



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

E. Lucas Bridges photographs from Tierra del Fuego

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Museum of the American Indian |
| Title: | E. Lucas Bridges photographs from Tierra del Fuego |
| Date: | 1900-1910 |
| Identifier: | NMAI.AC.144 |
| Creator: | Bridges, E. Lucas, 1874-1949 |
| Extent: | 10 Copy negatives |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | This collection includes 10 copy negatives of E. Lucas Bridges photographs from Tierra del Fuego in Argentina made between 1900 and 1910. Bridges was the son of an Anglican missionary and grew up among the Selk'nam (Ona) indigenous people at the southernmost tip of South America. Bridges published <i>The Uttermost Part of the Earth</i> in 1949 documenting his family's experiences in Tierra del Fuego. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of E. Lucas Bridges, 1932.

Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, 2020. Photographs cataloged by Lou Stancari, Photo Archivist, 2009.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); E. Lucas Bridges photographs from Tierra del Fuego, image #, NMAI.AC.144. National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Esteban Lucas Bridges, 1874-1949, was born to Anglican missionary father Reverend Thomas Bridges and mother Mary Ann Bridges in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Although his father resigned his missionary position in 1886, the family remained in Tierra del Fuego and built the Estancia Harberton on the coast of the Beagle Channel. From 1898 through 1914, Bridges, along with his brothers, opened new trails and visited frequently with the indigenous peoples of the region, often providing shelter from white settlers on their estancias. Many European colonizers between the 1870s and 1930 actively and knowingly decimated the Selk'nam population in the quest for gold and land. Although Lucas Bridges did much to try to help the local communities, by 1930 the Selk'nam community was reduced to about 100 members.

During World War I, Bridges went to England to enlist in the army. He married Janette McLeod Jardine in 1917 and following the war the couple moved to South Africa where they developed a ranch. Bridges returned to Argentina shortly before his death in 1949.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes 10 copy negatives of E. Lucas Bridges photographs from Tierra del Fuego in Argentina made between 1900 and 1910. The majority of the images are of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain, or Initiation ceremony. These images have been restricted. The remainder of the photographs include portraits of Selk'nam (Ona) men and women on Isla Grande de Terra del Fuego in Argentina. This includes portraits of Kautempklh and Paloa, Halah and his family, Te-al and Ishtohn, and an unidentified group. Many of these photographs were included in the 1949 book *The Uttermost Part of the Earth* written by E. Lucas Bridges. The book documents his family's experiences in Tierra del Fuego at the turn of the 20th century.

The copy negatives were made by photographing a set of Lucas Bridges prints. It's unclear whether this was done prior to the donation (by Bridges) or by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

Scope and Contents

N20227-N20036

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:

Argentina
Indians of South America

Selk'nam (Ona)

Cultures:

Indians of South America
Selk'nam (Ona)

Types of Materials:

Copy negatives

Places:

Tierra del Fuego (Argentina and Chile)

Container Listing

N20227: RESTRICTED, 1902-1907

1 Copy negative

Notes: View of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain or Initiation Ceremony, showing a group of nude men with body painting crouched down next to an initiation lodge, in a cleared area, with woods in the background in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E. Lucas Bridges: "Ona boys take part in the Frog Dance."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20228: RESTRICTED, 1902-1907

1 Copy negative

Notes: View of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain or Initiation Ceremony, showing a group of nude men with striped body painting lined up next to an initiation lodge, in a cleared area, with woods in the background in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E. Lucas Bridges: "The Snake Dance. The ceremonial advance from the woods to the Hain, which is to be seen on the left. The leader (in the gochilh) is Doihej, elder son of Aneki. Next in line is Chorche, with K'Wamen, the recently initiated novice, beside him. The seventh from the left is Kankoat, the tenth is Metet, the younger son of Aneki, and the twelfth is Ahnikan."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20229: RESTRICTED, 1902-1907

1 Copy negative

Notes: View of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain or Initiation Ceremony, showing a group of nude men with striped body painting lined up next to an initiation lodge, in a cleared area, with woods in the background in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. See E. Lucas Bridges comment on N20228.

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20230: RESTRICTED, 1902-1907

1 Copy negative

Notes: View of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain or Initiation Ceremony, showing two nude men with body painting gesturing, while another man stands behind, wrapped in a guanaco hide. They are posed in a cleared area, with woods in the background in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E. Lucas Bridges: "Koiyot, my adopted uncle, and Doihej show their hatred by making faces at the women, who are seated in a group nearly a quarter a mile away. I am sorry that Pahchik, master of ceremonies at the time, is wearing a cloth cap instead of his goochilh."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20231: RESTRICTED, 1902-1907

1 Copy negative

Notes: View of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain or Initiation Ceremony, showing men at entrance to initiation lodge. One man is nude and has extensive body painting; other men are wrapped in a guanaco hides in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E. Lucas Bridges: "Ahnikin impersonates 'Short.' On the left is Puppup. Halimink and Minkiyolh stand side by side, and on the right is Hatah, a good-looking young man who was one of Ahnikin's three companions...the encampment is in the distant woods behind."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20232: RESTRICTED, 1902-1907

1 Copy negative

Notes: View of a Selk'nam (Ona) Hain or Initiation Ceremony, showing two nude men lying prostrate on the ground next to the initiation lodge. They are in a cleared area, with woods in the background in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E. Lucas Bridges: "Ona men shamming dead."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20233: "[Kautempklh and Paloa, northern men](#)", 1900-1910

1 Copy negative

Notes: Outdoor portrait of two Selk'nam (Ona) men wrapped in guanaco hide robes, seated in underbrush, wearing conical hats, and holding bows in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E.L. Bridges: "Kautempklh and Paloa, northern men. The valiant Kantempkh (sic) fingers his chin, a gesture peculiar to him when deep in thought."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20234: "[Halah of the northern group with his wife and children](#)", 1900-1910

1 Copy negative

Notes: Outdoor portrait of a Selk'nam (Ona) man, woman and children wrapped in guanaco hide robes, seated in underbrush; he is holding a bow in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E.L. Bridges: "Halah of the northern group with his wife and children."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20235: "[Te-al...with her husband, Ishtohn](#)", 1900-1910

1 Copy negative

Notes: Outdoor portrait of a Selk'nam (Ona) man and woman wrapped in guanaco hide robes, seated in underbrush; he is holding a bow and is wearing a conical hide hat in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Per E.L. Bridges: "(left) Te-al...with her husband, Ishtohn (Thick Thighs)."

Culture: Selk'nam (Ona)

N20235: [Selk'nam \(Ona\) family](#), 1900-1910

1 Copy negative

Notes: Outdoor portrait of an unidentified Selk'nam (Ona) man, woman holding infant, and a young girl wrapped in guanaco hide robes,

seated amongst trees; he is holding a bow in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.