



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Ezra Zubrow aerial photographs
of the Rio Grande Pueblos, circa 1967

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2011

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Ezra Zubrow aerial photographs of the Rio Grande Pueblos, circa 1967
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.2010-13
Date:	circa 1967
Extent:	64 Prints (silver gelatin; 10" x 20")
Creator:	United States. Air Force Zubrow, Ezra B. W.
Language:	English .
Summary:	64 aerial photographs of Rio Grande Pueblos made circa 1967 from 60,000 feet by a U2 aircraft.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Ezra Zubrow in 2010.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Jennifer Hawkins, 2010.

Collection and image descriptions provided in this finding aid were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material (i.e. documents, publications, and websites), and subject matter experts. While every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is understood that errors may reveal themselves following review by other subject experts, and new information is welcome.

The finding aid was prepared by Jennifer Hawkins, 2010 and Gina Rappaport, 2011.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 2010-13, Ezra Zubrow aerial photographs of the Rio Grande Pueblos, 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.

Historical Note

Ezra Zubrow provides the following background:

"Here is a quick version of the story of the photographs. . . I was a graduate student at the University of Arizona and during the summer of 1967 or 1968. I was working at the Southwestern Archaeological Expedition run by Paul S. Martin of the Field Museum of Chicago at the Hay Hollow Valley. I was a field foreman.

One day a group of B52's came over the nearby mesas very very low. This was the time of Vietnam. The sound was deafening and it seemed as if the earth shook and that they were only a few hundred feet above us. I remember looking up and I would swear that the bomb doors were open and that I saw a light inside. It was clear that they were doing some kind of low level practice and I thought it was a practice bombing run. When my ears stopped ringing, I thought to myself those planes must have cameras to record the dropping of the bombs and if they happen to come by again maybe I could ask them to take pictures of our excavations. So I wrote a letter to the "commanding general of the air force". I did not have a name or an address so I just sent it to the Commanding General US Air Force, Pentagon, Washington DC. I explained how useful photographs from the air were for doing archaeology in my letter and drove some 20 miles to Showlow Arizona to send the letter. When I did not hear anything I promptly forgot about it realizing that it was a "silly thing to have done." Two and half months went by and just before I left Vernon I received a package from the US Air Force from a colonel who was with a "reconnaissance" wing. In it was a letter saying that my letter had been received at the pentagon and had wended its way through various offices with a request that if it was possible to help us please do and here were a set of pictures of your excavations and the nearby area. To say the least I was thunderstruck. I had no idea how they had done the photographs but there were a set of 9x18 negatives and prints.

When I returned to Tucson for the fall semester a few days later, I started to look at the photographs. I realized that I wanted to say thank you and sent a letter saying thank you to the air force. It then occurred to me that it would be a nice thing to do to call and say thank you in person. I called the Pentagon and after several calls they provided me a number to call. It had the same area code as Tucson and I realized that the colonel was probably stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. So I called the base and asked if I could make an appointment to meet him and personally say thank you. I got an appointment the following week and went out to the base. At the guard house I told them I had an appointment with the colonel and they told me to wait at the gate house which I did. After about 15 minutes a soldier came out with a car and asked me to leave my car at the gatehouse and he would drive me into the base. The car actually had blacked out side and rear windows.

We went into a low lying building and there were several people there including Colonel Y and a Lieutenant X. I told them how appreciative I was and that all the other archaeologists at the Southwestern Archaeological Expedition appreciated their help as well.

I had no idea with whom I was dealing. They showed me around various rooms and laboratories for photography and finally came to a room with a large chalkboard in it. On the chalkboard was a listing of missions, plane numbers, and pilots. There were a range of missions scheduled for several weeks and when I realized that several of them were over Vietnam, Cambodia, China, and Russia I stopped in my tracks. I looked at my hosts and said what kind of planes were they flying. I still thought it was something like a B52. They said it was the U2. I was speechless and as I later learned my mouth dropped so wide that all the men in the room started laughing. They said that if I wanted to watch one land it was going to land in a few minutes and as I was leaving I could watch. Of course I wanted to.

So as I left, I said thank you again and the Colonel and the Lieutenant said if they could help more, they would be willing to do so.

It turned out that Lieutenant X and I were about the same age and that we each had just been married a short time. We both were in a "foreign town," Tucson. So the two couples began to meet for dinner and joined some other young couples who were in Tucson for the first time. The following semester, I had the idea of photographing the Pueblos. I asked Lieutenant X and Colonel Y if it might be possible and they said yes. I went back to the base and we sat with maps and plotted out the exact flight plan.

And that's more or less how it happened. The Colonel, the Lieutenant, and I continued to be friends for many years."^[1]

[1] Email from Ezra Zubrow to archivist Gina Rappaport, April 22, 2010.

Biographical Note

Ezra Zubrow is an anthropologist who has served on the faculty of the University at Buffalo since 1977. His broad interests include archaeological and anthropological theory and method, social policy of heritage and disability, Nordic archaeology, and ecology.

Scope and Contents

Aerial photographs of Rio Grande Pueblos made circa 1967 from 60,000 feet by a U2 aircraft, commissioned by Ezra Zubrow. Pueblos photographed include Acoma, Cochiti, Idefonso, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Juan, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni.

Arrangement

The photographs are arranged alphabetically by Pueblo.

Bibliography

Ezra B. W. Zubrow, "Remote Sensing, Fractals, and Cultural Landscapes: An Ethnographic Prolegomenon Using U2 Imagery," *Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology*, 2007.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

A:shiwi (Zuni)
Acoma Pueblo

Cochiti Pueblo
Isleta Pueblo
Laguna Pueblo
Nambe Pueblo
Picuris Pueblo
Pueblo Indians
Pueblos
San Felipe Pueblo (N.M.)
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Santa Ana Pueblo
Taos Pueblo
Tesque
Zia Pueblo

Cultures:

A:shiwí (Zuni)
Acoma Pueblo
Cochiti Pueblo
Isleta Pueblo
Laguna Pueblo
Nambe Pueblo
Picuris Pueblo
Pueblo Indians
San Felipe Pueblo (N.M.)
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Santa Ana Pueblo
Taos Pueblo
Tesque
Zia Pueblo

Types of Materials:

Aerial Photographs

Geographic Names:

Jemez Pueblo (N.M.)
Pojoaque pueblo (N.M.)
Rio Grande Valley (Colo.-Mexico and Tex.)
San Juan Pueblo (N.M.)
Sandia Pueblo (N.M.)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	1-3: Acoma Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 2	4-7: Cochiti Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 3	8-9: Ildefonso Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 4	10-13: Isleta Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 5	14-16: Jemez Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 6	17-20: Laguna Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 7	21-24: Nambe Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 8	25-28: Picuris Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 9	29-32: Pojaoque Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 10	33-36: Sandia Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 11	37-38: San Felipe Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 12	39-44: San Juan Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 13	45-47: San Juan/Taos Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 14	48-50: Santa Ana Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 15	51-54: Santa Clara Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 16	55-57: Tesque Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 17	58-61: Zia Pueblo
Box 1, Folder 18	62-64: Zuni Pueblo