



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Photographs of Ellen Sharples' painting
of an American Indian, circa 1808

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2014 January 22

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Photographs of Ellen Sharples' painting of an American Indian
Date:	circa 1808
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.R81D
Creator:	Sharples, Ellen, 1769-1849 (Artist)
Extent:	1 Color slide 1 Copy print
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Photographs obtained by Frank H. H. Roberts of the Bureau of American Ethnology as an example of an American Indian wearing silver trade crosses. Copied and donated by Mr. Arnold Wilson of the City Art Gallery of Bristol, 1963.

Location of Originals

Original painting is held by Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, England.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery hold a pastel drawing by Ellen Sharples.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot R81D, Photographs of Ellen Sharples painting of an American Indian, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

This copy collection has been obtained for reference purposes. Copies may be obtained from the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

Biographical Note

Ellen Sharples (1769-1849) was a student and wife of portrait painter James Sharples. They owned a successful studio in Washington, DC, where James painted portraits of well-known Americans and Ellen copied portraits for commission and painted miniatures on ivory.

Scope and Contents

Photograph of artist Ellen Sharples' miniature painting of an American Indian man. The man is depicted holding a flintlock rifle, and wearing a tomahawk tucked into his belt and silver trade crosses as ear ornamentation. This may be the "copy of the Indian chief" painting referenced by Sharples in her diary in January 1808.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot R81D

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
- Silver

Cultures:

- Indians of North America