



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of Natural History*

Elizabeth Bayley Willis photographs  
of peoples, artifacts, and scenery of  
Northeastern India, circa 1950-1965

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Elizabeth Bayley Willis photographs of peoples, artifacts, and scenery of Northeastern India
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.79-11
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1950-1965
<b>Extent:</b>	33 Color slides 1 Color postcard 53 Prints (silver gelatin)
<b>Creator:</b>	Willis, Elizabeth Bayley (collector and photographer)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Elizabeth Bayley Willis, 1978.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs collected by Willis can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 97.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Willis also donated artifacts to the Department of Anthropology, in accessions 255963, 264169, 268921, 270239, and 279910.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The Special Collections at the University of Washington holds the Elizabeth Bayley Willis Papers, 1933-1988.

### Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 79-11, Elizabeth Bayley Willis photographs of peoples, artifacts, and scenery of Northeastern India, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

## Conditions Governing Use

These photographs cannot be reproduced without permission from the photographers.

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## Biographical Note

Elizabeth Bayley Willis (1902-2003) was a scholar of textiles and decorative arts who was affiliated with several museums and galleries including the San Francisco Museum of Art and the Henry Gallery of the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1952, she was appointed to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, where she focused on marketing of textile and other decorative art products from India to improve economic development; she later worked on similar missions for the UN in Vietnam, Formosa, and Morocco. Willis went to India to consult the Uttar Pradesh government about the development and preservation of crafts and served as an advisor to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Textile Commissioner, and the All India Handloom Board. Between 1957 and 1965, Willis returned to India several times to collect textiles and continue her research on the tribal arts of northeastern India and Bhutan.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs depicting indigenous peoples, antiquities, implements, textile types, and scenery in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and other areas of northeastern India. Represented photographers include Elizabeth Bayley Willis, Verrier Elwin, Panna Pal, R. Pyngrope, and other photographers.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 79-11

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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:

- Akha (Southeast Asian people)
- Khasi (Indic people)
- Lushai (Asian people)
- Mishmi (Indic people)

### Cultures:

- Akha (Southeast Asian people)
- Khasi (Indic people)
- Lushai (Asian people)
- Mishmi (Indic people)

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Postcards

Names:

Elwin, Verrier  
Pal, Panna  
Pyngrope, R.

Geographic Names:

Arunāchal Pradesh (India)  
Assam (India)  
Brahmaputra River Valley