



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Arizona and New Mexico postcard and photograph collection

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Arizona and New Mexico postcard and photograph collection
Date:	1865-1926
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.127
Creator:	Soule, William S. (William Stinson), 1836-1908 Schwemberger, Simeon
Extent:	79 Postcards 18 Photographic prints 8 Stereographs
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of 105 photographic images of Native American peoples throughout the U.S., primarily in Arizona and New Mexico. A number of the postcards and photographs were sent back and forth between non-Native family members who worked in Indian Boarding Schools in Fort Defiance, AZ, among other locations.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift from Jenene Garey in 2018 and 2021.

Processing Information

Processed by Nathan Sowry, Reference Archivist, in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Arizona and New Mexico postcard and photograph collection, NMAI.AC.127; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Photographer William Stinson Soule (Will Soule) lived and worked in the region of Fort Sill, in the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), in the 1860s and 1870s, regularly photographing U.S. Army personnel and Southern Plains Indian communities.

Simeon Schwemberger was a photographer originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, who settled near the St. Michaels mission church in Arizona in 1901. There he took many photographs of the Native communities of the region, later selling the images as postcards.

Scope and Contents

The Arizona and New Mexico postcard and photograph collection consists of postcards, photographic prints, and stereographs, totaling 105 photographic items. Many of the postcards and photographs date to between the early 1900s and the late 1920s and were sent between non-Native family members who worked in Indian Boarding Schools, including those at Fort Defiance and Chinle in Arizona, Chilocco in Oklahoma, Haskell in Kansas, and Lac du Flambeau in Wisconsin.

These items have been organized into three series. **Series 1: Postcards, 1908-1916**, includes 79 postcards. Approximately 10 postcards contain images taken by the photographer Simeon Schwemberger of Diné (Navajo) people on the Navajo Reservation, and were sold out of his studio in St. Michaels, Arizona. **Series 2: Photographs, 1896-1926**, includes 18 photographs. Several of these include depictions of Native and non-Native peoples in Fort Defiance in Arizona, Haskell in Kansas, and Lac du Flambeau in Wisconsin. **Series 3: Stereographs, 1865-1875**, includes 8 stereographic images. These stereographs contain images taken by the photographer William Stinson Soule (Will Soule) of Kiowa-Apache, Nium (Comanche), and Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne) men near Fort Sill in Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), between approximately 1865 and 1875.

Please note that the language and terminology used in this collection reflects the context and culture of the time of its creation, and may include culturally sensitive information. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series. **Series 1: Postcards, 1908-1916**, **Series 2: Photographs, 1896-1926**, and **Series 3: Stereographs, 1865-1875**.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Acoma Pueblo
American Indian -- Haskell Institute
Diné (Navajo)

Hopi
Lake Superior Chippewa [Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin]
Niuam (Comanche)
Plains Apache (Kiowa Apache)
Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Cultures:

Acoma Pueblo
American Indian -- Haskell Institute
Diné (Navajo)
Hopi
Lake Superior Chippewa [Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin]
Niuam (Comanche)
Plains Apache (Kiowa Apache)
Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

Container Listing

Series 1: Postcards, 1908-1916

79 Postcards

[Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Schwemberger, Simeon

Scope and Contents: Many of the postcards were sent between non-Native family members who worked in Indian Boarding Schools, including those at Fort Defiance and Chinle in Arizona, Chilocco in Oklahoma, Haskell in Kansas, and Lac du Flambeau in Wisconsin. Approximately 10 postcards contain images taken by the photographer Simeon Schwemberger of Diné (Navajo) people on the Navajo Reservation, and were sold out of his studio in St. Michaels, Arizona.

Culture: Acoma Pueblo
Diné (Navajo)
Hopi

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Series 2: Photographs, 1896-1926

18 Photographic prints

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: Several of these photographs include depictions of Native and non-Native peoples in Fort Defiance in Arizona, Haskell in Kansas, and Lac du Flambeau in Wisconsin.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)
Lake Superior Chippewa [Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin]

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Series 3: Stereographs, 1865-1875

8 Stereographs

[Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Soule, William S. (William Stinson), 1836-1908
Scope and Contents: The stereographic images were taken by the photographer William Stinson Soule (Will Soule) of Kiowa-Apache, Niuam (Comanche), and Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne) men near Fort Sill in Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), between approximately 1865 and 1875.
Culture: Plains Apache (Kiowa Apache)
Niuam (Comanche)
Southern Tsitsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)

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