



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

S. K. Lothrop negatives, photographs
and lantern slides, 1915-1928

Heather Shannon

2012

National Museum of the American Indian
4220 Silver Hill Rd
Suitland 20746-2863
nmaiarchives@si.edu
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Arrangement note.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	S. K. Lothrop negatives, photographs and lantern slides
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.001.010
Date:	1915-1928
Extent:	1,188 acetate negatives 3 Photographic prints 18 lantern slides
Creator:	Lothrop, S. K. (Samuel Kirkland), 1892-1965 Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Historically, the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation managed all photographic and related manuscript collections separately. This collection description represents current management practices of organizing and contextualizing related archival materials.

Processing Information

Processed by Heather Shannon, Photo Archivist, 2012.

Preferred Citation

S. K. Lothrop collection of negatives, photographs and lantern slides, 1915-1928, National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Smithsonian Institution (negative, slide or catalog number).

Restrictions

Access is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright: National Museum of the American Indian

Biographical Note

Samuel Kirkland Lothrop was an archaeologist and photographer who extensively traveled and worked throughout Central America and South America. George Gustav Heye originally hired Lothrop to research native Guatemalan and El Salvadoran textiles and pottery. He subsequently excavated on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian in such places as the Tierra del Fuego. Here he photographed indigenous communities who would not survive the twentieth century as a distinct culture group. In 1923, he also photographed the activities of the Hendricks-Hodge Hawikku Expedition excavations. In addition to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, the Peabody Museum and the Carnegie Institute sponsored his research and archaeological work.

Scope and Contents

The S.K. Lothrop collection primarily contains negatives, photographic prints, and lantern slides made by Lothrop while employed by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. Lothrop traveled on behalf of the Museum to New Mexico, Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru. The four New Mexico negatives in this collection date from 1915, before Lothrop worked for the Museum, and depict scenes around Zuni. During his 1924 trip to El Salvador, Lothrop photographed volcanos, archaeological sites, antiquities, the landscape, villages, and native peoples engaged in pottery and rope making, food preparation, house building, and ceremonial activities. The 1925 views particularly concentrate on Argentina (but also Chile and Peru). The Argentina materials include views made in the Tierra del Fuego (also part of Chile), including depictions of the daily lives and ceremonial activities of natives peoples of Tierra del Fuego--Selk'nam (Ona) and Yámana (Yagán/Yahgan); the Patagonia landscape; and excavations undertaken by the Museum's La Plata Expedition. The 1928 Guatemala views include depictions of Mayan ruins of Zaculeu and of Tz'utuhil Maya (Tzutuhil/Zutigil), Quiché Maya (Quiche), and Kaqchikel Maya (Cakchiquel) people engaged in weaving, rope making, canoeing, and ceremonial activities. The collection also contains photographs made by Lothrop before he worked for the Museum, including 1915 views of effigy mounds in Wisconsin and views at Hopi, Acoma, and Santa Clara; 1917 views of Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador; and 1918 views of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and Nicaragua.

Arrangement

Lantern slides Arranged by lantern slide numbers (L00101-L00103, L00577-L00579, L00584-L00585, L00589, L00597, L00622-L00629)

Negatives Arranged by negative numbers (N09139-N09140, N09147-N09308, N09316-N09389, N09760-N09997, N10310-N10577, N10803, N14031-N14212, N19372-N19620)

Prints Arranged by print numbers (P10108-P10110)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

A:shiwi (Zuni)
Excavations (Archaeology) -- Argentina -- Photographs
Fuegians -- Social life and customs -- Photographs
Indians of Central America -- El Salvador -- Photographs
Indians of Central America -- Guatemala -- Photographs
Kaqchikel Maya (Cakchiquel)
Maya (archaeological culture)
Quiché Maya (Quiche)
Selk'nam (Ona)
Tz'utuhil Maya (Tzutuhil/Zutigil)
Yámana (Yagán/Yahgan)

Cultures:

A:shiwi (Zuni)
Kaqchikel Maya (Cakchiquel)
Maya (archaeological culture)
Quiché Maya (Quiche)
Selk'nam (Ona)
Tz'utuhil Maya (Tzutuhil/Zutigil)
Yámana (Yagán/Yahgan)

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides
Negatives
Photographic prints
Photographs

Geographic Names:

Central America -- photographs
North America
South America -- photographs
Tierra del Fuego (Argentina and Chile)
Zuni (N.M.) -- Photographs