



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

George Crews McGhee photograph collection
relating to Papua New Guinea, circa 1970s

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	George Crews McGhee photograph collection relating to Papua New Guinea
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.2003-08
Date:	circa 1970s
Extent:	2 Pages (Report :) 62 Mounted color prints 154 Color prints (Album :)
Creator:	McGhee, George Crews, 1912-
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by George C. McGhee to the National Museum of Natural History in 1994 in accession 390923. Transferred to the National Anthropological Archives in 2002.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Artifacts collected by McGhee held in the anthropology collections of the National Museum of Natural History, in accession 390923.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 2003-08, George Crews McGhee photograph collection relating to Papua New Guinea, 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

George Crews McGhee (1912-2005) was a geologist and United States diplomat. He worked with oil companies in the United States and established his own McGhee Production Company before joining the

U.S. foreign service after World War II. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Turkey (1952-1953), Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs during the Kennedy Administration and U.S. Ambassador to West Germany (1963-1968). During the 1970s, McGhee purchased artifacts from Papua New Guinea, the Trobriand Islands, New Britain, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu from dealers in New Guinea, Vanuatu, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States.

Scope and Contents

Photographs possibly made by George McGhee depicting people, dwellings, carvings, masks, and ceremonies in Papua New Guinea. The collection also includes an album of photographs portraying artifacts purchased by McGhee from dealers in New Guinea; McGhee's collection of artifacts was donated to the National Museum of Natural History along with these photographs. There is also a report, possibly written by McGhee, describing the yam ceremony in Maprik.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 2003-08, USNM ACC 390923

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abelam (Papua New Guinean people)
- Carving (Decorative arts)
- Masks
- Rites and ceremonies

Cultures:

- Abelam (Papua New Guinean people)

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Geographic Names:

- New Guinea