



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

## Willis W. Hardy photographs from Venezuela and Colombia

Mattie Lewis

2025

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Willis W. Hardy photographs from Venezuela and Colombia
<b>Date:</b>	1929-1931
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.325
<b>Creator:</b>	Hardy, Willis W. (1903-1973-1973)
<b>Extent:</b>	30 Photographic prints
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection includes 30 black and white photographs taken from 1929-1931 among the Yukpa and Wayuu communities in Colombia and Venezuela.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Mr. Willis W. Hardy, 1961.

### Separated Materials

Willis Hardy also donated 25 items to the museum, numbers 23/800-23/824. Two of them are linked below:

Panpipes [23/802](#) Headband [23/806](#)

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Mattie Lewis, Archives Technician, in 2025.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Willis W. Hardy photographs from Venezuela and Colombia, image #, NMAI.AC.325; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archives 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

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## Biographical / Historical

Willis W. Hardy (1903-1973) was born in Chicago, Illinois. He was a geologist and Assistant to the Manager of Exploration for Mobil International Oil Company's producing department. Willis worked in New York City in the 1950s and eventually retired to Austin, Texas in 1960.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains 30 black and white photographs, all 3x5 in. or smaller, taken by Willis Hardy. He travelled to Venezuela and Colombia twice between 1929 and 1947 for his work with Mobil Oil, during which he collected from native belongings and crafts and took these photographs. The images depict rivers, villages, and native peoples.

Image numbers P20003-P20032

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## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by location then by image number within each folder.

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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:

Wayuu (Guajira/Goajiro)  
Yukpa (Macoa/Macoita/Yupa)

### Cultures:

Wayuu (Guajira/Goajiro)  
Yukpa (Macoa/Macoita/Yupa)

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## Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	Colombia: Río Carare, 1931 3 Photographic prints Notes: Three 2x3 in. black and white photographs of native people at camp site in Río Carare, Colombia. Image numbers P20014-P20016.
Photo-folder 2	Venezuela: Carrasquero, 1930 6 Photographic prints Notes: Six 3x4 in. black and white photographs of people standing in groups and donkeys in Carrasquero, Venezuela. Image numbers P20019-P20024.
Photo-folder 3	Venezuela: Lago de Maracaibo, undated 2 Photographic prints Notes: Two 3x4 black and white photographs of a man and woman sitting. Image numbers P20017-P20018.
Photo-folder 4	Venezuela: Paraguiapoa, 1930 1 Photographic print Notes: One 2x3 in. black and white photograph of a group of men standing in front of a house. Image number P20030.
Photo-folder 5	Venezuela: Península de la Guajira, 1930 3 Photographic prints Notes: Three 2x3 in. black and white photographs showing people riding donkeys and a water hole. Image numbers P20026-P20028.
Photo-folder 6	Venezuela: Río Limón, 1930 2 Photographic prints Notes: Two 2x3 black and white photographs of buildings taken from the river. Image numbers P20025 and P20029.
Photo-folder 7	Venezuela: Río Macoita, 1929 11 Photographic prints Notes: Five 2x3 in. and six 3x4 in. black and white photographs depicting native people and the river. Image numbers P20003-P20013.
Photo-folder 8	Venezuela: Río Orinoco Delta, 1930 2 Photographic prints Notes: Two 2x3 in. black and white photographs of camp.

Image numbers P20031-P20032.