



Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

Elizabeth K. Steen photographs from Brazil

Emily Moazami

2019

National Museum of the American Indian  
4220 Silver Hill Rd  
Suitland, Maryland 20746-2863  
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1400  
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.3038  
nmaiarchives@si.edu  
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

## Table of Contents

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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Elizabeth K. Steen photographs from Brazil
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1930-1931
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.196
<b>Creator:</b>	Steen, Elizabeth K. (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	.02 Linear feet 15 Photographs
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection contains 15 photographs depicting Karajá (Caraja) peoples of Tocantins State in Brazil, circa 1930-1931.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Museum purchase from Elizabeth Steen, 1936.

### Separated Materials

This National Museum of the American Indian also holds Karajá (Caraja) objects collected by Elizabeth K. Steen: Object numbers 189729-189853.

### Related Materials

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries hold a copy of Elizabeth K. Steen's book *Red Jungle Boy* (call no. F2230.S77 1937)

### Processing Information

Collection record written by Emily Moazami, 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Elizabeth K. Steen photographs from Brazil, Item Number, NMAI.AC.196; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive 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: [nmaiarchives@si.edu](mailto:nmaiarchives@si.edu)).

### Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to [nmaiphotos@si.edu](mailto:nmaiphotos@si.edu). For personal or classroom use, users are invited users to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are

available online without prior written permission, provided that the files are not changed, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Born in 1886, Elizabeth Kilgore Steen was an explorer and anthropologist. She studied anthropology at the University of California. Steen visited Karajá (Caraja) and Tapirapé (Tapirape) villages in Brazil circa 1930-1931. Her publications include the 1937 children's book, *Red Jungle Boy*, which she wrote and illustrated. She died in 1938.

---

## Scope and Contents

N36713-N36718,N41496, P11935-P11942

This collection contains 15 photographs (including 7 copy negatives) that were shot by anthropologist Elizabeth K. Steen circa 1930-1931. The photographs depict the Karajá (Caraja) peoples of Tocantins State in Brazil. The photographs include portraits of individuals in traditional dress, as well as scenes of daily life such as preparing meals, body painting, and carrying water.

---

## Arrangement

Collection 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:

- Indians of South America -- Brazil
- Karajá (Caraja)

### Cultures:

- Indians of South America -- Brazil
- Karajá (Caraja)

### Places:

- Brazil