



Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

Andrew Meyer photographs from Colombia

Nathan Sowry

2018

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Andrew Meyer photographs from Colombia
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.259
<b>Date:</b>	1929
<b>Creator:</b>	Meyer, Andrew (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	49 Photographic prints
<b>Language:</b>	Collection contains material in English and Spanish
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of 49 black and white photographic prints of images of village life as well as pre-Columbian stone carvings and statues photographed by Andrew Meyer in Colombia in 1929.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Andrew Meyer in 1932.

### Separated Materials

Approximately 66 material culture objects acquired by Meyer throughout his work in Colombia were also donated to the Museum of the American Indian (now the National Museum of the American Indian) in 1932. These objects were assigned object numbers: 18/2829 – 18/2871.

### Processing Information

Processed by Nathan Sowry, Reference Archivist, in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; 1929; Andrew Meyer photographs from Colombia, NMAI.AC.259; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

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## Biographical / Historical

Andrew Meyer was a mining engineer from Cleveland, Ohio. In 1929, while working in Chocó, Colombia, he became interested in stories of pre-Columbian stone carvings and statues. Documenting a large number of these carvings throughout the Republic of Colombia, he later authored a journal article about his experiences, as well as his suppositions about the people who made these carvings: "The Stone Gods of Colombia," published in *Art and Archaeology* 34, no. 3 (May-June 1933): 117-129. Many of the images now in the Andrew Meyer photographs from Colombia collection were included in Meyer's article.

Andrew Meyer married metallurgical engineer Edith Chartkoff, and the two went on to work together on a number of international engineering projects in Canada, Russia, and Spain, before settling down again in Cleveland, Ohio.

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## Scope and Contents

The Andrew Meyer photographs from Colombia collection consists of 49 black and white photographic prints. The photographs were taken by American mining engineer Andrew Meyer while working in Colombia in 1929. The photographs depict primarily pre-Columbian stone carvings and statues now known as the San Agustín Archaeological Park and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The collection includes images of villagers, landscapes, and daily life in Colombia. Communities represented include Emberá (Choikoi); Guambiano (Guambia); and Páez. Locations depicted include the Lower San Juan River in the Chocó Department; Inzá, Popayán, and Silvia in the Cauca Department; and San Agustín in the Huila Department.

Many of the photographs contain descriptive information hand-written on the back, presumably by the photographer.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 3 series, organized geographically by Colombian department and then by city or village. This organization mirrors Andrew Meyer's travels through Colombia. **Series 1:** Chocó Department, **Series 2:** Cauca Department, **Series 3:** Huila Department

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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:

- Colombia
- Emberá (Choikoi)
- Guambiano (Guambia)
- Páez

Cultures:

- Emberá (Choikoi)
- Guambiano (Guambia)
- Páez

Places:

- San Agustín Archaeological Park (Colombia)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Chocó Department , 1929

*1 Photographic print*

*Photo-folder 1*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Photographer: Meyer, Andrew

Scope and P10254

Contents: This series contains 1 photographic print. It consists of an image of a member of the Emberá (Choikoi) people along the Lower San Juan River in the Chocó Department of Colombia.

Culture: Emberá (Choikoi)

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## Series 2: Cauca Department, 1929

*10 Photographic prints*

*Photo-folder 2 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 3 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 4 (photographs)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Photographer: Meyer, Andrew

Scope and P10255, P10256, P10257, P10258, P10259, P10260, P10261, P10262, P10263, P10264

Contents: This series contains 10 photographic prints. It consists of images of members of the Guambiano (Guambia) and Páez peoples inhabiting Popayán, Silvia, and Inzá in the Cauca Department of Colombia.

Culture: Guambiano (Guambia)  
Páez

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## Series 3: Huila Department, 1929

### *38 Photographic prints*

*Photo-folder 5 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 6 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 7 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 8 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 9 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 10 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 11 (photographs)*

*Photo-folder 12 (photographs)*

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Photographer: Meyer, Andrew

Scope and Contents: P10265, P10266, P10267, P10268, P10269, P10270, P10271, P10272, P10273, P10274, P10275, P10276, P10277, P10278, P10279, P10280, P10281, P10282, P10283, P10284, P10285, P10286, P10287, P10288, P10289, P10290, P10291, P10292, P10293, P10294, P10295, P10296, P10297, P10298, P10299, P10300, P10301, P10302

This series contains 38 photographic prints. It consists of images taken in San Agustín, in the Huila Department of Colombia. The bulk of the images depict stone carvings and statues now known as the San Agustín Archaeological Park and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Place: San Agustín Archaeological Park (Colombia)

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