



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

H. Scudder Mekeel photographs,
circa 1920-1947 (bulk 1930-1933)

Sarah Ganderup

2012 December 11

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1310
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	H. Scudder Mekeel photographs
Date:	bulk 1930-1933 circa 1920-1947
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.94-21
Creator:	Mekeel, H. Scudder (Haviland Scudder), 1902-1947
Extent:	1 Print (photochrom) 443 Negatives (photographic) (nitrate) 235 Prints (silver gelatin)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Transferred by Nicolette Bromberg at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1993.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds copies of Mekeel's Field Notes from the summers of 1930 and 1931 in the White Clay District of the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota (MS 7088). Originals of these field notes and Mekeel's population notes on the White Clay District are held by the American Museum of Natural History, Division of Anthropology Archives (.M454).

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Human Studies Film Archives holds Mekeel's film footage of a Lakota Sioux Sundance from 1930 (HSFA 92.8.1).

Location of Other Archival Materials

Correspondence from Mekeel held in the National Anthropological Archives in the William Duncan Strong papers, Raoul Weston LaBarre Papers, and Bureau of American Ethnology Administrative File.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 94-21, the H. Scudder Mekeel photographs, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Original nitrate negatives are in cold storage and require special arrangements for viewing.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

H. Scudder Mekeel (1902-1947) was an anthropologist who studied social and psychological aspects of Native American cultures. Educated at Harvard University (BA, 1928), the University of Chicago (MA, 1929), and Yale University (PhD, 1932), he was a member of the 1929 Laboratory of Anthropology (Santa Fe) ethnological field school led by Alfred L. Kroeber. In 1929-1932, he carried out three field expeditions to the Sioux communities of South Dakota, working mainly on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs as Director of Applied Anthropology under Commissioner John Collier in 1935. Two years later, he was appointed Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology at Santa Fe and continued there until 1940, when he accepted a teaching position at the University of Wisconsin.

Scope and Contents

The photographs primarily document ceremonies, people, and lands of Native Americans in the Plains and Southwest, taken during Mekeel's field research from 1929 to 1936. A large portion of the collection depicts Mekeel's research during the early 1930s among the Oglala of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Another large portion of the collection includes personal photos depicting Mekeel's homes and children.

Bibliography

Photographs published in Kniffen, Fred, et al. *Walapai Ethnography*, edited by A.L. Kroeber, *Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association* 42, Supplement to *American Anthropologist* 37, no 1, part 2. Menasha, Wisconsin: American Anthropological Association, 1935.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 94-21

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Hualapai (Walapai)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains
- Indians of North America -- Northeast
- Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
- Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)
- Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)
- Osage
- Pueblo
- Sioux
- Taos Indians

Cultures:

Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
Hopi Pueblo
Hualapai (Walapai)
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New
Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)
Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)
Osage
Pueblo
Sioux
Taos Indians

Names:

Collier, John, 1884-1968
Fiske, Frank Bennett, 1883-1952
Kroeber, A. L. (Alfred Louis), 1876-1960
Laboratory of Anthropology (Museum of New Mexico)
Rise, Carl H., 1888-1939

Places:

Oraibi (Ariz.)
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.)
Standing Rock Indian Reservation (N.D. and S.D.)

Addl. KW Subj

Chippewa
Walapai
Sioux