



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

William Edwin Safford photograph  
albums relating to Easter Island, Samoa,  
and South America, circa 1886-1902

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National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	William Edwin Safford photograph albums relating to Easter Island, Samoa, and South America
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1886-1902
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.76-26
<b>Creator:</b>	Safford, William Edwin, 1859-1926 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Albums (circa 145 prints; silver gelatin)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The photographs were donated by Safford's wife to the Bureau of American Ethnology library, along with additional charts and a Samoan manuscript, 1926. They were transferred from the Department of Anthropology library to the National Anthropological Archives by Jannette Saquet, 1975.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs of the expedition to Easter Island can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 97.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs collected by Safford can be found in National Anthropological Archives in MS 3366.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The Smithsonian Institution Archives holds the William Edwin Safford Papers, 1894-1925 (SIA RU007275).

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Records relating to Safford's collecting expedition in South America can be found in the Smithsonian Institution Archives in SIA RU000189.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Safford's ethnographic data about Samoa can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 2956.

### Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 76-26, William Edwin Safford photograph albums relating to Easter Island, Samoa, and South America, 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 Edwin Safford (1859-1926) was a United States Naval officer from 1880-1902 who took part in Navy expeditions and collected specimens for the United States National Museum. Safford joined the crew of the USS Mohican in South America and participated in its expedition to the South Pacific (1886-1888). In 1891-1892, he commanded an ethnological expedition to Peru and Bolivia for the Chicago Columbian Expedition. He served in the Spanish American War and was vice-governor of Guam in 1899-1900. In 1902, he resigned from the Navy and took an appointment as an economic botanist with the United States Department of Agriculture.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs collected by William Edwin Safford while on US Navy expeditions to Chile, Easter Island, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, and Samoa. They depict Indigenous peoples and activities, towns, scenic views, and the crew of the USS Mohican and members of the US Navy. There are also photographs of Guatemala made by Alberto G. Valdeavellano and J. A. Gonsalves. The Easter Island photographs were possibly made by William J. Thomson, paymaster on the Mohican.

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## Bibliography

Photographs published in "Te Pito Te Henua, or Easter Island," USNM Annual Report, 1888-'89, pg. 447-552.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 76-26

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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:

Samoans

### Cultures:

Samoans

### Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Gonsalves, J. A.  
Mohican Expedition  
Thomson, William J. (William Judah), 1841-1909  
Valdeavellano, Alberto G., 1861-1928

Places:

Chile  
Easter Island  
Ecuador  
Guatemala  
Panama  
Peru  
Samoa