



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Thomas T. Waterman negatives
and photographs, 1921-1924

2011

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Thomas T. Waterman negatives and photographs
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.001.021
Date:	1921-1924
Creator:	Waterman, T. T. (Thomas Talbot), 1885-1936 Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation
Extent:	12 Photographic prints (black and white) 12 Negatives (photographic) (black and white)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Summary:	These images were shot in California, Alaska, Washington, and Guatamala and feature images of Tolowa, Haida, Salish, and Quiché Maya (Quiché) Indians. Images include group portraits, daily activities, village scenes, and petroglyphs.

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

NMAIA Review

Preferred Citation

Thomas T. Waterman negatives and photographs, 1921-1924, 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

Born in Hamilton, Missouri, in 1885, Thomas Talbot Waterman grew up in California and was expected, like his father, to become an Episcopalian clergyman. After taking courses in phonetics and fieldwork with P.E. Goddard, Waterman instead chose to study anthropology and in 1913 received his Ph.D in anthropology at Columbia University under the direction of Franz Boas. From 1907 to 1921, he held both teaching and

curatorial positions at the University of California and the University of Washington and from 1921 to 1922 briefly joined the staff of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation as a field collector. Waterman went on to hold positions at the National Museum of Guatemala, Fresno State College, University of Arizona, Territorial Normal College (Hawaii), and University of Hawaii. He is best known for bringing Ishi, the last surviving member of the Yahi people, from the town of Oroville, California, to the University of California Museum of Anthropology. Waterman died in Honolulu at the age of 50.

Scope and Contents

The Waterman collection consists of photographic materials made by Waterman from 1921 to 1924 in California, Alaska, Washington State, and Guatemala. He made the bulk of the materials on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation while working in 1921 in California among the Tolowa and in Washington State among the Southern Coast Salish and Duwamish (Dwamish) and in 1922 in Alaska at Kasaan (Haida) village. Of particular note are the series of photographs of a Tolowa fisherman. The few remaining photographs date from 1923 and 1924 and depict Quiché Maya (Quiche) Indians in the Quetzaltenango Guatemalan highlands and an illustration from Waterman's contribution to the 1924 Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution.

Arrangement

Negatives: organized in envelopes; arranged by negative number

Prints: organized in folders; arranged by print number

Arrangement

Negatives Arranged by negative number (N07288-N07289, N07291, N07295-N07300, N10859, N35256, N35848)

Photographs Arranged by photograph number (P04035-P04040, P04428-P04429, P05515, P05521, P37455, P37456)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Coast Salish
- Duwamish (Dwamish)
- Haida
- Petroglyphs
- Tolowa

Cultures:

- Coast Salish
- Duwamish (Dwamish)
- Haida
- Tolowa

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Photographic prints
- Photographs

Places:

- Alaska
- California
- Guatemala
- Washington