



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Copy of James N. Edy photograph of Chiefs of the
Six Nations explaining their wampum belts, 1871

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Copy of James N. Edy photograph of Chiefs of the Six Nations explaining their wampum belts
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.86-58
Date:	1871
Extent:	1 Copy print
Creator:	Edy, James N.
Language:	Undetermined .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Copy of James N. Edy photograph of Chiefs of the Six Nations explaining their wampum belts

Administrative Information

Provenance

Photograph probably donated by William N. Fenton, circa 1985. May have previously hung in the Onondaga Council House in Ohsweken, Canada.

Location of Originals

Original cabinet photo by James N. Edy, Brantford, Ontario, is owned by Musee du Seminaire, Quebec (Album 6-G, page 109). This photograph has the notations by Hale on the reverse. A xerox copy of the cabinet card provided by W. C. Sturtevant.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional James N. Edy photographs can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4751 and the BAE historical negatives.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Vocabularies and correspondence by Horatio Hale can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 7235, MS 7236, MS 4558, MS 772-c, MS 4797, MS 4800, MS 7439, MS 7440, MS 7441, MS 3436, MS 1072, the Bureau of American Ethnology Letters Received, and the J.C. Pilling Papers.

Available Formats

Digital surrogate is available online.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 86-58, Copy of James N. Edy photograph of Chiefs of the Six Nations explaining their wampum belts, 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

Horatio Emmons Hale (1817-1896) was an American-Canadian philologist, ethnologist, author, and businessman who studied Native American languages. He published the *Iroquois Book of Rites* in 1883, which documented the history and rituals of the Iroquois Confederacy based on interpretations of the group's wampum belts. In September 1871, he requested that six Iroquois chiefs, with whom he had worked on the wampum belts, come to the Brantford, Ontario, studio of James N. Edy, where this photograph was made.

Hale later sent the photograph to his colleagues with variations on the following inscription: "The wampum belts were explained to me on the reserve, at the residence of Chief G. H. M. Johnson; and at my request the chiefs afterwards came with me to Brantford, where the original photograph . . . was taken.--H. Hale, Clinton, Ont." The photograph from which this copy print was made originally belonged to J. N. B. Hewitt.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a copy of a studio portrait of Onondaga, Mohawk, and Seneca Chiefs with wampum belts, made on September 14, 1871, for Horatio Hale. Includes Joseph Snow (Hahriron), Onondaga Chief; George H. M. Johnson (Deyonhehgon), Mohawk chief, government interpreter and son of John Smoke Johnson; John Buck (Skanawatih), Onondaga chief and hereditary keeper of the wampum; John Smoke Johnson (Sakayenkwaraton), Mohawk chief and speaker of the council; Isaac Hill (Kawenenseronton), Onondaga chief and fire keeper; John Seneca Johnson (Kanonkeredawih), Seneca chief.

Bibliography

Photograph published by William N. Fenton as frontispiece of Hale, Horatio, *The Iroquois Book of Rites*, 2d ed., Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1963.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 86-58

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Indians of North America -- Northeast
Mohawk
Onondaga
Seneca
Wampum

Cultures:

Indians of North America -- Northeast
Mohawk
Onondaga
Seneca

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Fenton, William N. (William Nelson), 1908-2005
Hale, Horatio, 1817-1896

Addl. KW Subj

Iroquois