



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Prince Roland Bonaparte photograph collection
of Omaha, Kalmouk, Hindu, Khoikhoi, Somali
and Surinamese peoples, circa 1883-1884

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents note.....	3
Biographical/Historical note.....	3
Arrangement.....	4
Published in.....	4
Names and Subjects	4
Container Listing	6
Series : Series 1: Omahas, Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris, 1884.....	6
Series : Series 2: Chinese, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883.....	8
Series : Series 3: Kalmouks, Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris, 1884.....	9
Series : Series 4: Hindus, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883.....	10
Series : Series 5: Khoikhoi, Undated.....	11
Series : Series 6: Somalis, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883.....	12
Series : Series 7: Surinamese, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883.....	14

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Prince Roland Bonaparte photograph collection of Omaha, Kalmouk, Hindu, Khoikhoi, Somali and Surinamese peoples
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.80-52
Date:	circa 1883-1884
Extent:	138 Mounted prints (albumen; 5 album boxes) 13 Photographic prints (collotype; 1 album box) 64 Photographic prints (color; 1 album box)
Creator:	Bonaparte, Roland, prince, 1858-1924
Language:	Undetermined .
Summary:	Photographic portfolios made by Prince Roland Bonaparte in his "Collection Anthropologique" group. The bulk of the collection consists of individual portraits of "Peaux-Rouges" (Omaha Indians), "Kalmouks" (Kalmyks), "Hindous" (Hindus), "Hottentots" (Khoikhoi), Somalis, "Atchinois" (Acehnese), and Surinamese. There are also some images of clothing, dwellings and animals, including camels and horses.

Administrative Information

Provenance

One album, "Collection Anthropologique du Prince Roland Bonaparte : Kalmouks, No 8," was given by the librarian of the "Collection Anthropologique" to the Anthropological Society of Washington, DC. Around 1940, the Anthropological Society gave it to the Bureau of American Ethnology library, which was later merged into the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology library. It was transferred from the Anthropology library to the National Anthropological Archives in 1978.

Photographs relating to Somali and Khoikhoi (Hottentot) people, were donated to the Department of Anthropology by Roland Bonaparte in 1891, accession no. 024177. Three albums, relating to Omaha, Surinamese, and Hindu people, were donated to the Department of Anthropology by Roland Bonaparte in 1888, accession no. 013991. These were transferred to the Department of Physical Anthropology, which transferred them to the National Anthropological Archives in 1980. Two albums, relating to Kalmouks and Acehnese people, were also transferred at this time and likely came from one of the two accessions, or from the Washington Anthropology Society circa 1880, accession no. 80A00028. The two remaining albums (relating to Hindu and Omaha peoples) were also sent to the Washington Anthropological Society circa 1888. These were transferred to the National Anthropological Archives and were previously filed as "Rare Books" in the collection.

Photo Lot 78-26 and two volumes from the NAA's "Rare Books" have been relocated and merged with Photo Lot 80-52. These photographs were also collected by Roland Bonaparte and form part of this collection.

Related Materials

The Muséum national d'histoire naturelle and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, division of the Collections of Maps and Plans, have related photographs and manuscript materials.

Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository.

Alternate Forms Available

Glass plate negatives were created from copies of several of the Omaha photographs (series 1) by Delancey Gill, probably for inclusion in the BAE 27th Annual Report.

Description of Somali clothing

Collection and image descriptions provided in this finding aid were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material (i.e. documents, publications, and websites), and subject matter experts. While every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is understood that errors may reveal themselves following review by other subject experts, and new information is welcome.

The descriptions of the Somali garments (series 6) were informed by Heather Marie Akou's article, "Documenting the Origins of Somali Folk Dress: Evidence from the Bonaparte Collection" (2006).

Somali men's clothing

Maro

Garment (means "cloth")

Tusbah

Islamic prayer beads

Hardas

A packet of leather containing a ritual object or verse from the Qur'an, strung on a band of leather and tied closely around the neck

Somali women's clothing

Guntiino

Dress made from three to four yards of fabric, knotted and wrapped around the body

Garvasaar

Shawl

Adullis

Necklace crafted from large silver, glass or corral beads, among other materials, that has a large crescent-shaped pendant that often has dozens of tiny silver bells suspended from the base

Shashs

Headscarves

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 80-52, Prince Roland Bonaparte photograph collection of Omaha, Kalmouk, Hindu, Khoikhoi, Somali and Surinamese peoples, 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

Prince Roland Bonaparte (1858-1924) was the grandson of Lucien, the second brother of Napoleon Bonaparte. Forbidden by law to pursue the military career he desired, he turned to geography and other sciences and received anthropological training from Paul Broca. Starting around 1882, he began to create and distribute albums organized by culture group as part of an "anthropological collection of human diversity." He studied the Lapp people in Finland in 1884 and then traveled to Mexico, Canada and, in 1887, the United States to study American Indians. The photograph project ended in the mid-1890s. He also published on other topics including the history of the Dutch colonial empire and glaciers of the French and Swiss Alps.

Bonaparte married Marie Blanc (1859-1882) in 1880 and had a daughter, Princess Marie Bonaparte, in 1882. He served as president of both the Société de géographie (1910-1924) and the Société française de photographie (1920-1922).

Scope and Contents

The collection is comprised of nine photographic albums (two are duplicates) of Omaha, Chinese, Kalmyk, Hindu, Hottentot, Somali and Surinamese people that were assembled by Prince Roland Bonaparte and published in a series of albums entitled the "Collection Anthropologique du Prince Roland Bonaparte". Many of the photos were undertaken at various international exhibitions of the late nineteenth century: the Kalmyk and Omaha photographs were executed in Paris at the Jardin d'Acclimatation (1884) and the Hindu, Somali, Surinamese and Chinese photographs were taken during the 1883 Colonial Exposition in Amsterdam.

All of the albums, except for the volume on Surinamese peoples, is comprised of albumen prints. The Surinamese album includes photographs, collotypes, imprints, and text. Each album, except for those of the Hottentot and Surinamese people, is accompanied by an inventory produced by Bonaparte that lists the name, age, job and family lineage of each person.

Arrangement

Within each series the original order was maintained. The photographs are organized by culture groups into seven series:

Series 1: Omahas

Series 2: Chinese

Series 3: Kalmyks

Series 4: Hindus

Series 5: Khoikhoi

Series 6: Somalis

Series 7: Surinamese

Published in

Akou, Heather Marie. (2006) "Documenting the Origins of Somali Folk Dress: Evidence from the Bonaparte Collection." *Dress*. 33:1 (2006), 7-19.

Bonaparte, Roland, Prince. *Les Habitants de Suriname*. Paris: Imprimerie de A. Quantin, 1884.

Coutancier, Benoit, ed. *Peaux-Rouges: autour de la collection anthropologique de prince Roland Bonaparte*. Thonon-les-Bains: Haute-Savoie: Photothèque du Musée de l'homme, 1992.

Fletcher, Alice C. and Francis la Flesche. "The Omaha Tribe." *27th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1905-1906*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1911.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Achinese (Indonesian people)
Dwellings
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Kalmyks
Khoikhoi (African people)
Omaha
Somalis
Surinamese

Cultures:

Achinese (Indonesian people)
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Kalmyks

Khoikhoi (African people)
Omaha
Somalis
Surinamese

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Container Listing

Series 1: Omahas, Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris, 1884

Box 1, Volume 1 and 2

Item A1a-b	John Pilcher, half blood, "conductor" of the tour
Item A2a-b	Shoudé-Nasi ("Yellow Smoke"; also known as Mon-chu-non-ha or Two Grizzlies), Chief, married to Nin-daoui A2b reproduced in 27th Annual Report (fig. 50), with caption "Monchu'nonbe (Shu-denai or Smoked Yellow)"
Item A3a-b	Montchou-Naji ("Standing Bear"), Under-Chief A3a reproduced in 27th Annual Report (Pl. 28), with caption "Hupetha"
Item A4a-b	Dahvagaki Zinga ("Village-Maker") A4a reproduced in 27th Annual Report (Pl. 33), with caption "Ton'Wongaxezhinga (Little Village Maker)"
Item A5a-b	Uloshinagi ("Inside-Man")
Item A6a-b	Inshta-labi ("Bright Eye"), brother of Gah-higué-va-také ("Hard Chief") A6a reproduced in 27th Annual Report (Pl. 25), with caption "Inshta'thabi"; glass negative lists English translation of name as "Eye of the People."
Item A7a-b	Gah-higué-va-také ("Hard Chief"), married to Tessah-vih ("White Buffalo") and brother of Inshta-labi ("Bright Eye")
Item A8a-b	Mi-Khasga ("White Swan")
Item A9a-b	Ghansé-va-higué ("Leader"), cousin of John Pilcher
Item A10a-b	Iba Hambi ("Known Man"), son of a chief
Item A11a-b	Ingh-rhanga ("Cat") and child of Mnigh-di-tai
Item A12a-b	Mnigh-di-tai, daughter of Shoudé-Nasi ("Yellow Smoke") and Nin-daoui, mother of two children (see A11a-b and A15a)
Item 13a-b	Tessah-vih ("White Buffalo"; also referred to as Te-con-win), wife of Gah-higué-va-také ("Hard Chief") and niece of Shoudé-Nasi ("Yellow Smoke")
Item A14a-b	Mik-Tekhé ("Hard Moon")

- Item A15a-b Nin-daoui ("Cook"), wife of Shoudé-Nasi ("Yellow Smoke"), with son of Mnigh-di-tai
A15a reproduced in 27th Annual Report (Pl. 26), with caption "Mi'gthitonin"
- Item A16a-b Va-shesh-na-bé ("Beautiful Hill"), daughter of Inshta-labi ("Bright Eye"), married to Dahvagaki Zinga ("Village-Maker"), with son
- Item A17a-b Iga-she ("Traveler"), son of Dahvagaki Zinga ("Village-Maker") and Va-shesh-na-bé ("Beautiful Hill")
- Item A18 From left to right: Mi-Khasga ("White Swan"), Uloshinagi ("Inside-Man"), Nin-daoui ("Cook"), Ghansé-va-higué ("Leader"), Mnigh-di-tai, Shoudé-Nasi ("Yellow Smoke"), son of Mnigh-di-tai, Montchou-Naji ("Standing Bear"), Ingh-rhanga ("Cat"), Inshta-labi ("Bright Eye"), Iga-she ("Traveler"), son of Va-shesh-na-bé ("Beautiful Hill"), Dahvagaki Zinga ("Village-Maker"), Iba Hambí ("Known Man"), John Pilcher, Mik-Tekhé ("Hard Moon"), Gah-higué-va-také ("Hard Chief"), and Tessah-vih ("White Buffalo")

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Chinese, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883

Box 3, Volume 1, Item B1a-b Portrait of Toekoe Mohammed, original album cover (no. 31) and inventory

Box 3, Folder 2 Original album cover (no. 32)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Kalmouks, Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris, 1884

Box 3, Folder 3	Original album cover (no. 14)
Box 3, Folder 4	Original inventory
Box 3, Folder 5, Item C1a-b	Davala
Box 3, Folder 5, Item C2a-b	Eurupschild, a priest
Box 3, Folder 5, Item C3	Boulgronn
Box 3, Folder 6, Item C4a-b	Nagala
Box 3, Folder 6, Item C5a-b	Kiski
Box 3, Folder 6, Item C6a-b	Bolroh
Item C7	[Missing]
Box 3, Folder 7, Item C8	Exterior view of a Kalmouk tent
Box 3, Folder 7, Item C9-11	Interior views of Kalmouk tent
Box 3, Folder 7, Item C12	Herd of camels

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Hindus, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883

Box 4

Volume 1, Item D1a-c V.P. Aroonachelem, brother of V.P. Yazambarum (see D2a-c)

Volume 1, Item D2a V.P. Yazambarum, brother of V.P. Aroonachelem

Volume 1, Item D2b V.P. Yazambarum, brother of V.P. Aroonachelem

Volume 1, Item D2c V.P. Yazambarum, brother of V.P. Aroonachelem

Volume 1, Item D3a-c Ramazamy

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Khoikhoi, Undated

Box 5, Volume 1

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Item E1a-4c | Front, profile and back views of naked women exhibiting Steatopygia and wearing ornamental jewelry |
| Item E5a-b | Naked boy wearing ornamental necklace |
| Item E6a-11b | Naked men, several wearing ornamental necklaces |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Somalis, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883

Box 5, Volume 2

Grouped loosely into the categories of women, children and men

- Item F1a-b Front and profile views of a married woman wearing a shash, plaid guntiino, twisted wire bracelets above the elbow, large cuff bracelets, an earring, a choker made of dark glass beads, another choker made of glass or metal beads, and an andullis
- Item F2a-b Front and profile views of a married woman wearing a shash, guntiino, silver bracelets positioned above her elbows, and an andullis
- Item F3a-b Front and profile views of a married woman wearing a shash, guntiino, bracelets, a choker made of glass or metal beads, and an andullis
- Item F4 Front view of a married woman wearing a shash, guntiino, garvasaar, large cuff bracelets, a choker made of metal or glass beads, and an adullis
- Item F5 Profile view of a married woman wearing a shash, guntiino, garvasaar, large cuff bracelets, a choker made of glass or metal beads, and an adullis
- Item F6 Profile view of a young woman wearing beaded bracelets, metal or ivory bangles, a choker made of metal or glass beads, an adullis, and a plaid and striped guntiino
- Item F7 Front view of a young woman with short, curly hair, wearing metal bracelets, a choker made of metal or glass beads, metal or ivory bangles, an adullis, and a guntiino
- Item F8 Girl wearing a plaid dress with buttons and sleeves, sitting on a wooden trunk marked "haut" and "fragile"
- Item F9 Boy wearing a striped maro, tusbah, and bracelets, sitting on a wooden trunk marked "haut" and "fragile"
- Item F10a-b Front and profile views of a young man with short, curly hair, wearing a striped maro and a ring
- Item F11 Profile view of a man with short, curly hair, wearing a white moro and holding a staff
- Item F12a-b Front and profile views of a man wearing a white maro, with scars on his forehead and chest and treated hair
- Item F13a-b Front and profile views of a bearded man with treated hair, wearing a white maro

- Item F14a-b Front and profile views of a man wearing a plaid mora, with treated hair
- Item F15a-b Man with treated hair and a goatee, round scar on his right arm, wearing a white maro
- Item F17a-b Young man wearing a white maro, tusbah, a twisted or beaded bracelet secured on his bicep and a hardas
- Item F18a-b Young man with treated hair wearing a white maro, tusbah, and a hardas
- Item F19a-b Man with crossed arms, wearing a hardas and white maro
- Item F20a-b Short-haired man wearing a white maro that had a hole on his right shoulder
- Item F21a-b Curly-haired man wearing a white maro and a metal bracelet above his elbow
- Item F22a-b Man with beard and almost shoulder-length hair wearing a white maro and tusbah
- Item F23a-b Man with scars by his breastplate, wearing a flat metal bracelet just above his elbow and a white maro
- Item F24a-b Man with large crescent-shaped scar on his shoulder, wearing white maro
- Item F25a-b Man with short, curly hair, wearing a white maro
- Item F26a-b Man with short, curly hair, wearing a white maro
- Item F27a-b Man wearing a leather amulet secured to his bicep with a metal buckle, a white mora that sits at his waist, and tusbah
- Item F28a-b Man wearing a large black shawl over his white mora

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Surinamese, Colonial Exposition, Amsterdam, 1883

6 *Photographic prints (collotypes)*

52 *Photographic prints*

Box 6

Subseries A: Portraits and scenes of Amsterdam exposition

Organized by original plate numbers

Item G1-2	Kalina Jean-Baptiste Ka-ja-roe
Item G3-4	Kalina Aliha-Kama
Item G5	Kalina Awarahena
Item G6	[Missing]
Item G7-8	Kalina Pierre Miharoe
Item G9-10	Kalina Kolleté
Item G11-12	Kalina Johan Ali-wa-ja
Item G13-14	Kalina Majoera-Kama
Item G15-16	Kalina Maja-Roekama
Item G17-18	Kalina Hendrik Jawarina
Item G19-20	Kalina Johan Koemayara
Item G21-22	Kalina Marioetari
Item G23-24	Kalina Élisabeh Moendi
Item G25	Kalina Henriette Moendi
Item G26-27	Arrowak Johan Hialé
Item G28	View of the interior of a Kalina hut inside pavilion: pole and dried leaf hut with hammock, pelt, and clothing hanging from frame; wood barrel, stool, and wood fence nearby [collotype]

- Item G29 Scene of Kalina camp inside pavilion: canoe, dried leaf hut, wooden chair, with at least two Kalina people sitting on wood plank floor, mural on wall, Caucasians watching scene from behind fence [collotype]
- Item G30-31 Saramakaner Kwamina Baja
- Item G32-33 Saramakaner Kwamina A-pe-sé
- Item G34-35 Aucaner Kojo-a-slen-gri
- Item G36-37 Aucaner Johannes Kojo
- Item 38 Surinam wood and dried leaf house with porch; pottery jar, wood barrel, and metal bowl nearby, murals on wall, inside pavilion [collotype]
- Item G39 Group beside wood fence; wood canoe nearby; murals on wall, inside pavilion [collotype]
- Item G40-42 "Nègre Sédentaire" Jacqueline Ricket
- Item G43 "Nègre Sédentaire" Lina
- Item G44 [Missing]
- Item G45-46 "Nègre Sédentaire" Koojsje
- Item G47 "Nègre Sédentaire" Jacqueline Ricket holding her daughter, Lina
- Item G48-49 "Nègre Sédentaire" Elisabeth Oldenberg
- Item G50-51 "Nègre Sédentaire" Amalia Fri-Mason
- Item G52-53 "Nègre Sédentaire" Gerardina
- Item G54-55 "Nègre Sédentaire" Wilhelmina van Eede
- Item G56-57 "Nègre Sédentaire" Syntax
- Item G58-59 "Nègre Sédentaire" Richard Mazer

Subseries B: Ornaments

Organized by original plate order

Item GA-F	Kalina hats
Item GG	Arrowak hat
Item GH	Kalina ornaments: necklace made of pecari teeth, belt adorned with feathers and beaks of birds
Item GI	Arrowaks ornaments: corral necklace with tufts of cotton and foot ornament, including a detailed view
Item GJ	Kalina hammock
Item GK	Three Kalina vases
Item GL	Kalina drum built by Jean-Baptiste Ka-ja-roe
Item GM	"Nègres Sédentaires" necklace

Subseries C: Scenes

6 *Photographic prints*

Organized by page number

Item Gno.1, Page frontispiece	Surinamese men and boys wearing traditional headdresses and clothing, Caucasian man in top hat stands at center of group
Item Gno.2, Page frontispiece	Group from Surinam, wearing headdresses and holding clubs and spears, some wearing ornaments; Caucasian man stands near potted plants
Item Gno.3, Page frontispiece	Six Creole women and one baby wearing dresses and headscarves, sitting and standing beside potted plants
Item Gno.4, Page 3	Group from Surinam in traditional dress, some wearing headdresses, inside pavilion containing poles and dried leaf huts, wood canoe, plank floors and stone; Caucasian spectators nearby
Item Gno.5, Page 121	Surinamese boy seated next to drums and wooden canoes in pavilion; Caucasian spectators behind
Item Gno.6, Page 165	A group of at least seven Creole women with two children and at least three men standing and sitting on wooden planks, near drums, canoe and thatched hut; Caucasian spectator behind

Return to Table of Contents