



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Odd Halseth collection of negatives
and photographs, 1920-1925

Heather Shannon

2012

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Odd Halseth collection of negatives and photographs
Date:	1920-1925
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.038
Creator:	Halseth, Odd S.
Extent:	158 Negatives (photographic) (black and white) 4 Photographic prints (black and white)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Summary:	The collection consists of negatives and photographs made by Halseth from 1920 to 1925 in Arizona and New Mexico.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

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

Processing Information

Processed by Heather Shannon, Photo Archivist, in 2012.

Preferred Citation

Odd Halseth collection of negatives and photographs, 1920-1925, National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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

Restricted: Cultural Sensitivity

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Born in 1893 in Moss, Norway, Halseth was an anthropologist, museum director, educator, author, art critic, and lecturer. As a young man he studied electrical engineering and anthropology in Germany and served both Norway and the United States during World War I. While in San Diego for military training, he met archaeologist Edgar L. Hewett and after the war accepted a position with Hewett as the curator of art at the San Diego Museum. In 1923, he moved to Santa Fe, where he was on both the staff of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico. After four years, Halseth was appointed director of the newly established Arizona Museum in Phoenix and in 1929 initiated the excavation of the Pueblo Grande Indian ruins and founded the Pueblo Grande Museum. Halseth was also Phoenix's head archaeologist and superintendent of the city's Division of Archaeology. Active in his field, Halseth was a fellow of the American Anthropological Association, a member of the Society of American Archaeology, and the author of numerous publications on Arizona archaeology and indigenous arts and crafts. He retired in 1960.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of negatives and photographs made by Halseth from 1920 to 1925 in Arizona and New Mexico. The materials are primarily informal, outdoor group and individual portraits of Akimel O'odham (Pima), Diné (Navajo), Yoeme (Yaqui) [Pascua Yaqui], Piipaash (Maricopa), K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo), Zia Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, Kewa (Santo Domingo Pueblo), and Tesuque Pueblo men, women, and children. In addition among the Akimel O'odham photographs are depictions of dwellings, potters, ladle makers, baskets, the construction of an oven, food preparation, dwellings, and mattress factory workers; among the K'apovi ceremonials and village views; among the Zia pottery and portraits of and paintings by Velino Shije Herrera; among the Jemez ceremonials and village views; among Kewa ovens; and among San Ildefonso village views and paintings by Awa Tsireh. The collection also includes photographs depicting the pictographs at Puye.

Arrangement

Negatives Arranged by negative number (N32893-N33051)

Prints Arranged by print number (P19345-P19346, P19630-P19631)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Akimel O'odham (Pima)
- Cochiti Pueblo
- Diné (Navajo)
- Indians of North America -- Arizona -- Photographs
- Indians of North America -- New Mexico -- Photographs
- Jemez Pueblo
- K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
- Kewa (Santo Domingo Pueblo)
- Piipaash (Maricopa)
- Puye Pueblo
- San Ildefonso Pueblo

Tesuque Pueblo
Yoeme (Yaqui) [Pascua Yaqui]
Zia Pueblo

Cultures:

Akimel O'odham (Pima)
Cochiti Pueblo
Diné (Navajo)
Jemez Pueblo
K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
Kewa (Santo Domingo Pueblo)
Piipaash (Maricopa)
Puye Pueblo
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Tesuque Pueblo
Yoeme (Yaqui) [Pascua Yaqui]
Zia Pueblo

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white negatives
Photographic prints
Photographs