



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

William Henry Holmes photograph  
collection relating to archeological sites  
in Mexico and Mesoamerica, undated

Sarah Ganderup

2015

National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	William Henry Holmes photograph collection relating to archeological sites in Mexico and Mesoamerica
<b>Date:</b>	undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.73-44
<b>Creator:</b>	Holmes, William Henry, 1846-1933 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 printed color diagram 31 Prints (silver gelatin)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Seven photographs were donated by William Henry Holmes to the United States National Museum in 1923 (accession 89688). The rest were transferred from the Department of Anthropology, 1973.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Photo Lot 66B has been relocated and merged with Photo Lot 73-44. These photographs were also collected by William Henry Holmes and form part of this collection.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence by Holmes can be found throughout the National Anthropological Archives in MS 7206, the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and the records of the Department of Anthropology.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Manuscripts and notes by Holmes can be found throughout the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4698, MS 2125, MS 7112, and MS 7570.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The William Henry Holmes Papers, 1870-1931 (SIA RU007084), are held by the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

### Other Finding Aids

Partial inventory available in repository.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 73-44, William Henry Holmes photograph collection relating to archeological sites in Mexico and Mesoamerica, 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.

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## Biographical Note

William Henry Holmes (1846-1933) was an artist, geologist, and archeologist who spent most of his career with the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of American Ethnology, and Department of Anthropology of the Smithsonian. From 1894-1897, he was the head of anthropology at the Field Columbian Museum (Field Museum of Natural History) and on the staff of the University of Chicago. During this time, he carried out investigations of ancient ruins in the Yucatan and other areas of Mesoamerica as a member of an expedition of Allison V. Armour. Many of the prints in this collection seem to relate to that expedition, and similar images were published in Holmes's reports in the Field Columbian Museum Anthropological Series, volume 1, number 1, 1895. Holmes served as head curator for the US National Museum Department of Anthropology from 1897-1902 and head of the BAE from 1902-1909.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs documenting archeological sites in Mexico, including Chichen Itza, Mitla, Palenque, Texcotzingo, Uxmal, Xochicalco, Quirigua, and Copan. Some of the prints were originally framed and captioned; these may have formed an exhibit or display, possibly in Holmes's office. Photographers include Allison V. Armour, Alfred Percival Maudsley, and E. H. Thompson.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 73-44, NAA Photo Lot 66B, USNM ACC 89688

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Aztec (archaeological culture)
- Mayas
- Zapotec

### Cultures:

- Aztec (archaeological culture)
- Mayas
- Zapotec

### Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Names:

Armour, Allison V.  
Maudslay, Alfred Percival, 1850-1931  
Thompson, E. H.

Places:

Chichén Itzá Site (Mexico)  
Copán Site (Honduras)  
Guatemala -- Antiquities  
Honduras -- Antiquities  
Mexico -- Antiquities  
Mitla Site (Mexico)  
Palenque Site (Mexico)  
Quiriguá Site (Guatemala)  
Uxmal Site (Mexico)  
Xochicalco Site (Mexico)