



Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

George Hight collection of negatives  
and slides, circa 1963-1964

Heather Shannon

2012

National Museum of the American Indian  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	George Hight collection of negatives and slides
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1963-1964
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.039
<b>Creator:</b>	Hight, George C.
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Slides (photographs) (color) 38 Negatives (photographic) (black and white)
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
<b>Summary:</b>	Images include domestic and ceremonial scenes of Navajo Indians. Ceremonies include Blessing Way Ceremony, Enemy Way Ceremony, and Hoop Ceremony.

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## 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, 2012.

### Preferred Citation

George Hight collection of negatives and slides, circa 1963-1964, 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

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to [nmaiphotos@si.edu](mailto:nmaiphotos@si.edu). For personal or classroom use, users are invited to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are available online without prior written permission, provided that the files are not modified in any way, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian.

### Conditions Governing Use

Restricted: Cultural Sensitivity

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## Biographical Note

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, Hight worked during World War II as an illustrator and photographic coordinator for Convair in Ft. Worth, Texas. After the war, he and his wife returned to Gallup and opened a photography studio. Hight was a successful photographer and painted in his spare time. In 2007, he and his wife retired to Albuquerque. In the same year he received the MasterWorks Lifetime Achievement Award from MasterWorks of New Mexico, the sponsor of a prestigious annual New Mexico art show.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of negatives and color slides made in Arizona by Hight from 1963 to 1964 while on assignment for the Christian Science Monitor. The materials depict Diné (Navajo) men and women preparing for and participating in ceremonies and Diné women caring for and preparing sheep for butcher. In addition, Hight apparently made two negatives from nineteenth-century prints by Timothy O'Sullivan that depict Diné women; these too are in the collection.

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## Arrangement

Negatives Arranged by negative number (N33156-N33191, N34851, N34855)

Slides Arranged by slide number (S03709-S03719, S03730-S03741)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Diné (Navajo)
- Navajo Indians -- Domestic animals -- Arizona -- Photographs
- Navajo Indians -- Rites and ceremonies -- Photographs
- Sheep -- Arizona -- Photographs

Cultures:

- Diné (Navajo)

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Color slides