



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

United States Army Medical Museum
photographs of measuring and
photographing skulls, circa 1885-1900

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2012 July 30

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	United States Army Medical Museum photographs of measuring and photographing skulls
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.78-42
Date:	circa 1885-1900
Extent:	13 Mounted prints (albumen)
Creator:	Army Medical Museum (U.S.)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Obtained from the Army Medical Museum by Thomas Dale Stewart in the Division of Physical Anthropology, Department of Anthropology. Donated to the National Anthropological Archives, 1978.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Copy prints of additional mounted photographs from this series can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 33.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs of skulls by the Army Medical Museum can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 6A, Photo Lot 6B, Photo Lot 73-26C, Photo Lot 83-41, and Photo Lot 97.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds microfilm of the papers of Washington Matthews, circa 1864-1905.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds records concerning skeletal material transferred to the Smithsonian Institution from the Army Medical Museum.

Available Formats

Digital surrogate for one image is available.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 78-42, United States Army Medical Museum photographs of measuring and photographing skulls, 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

The United States Army Medical Museum (AMM, renamed the National Museum of Health and Medicine in 1989) was established by US Army Surgeon General William A. Hammond in 1862. Its initial focus was on collecting specimens of unusual pathology, mostly taken from victims of the American Civil War. By 1867, the museum had expanded to include medical, microscopical, anatomical, comparative anatomics, and other sections. The anatomical collection grew in part as a result of Circular No. 2 of 1867, which authorized military medical officers to collect cranial specimens from deceased American Indians. Additionally, the AMM made an arrangement with the Smithsonian Institution, by which the Smithsonian transferred their collection of human remains in exchange for ethnological artifacts. AMM photographed and measured many of the specimens in its collection as part of the museum's anthropological research.

Scope and Contents

Photographs documenting physical anthropology techniques for measuring and photographing skulls for comparison, as practiced by scientists of the Army Medical Museum. Photographs are mounted on unbound pages from an album and have been annotated to describe the technique depicted.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 78-42

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Physical anthropology -- methodology
anthropometry

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Matthews, Washington, 1843-1905