



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

John K. Hillers photographs of Ute
and Paiute people, circa 1871-1874

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National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	John K. Hillers photographs of Ute and Paiute people
Date:	circa 1871-1874
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.87-2N
Creator:	Hillers, John K., 1843-1925
Extent:	37 Albumen prints (mounted)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

This collection was found in 1972, along with other collections in Photo Lot 87-2, as something which had been set aside as a "problem collection," though this may only reflect that it was unprocessed.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photographs by John K. Hillers can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 14, Photo Lot 24, Photo Lot 28, Photo Lot 40, Photo Lot 143, Photo Lot 83-18, Photo Lot 90-1, Photo Lot 92-46, and the BAE historical negatives.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds Powell's inventory of photographs made on expeditions 1871-1875 (MS 1795-c).

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds Hillers's diary from 1871-1872 and 1874, 1875 (MS 4410).

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Duke University, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at University of California at Berkeley, University of Oregon, Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley, and Southern Methodist University also hold photographs by Hillers.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 87-2N, John K. Hillers photographs of Ute and Paiute people, 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

John K. Hillers (1843-1925) immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1852. He spent almost twenty years photographing Native Americans and the landscape of the Indian Territories, California, the Southwest, and the Southeast, largely for the Bureau of American Ethnology and the United States Geological Survey. He began work on the Survey as a boatman on John Wesley Powell's second expedition down the Colorado River in 1871. He soon became the assistant, and then the main photographer (1872) for the expedition. From 1879 to 1900, Hillers served as the first staff photographer of Powell's Bureau of Ethnology, and in 1881 he took pictures for the United States Geological Survey.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of photographs depicting Ute and Paiute people, mostly informal portraits, with some individuals holding baskets, bow and arrows, and rifles. The photographs may have been made on a Powell expedition. Many of the prints are the same as those normally used to make stereographs, and the mounts appear to be pages removed from an album.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 87-2N

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 -- Great Basin
- Paiute
- Ute

Cultures:

- Indians of North America -- Great Basin
- Paiute
- Ute

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Places:

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Utah

