankee Women at the St. Louis Fair: The Metcalf Sisters and their Bagobo Sojourn in Mindanao," *Philippine Studies* 52, no. 4 (2004): 527-555.

Scope and Contents

The Elizabeth and Sarah Metcalf photographs primarily document people of the Philippines and travels and activities around the Philippine Islands by the Metcalf sisters. Included are photographs of Bagobo, Moro, Igorot, and other indigenous peoples, towns and landscapes, events and activities, material culture, and the Metcalfs' "Little Home Shop" in Manila.

Papers include correspondence, photograph descriptions, ephemera, descriptions of objects collected by the Metcalfs on their travels and later donated to museums, newspaper articles, and notes for talks and lectures given by the Metcalfs.

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.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Bagobo (Philippine people)
- Benguets
- Igorot (Philippine people)
- Moros -- depicted
- Negritos

Cultures:

- Bagobo (Philippine people)
- Benguets
- Igorot (Philippine people)
- Moros -- depicted
- Negritos

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Gerhard Sisters

Places:

Philippines

Container Listing

Series 1: Papers

Scope and Contents: Series 1: Papers comprise a small set of somewhat miscellaneous documentation. Included is correspondence, lecture notes, notes on botany and other topics, lists and descriptions of objects collected, and ephemera from the "Little Home Shop" in Manila.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1882-1935, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Metcalf sisters "Little Home Shop" ephemera, 1928, undated
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Notes for lectures and talks (2 folders), undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Philippines ephemera and printed material, 1910-1912, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Miscellaneous notes, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Word lists - Kalinga, Ifugao, others, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Notes on botany, undated
Box 1, Folder 9-12	Object collection descriptions (4 folders), undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Object lists, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Lists of prices and payments for objects, 1907-1936, undated
Map-folder 1	Newspaper articles about Metcalf sisters, 1932-1937

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Photographs

Scope and Contents: Series 2: Photographs comprise the bulk of the collection. Included are photographic prints, lantern slides, and negatives documenting the people and natural and built environment around the Philippines.

Box 2, Folder 1	Photo descriptions (for photos in boxes 4-5), undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Lantern slide descriptions, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Photographs of the Metcalf sisters, undated Notes: includes photographs of Sarah and Elizabeth Metcalf and their "Little Home Shop."
Box 2, Folder 4-6	Bagobo (3 folders), undated Notes: contains photographs of Bagobo peoples, material culture, and built environment.
Box 2, Folder 7	Igorot, undated Notes: Contains images of Igorot people, including an Igorot group at an exposition in Portland, Oregon.
Box 2, Folder 8-9	Moro (2 folders), undated Notes: Contains photos of Moro people, material culture, and built environment.
Box 2, Folder 10	Negrito, undated Notes: Contains photos of Negrito people.
Box 2, Folder 11	Cagayan de Jolo, 1906 Notes: contains photos of a freshwater lake, a snake, and other views around Cagayan de Jolo.
Box 2, Folder 12	Cebu, undated Notes: contains photos of the built environment, landscapes, and people of Cebu.
Box 2, Folder 13	Zamboanga, 1906-1908 Notes: contains views around Zamboanga including the Metcalf's house and other photos of the built environment and people.
Box 2, Folder 14-15	Philippines - general views (2 folders), undated Notes: Contains photos of Philippine people, the built and natural environment, and material culture.
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Philippines - general views (2 folders), undated Notes: Contains photos of Philippine people, the built and natural landscape, and material culture.

Box 3, Folder 3	Portraits, 1904-1906, undated Notes: Contains group and individual portraits.
Box 3, Folder 4	Portraits of Bagobo men and women at the St. Louis World's Fair, by the Gerhard Sisters., circa 1904
Box 3, Folder 5	Maritime views, 1906-1908, undated Notes: Contains photos of ships and harbors.
Box 3, Folder 6	Japan and other Asian locales, undated Notes: Contains photos from trips to Japan, Shanghai, and possibly other locations.
Box 3, Folder 7	Postcards of Philippine subjects, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Souvenir postcards from the St. Louis World's Fair of Philippine people, circa 1904
Box 3, Folder 9	Original enclosures for nitrate negatives, undated Notes: Contains original enclosures with descriptive information for nitrate negatives.
Box 4	Bagobo (mounted prints), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with photographs.
Box 5	Igorot (mounted prints), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with photographs.
Box 5	Moro (mounted prints), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with photographs.
Box 5	Negrito (mounted prints), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with photographs.
Box 5	Miscellaneous Philippines (mounted prints), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with photographs.
Box 5	Unnumbered miscellaneous Philippines (mounted prints), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with photographs.
Box 6	Views around Santa Cruz, Zamboango, and other locales (lantern slides), undated Notes: Copies of the Metcalf's descriptions in box with lantern slides.
Map-folder 1	Portraits of men and women, undated
Box 7-8	Glass negatives , undated Notes: 3x4 glass negatives. Negatives and prints have not been matched. Negatives most likely for the mounted prints. Original enclosures with information in boxes with negatives.

Box 9-10

Glass negatives, undated

Notes: 5X7 and 8x10 glass negatives. Negatives and prints have not been matched. Original enclosures with information in boxes with negatives.

Box 11-13

Copy negatives with notes from original enclosures, undated

Notes: Copy negatives from original nitrate negatives. Negatives and prints have not been matched, but these appear to be the negatives for many of the unmounted prints. Organized by subject and accompanied by copies of the Metcalfs' descriptions.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)