Carlos Montezuma lantern slide collection relating to Native Americans, circa 1871-1913

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Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropoligical Archives
Title: Carlos Montezuma lantern slide collection relating to Native Americans
Identifier: NAA.PhotoLot.73
Date: circa 1871-1913
Extent: 171 Lantern slides
Creator: Montezuma, Carlos, 1866-1923
Language: Undetermined
Digital Content: Image(s): Carlos Montezuma lantern slide collection relating to American Indians

Administrative Information

Provenance
The lantern slides were given by Montezuma's widow, Marie Keller Montezuma (later Moore) and her second husband, Bill Moore to Robert Collester, circa 1940s. They were donated to the Smithsonian by Doris Collester, circa 1961.

Location of Other Archival Materials
Correspondence from Montezuma is held in the National Anthropoligical Archives in the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Location of Other Archival Materials
Carlos Montezuma's papers are held in the Newberry Library, Roger and Julie Baskes Department of Special Collections; Arizona State University Libraries, Charles Trumbull Hayden Library; and University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections.

Other Finding Aids
Inventory and part of Cesare Marino's report on the collection are available in repository.

Available Formats
Copy negatives and copy prints for some images, made by the Smithsonian, are available with the collection.

Preferred Citation
Photo lot 73, Carlos Montezuma lantern slide collection relating to Native Americans, National Anthropoligical 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

Carlos Montezuma (1866-1923, also called Wassaja) was an Native American activist and physician. He was Yavapai, though he often identified himself as Apache. He was captured by Pima Indians at a young age and sold in 1871 to Italian-immigrant and pioneer photographer Carlo (or Charles) Gentile, who adopted the child and took him to New York. Montezuma graduated from the University of Illinois (1884) and received his MD from the Chicago Medical College (1889). He developed a friendship with Richard Henry Pratt, head of the Carlisle Indian School, and took a post as reservation physician for the Bureau of Indian Services. During this time he developed an opposition to BIA policies and became an Native American advocate, speaking out against reservations. He gave numerous lectures on Native Americans at institutions around the United States, helped organize the Society of American Indians, and published a personal newsletter entitled Wassaja (1916-1922). In 1896, Montezuma established a medical practice in Chicago. He died in Arizona in 1923.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes hand-colored glass lantern slides collected by Dr. Carlos Montezuma and used for his lectures on Native American rights. Many of the photographs are portraits, some made at Ft. McDowell and Fort Apache. Other images show schools, reservations, dwellings, Charles Dickens (a Yavapai store owner), Montezuma’s Castle, Casa Grande, and scenic views. A special series includes photographs made during a 1913 hunting and sightseeing trip that he organized, probably including photographs made by Montezuma’s guests, John T. McCutcheon and Charles B. Gibson.

Some of the images were made by Charles (Carlos) Gentile, the photographer and benefactor of Montezuma in his early years. There are also several by Father Peter Paulus Prando and John N. Choate, and one portrait each by Napoleon Sarony and Matthew Brady. Otherwise, the photographers are unidentified.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 73

Varying Form of Title

Carlos Montezuma-Doris Collester Collection of Lantern Slides
General

The handwriting on the slides has been identified as that of Dr. Carlos Montezuma by John Larner, the editor of Montezuma’s papers. Information in this catalog record has been taken from Cesare Marino, Solving the Mystery: The Carlos Montezuma-Doris Collester Collection of Lantern Slides in the NAA: Report of Background Research and Interview with Mrs. Doris Collester, Donor of the Carlos Montezuma Collection of Hand-tinted Lantern Slides to the Smithsonian Institution, conducted in Williamstown, West Virginia, August 2013.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Apache
Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
Diné (Navajo)
Dwellings
Indians of North America -- Great Basin
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Mojave (Mohave)
Paiute
Piipaash (Maricopa)
Shoshone
Sioux
Tohono O’odham (Papago)
Tsistsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)
Ute
Yavapai

Cultures:
Apache
Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
Diné (Navajo)
Indians of North America -- Great Basin
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Mojave (Mohave)
Paiute
Piipaash (Maricopa)
Shoshone
Sioux
Tohono O’odham (Papago)
Tsistsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)
Ute
Yavapai

Names:
Brady, Mathew B., approximately 1823-1896
Choate, J. N. (John N.), 1848-1902
Gentile, Carlo, 1835-1893
Phoenix Indian School
Prando, Peter Paul Father
Sarony, Napoleon, 1821-1896
United States Indian School (Carlisle, Pa.)

Geographic Names:
Casa Grande (Ariz.)
Montezuma Castle National Monument (Ariz.)

Addl. KW Subj

Navaho
Shoshone
Sioux
Papago (Tohono O'odham)