



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

Trio Photograph and Supply Company
photographs from British Columbia

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Trio Photograph and Supply Company photographs from British Columbia
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.134
Date:	1919-1924
Extent:	19 Photographic prints 1 photographic postcard 11 copy negatives
Creator:	Trio Photograph and Supply Company
Language:	English
Summary:	Photographic prints made by the Trio Photograph and Supply Company in an around Vancouver Island, Canada among the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) community between 1919 and 1924.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The majority of the photographic prints were donated to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation by H. Barney Olson in 1924. P00764 was likely donated sometime around 1920. H. Barney Olson worked at the Empress Hotel at the time where Ernest Crocker (Trio Photograph and Supply Company) ran a postcard and photograph stand. It is likely this is how Olson came into possession of the photographic prints.

Related Materials

The BC (British Columbia) Archives holds the Ernest Crocker fonds, which contains photographs produced by Crocker and Trio Photograph and Supply Company. Fonds PR-1348 - Ernest Crocker fonds: <https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/ernest-crocker-fonds>

Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, processing archivist, in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Trio Photograph and Supply Company photographs from British Columbia, Item Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

The Trio Photograph and Supply Company was allegedly founded in 1903 by Ernest Crocker (1877-1968) and two other English emigrants in Vancouver, Canada. Shortly after, the business moved to Victoria, B.C. where the partnership was dissolved, leaving Crocker as the main operator. In 1908, the studio relocated to Suite 8 at 604 Yates Street where it would remain for the next 37 years.

In its early years, Trio produced scenic postcards which were sold at a cigar-stand at the Canadian Pacific Railway's Empress Hotel. Around 1910, the studio was hired to photograph mining properties in Mexico. During both World Wars, Trio flourished as a military photographer, capturing many candid, portrait and group shots of soldiers and personnel. During World War I, the majority of photographs were taken at Exhibition Grounds at Willows Camp and during World War II, at Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt and the Officers Training Camp at Gordon Head. In addition to his military portfolio, Trio photographed local landscapes, indigenous and other cultural communities, and took portraits of Victorian families and individuals as well as sporting and school groups. Trio also photographed three Royal visits: the Prince of Wales in 1919, the Prince of Wales and Prince George in 1927 and King George VI in 1939.

While Crocker remained the principal photographer at Trio, he appears to have received help during the course of his business. Sometime in the 1910s, G.E. Welsh joined Crocker in some form of business partnership before leaving in 1918. After that time, it would appear that a man named Orlebar (Charlie) Walls joined the studio as a part time assistant. In 1946, the Imperial Bank Chambers renovated the top floor of 604 Yates Street where the Trio studio was established, forcing them to evict the premises. Advanced in age, Crocker did not seek to reopen his studio.

Biographical note from the BC Archives (part of the Royal BC Museum) Website: <https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/trio>

Scope and Contents

P00764, P06408-P06426 (Photographic Prints). N35913-N35918, N41498-N41499 (Copy negatives).

Scope and Contents

This collection includes photographic prints and one postcard made by Trio Photograph and Supply Company which was owned and operated by Ernest Crocker. The majority of the photographs were shot in British Columbia on Quadra Island and Vancouver Island among Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) communities sometime around 1920 although exact dates are unknown. Many of the photograph on Quadra Island were shot around Cape Mudge Village and includes images of totem poles, house posts and village views. The majority are outdoor and street views and do not include members of the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) community. Many of the photographs shot on Vancouver Island include images of grave posts and are restricted due to cultural sensitivity. There are also two photographs of petroglyphs shot on Cormorant Island. There is also an additional photographic print made in 1919 documenting the royal visit of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, in Victoria on Vancouver Island. He is being greeted by Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) community members. This photograph was donated to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation earlier than the other prints. There are also 11 copy negatives (acetate) that were made by the Museum of the American Indian sometime in the 1960s during a large photograph conservation project.

Arrangement

Arranged by catalog number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

British Columbia
Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
Photographs
Totem poles

Cultures:

Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)

Names:

Crocker, Ernest William Albert
Windsor, Edward, Duke of, 1894-1972

Geographic Names:

Quadra Island (B.C.)
Vancouver Island (B.C.)

Container Listing

- Photo-folder 1 P00764: Visit from the Prince of Wales, Victoria, British Columbia, 1919
September
1 Photographic print
1 copy negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, being greeted by Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) and Coast Salish in Victoria on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. An interpreter, speaks directly to the Prince and the Governor of British Columbia, Sir Frank Stillmann Barnard stands to the right in a top hat.

Copy Negative: N34518

Culture: Coast Salish
 Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
- Photo-folder 1 P06408: Totem Pole in Cape Mudge Village, circa 1920
1 photographic postcard
1 copy negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Postcard featuring a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) totem pole with clapboard structure in background in Cape Mudge Village on Quadra Island, British Columbia. Two men stand on either side leaning on the base. The same totem pole can be seen in P06412 and P06414.

Copy Negative: N41498

Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
- Photo-folder 1 P06409: Petroglyphs on Cormorant Island, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
View of petroglyphs, possibly Namgis Kwakwaka'wakw (Nemquic), carved onto rocks above the water on Cormorant Island, off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Culture: Namgis Kwakwaka'wakw (Nemquic)
- Photo-folder 1 P06410: Petroglyphs on Cormorant Island, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
[Image\(s\)](#)
View of petroglyphs, possibly Namgis Kwakwaka'wakw (Nemquic), carved onto rocks above the water on Cormorant Island, off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Culture: Namgis Kwakwaka'wakw (Nemquic)

- Photo-folder 1 P06411: House Posts in Cape Mudge Village, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
1 copy negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
View of two Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) winged carved wooden house posts in the interior of a planked lodge in Cape Mudge Village on Quadra Island, British Columbia.
- Copy Negative: N41499
- Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
-
- Photo-folder 2 P06412: Totem Pole in Cape Mudge Village, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
1 copy negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
View of a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) totem pole in Cape Mudge Village on Quadra Island, British Columbia. There are trees and buildings in the background. The same totem pole can be seen in P06408 and P06414.
- Copy Negative: N35913
- Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
-
- Photo-folder 2 P06413: Totem Pole in Cape Mudge Village, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
1 copy negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
View of Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) totem pole in front of a village in Cape Mudge on Quadra Island, British Columbia.
- Copy Negative: N35914
- Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
-
- Photo-folder 2 P06414: Totem Pole in Cape Mudge Village, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
1 copy negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
View of a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) totem pole with clapboard structure in background in Cape Mudge Village on Quadra Island, British Columbia. The same totem pole can be seen in P06408 and P06412.
- Copy Negative: N35915
- Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
-
- Photo-folder 2 P06415: Road Near Campbell River Reserve, circa 1920

1 Photographic print

[Image\(s\)](#)

View of a road near the Campbell River Reserve on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The river can be seen along the right with a boat, and structure on bank.

Photo-folder 2

P06416: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) village on Vancouver Island, circa 1920

1 Photographic print

1 copy negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

View in a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Various dwellings, traditional and contemporary can be seen with totem poles and house posts out front.

Copy Negative: N35916

Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)

Photo-folder 3

P06417: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) village on Vancouver Island, circa 1920

1 Photographic print

[Image\(s\)](#)

View of a main street of a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Traditional and contemporary dwellings can be seen with totem poles and house posts out front (see also P06416). A woman and several children can be seen walking and standing along the road.

Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)

Photo-folder 3

P06418: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) Carvings on Vancouver Island, circa 1920

1 Photographic print

1 copy negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

Outdoor view of three Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) carved figures in a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Copy Negative: N35918

Culture: Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)

Photo-folder 3

P06423: View on Vancouver Island, circa 1920

1 Photographic print

Landscape view of the beach on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Possibly near a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) village.

Photo-folder 3

P06424: View with Boats on Vancouver Island, circa 1920

1 Photographic print

Landscape view of boats on the water off of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Possibly near a Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) village.

- Photo-folder 4 P06419: RESTRICTED Grave Posts, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
RESTRICTED. Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) grave posts near a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
- Photo-folder 4 P06420: RESTRICTED Grave Posts, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
RESTRICTED. Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) grave posts near a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
- Photo-folder 4 P06421: RESTRICTED Grave Posts, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
RESTRICTED. Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) grave posts near a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
- Photo-folder 4 P06422: RESTRICTED Tree Burial, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
RESTRICTED. Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) tree burial near a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Includes grave boxes (infants) in tree.
- Photo-folder 4 P06425: RESTRICTED Grave Posts, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
RESTRICTED. Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) grave posts near a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
- Photo-folder 4 P06426: RESTRICTED Graves, circa 1920
1 Photographic print
RESTRICTED. Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) graves near a village on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.