



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Henri F. Pittier photographs of Costa Rican people and artifacts, circa 1903-1904

by Sarah Ganderup

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Creator:	Pittier, Henri, 1857-1950
Title:	Henri F. Pittier photographs of Costa Rican people and artifacts
Dates:	circa 1903-1904
Quantity:	128 prints ; silver gelatin 1 page, Sheet music :
Language:	Undetermined

Administrative Information

Provenance Information

Donated by Henri Pittier to the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1903 and circa 1904.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional Pittier photographs held in National Anthropological Archives Photo Lot 14, Photo Lot 40, and Photo Lot 93.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence from Pittier is in the National Anthropological Archives in the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Artifacts donated by Pittier are held in the Department of Anthropology collections in accessions 45947, 45831, 44747, and 65286.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Smithsonian Institution Archives holds Henri Pittier field notes (SIA Acc 12-350) and records relating to Pittier in SIA RU000192.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 128, Henri F. Pittier photographs of Costa Rican people and artifacts, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Ownership & Literary Rights

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Henri Francois Pittier de Fabrega (1857-1950) was a Swiss-born geographer, botanist, and anthropologist who accomplished most of his work in Central and South America. Educated in civil engineering at the University of Lausanne and Jena University, he moved to Costa Rica in 1887, where he became founder-director of the Instituto Fisico-geografico. About 1904, Pittier took a position as "Special Agent in Botanical Investigation in Tropical Agriculture in the Bureau of Plant Industry" for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). He continued to work for the USDA until 1919, though his title was changed to Botanist in 1912. In 1919, he left the United States to become director of the Commercial Museum in Caracas, Venezuela, where he conducted extensive studies of the nation's flora.

Scope and Content Note

Photographs of Guatuso Indians and activities including pottery making, as well as images of artifacts, mainly Indian whistles from the collections of the National Museum in San Jose. A sheet of music accompanies the photographs.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 128

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Pottery craft
Whistles

Cultures:

Guatuso Indians

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Museo Nacional de Costa Rica