



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Alexander W. Chase
photographs of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa
people and material culture circa 1870

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Alexander W. Chase photographs of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa people and material culture
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.2003-10
Date:	circa 1870
Extent:	9 Photographic prints (albumen, mounted on paper)
Creator:	Chase, Alexander W.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Jean Prentiss through Thomas Blackburn in 2002.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Photo Lot 24 contains four cartes des visite by Chase of Maidu individuals "Captain Tom" and his wife, daughter, and son.

The records of the NMNH Department of Anthropology contain some of Chase's original sketches for *Tribes of California*.

Additionally, the NAA also holds MS 3230, a manuscript by Chase on the shell mounds of Oregon, and the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology contain correspondence between Chase and BAE anthropologists.

Publication Note

The photographs in this collection are published in

Thomas Blackburn, "Some Additional Alexander W. Chase Materials," *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 25, no. 1 (2005): 39-54.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 2003-10, Alexander W. Chase Photographs of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa people and material culture, 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

Alexander W. Chase (1843-1888) worked as a surveyor for the US Coast Survey from 1862-1878, during which time he visited several reservations near the San Francisco Bay area and southern Oregon. As an amateur artist, photographer, and ethnologist, he recorded his observations of the daily life on the reservations in a journal. He published his documentation of a visit to the Alsea Reservation in a newspaper article for the Topeka Daily Capitol, dated Sunday, November 27, 1887. He also published a longer paper on the Siletz Reservation in 1869. Additionally, he contributed ethnographic and archaeological data, photographs, and sketches to Stephen Powers' monograph, *Tribes of California*.

Scope and Contents

Studio portraits of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa Indians made by surveyor Alexander W. Chase while working for the US Coast Survey. Also included are photographs of artifacts from his ethnographic and archaeological collection. The photographs are mounted on brown paper with handwritten descriptions; two newspaper articles, including Alexander Chase's own article for the Topeka Daily Capitol, are glued to the back of two of the pages.

Bibliography

Powers, Stephen. *Tribes of California*. Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1877.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 2003-10

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Indians of North America -- California
Indians of North America -- Plateau
Klamath Indians
Modoc Indians
Tolowa Indians

Cultures:

Indians of North America -- California
Indians of North America -- Plateau
Klamath Indians
Modoc Indians
Tolowa Indians

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Container Listing

- Envelope 1, Folder 1 2003-10.1: Klamath girl dressed for White Deerskin dance
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 1 2003-10.2: Young Klamath woman dressed for White Deerskin Dance
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 1 2003-10.3: Klamath woman
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 1 2003-10.4: Two Klamath women
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 1 2003-10.5: Klamath man and woman, "Scow" and "Jenny"
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 1 2003-10.5v: Newspaper clippings regarding Native American tribes in California
[Image\(s\): Newspaper clippings regarding Native Americans in California](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 2 2003-10.6: Modoc man
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 2 2003-10.7: Tolowa man from Taa-'at-dvn village (Crescent City), called the "Old Doctor" or "Old Medicine Man" by Chase
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 2 2003-10.8: Ethnographic and possibly archaeological artifacts including stone tools, bow and arrows, pipe, and spoons
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 2 2003-10.8v: Newspaper clipping from the Topeka Daily Capital, of article by Chase titled "Oregon Indians." The left edge of the page is damaged or was cut so that the left column is missing some words at the bottom
[Image\(s\): Newspaper clipping from the Topeka Daily Capital, with article by Chase titled "Oregon Indians." The left edge of the page is damaged or was cut so that the bottom left column is missing some words](#)
- Envelope 1, Folder 2 2003-10.9: Collection of lithics including drills and other forms
[Image\(s\)](#)