



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Robert Thomas Hill photograph
collection relating to the Indigenous
peoples of Central America, circa 1895

Sarah Ganderup

2014 April 02

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Robert Thomas Hill photograph collection relating to the Indigenous peoples of Central America
Date:	circa 1895
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.170
Creator:	Hill, Robert Thomas, 1858-1941 (Collector)
Extent:	1 Letter 29 Albumen prints (mounted)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated to the Bureau of American Ethnology, probably by R. T. Hill, circa 1903.

Location of Other Archival Materials

This collection has been relocated from Photo Lot 123.

Location of Other Archival Materials

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

Location of Other Archival Materials

Artifacts collected by Hill are held in the Department of Anthropology collections in accessions 035646, 053949, 028088, and 034831.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Smithsonian Institution Archives holds a field notebook from Hill (1895, 1924) in SIA ACC. 12-126. Southern Methodist University, DeGolyer Library, and Autry Center's Braun Research Library, hold collections of Hill's papers.

Other Finding Aids

Folder list available in repository.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 170, Robert Thomas Hill photograph collection relating to the Indigenous peoples of Central America, 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

Robert Thomas Hill (1858-1941) was a geologist best known for his work in Texas for the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Hill was orphaned during the Civil War and raised by his grandmother. While employed at his brother's newspaper in Comanche, Texas, he developed an interest in collecting rocks and fossils. In 1887, he earned a BS in geology from Cornell University. Hill worked for the USGS from 1885 to 1903 and is credited with discovering the Comanche Series of the Lower Cretaceous strata. Additionally, he conducted some preliminary studies in Central America and the West Indies between 1894 and 1902, collecting for the Bureau of American Ethnology and the United States National Museum. Hill resigned from the USGS in 1903 to pursue personal interests in geology and Texas history.

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection consists of photographs documenting Indigenous peoples of Central America, including Cheripo, Guatuso, Talamanca, and Guatemala people. Additional photographs document stone artifacts found at grave sites, Panamanian women, people in Bogata, and a museum in San Jose, Costa Rica. The photographs may have been collected by Robert Thomas Hill from H. N. Rudd, a postcard publisher in Costa Rica. A letter from Rudd to Hill is also in the collection.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 170

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Guatuso
- Indians of Central America
- Talamanca

Cultures:

- Guatuso
- Indians of Central America
- Talamanca

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographs

Places:

- Colombia

Costa Rica
Guatemala
Panama