Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Laurence R. Blair and Mary Ellen Blair photographs relating to Nampeyo and Thomas V. Keam, circa 1915, 1984-1986

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Laurence R. Blair and Mary Ellen Blair photographs relating to Nampeyo and Thomas V. Keam
Date:	circa 1915, 1984-1986
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.87-35
Creator:	Blair, Laurence R. (collector and photographer)
Extent:	5 Copy prints 5 Color prints 4 Color slides
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Laurence and Mary Ellen Blair, 1987.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Photographs of Nampeyo can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 24, Photo Lot 59, and the BAE historical negatives.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Museum of the American Indian, and Department of Anthropology hold examples of Nampeyo pottery.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Smithsonian Institution Archives holds correspondence from Thomas Keam regarding his pottery collection (SIA RU000189).

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Peabody Museum at Harvard University and the Cline Library at Northern Arizona University hold photographs and artifacts donated by Keam.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 87-35, Laurence R. Blair and Mary Ellen Blair photographs relating to Nampeyo and Thomas V. Keam, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Copy prints of photographs held by Royal Cornwall Art Institute and Dartmouth College's Hood Museum of Art cannot be copied. Copies may be obtained from these repositories.

Biographical Note

Laurence and Mary Ellen Blair were historical researchers and authors. In 1999, they published a book on Nampeyo, entitled *The Legacy of a Master Potter: Nampeyo and Her Descendants*. The book detailed the life and work of Iris Nampeyo (ca. 1860-1942), a potter who lived at Hopi in Arizona. During the 1870s and 1880s, she sold her work at a local trading post operated by Thomas Keam, an English-born trader who worked with both Hopi and Navajo craftspeople.

Scope and Contents

Photographs relating to Nampeyo and her pottery, and Thomas V. Keam's life. Includes photographs made by Laurence Blair in the church graveyard at Truro, England, where Keam was buried; the house in Truro where he died; and a copy of a portrait, possibly the last made of Keam. The collection also includes images of the birthplace of A. M. Stephen in Edinburgh and his grave in Keams Canyon, Arizona. Two photographs show pottery made by Nampeyo, which is now in the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, and an additional photograph depicts Nampeyo with members of the Polacca family at the Tom Polacca Memorial at Hopi Pueblo. There is also an image of Nampeyo's eldest daughter Annie Lesou Healing with three other women (Rachel Healing Namingha, Priscilla Namingha Shamie, and Lydia Healing).

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 87-35

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Hopi Pueblo
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New

Cultures:

Hopi Pueblo
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Blair, Mary Ellen
Hood Museum of Art

Keam, Thomas V.
Nampeyo, ca. 1856-1942
Stephen, Alexander MacGregor, d. 1894

Places:

Arizona
England
Hopi Indian Reservation (Ariz.)