



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

David Grant Noble photographs, 1970-1971

Emily Moazami

2017, 2019

National Museum of the American Indian
4220 Silver Hill Rd
Suitland 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:	David Grant Noble photographs
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.113
Date:	1970-1971
Extent:	140 Gelatin silver prints
Creator:	Noble, David Grant
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains gelatin silver photographs shot by photographer David Grant Noble that depict Mohawk ironworkers constructing a building in New York City and Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) wild rice harvesting in Wisconsin and Minnesota, 1970-1971.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The photographs in this collection were a Museum purchase and gift of David Grant Noble.

Processing Information

Emily Moazami, Assistant Head Archivist, processed the first acquisition in 2017 and the second acquisition in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); David Grant Noble photographs, Box and Photo Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: nmaiarchives@si.edu).

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.

Conditions Governing Use

Some photographs in this collection are RESTRICTED due to Cultural Sensitivity.

Biographical / Historical

David Grant Noble is a professional photographer, author, and editor living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After attending Yale University, Noble served in the U.S. Army in 1962 where he began his photography career.

In 1970, Noble was shooting street photography when he befriended Mohawk ironworkers constructing a building at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City. They invited him to document their work including photographing them many stories above street level.

From 1971-1989, Noble worked at the School for Advanced Research (SAR) in Santa Fe where he photographed and studied American southwest archaeological ruins, cliff dwellings, rock art, and landscapes. His books include *Ancient Ruins of the Southwest: an Archaeological Guide*, *Search of Chaco: New Approaches to an Archaeological Enigma*, and *In the Places of the Spirits*.

Noble's photographs are in the collections of numerous public institutions including Yale University's Beinecke Library, Museum of New Mexico, and New York City Public Library. He is also the recipient of the 2011 Emil Haury Award from the Western National Parks Association and the 2003 Victor Stoner Award from the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 140 gelatin silver prints shot by photographer David Grant Noble from 1970-1971. The photographs depict Mohawk ironworkers at a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City; Lake Superior Chippewa band of Anishinaabe harvesting wild rice on the Bad River Reservation in Odanah, Wisconsin; Minnesota Chippewa [Bois Forte/Nett Lake, Minnesota] band of Anishinaabe harvesting wild rice on the Bois Forte Reservation in northern Minnesota; and Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) Pinery Indian Cemetery in L'Anse, Michigan.

Arrangement

The photographs are arranged in folders and oversize boxes according to subject matter.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Construction workers
- Indians of North America -- Québec (Province)
- Lake Superior Chippewa
- Mohawk
- Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Structural steel workers

Cultures:

Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
Lake Superior Chippewa
Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

Types of Materials:

Photographic prints

Geographic Names:

New York (State) -- New York City
Odanah (Wis.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Mohawk Ironworkers, 1970-1971

16 Gelatin silver prints

Noble, David Grant, Photographer

This series contains 16 gelatin silver prints shot by photographer David Grant Noble from 1970-1971. The photographs depict Mohawk ironworkers at a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City. These action shots depict the men at work many stories above street level. Walter Jay Goodleaf, Arnold Goodleaf, Roger Horne, Jay Jacobs, and Sparky Rice are among the Mohawk ironworkers depicted in the images.

According to Noble, the ironworkers were from the Kahnawake Reserve on the St. Lawrence River near Montreal, Canada. During the construction project, the men lived in the North Gawanus neighborhood of Brooklyn, but would drive home to Kahnawake on the weekends.

All the photographs in this series are signed by the photographer.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Photo-folder 1 | Walter Jay Goodleaf, 1970-1971
<i>1 Photographic print</i>
Image(s)
Photograph depicting Walter Jay Goodleaf, a Mohawk ironworker, straddling a steel beam on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
Culture: Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)] |
| Photo-folder 1 | Walter Jay Goodleaf, 1970-1971
<i>1 Photographic print</i>
Image(s)
Photograph depicting Walter Jay Goodleaf, a Mohawk ironworker, leaning on a steel beam on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
Culture: Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)] |
| Photo-folder 1 | Jay Jacobs and Sparky Rice, 1970-1971
<i>1 Photographic print</i>
Image(s)
Photograph depicting Jay Jacobs and Sparky Rice, two Mohawk ironworkers, standing on steel beams on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City. An American flag is flying in the background.
Culture: Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)] |

- Photo-folder 1 Jay Jacobs and Sparky Rice, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Jay Jacobs and Sparky Rice, Mohawk ironworkers, hanging an American flag from the corner of a building they are constructing at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 2 Jay Jacobs, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Jay Jacobs, a Mohawk ironworker, guiding a steel beam into place and smoking a cigarette on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 2 Jay Jacobs, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Jay Jacobs, a Mohawk ironworker, guiding a steel beam into place on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 2 Sparky Rice, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Sparky Rice, a Mohawk ironworker, smoking a cigarette and guiding a steel beam into place on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 2 Arnold Goodleaf, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Arnold Goodleaf, a Mohawk ironworker, standing on a building under construction at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

- Photo-folder 3 Arnold Goodleaf and unidentified man, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Arnold Goodleaf and an unidentified man on the left working on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 3 Roger Horne, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Roger Horne, a Mohawk ironworker, grasping a rope in each hand and looking upward on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 3 Roger Horne, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting Roger Horne, a Mohawk ironworker, on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 3 Mohawk ironworkers, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting unidentified Mohawk ironworkers wearing construction helmets and pulling a rope on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]
- Photo-folder 4 Mohawk ironworker, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photograph depicting an unidentified Mohawk ironworker wearing a construction helmet with a feather attached. He sits on a barrel and is operating a switch on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.
- Culture: Mohawk
 Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

Photo-folder 4

Mohawk ironworker, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print

[Image\(s\)](#)

Photograph depicting an unidentified Mohawk ironworker wearing a construction helmet with a feather attached. He sits on a steel beam and smokes a cigarette while American flags wave in the background. The photograph was shot on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.

Culture: Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

Photo-folder 4

Mohawk ironworker, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print

[Image\(s\)](#)

Photograph depicting a Mohawk ironworker smoking a cigarette and standing in between a steel beam and several planks of wood on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.

Culture: Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

Photo-folder 4

Mohawk ironworkers, 1970-1971
1 Photographic print

[Image\(s\)](#)

Photograph of Mohawk ironworkers climbing a metal pole on a construction site at Park Avenue and 53rd Street in New York City.

Culture: Mohawk
Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

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Series 2: Lake Superior Chippewa- Wild Rice Harvest, 1970-1971

Photo-folder 5-16 (photographs)

Oversize 1 (photographs)

Oversize 2 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Noble, David Grant, Photographer

This series contains 81 gelatin silver prints depicting the Lake Superior Chippewa band of Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) harvesting wild rice on the Bad River Reservation in Odanah, Wisconsin. The photographs were shot by David Grant Noble in 1970-1971. The photographer wrote captions on the back of most of the photographs.

The photos depict boat launching and towing on the Bad River Reservation; wild rice harvesting on the Bad River and in the Kakagon Sloughs on Lake Superior; and ceremonies and community festivals and games after the wild rice harvesting. Individuals depicted include Marie LaPointe.

Photographer David Grant Noble arranged the photographs in this series in rough sequential order.

Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

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Series 3: Minnesota Chippewa [Bois Forte/Nett Lake, Minnesota]- Wild Rice Harvest, September 1971

28 Gelatin silver prints

Photo-folder 17-20 (photographs)

Oversize 2 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Noble, David Grant, Photographer

This series contains 28 gelatin silver prints depicting the Minnesota Chippewa [Bois Forte/Nett Lake, Minnesota] band of Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) on the Bois Forte Reservation in northern Minnesota. The photographs were shot by David Grant Noble in September 1971. The photographer wrote captions on the back of most of the photographs.

The photographs depict wild rice harvesting and processing, as well as photographs of children playing. Some of the photographs depicting wild rice processing at the home of Ira Isham.

Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

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Series 4: RESTRICTED: Anishinaabe Pinery Indian Cemetery, September 1970

15 Gelatin silver prints

Photo-folder 21-23

Noble, David Grant, Photographer

This series contains 15 gelatin silver prints depicting "spirit houses" in the Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) Pinery Indian Cemetery in L'Anse, Michigan. The photos were shot by David Grant Noble in September 1970. The Spirit Houses were made of bark and were placed over individual graves.

This series is RESTRICTED due to Cultural Sensitivity.

Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

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