



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Bureau of American Ethnology photograph
collection relating to the Handbook of
South American Indians, circa 1940s

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2014 March 10

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Bureau of American Ethnology photograph collection relating to the <i>Handbook of South American Indians</i>
Date:	circa 1940s
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.90
Creator:	Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of American Ethnology
Extent:	950 Negatives (circa; acetate) 47 Prints (silver gelatin (some copies))
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

The photographs were probably collected by the Bureau of American Ethnology in preparation for the publication of the *Handbook of South American Indians*. Many of the negatives and some of the prints were originally held in the Office of Printing and Photographic Services of the Smithsonian Institution.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Copies of photographs published in BAE Bulletin 143, which were previously filed in Photo Lot 14, have been relocated and merged with Photo Lot 90. Materials associated with the relocation are available with the collection.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds additional collections of illustrations for BAE bulletins in MS 3611, MS 3279, MS 3715-b, MS 3078, Photo Lot 80-39, MS 2894, MS 3251, Photo Lot R87-2Q, and Photo lot 133.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional materials relating to Aldred Metraux's work in South America are held in the Institute of Social Anthropology photographs (MS 4623) and the *Handbook of South American Indians* Records.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 90, Bureau of American Ethnology photograph collection relating to the *Handbook of South American Indians*, 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

In 1932, the National Research Council appointed a committee of anthropologists, including Robert H. Lowie, John M. Cooper, and Leslie Spier, to assess what work would be needed to prepare a comprehensive Handbook of Indigenous peoples of South America. The handbook's main objective would be to "provide a concise summary of existing data that will serve as a standard reference work for the scholar, a textbook for the student, and a guide to the general reader. At the same time, it is intended to take stock of the present state of knowledge, revealing its deficiencies and suggesting problems that will stimulate future research in both the field and library." In 1940, the Bureau of American Ethnology accepted the task of compiling the handbook under special appropriation through the Department of State and with the collaboration of over 100 scientists across the American continents. The result of this work was BAE Bulletin 143; six volumes were published in 1946-1950 and an index was published in 1959.

Scope and Contents

The collection is composed of photographs and copies of published illustrations which were collected for use in the *Handbook of South American Indians* (Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 143). These include images of Indigenous peoples of South America, their material culture, and their built and natural environments. There are also maps detailing the movements and location of various tribes. Also included are some original photographs that were probably made by Alfred Metraux, documenting Aymara, Chaco, Chane, Mataka, Pilaga, and Toba people.

Bibliography

Photographs published in *Handbook of South American Indians*, BAE Bulletin 143, 1946.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 90

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aymara
- Chané Indians -- depicted
- Gran Chaco
- Indians of South America
- Pilagá
- Toba

Cultures:

Aymara
Chané Indians -- depicted
Gran Chaco
Indians of South America
Pilagá
Toba

Types of Materials:

Illustrations
Maps
Photographs

Names:

Métraux, Alfred, 1902-1963 (probable photographer)