



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

John K. Hillers photographs of the American
Southwest, 1870s-1880s (bulk 1879)

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	John K. Hillers photographs of the American Southwest
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.143
Date:	1870s-1880s (bulk 1879-1879)
Extent:	40 mounted prints (circa; albumen)
Creator:	Hillers, John K., 1843-1925
Language:	Undetermined

Administrative Information

Provenance

This collection may have been transferred to the Bureau of American Ethnology by the United States Geological Survey.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional Hillers photographs in the National Anthropological Archives can be found in Photo Lot 14, Photo Lot 24, Photo Lot 28, Photo Lot 40, Photo Lot 83-18, Photo Lot 87-2N, Photo Lot 90-1, Photo Lot 92-46, and the BAE historical negatives.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives also holds Hillers's diary from 1871-1872 and 1874, 1875 (MS 4410).

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Duke University, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at University of California at Berkeley, Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley, University of Oregon, and Southern Methodist University also hold photographs by Hillers.

See others in

John K. Hillers photographs of the American Southwest, 1870s-1880s (bulk 1879)

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 143, John K. Hillers photographs of the American Southwest, 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

John K. Hillers (1843-1925) immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1852. He spent almost twenty years photographing American Indians and the landscape of the Indian Territories, California, the Southwest, and the Southeast, largely for the Bureau of American Ethnology and the United States Geological Survey. He began work on the Survey as a boatman on John Wesley Powell's second expedition down the Colorado River in 1871. He soon became the assistant, and then the main photographer (1872) for the expedition. From 1879 to 1900, Hillers served as the first staff photographer of Powell's Bureau of Ethnology, and in 1881 he took pictures for the United States Geological Survey.

Scope and Contents

The collection primarily consists of photographs made by John K. Hillers for the Bureau of American Ethnology documenting pueblos, cliff and rock dwellings, and people in Arizona and New Mexico. The photographs depict Navajo, Zuni, Taos, Oraibi, Walpi, Tesuque, Sichomovi, Cochiti, Mishongnavi, and Shipaulovi Pueblo tribes. There are also pictures of mounds, possibly in West Virginia, and a Hobart Nichols drawing of the interior of a Southwest Indian dwelling. The bulk of the photographs are on BAE mounts, of which some are stamped "Compliments of J. W. Powell". Several of the images were taken during the United States Geological Survey in 1885. It is possible that Powell compiled the collection for the United States Geological Survey library, as he was the director of both institutions during that period.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 143

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Cochiti Indians
Hopi Indians
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Navajo Indians
Pueblos

Taos Indians
Zuni Indians

Cultures:

Cochiti Indians
Hopi Indians
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Navajo Indians
Taos Indians
Zuni Indians

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Nichols, Hobart, 1869-1962
Powell, John Wesley, 1834-1902

Geographic Names:

Chelly, Canyon de (Ariz.)

Addl. KW Subj

Tesuque
Pueblo
Oraibi
Mishongnavi