



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

## Dane Coolidge photographs from Mexico

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2019

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Dane Coolidge photographs from Mexico
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.202
<b>Date:</b>	1932
<b>Extent:</b>	0.01 Linear feet 6 Photographs
<b>Creator:</b>	Coolidge, Dane, 1873-1940
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection contains 3 photographic prints (and 3 copy negatives) depicting a Seri man in Mexico, photographed by Dane Coolidge in 1932.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This collection was purchased from Mary Roberts Coolidge in 1940.

### Separated Materials

Mary Roberts Coolidge also donated Seri objects to NMAI (catalog numbers 203200 - 203414).

### Related Materials

The University of California's The Bancroft Library holds Dan Coolidge Papers (Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 82).

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries holds a copy of *The Last of the Seris* (Call no. F1221.S43C7).

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Dane Coolidge photographs from Mexico, catalog #, NMAI.AC.202; National Museum of the American Indian Archive 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)).

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## Biographical / Historical

Naturalist and novelist Dane Coolidge was born on March 24, 1873 in Natick, Massachusetts and grew up in Riverside, California. He received his education from Standard and Harvard Universities. He later worked as a field collector for the British Museum, Stanford University, and the U.S. National Zoological Park. He wrote both fiction and non-fiction usually set in Western locales such as California and the U.S. Southwest. In 1906, he married sociologist Mary Roberts and the two collaborated on the books *The Navajo Indians* (1930) and *The Last of the Seris* (1939). Dane Coolidge died in 1940 and Mary Roberts Coolidge in 1945.

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## Scope and Contents

N37332-N37334, P15199-P15201

This collection contains 3 gelatin silver prints shot by Dane Coolidge in Mexico in 1932 and 3 copy prints created from those prints by the Museum of the American Indian. Coolidge and his wife Mary Roberts Coolidge studied the Seri in the 1930s. All three photographs are outdoor portraits of Seri medicine man Santo Blanco. In one photo he is shaking rattles, in another photo he is depicting playing a musical bow, and in the third photo he is wearing a medicine man's crown. Some of these photos were used to illustrate Dane and Mary Coolidge's book *The Last of the Seris* (1939).

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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:

Indians of Central America  
Seri

Cultures:

Seri

Types of Materials:

Photographs

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## Container Listing

- Photo-folder 1      P15199, N37332: Santo Blanco (Seri) playing musical bow, 1932  
*1 gelatin silver print*  
*1 copy negative*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Coolidge, Dane, 1873-1940, Photographer  
Photograph depicting Seri medicine man Santo Blanco sitting outside and playing a musical bow. He wears a medicine man crown or headdress. Photographed by Dane Coolidge in Bahía de Kino (Kino Bay), Mexico, 1932.
- Names:            Blanco, Santo  
Culture:          Seri
- Photo-folder 1      P15200, N37333: Santo Blanco (Seri) wearing a medicine man crown, 1932  
*1 gelatin silver print*  
*1 copy negative*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Coolidge, Dane, 1873-1940, Photographer  
Photograph depicting Santo Blanco (Seri) wearing a medicine man crown or headdress. Photographed by Dane Coolidge in Bahía de Kino (Kino Bay), Mexico, 1932.
- Names:            Blanco, Santo  
Culture:          Seri
- Photo-folder 1      P15201, N37334: Santo Blanco (Seri) singing a song to the whale, 1932  
*1 gelatin silver print*  
*1 copy negative*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Coolidge, Dane, 1873-1940, Photographer  
Photograph depicting Seri medicine Man Santo Blanco shaking rattles while he sings a song to the whale. He is wearing a medicine man crown or headdress. Photograph by Dane Coolidge in Bahía de Kino (Kino Bay), Mexico, 1932.
- Names:            Blanco, Santo  
Culture:          Seri