



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Charles B. Lang photographs

Emily Moazami

2011; revised 2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Charles B. Lang photographs
Date:	1903
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.048
Creator:	Lang, Charles B.
Extent:	11 Glass plate negatives 1 Photographic print (gelatin silver.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains 11 glass plate negatives and 1 gelatin silver print taken by Charles B. Lang in 1903. The images depict views of Chinle Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley in Arizona and a Navajo silversmith in Bluff, Utah.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Museum purchase from R. Stenzel with funds from Harmon Hendricks, 1920.

Processing Information

NMAIA Review in 2011 and collection finding aid revised in 2024 by Emily Moazami, Head Archivist.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Charles B. Lang photographs, image #, NMAI.AC.048; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical Note

Charles B. Lang (1871-1935?) was a photographer who worked in the American Southwest. Originally from Pittsburgh, Lang worked with rancher and amateur archaeologist Richard Wetherill and later with Frederick Starr in Mexico. After 1910, he was employed as a technician in a film lab in Los Angeles. Lang is the father of renowned cinematographer Charles B. Lang Jr.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 11 glass plate negatives and 1 gelatin silver print that were shot by Charles B. Lang in 1903. The images depict landscapes in Utah and Chinle Valley and Monument Valley in Arizona. The photographs also depict explorers in these environs. Two photographs depict a Diné (Navajo) silversmith working.

Arrangement

Glass plate negatives: organized in boxes; arranged by image number.

Duplicate negatives: organized in individual sleeves; arranged by image number.

Print: organized in folder.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Diné (Navajo)

Cultures:

Diné (Navajo)

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white negatives

Gelatin silver prints

Photographs

Places:

Bluff (Utah)

Chelly, Canyon de (Ariz.)

Monument Valley (Ariz. and Utah)

Container Listing

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07214: [Cliff dwelling in Chinle Canyon, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a cliff dwelling located in Chinle Canyon in Arizona. Photograph by Charles B. Lang, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07215: [Monument Valley, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a landscape view of Monument Valley in Arizona. Two pack horses and mules are in the foreground. Photograph by Charles B. Lang, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07216: [Basket Makers' Cave, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting Basket Makers' Cave in Chinle Canyon, Arizona. Photograph by Charles B. Lang, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07217: [Monument Valley, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a landscape view of Monument Valley in Arizona. A person sits on the left hand side. Photograph by Charles B. Lang in 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07218: [Monument Valley, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a landscape view of Monument Valley in Arizona. A person lays on their stomach mid-ground and faces a pack horse. Photograph by Charles B. Lang in 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07219: [Cinching the Burro Pack, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a rock formation in Monument Valley, Arizona, and people loading gear onto a burro. Photograph by Charles B. Lang in 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07220: [Navajo Twins Bluff, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a view of rock formations known as Navajo Twins (Navajo Twin Rocks, Navajo Twin Bluff) in Utah. Photograph by Charles B. Lang, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07221: [Loading gear onto burro, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a rock formation in Monument Valley, Arizona, and people loading gear onto a burro. Photograph by Charles B. Lang in 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07222: [Cliff Dweller ruins in Chinle Canyon, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting cliff dwellings in Chinle Canyon in Arizona. A man stands next to a wall. Photograph by Charles B. Lang, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box 206 (Glass Plate Negatives) N07223: [Basket Makers' Cave, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Photograph depicting a man sitting in the Basket Makers' Cave in Chinle Canyon, Arizona. Photograph by Charles B. Lang, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.

Box B25 (Glass Plate Negatives);
Photo-folder 1 N07224, P09545: [Silversmith Pesh Lakai, 1903](#)
1 Glass plate negative
1 Photographic print
Source: Lang, Charles B.
Notes: Outdoor portrait of the silversmith Pesh Lakai or Peshlakai, working on a short log bench, surrounded by tools and materials spread out on a striped textile. He is seated in a small area protected by a low stone wall; a small child is pumping the bellows. Photograph by Charles B. Lang or Charles Goodman, 1903.
Former owner: Lang, Charles B.
Culture: Diné (Navajo)