



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

New York Zoological Society photographs
of Tlingit totem pole and house

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2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	New York Zoological Society photographs of Tlingit totem pole and house
Date:	September 23, 1904
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.204
Creator:	Sanborn, Elwin R. (Elwin Roswell) New York Zoological Society
Extent:	12 Photographs
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains photographs depicting the erection of a Tlingit totem pole and chief's house near the Mammals' Pond at the New York Zoological Society on September 23, 1904.
Digital Content:	Image(s): New York Zoological Society photographs of Tlingit totem pole and house

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of the New York Zoological Society, 1942.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); New York Zoological Society photographs of Tlingit totem pole and house, catalog #, NMAI.AC.204; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution

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Biographical / Historical

Dedicated to the study of zoology and preservation of wildlife, New York Zoological Society opened their 265 acre zoo in the Bronx borough of New York City on November 8, 1899. The Society was later renamed the Wildlife Conservation Society and the zoo was renamed the Bronx Zoo.

The Harriman Alaska Expedition studied the Alaskan coast from Seattle to Siberia in June and July 1899. Funded by Union Pacific Railroad President Edward Henry Harriman, the expedition team consisted of prominent scientists, naturalists, photographers, artists, and writers. The expedition findings were published in the thirteen-volume Harriman Alaska Series.

Scope and Contents

N37501-N37505, P15989-P15995

This collection contains 7 photographs shot by Elwin R. Sanborn depicting the erection of a Tlingit [Sanya (Cape Fox)] totem pole and chief's house near the Mammals' Pond at the New York Zoological Society (now known as Bronx Zoo) on September 23, 1904 and later in the year. The collection also contains 5 copy negatives made from the original photographs by Museum of the American Indian staff in the late 1960s. E. H. Harriman collected the totem pole and house from an abandoned Tlingit village at Cape Fox, Alaska during the Harriman Alaska Expedition of 1899. He then shipped the pieces to Seattle and donated them to the New York Zoological Society for installation at the zoo.

Arrangement

Arranged by catalog number.

Bibliography

A description of the totem pole and house can be found in Zoological Society Bulletin, Jan. 1905, No. 16.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Photographs
- Tlingit
- Totem poles -- Tlingit

Cultures:

- Tlingit