



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Sheila Salo Gypsy Photographs

NMAH.AC.0357

David E. Haberstich and Sheila Salo

1998

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Sheila Salo Gypsy Photographs
Date:	1973-1979
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0357
Creator:	Salo, Sheila (Photographer)
Extent:	0.2 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains photographs of North American Rom Gypsies by donor Sheila Salo; also copy prints, negatives, and slides made from material in other collections.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Matt and Sheila Salo, [1990?].

Provenance

The Salos donated these photographs to the Division of Home and Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life). The Division then transferred them to the Archives Center.

Processing Information

Processed by David E. Haberstick, curator, 1991.

Preferred Citation

Sheila Salo Gypsy Photographs, 1973-1979, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions. No reproduction permitted without permission from the photographers. Several images are specifically restricted against any reproduction at all, although they are available for exhibition. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Historical

Most of the color photographs were taken by Sheila Salo in 1973-1979: (a) Canada, 1973, 1976, and 1977 as part of research supported by contracts from the National Museums of Canada; and (b) taken in Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Jersey through 1979. Sheila Salo and her husband Matt are historians of Gypsy culture; Ms. Salo also processed and wrote the register for the the Carlos de Wendler-Funaro Gypsy Research Collection. The Salos have personal contacts among Gypsy groups, and they made these photographs to document Gypsy customs, clothing, and rituals.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains photographs of North American Rom Gypsies by donor Sheila Salo; also copy prints, negatives, and slides made from material in other collections. The photographs by Ms. Salo are Kodak color prints, while the copy photographs are all black-and-white prints, negatives, and a slide. Most of the copy negatives and prints were made from a series of photographs taken in Chicago, 1928, of settlement houses, including Hull House, with some Mexican subjects. Captions have been typed on the backs of most of the color and black-and-white prints by Ms. Salo.

The collection is divided into two series: (1) Color photoprints by Sheila Salo; and (2) Black-and-white copy photographs. Formats include: color photographic prints (4" x 6" and 3-1/2" x 5"), black-and-white photographic copy prints (3-1/2 x 5"), 35mm negatives, a slide, and a 4" x 5" copy negative. The color prints depict Gypsies and Gypsy community events in Illinois; Ontario; Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec; Mississippi; Louisiana; and New Jersey. The subject emphasis is on wedding and saint's day celebrations, and memorial services for the deceased.

Arrangement

Collection arranged into one series. Roughly chronological.

Series 1: Color Photoprints by Sheila Salo, 1973-1979

Series 2: Copy Photographs, Black-and-White

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Gypsies -- 1970-1980 -- Canada
- Gypsies -- 1970-1980 -- United States
- Hull House (Chicago, Ill.)

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- Black-and-white negatives -- Acetate film -- 1970-1980
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1970-1980
- Photographs -- Color photoprints -- 1970-1980

Places:

- Canada
- Chicago (Ill.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Color Photoprints by Sheila Salo, 1973 - 1979

Box 1	Illinois, spring 1973. Wedding held in rented hall. Festive woman's outfit (suto) most in vogue in the 1920s-1930s. Two-piece costume of metallic-brocade chiffon. Gold-Bead necklace with gold-coin pendant, other gold jewelry. Braided hairdo and position of the head scarf (diklo) were also most popular in the 1920s-1930s.
Box 1	Illinois, spring 1973. Wedding, showing wedding banner (steago) decorated with foil bells.
Box 1	Illinois, spring 1973. Storefront office/home. Family quarters, interior.
Box 2	Illinois, spring 1973. St. George's Day slava (saint's-day feast) held in rented hall. Slava table, showing slava candle and icon, places set for guests with bread, celery stalks, individual portions of sarmi (stuffed cabbage), noodle pudding. Roast ham and loaves of bread line center of table.
Box 2	Illinois, spring 1973. St. George's Day slava. Women dancing. Left, a contemporary version of traditional two-piece festive dress.
Box 2	Illinois, spring 1973. St. George's Day slava. Extremes of contemporary dress and makeup for young girls.
Box 3	Illinois, June 1973. Storefront office/home. Family quarters, interior. Researchers' children in foreground.
Box 5	Illinois, June 1973. Storefront office/home. Public (waiting) area, seen from street.
Box 5	Ontario, July 1973. Wedding held in rented banquet hall. Wedding banner.
Box 3	Ontario, July 1973. Wedding. Bride and groom pose for photographs.
Box 4	[Not on list. Boy sitting in front of tree.]
Box 5	Ontario, July 1973. Wedding. Flowers are souvenir tokens presented to each guest as he/she arrives.
Box 5	Ontario, July 1973. Wedding. Cutting wedding cake.
Box 5	Ontario, July 1973. Wedding.
Box 6	Ontario, July 1973. Wedding. Daro table. A festive meal is served to guests, each of whom in turn presents a gift of money which is placed in the hollowed

loaf of bread. The "masters of ceremony" present the donors with a glass of whisky (rakia) and a scarf (diklo). The money collected goes to the couple or to the groom's father, who has paid for the wedding celebration. The collection should not be confused with the bride price, also called daro (usually glossed as "dowry" by the Rom).

Box 6	Ontario, July 1973. St. Peter's Day slava (saint's day feast), held in rented hall. Feast table showing slava candle, statuette, inscribed cake, "Happy St. Peter's Day, Nick, May You See Many More Days." The feast was given by a woman for the health of her father-in-law. Candle and con mark this as a slava, and mark the host's part in the celebration. When several families celebrate together, each celebrant provides a candle and icon.
Box 6	Quebec, July 1973. House of local "king," exterior.
Box 7	Quebec, July 1973. House of local "king," exterior. Van is researchers'.
Box 7	Ste.-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. St. Anne's Day celebrations. Rom participating in church-sponsored procession.
Box 7	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Campsite in private campground. Whole lamb and ham being roasted for slava.
Box 8	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Rom in procession.
Box 8	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Slava table in private campground.
Box 8	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Slava table being set.
Box 9	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Slava tables, trailers. These Rom have created a private space in the campground through the placement of their trailers.
Box 9	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Slava table. Women adding finishing touches to kettles full of sarmi (stuffed cabbage).
Box 9	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Slava table showing icon, candle, roast lamb (missing).
Box 10	Ste-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1973. Church-owned camping area opposite basilica. Trailer fire accident seen across table with slava candle.
Box 10	Ontario, August 1973. Interior of house, fortune-telling office area, showing Bible, slava candle, modest selection of other paraphernalia and bibelots.
Box 10	Ontario, August 1973. Baptismal party held in back yard of private home (row house). Feast table seen from above.
Box 11	St.-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1974. Private campground. Slava guests. Main table not visible. Non-Gypsy gawkers seen near road.

Box 11	St.-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1974. Private campground. Young men pose seated on bed of pickup truck, their work vehicle.
Box 12	St.-Anne-de-Baupré, Quebec, July 1974. Mother and baby at trailer. Baby's red-yarn bracelet is an amulet to ward off illness.
Box 12	Mississippi, suburb of city, November 1974. House office/home, interior.
Box 13	Louisiana, outskirts of small town, November 1975. Ludar. Gypsy-owned trailer camp. Orthodox Christmas celebration. Christmas bread (kolac) shown. Note decorations symbolizing health (red yarn) and prosperity (paper money).
Box 13	Louisiana, February 1975. One-year pomana (memorial feast held one year after the death of an individual and marking the end of the mourning period) held in rented banquet hall. Center of cross-shaped feast table, showing candle, cross, photo of deceased. For reference only, not for exhibition or reproduction.
Box 14	Louisiana, February 1975. Pomana. Table fully laden with food. (Missing). Notes: For reference only, not for exhibition or reproduction.
Box 14	Louisiana, February 1975. Pomana. Invocation and blessing of the clothes. An individual resembling the deceased in age and sex is selected to sit at the head of the table. A complete suit of clothes is brought for him/her to wear during the pomana. Spoons of incense are passed over the clothes and table. Notes: For reference only, not for exhibition or reproduction.
Box 15	Louisiana, February 1975. Pomana. Circling the table with tapers. Two men are chosen each to carry 22 tapers, to circle the table in opposite directions. Notes: For reference only, not for exhibition or reproduction.
Box 15	Louisiana, February 1975. Pomana. As above. Notes: For reference only, not for exhibition or reproduction.
Box 16	Louisiana, February 1975. Pomana.
Box 16	Louisiana, March 1975, outside small town. Gypsy-owned trailer park. Ludar. Making goods (feather "bird-cages") for sale or as prizes in carnival games.
Box 17	Mississippi, small town, March 1975. Family Easter celebration. Grandmother.
Box 17	Mississippi, small town, March 1975. Spitted pig preparation.
Box 18	Mississippi, small town, March 1975. Family Easter celebration. Invocation and lighter of slava candle.
Box 18	Mississippi, small town, March 1975. Child's birthday celebration concurrent with Easter celebration. Cutting the birthday cake. Celebrant and father.

Box 19	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1975. Basilica interior, statue of St. Anne.
Box 19	Unlabelled. Two young men in folding chairs.
Box 20	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1975. Church-sponsored camp area. Preparation of roast lambs for slava. Canadian Indian child helping turn spit. Canadian Indians looking on. Motor homes in background those of Rom.
Box 20	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1975. Churchyard.
Box 21	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1975. Slava table set up on roadside near fenced churchyard. Meal was brought in by a local non-Gypsy catering firm, whose truck is seen in background. Celebrations draw photojournalists.
Box 21	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1975. Celebration held in rented hall. Young couple.
Box 22	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1975. Church-sponsored camp area. Informal hospitality. Motor home customized by young Gypsy men.
Box 22	Ontario, July 1976. St. Peter's slava, held in rent banquet hall. Table after the meal, showing slava candle and icon.
Box 23	Ontario, July 1976. St. Mary's slava. Table showing candle, statuette, flowers.
Box 23	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1976. Preparation of roast lambs.
Box 24	Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, July 1976. Preparation of roast lamb, and posing for snapshots. Non-Gypsy onlookers in background.
Box 24	Quebec, July 1976. St. Anne's Day slava held in banquet room of large hotel. Catered by hotel. Table.
Box 25	Ontario, August 1976. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented banquet hall, catered by non-Gypsy hall proprietors. Modern use of gold jewelry by older and younger women.
Box 25	Ontario, August 1976. St. Mary's Day slava. Dancing.
Box 26	Ontario, August 1976. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented hall. Young unmarried women.
Box 26	Ontario, August 1976. Slava held in private home. Table.
Box 27	Ontario, July 1977. Funeral home, body lying in state. Notes: For reference only, not for exhibition or reproduction.
Box 27	Quebec, August 1977. Informal reception held in private home.

Box 28	Ontario, August 1977. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented hall. Preparation of food.
Box 28	Ontario, August 1977. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented hall. Table with candles. Purchased photo displayed shows purported supernatural phenomenon.
Box 29	Ontario, August 1977. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented hall.
Box 29	Ontario, August 1977. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented hall. Table, showing icon.
Box 30	Ontario, August 1977. St. Mary's Day slava held in rented hall. Girl dancing. [Missing.]
Box 30	New Jersey, fall 1979. Wedding, held in rented hall. Bride with her godfather (kirvo).
Box 31	New Jersey, fall 1979. Wedding. Women dancing, showing steago.
Box 31	New Jersey, December 1979. Christmas celebration held in private apartment office/home.
Box 32	New York, December 1979. Christmas celebration held in private apartment office/home.
Box 32	New York, December 1979. Christmas celebration. Men singing table songs.

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Series 2: Copy Photographs, Black-and-White

Box 33	Black-and-white copy negative: group of Gypsies (13) deported from U.S. to Canada, from Ed. A. Steiner, <i>On the Trail of the Immigrant</i> (N.Y.: Fleming St. Revell Co., 1906).
Box 34	Black-and-white 35mm copy slide of same subject as above.
Box 35	In sheets 33-36: 11 Black-and-white prints, Chicago, 1928. Some taken at Hull House; some of Mexicans. Captions on verso.
Box 36	In sheets 33-36: 11 Black-and-white prints, Chicago, 1928. Some taken at Hull House; some of Mexicans. Captions on verso.
Box 37	In sheets 33-36: 11 Black-and-white prints, Chicago, 1928. Some taken at Hull House; some of Mexicans. Captions on verso.
Box 38	In sheets 33-36: 11 Black-and-white prints, Chicago, 1928. Some taken at Hull House; some of Mexicans. Captions on verso.(2 prints).
Box 39	3 strips of black-and-white 35mm negatives (copies of original photoprints) for prints above (12 images).

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