



Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

Frederick John Pratson photographs  
for "Land of the Four Directions"

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Frederick John Pratson photographs for "Land of the Four Directions"
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1970
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.341
<b>Creator:</b>	Pratson, Frederick John (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Photographic prints 1 Contact sheet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection contains 23 photographic prints and one contact sheet (36 images) made by Frederick John Pratson for his book <i>Land of the Four Directions</i> , published in 1970. Photographs include images of Passamaquoddy community members in Indian Township, Maine as well as Maliseet community members of the Tobique First Nation and Mi'kmaq community members of Big Cove and Indian Island in New Brunswick, Canada.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gift Frederick John Pratson, circa 1985.

### Related Materials

MF 042 Frederick Pratson Collection located at the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History, University of Maine.

### Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, 2022.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Frederick John Pratson photographs from Land of the Four Directions, image #, NMAI.AC.341; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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## Biographical / Historical

Born October 4, 1935 in Hartford Connecticut to John and Catherine Pratson, Frederick John Pratson was a historian and travel guide writer. After graduating from Boston College in 1957, he wrote for the travel section of the Boston Globe in addition to publishing a number of guidebooks which covered Canada and parts of the United States. In 1970, Pratson published *Land of the Four Directions* based on travels, photography and interviews among Passamaquoddy community members in Indian Township, Maine as well as Maliseet community members of the Tobique First Nation and Mi'kmaq community members of Big Cove and Indian Island in New Brunswick, Canada.

Pratson later returned to Indian Island Reservation in New Brunswick to interview Mi'kmaq (Micmac) Chief Peter Barlow in 1972. He also conducted interviews with William Jalbert, a lumberjack in Round Pond, Maine and with a group of Fisherman in East Dover, Nova Scotia. These interviews, done under the sponsorship of the New England-Atlantic Provinces-Quebec Center at the University of Maine (Orono) are now held in the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History at the University of Maine.

Pratson died in December 1989, leaving a wife, four sons and two daughters.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection includes one contact sheet with 36 images and 23 photographic prints of varying sizes made for Frederick John Pratson's 1970 publication *Land of the Four Directions*. The images on the contact sheet were most likely shot on the Mi'kmaq First Nation on Indian Island in Kent County, New Brunswick, Canada. These include portraits of Mi'kmaq Chief Peter Barrow, along with several other unidentified men. A handful of these images include Pratson himself.

A large number of the photographic prints (silver gelatin) were shot in the late 1960s among the Passamaquoddy community in Maine and were identified in 2010 by Donald G. Soctomah, Historic Preservation Officer of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Many of the photographs include images of children, many from the Dana family, going about their daily lives. The rest of the prints are listed as being photographed among Maliseet community members of the Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick, Canada and also include a large number of portraits of children, many of them still unidentified.

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## Scope and Contents

Contact sheet catalog numbers: P25886-P25922; Photographic Print catalog numbers: P25923-P25945, P37586-P37588

## Arrangement

Arranged in six folders 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:

- Maliseet (Malecite)
- Mi'kmaq (Micmac)
- Passamaquoddy

### Cultures:

- Maliseet (Malecite)
- Mi'kmaq (Micmac)
- Passamaquoddy

### Types of Materials:

- Photographic prints

### Names:

- Barlow, Peter, Chief

### Places:

- Maine
- New Brunswick (Canada)

## Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	<p>P25887-P25922: <a href="#">Contact sheet with Mi'kmaq (Micmac) Chief Peter Barlow and others, circa 1970</a> 1 Contact sheet Notes: The 36 images on this contact sheet were most likely shot on the Mi'kmaq First Nation on Indian Island in Kent County, New Brunswick, Canada. These include portraits of Mi'kmaq Chief Peter Barlow, along with several other unidentified men. A handful of these images include Pratson himself. Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P37586: Portrait of Chief Peter Barlow, circa 1970 1 Photographic print <a href="#">Image(s): Portrait of Chief Peter Barrow</a> Notes: Indoor portrait of Mi'kmaq (Micmac) Chief Peter Barlow wearing a feather headdress with beaded headband seated at a desk. He is looking through a drawer with a typewriter and papers on the desk in front of him. Likely shot on Indian Island in Kent County, New Brunswick, Canada. Same image as P25892 from contact sheet. Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P37587: Portrait of Chief Peter Barlow, circa 1970 1 Photographic print <a href="#">Image(s): Portrait of Chief Peter Barrow</a> Notes: Indoor portrait of Mi'kmaq (Micmac) Chief Peter Barlow. Likely shot on Indian Island in Kent County, New Brunswick, Canada. Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P37588: Portrait of Chief Peter Barlow, circa 1970 1 Photographic print <a href="#">Image(s): Portrait of Chief Peter Barrow</a> Notes: Indoor profile portrait of Mi'kmaq (Micmac) Chief Peter Barlow standing with another man looking out the window. Likely shot on Indian Island in Kent County, New Brunswick, Canada. Same image as P25919 from contact sheet. Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P25923: Portrait of Regina Dana on a swing, circa 1970 1 Photographic print Notes: Outdoor portrait of young Passamaquoddy girl Regina Dana (married name Nicholas) smiling while swinging on a swing. She wears a knit stocking cap, jacket, and print dress. Possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine. Culture: Passamaquoddy</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P25924: Passamaquoddy classroom view, circa 1970</p>

1 Photographic print

Notes: View inside of a classroom, with Passamaquoddy students reading and writing at their desks. A Catholic nun is leaning over, helping a student with his work. Identified as being shot at Peter Dana Point in Indian Township, Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 2

P25925: Portrait of a Passamaquoddy girl laughing, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of a young passamaquoddy child laughing. She is seated in a wooden chair, possibly at a desk in Indian Township, Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 3

P25926: Portrait of Karl Sabattus, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor portrait of young Passamaquoddy boy Karl Sabattus, posed with a dog, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 3

P25927: Young boy watching television, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of a young boy, possibly Maliseet (Malecite), seated while watching television in a home. Either shot in Maine or New Brunswick, Canada.

Culture: Maliseet (Malecite)

Photo-folder 3

P25928: Two children running outside, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor view from behind of two children running, arm-in-arm, across snow-covered grassy area, with three dwellings in background. The children are possibly Passamaquoddy, photographed in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine, though it is also possible this photograph was shot on the Maliseet (Malecite) Tobique Reserve in Canada.

Culture: Passamaquoddy  
Maliseet (Malecite)

Photo-folder 3

P25929: Portrait of Regina Dana with a bowl, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of young Passamaquoddy girl Regina Dana (married name Nicholas) sitting at a table with a bowl and spoon. There is another, unidentified, child to her left. Possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 3

P25930: Portrait of Billy "Bump" Sockabasin with saw, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor portrait of Passamaquoddy man Billy "Bump" Sockabasin, leaning on a two-man saw, in front of a building covered with panels of plywood. Possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 4

P25931: Portrait of Richard Tomah and Raynard Levesque, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor portrait of two young Passamaquoddy boys laughing and embracing one another. From left: Richard Tomah and Raynard Levesque. Possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 4

P25932: Portrait of two smiling girls, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of two young girls, possibly Maliseet (Malecite), in cotton print dresses smiling at each other. Either shot in Maine or New Brunswick, Canada.

Culture: Maliseet (Malecite)

Photo-folder 4

P25933: Passamaquoddy boy and woman, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor image of woman leaning over and holding on to a young Passamaquoddy boy. At the funeral of George Sabattus, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 4

P25934: Passamaquoddy boys, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor image of two young Passamaquoddy boys. At the funeral of George Sabattus, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 4

P25935: Passamaquoddy school girl, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Interior portrait of a young Passamaquoddy school girl looking backwards, holding a bowl, and wearing a floral print backpack. A nun can be seen in the background. Possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 5

P25936: Passamaquoddy girl with school bus, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Young Passamaquoddy girl walking past a bus with the sign "Unorganized Territory" on its side in Indian Township, Maine.



Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 5

P25937: Portrait of Charlie Dana, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor portrait of the young Passamaquoddy boy Charlie Dana on a teeter-totter, seen from below, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 5

P25938: Portrait of Colleen Dana with older man, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of young Passamaquoddy girl Colleen Dana (married name Cummings) seated with an unidentified elderly man, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 5

P25939: Portrait of Alberta Dana, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of the young, pregnant, Passamaquoddy woman Alberta Dana, seated in sunlight filtering through the kitchen window. Possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 5

P25940: Portrait of a Passamaquoddy girl, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Indoor portrait of a young Passamaquoddy woman posed leaning in a doorway, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 6

P25941: Passamaquoddy child running, circa 1970

1 Photographic print

Notes: Young Passamaquoddy child running through yard next to clapboard house, possibly shot in Indian Township or Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy

Photo-folder 6

P25942: [Portrait of Ann Moore and young friend, circa 1970](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Outdoor portrait of two young Passamaquoddy girls, Ann Moore in front and a member of the Dana family in back, wearing parkas with hoods, posed in a grassy area on the Pleasant Point Reservation (Sipayik), in Maine.

Culture: Passamaquoddy