



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Richard Erdoes photograph collection

Mattie Lewis

2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Richard Erdoes photograph collection
Date:	1969-1980
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.330
Creator:	Erdoes, Richard
Extent:	26 Photographic prints 248 Slides (photographs)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection includes 26 photographs and 248 slides made by Richard Erdoes between 1969 and 1980 in Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Mexico.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Richard Erdoes, 1980.

Processing Information

Collection is partially processed. Collection record written by Mattie Lewis, Archives Technician in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Richard Erdoes photograph collection, image #, NMAI.AC.330; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Richard Erdoes (1912-2008) was born in Frankfurt, Germany. He studied art in Berlin and published anti-Nazi cartoons. After fleeing Germany, he continued his art studies in Vienna and Paris before moving to New York City. He created cartoons for many magazines including the New York Times and Harper's Bazaar and illustrated children's books. Erdoes became interested in Native American culture after visiting the Pine Ridge Reservation on an assignment for Life magazine. The people he met and conditions on the reservation had a big impact on Erdoes, encouraging him to become an active supporter of indigenous civil rights. He wrote and edited multiple books on American Indian life and culture.

Scope and Contents

Collection contains 26 color photographs (10 oversized) and 248 color slides made by Richard Erdoes in Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Mexico from 1969-1980. Images depict pottery, landscapes, daily life, sweat lodges, and ceremonies. The identified ceremonies are Cloud Dance, Deer Dance, Ghost Dance, Yuwipi Ceremony, Sun Dance, Corn Dance, Zuni Eagle Dance, and Mattachine Dance.

Some of the images have been restricted due to cultural sensitivity.

Prints P2082020829, P22858-P22873 Slides S08187-S08434

Arrangement

Arranged by image number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- A:shiwi (Zuni)
- Acoma Pueblo
- American Indian -- Dance
- Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi): Chaco (archaeological)
- Chamula Maya
- Cochiti Pueblo
- Diné (Navajo)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Maya
- Oglala Lakota [Pine Ridge]
- Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)
- Olmec (archaeological culture)
- San Ildefonso Pueblo
- Sicangu Lakota (Brulé Sioux)
- Sioux
- Taos Pueblo

Cultures:

- A:shiwi (Zuni)
- Acoma Pueblo
- Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi): Chaco (archaeological)
- Chamula Maya
- Cochiti Pueblo
- Diné (Navajo)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Maya
- Oglala Lakota [Pine Ridge]
- Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)
- Olmec (archaeological culture)
- San Ildefonso Pueblo
- Sicangu Lakota (Brulé Sioux)
- Taos Pueblo

Types of Materials:

- Color slides
- Photographs

Places:

- Arizona
- Mexico
- New Mexico
- South Dakota

Container Listing

Slidebox General Slides	Arizona, 1977-1978 7 Slides (photographs) Notes: This series contains seven slides taken in Arizona in Hopi Pueblo and Diné (Navajo) communities. It also includes photographs of Anasazi carvings. Image number S08391-S08393 and S08397-S08400.
Slidebox General Slides	Mexico, 1980 40 Slides (photographs) Notes: This series contains 40 slides taken among the Chamula Maya community and of Maya carvings in Mexico. Image numbers S08187-S08226.
Photo-folder 1	Montana, undated 1 Photographic print Notes: Series contains one 7.5 x 9.5 in. color print on photoboard. Image number P22873.
Slidebox General Slides; Oversize A31	New Mexico, 1972-1980 10 Photographic prints 88 Slides (photographs) Notes: Series contains ten oversize photographs and 88 color slides taken in New Mexico. Communities include Cochiti Pueblo, A:shiwí (Zuni), Laguna Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo, Ohkaywingeh, K'apovi, Taos Pueblo, and San Ildefonso Pueblo. Some of the photographics are restricted due to cultural sensitivity. Image numbers P20820-P20829, S08227-S08266, S08367-S08390, S08394-S08396, S08401-S08419, and S08433-S08434.
Slidebox General Slides; Photo-folder 2; Photo-folder 3; Photo-folder 4; Photo-folder 5; Photo-folder 6	South Dakota, 1969-1975 15 Photographic prints 113 Slides (photographs) Notes: Series contains fifteen 7.5 x 9.5 in. prints on photoboard of Ghost Dance, Sun Dance, Yuwipi, Inipi, and peyote ceremonies in Lakota communities. Image numbers P22858-P22872, S08267-S08366, S08420-S08432.