



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Rodman Wanamaker photograph collection
relating to American Indians, 1908-1909

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National Anthropological Archives
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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

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Rodman Wanamaker photograph collection relating to American Indians
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.64
Date:	1908-1909
Extent:	154 Prints (silver gelatin)
Creator:	Wanamaker, Rodman, 1863-1928
Language:	Undetermined

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Rodman Wanamaker to the United States National Museum in 1914 (USNM accession 56840).

Location of Other Archival Materials

Dixon's negatives are at the Indiana University, Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives also holds a copy photograph of Wanamaker's Memorial to First Americans ground-breaking (Photo Lot R82-55).

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Museum of the American Indian holds artifacts and some additional photographs from Wanamaker's expeditions. The Human Studies Film Archives holds expedition footage.

See others in

Rodman Wanamaker photograph collection relating to American Indians, 1908-1909

Other Finding Aids

Inventory is available in repository.

Available Formats

Digital surrogates for some photographs are available online.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 64, Rodman Wanamaker photograph collection relating to American Indians, 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

Rodman Wanamaker (1863-1928) was heir to a successful Philadelphia department business and patron of the arts, education, and American Indian culture. In the early 20th century, he hired photographer Joseph Kossuth Dixon and sponsored three expeditions to American Indian reservations (1908-1913). The main goal of these expeditions was to document the way of life of American Indians, whom he saw as a "vanishing race," and to make "first-class citizens" of the Indians as a means of saving them from extinction. In addition to still photography, films were also made during these expeditions including a motion picture film about Hiawatha made on the first expedition (1908), and a reenactment of the Battle of the Little Big Horn made on the second expedition (1909). The third expedition, the "Expedition of Citizenship" (1913), focused on carrying an American flag to tribes across the country and inviting them to sign a declaration of allegiance to the United States.

Scope and Contents

Photographs commissioned by Rodman Wanamaker to document the "vanishing" way of life for American Indians during 1908-1913. The photographs were made by Joseph Kossuth Dixon and largely depict northern Plains Indians, including Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Crow, and Dakota Indians. These large bromide prints form a set of presentation photographs and apparently such collections were placed by Rodman Wanamaker in several museums.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 64

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Cheyenne Indians -- depicted
Crow Indians -- depicted
Dakota Indians -- depicted
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Siksika Indians -- depicted

Cultures:

Cheyenne Indians -- depicted
Crow Indians -- depicted
Dakota Indians -- depicted
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Siksika Indians -- depicted

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Dixon, Joseph K. (Joseph Kossuth)

Addl. KW Subj

Sioux

Blackfeet