



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

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

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Henri F. Pittier photographs of Costa Rican people and artifacts
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.128
Date:	circa 1903-1904
Extent:	1 page (Sheet music :) 128 prints (silver gelatin)
Creator:	Pittier, Henri, 1857-1950
Language:	Undetermined

Administrative Information

Provenance

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

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

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 Contents

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:

Cultures:

Guatuso Indians
Pottery craft
Whistles

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Museo Nacional de Costa Rica