



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Joseph K. Dixon photographs from
the 1909 Wanamaker Expedition

Nathan Sowry

2017

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Joseph K. Dixon photographs from the 1909 Wanamaker Expedition
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.111
Date:	1909
Creator:	Dixon, Joseph K. (Joseph Kossuth) (Photographer) Wanamaker, Rodman, 1863-1928
Extent:	0.25 Linear feet 17 Photographs
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of seventeen photogravures from Joseph K. Dixon's 1913 published book, <i>The Vanishing Race</i> . These images are part of the larger work of Rodman Wanamaker in his expeditions (1908-1913) to document the lives and cultures of Native American peoples.
Container:	Photo-folder 1

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Museum Purchase, 2017.

Related Materials

Other photographic collections of Joseph K. Dixon's work and Rodman Wanamaker's expeditions exist in the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives, and the Mathers Museum of World Cultures at Indiana University.

Processing Information

Processed by Nathan Sowry, Reference Archivist, in 2017.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Joseph K. Dixon photographs from the 1909 Wanamaker Expedition, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Rodman Wanamaker (1863-1928) was the sole surviving heir of Philadelphia-based department store magnate, John Wanamaker. Rodman, among his other philanthropic endeavors with the arts, believed that Native Americans were a "noble, though vanishing race," whose lives needed to be recorded before they disappeared. Because of this belief, he funded three expeditions (1908-1913) to "perpetuate the life stories of the first Americans." In addition, he also strove, and ultimately failed, to create a National Indian Memorial to be situated in New York City which would rival the Statue of Liberty.

Joseph K. Dixon (1858-1926) was born in New York, and received a bachelor of divinity degree from the Rochester Theological Seminary before becoming a lecturer for the Eastman Kodak photographic company in 1904. Two years later he was hired to work in Wanamaker's department store, and by 1908 he was chosen to lead the three Wanamaker expeditions (1908-1913) to document the lives and cultures of Native peoples of the United States. For the remainder of his life, Dixon frequently lectured on and continued to photograph the lives of Native Americans.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of seventeen photogravures from Joseph K. Dixon's 1913 book, *The Vanishing Race*. Although published in 1913, the 80 photogravures in Dixon's work were taken in 1909. These images are part of the larger work of Rodman Wanamaker in his expeditions (1908-1913) to document the lives and cultures of Native American peoples, whom he viewed as a "noble, though vanishing race." Wanamaker's first and second expeditions (1908 and 1909) both took place in the Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana, portrayed Native American men and women from throughout the United States, and included extensive photographic and moving picture footage. Wanamaker's third expedition (1913) was broader in scope, visiting and symbolically granting citizenship to over 250 Native American communities across the country. As with the first two expeditions, the third expedition, known as the "Rodman Wanamaker Expedition of Citizenship to the North American Indian," was photographed and filmed by Dixon.

Among the seventeen photogravures in this collection, many of note include portraits of tribal leaders Chief Koon-Kah-Za-Chy (Kiowa-Apache), Chief Two Moons (Northern Tsistsistas/Suhtai [Cheyenne]), Chief Pretty Voice Eagle (Ihanktonwan Nakota [Yankton Sioux]), Chief Plenty Coups (Apsáalooke [Crow/Absaroke]), Chief Brave Bear (Southern Tsistsistas/Suhtai [Cheyenne]), Chief Red Cloud (Oglala Lakota [Oglala Sioux]), and Chief Red Whip (A'aninin [Gros Ventre]). Other images include group portraits of the 1909 "Last Great Indian Council," as well as Native veterans of the 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn. Image titles created by Joseph K. Dixon.

Arrangement

The photographs in this collection are organized into folders.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- A'aninin (Gros Ventre)
- Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains
- Indians of North America -- Montana
- Kiowa
- Northern Tsitsistas (Northern Cheyenne)
- Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)
- Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)
- Yanktonnai Nakota (Yankton Sioux)

Cultures:

- A'aninin (Gros Ventre)
- Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
- Indians of North America -- Great Plains
- Kiowa
- Northern Tsitsistas (Northern Cheyenne)
- Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)
- Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)
- Yanktonnai Nakota (Yankton Sioux)

Container Listing

Photographs

Photo-folder 1	<p>An Imperial Warrior, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Chief Plenty Coups [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)] wearing war bonnet and war shirt, holding coup stick while on horseback. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>The Last Arrow, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Unidentified man kneeling with drawn bow and arrow, posed for mock battle. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Chief Brave Bear, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Portrait of Chief Brave Bear [Southern Tsisistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)] wearing headdress. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Chief Plenty Coups, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Chief Plenty Coups [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)] wearing war bonnet and war shirt, holding coup stick, and standing in the forest. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>A War Council, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Unidentified men on horseback carrying coup sticks and rifles, posed for mock battle. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>The War Party, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Unidentified men on horseback wearing war bonnets and war shirts, carrying coup sticks and rifles, posed for mock battle. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Chief Koon-Kah-Za-Chy addressing the Council, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Chief Plenty Coups [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)] (on left) and Chief Koon-Kah-Za-Chy (Kiowa-Apache) (on right) stand while addressing several men seated on ground before tipi. All wear war bonnets and war shirts, and several hold coup sticks. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p>

Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
Plains Apache (Kiowa Apache)

Photo-folder 1	<p>A Glimpse Backward, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Unidentified seated man, possibly Chief Plenty Coups [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)], wearing war bonnet and war shirt, looking into the distance, with coup stick in foreground. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Chief Two Moons addressing the Council, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Chief Plenty Coups [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)] (on left) and Chief Two Moons [Northern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)] (on right) stand while addressing several men seated on ground before tipi. All wear war bonnets and war shirts, and several hold coup sticks. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke) Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Warriors of Other Days, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Unidentified men on horseback wearing war bonnets and war shirts, carrying coup sticks and rifles, with tipis in background. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Custer Scouts, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Four men, three pictured on horseback, who served as scouts for George Armstrong Custer visit gravestones on the Little Bighorn battlefield: White Man Runs Him, Hairy Moccasin, Curly, and Goes Ahead [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)]. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Chief Red Whip, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Portrait of Chief Red Whip [A'aninin (Gros Ventre)] wearing war bonnet and war shirt. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: A'aninin (Gros Ventre)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>Chief Red Cloud, 1909 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Portrait of Chief Red Cloud [Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)] wearing war shirt and a medal. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.</p> <p>Culture: Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>White Man Runs Him - Custer Scout, 1909 1 Photographic print</p>

	Notes:	Portrait of White Man Runs Him [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)], who served as a scout for George Armstrong Custer during the Battle of the Little Bighorn, wearing war bonnet and necklaces. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.
	Culture:	Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)
Photo-folder 1	Chief Pretty Voice Eagle, 1909	
		1 Photographic print
	Notes:	Portrait of Chief Pretty Voice Eagle [Ihanktonwan Nakota (Yankton Sioux)], wearing war bonnet and fur pelt, holding coup stick. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.
	Culture:	Yanktonnai Nakota (Yankton Sioux)
Photo-folder 1	The Swirl of the Warriors, 1909	
		1 Photographic print
	Notes:	Five unidentified men on horseback, wearing war bonnets, war shirts, and carrying coup sticks. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.
Photo-folder 1	Goes Ahead - Custer Scout, 1909	
		1 Photographic print
	Notes:	Goes Ahead [Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)], who served as a scout for George Armstrong Custer during the Battle of the Little Bighorn, stands in the forest holding feather war shield and wearing war bonnet. Valley of the Little Bighorn, Montana.
	Culture:	Apsáalooke (Crow/Absaroke)

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