



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

C. Hart Merriam photographs of Native Americans, circa 1902-1938

Sarah Ganderup

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National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	C. Hart Merriam photographs of Native Americans
Date:	circa 1902-1938
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.74-27
Creator:	Merriam, C. Hart (Clinton Hart), 1855-1942
Extent:	5,000 Items (glass negatives, film negatives, lantern slides, and some prints)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by C. Hart Merriam's daughter Dorothy M. Abbott, 1974.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Merriam's notes held in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 1563 and in the Smithsonian Institution Archives in SIA Acc. 12-264.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs by Merriam held in the National Museum of American Indian Archives in the Mary Harriman Rumsey Photograph Collection and the Harriman Alaska Expedition Photograph Collection.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence from Merriam held in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4558, the Department of Anthropology records (Manuscript and Pamphlet file), Bureau of American Ethnology records, J.C. Pilling Papers, Ales Hrdlicka Papers, and Jesse Logan Nusbaum Papers.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Bancroft Library at University of California, Berkeley holds the C. Hart Merriam Papers, C. Hart Merriam Collection of Native American Photographs (prints corresponding to negatives in this collection), and C. Hart Merriam pictorial collection.

Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 74-27, 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

Clinton Hart Merriam (1855-1942) was a Columbia University-educated physician who worked as a naturalist, including as head of the Biological Survey for the US Department of Agriculture. He joined the Harriman Alaska Expedition as a zoologist in 1899. In 1910, he left the USDA and began to conduct research among California tribes. Financed by Mary W. Harriman and the E. H. Harriman Fund administered by the Smithsonian, he researched tribes' vocabularies, history, mythology, crafts (particularly basketmaking) until about 1936. His research was assisted by his daughter, Zenaida, who took photographs and painted glass slides for him. Merriam served as President of the Anthropological Society of Washington in 1920-1921.

Scope and Contents

Photographs depicting Native American baskets and portraits of Native Americans with whom C. Hart Merriam worked, as well as scenic views and images of animals and plants, mostly in California. Many of the photographs were made by Merriam himself or his daughter Zenaida Merriam Talbot. In addition, Merriam collected photographs from other researchers and photographers, including J. S. Diller, John Peabody Harrington, Henry Wetherbee Henshaw, and O. E. Meddaugh. There are also images acquired from the Boysen Studio of Yosemite and photographs of Mark Twain, John Muir, basketmaker Maggie James, and Merriam's family.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 74-27

General

Additional information supplied by Marvin Shodas.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Achomawi (Pit River)
- Akimel O'odham (Pima)
- Apache
- Athapascan Indians
- Atsugewi (Hat Creek)
- Baskets
- Diné (Navajo)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Hupa
- Indians of North America -- California

Indians of North America -- Great Basin
Indians of North America -- Plateau
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Indians of North America -- Subarctic
Jicarilla Apache
Karuk (Karok)
Klamath
Klikitat
Koso (Panamint) Shoshone
Kutzadika'a (Mono Paiute)
Laguna Indians
Maidu
Mewuk (Miwok)
Modoc
Niimípuu (Nez Perce)
Nisenan Indians
Ohlone (Costano)
Paiute
Patwin
Payómkawichum (Luiseño)
Pomo
Pueblo
Shasta
Shoshone
Taos Indians
Tolowa
Wasco
Washo Indians
Wintu
Yana
Yokayo Pomo
Yokuts

Cultures:

Achomawi (Pit River)
Akimel O'odham (Pima)
Apache
Athapascan Indians
Atsugewi (Hat Creek)
Diné (Navajo)
Hopi Pueblo
Hupa
Indians of North America -- California
Indians of North America -- Great Basin
Indians of North America -- Plateau
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Indians of North America -- Subarctic
Jicarilla Apache
Karuk (Karok)
Klamath
Klikitat
Koso (Panamint) Shoshone
Kutzadika'a (Mono Paiute)

Laguna Indians
Maidu
Mewuk (Miwok)
Modoc
Niimíipuu (Nez Perce)
Nisenan Indians
Ohlone (Costano)
Paiute
Patwin
Payómkawichum (Luiseño)
Pomo
Pueblo
Shasta
Shoshone
Taos Indians
Tolowa
Wasco
Washo Indians
Wintu
Yana
Yokayo Pomo
Yokuts

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides
Photographs

Names:

Boysen Studio
Diller, J. S.
Harrington, John Peabody, 1884-1961
Henshaw, Henry W. (Henry Wetherbee), 1850-1930
Meddaugh, O. E.
Muir, John, 1838-1914
Talbot, Zenaida Merriam (photographer)
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910

Addl. KW Subj

Achumawi
Apache
Athapaskan, Athabaskan
Costanoan
Karok (Karuk)
Kulanapan
Lassik
Maidu
Mattole

Mission Indians

Pima (Akimel O'odham)

Shoshone