



Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

Werner Lüthy photographs from Venezuela

Emily Moazami

2019

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Werner Lüthy photographs from Venezuela
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1931
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.189
<b>Creator:</b>	Lüthy , Werner, 1899-1967 (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	.02 Linear feet 14 Photographs
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection contains 14 photographs depicting the Barí (Motilone) and Wayuu (Guajira/Goajiro) peoples of Venezuela circa 1930-1931.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation by Werner Lüthy in 1931.

### Related Materials

The State Archives of Canton Bern in Switzerland holds a collection of Werner Lüthy photographs.

### Processing Information

Collection level record by Emily Moazami, 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Werner Lüthy photographs from Venezuela, catalog #, NMAI.AC.202; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

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## Biographical / Historical

Werner Lüthy (also spelled Luthy) was a Swiss photographer who lived in Bern, Switzerland. Born on August 1, 1899, Lüthy specialized in travel photography. His work was exhibited in Bern in the 1930s through 1950s and published in numerous photography journals. Lüthy died on November 11, 1967.

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## Scope and Contents

N36511-N36516, P09993-P10000

This collection contains 8 gelatin silver prints shot by photographer Werner Lüthy circa 1930-1931 and 6 copy negatives created by the Museum of the American Indian. The photographs depict the Barí (Motilone) and Wayuu (Guajira/Goajiro) peoples of Venezuela. The photographs include portraits of individuals and groups, as well as scenes of daily life such as a pearl fisherman repairing a sail, pearl fishermen sitting on a mound of shells, and individuals wearing face paint. One photograph depicts the top of a man's head showing scars, which according to Lüthy, was obtained during a "Chicha-feast" when one man hits another over the head with a sharp bow until one man drops. The photographs have typed captions on the versos.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by catalog number.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Barí (Motilone)
- Indians of South America
- Wayuu (Guajira/Goajiro)

### Cultures:

- Barí (Motilone)
- Indians of South America
- Wayuu (Guajira/Goajiro)

### Places:

- Venezuela