



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

E.L. Doran Expedition photographs from California

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	E.L. Doran Expedition photographs from California
Date:	1898-1901
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.170
Creator:	Doran, Edmond Leonard
Extent:	11 Photographic prints 1 Copy negative
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains photographic prints and copy negatives depicting E.L. Doran's amateur archaeological excavations on California's Channel Islands, including Santa Catalina, San Clemente, and San Nicolas. The photographs were taken in approximately 1898-1901.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Photographs received alongside archaeological material from the E. L. Doran in 1918.

Related Materials

The Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation purchased these photographs alongside Doran's archaeological materials from California. These archaeological objects have catalog numbers 07/6000 – 07/7091, 24/4720 and can be found in NMAI's archaeological collections.

Processing Information

Collection record written by Mikaela Hamilton, Archives Center Intern in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); E.L. Doran expedition photographs from California, image #, NMAI.AC.170; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archives 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: nmaearchives@si.edu).

P00536 (with corresponding copy negative N34392) and P02487 are restricted due to cultural sensitivity.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Edmond Leonard Doran (1864-1915) was an amateur archaeologist and collector whose work focused on the California Channel Islands. Born in Canada, Doran moved to California in 1883 and subsequently established an oil company in Pasadena. He then moved to Avalon, Santa Catalina with his wife, Susannah G. Meek (1864-1932), and two daughters. Between 1898 and 1901, Doran carried out several expeditions to the California Channel Islands, including San Clemente and San Nicolas, to collect artifacts and excavate archaeological sites. In 1912, he was unanimously elected president of the Freeholders Improvement Association of Avalon. Doran passed away in Los Angeles, California in March of 1915.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 11 photographic prints and 1 copy negative documenting E.L. Doran's archaeological expeditions to the Channel Islands. The photographer is unknown. The photographs were most likely taken between 1898 and 1901, which is when Doran was reportedly making expeditions to these islands. The photographs of San Clemente Island were most likely taken between 1899-1900, the photographs of San Nicolas were most likely taken between 1900-1901, and the photographs of Santa Catalina were most likely taken between 1898-1901.

The photographs in this collection depict a variety of subjects including Doran's archaeological excavations, expedition camps, and landscapes of the islands and ocean. The excavation photographs depict both the excavators and recovered archaeological materials. The restricted images depict human skeletal remains.

Photographic prints include P00536, P02482-P02491. Copy negatives include N34392.