



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

N.A. Forsyth stereograph collection

Nathan Sowry

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Content Description.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	N.A. Forsyth stereograph collection
Date:	1902-1909
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.343
Creator:	Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949 Graves, C. H. (Carleton H.), -1943
Extent:	12 Stereographs 0.03 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of twelve stereographic images depicting individuals from Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan), Salish (Flathead), and Shoshone communities in the region of western Montana and eastern Idaho during the first decade of the twentieth century.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Rebecca Hawkins in 1966.

Related Materials

The Research Center Archives at the Montana Historical Society contains several hundred of N.A. Forsyth's stereographic images, while the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives also contains a few dozen of Forsyth's photographic works.

Processing Information

Processed by Nathan Sowry, Reference Archivist, in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); N.A. Forsyth stereograph collection, NMAI.AC.343; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Norman A. Forsyth was born in upstate New York in 1869, and at a young age moved west with his family to Nebraska. By the early years of the twentieth century he moved west again, this time to Montana, opening a photo studio there in Butte in 1904. Employed first by Underwood and Underwood and later by the Keystone View Company, Forsyth photographed landscape scenes of Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks which were sold as stereographs. Additionally, he also documented the daily lives of a number of Native communities of western Montana, including the Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the Salish (Flathead) on the Flathead Indian Reservation. He died in 1949.

Content Description

The N.A. Forsyth stereograph collection consists of eleven stereographic images taken by photographer N.A. Forsyth between approximately 1906 and 1909. Forsyth visited and documented life on a number of Native American reservations in western Montana, including the Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) and the Salish (Flathead). This collection also contains one stereographic image taken by photographer C.H. Graves in eastern Idaho in 1902 depicting a leader of the Shoshone people.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into folders by cultural group.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)
- Salish (Flathead)
- Shoshone

Cultures:

- Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)
- Salish (Flathead)
- Shoshone

Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	<p>P25978: Painted Lodges of the Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan), 1906-1909 1 Stereograph Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949 Notes: Photograph of Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) encampment on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909. Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P25973: Little Dog, Chief of the Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan), 1906-1909 1 Stereograph Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949 Notes: Photograph of Little Dog, Chief of the Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909. Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P25972: Unidentified Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) women, 1906-1909 1 Stereograph Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949 Notes: Photograph of a group of unidentified Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) women on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909. Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P25981: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) Choosing Dance, 1906-1909 1 Stereograph Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949 Notes: Photograph of a Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) Choosing Dance, also possibly known as the Owl Dance, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909. Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P25971: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) Choosing Dance, 1906-1909 1 Stereograph Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949 Notes: Photograph of a Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) Choosing Dance, also possibly known as the Owl Dance, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909. Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P25979: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) Grass Dance, 1906-1909 1 Stereograph Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949</p>

Notes: Photograph of a Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) Grass Dance on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909.

Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)

Photo-folder 2 P25975: [Pikuni Blackfeet \(Piegan\) men at a dance, 1906-1909](#)
1 Stereograph
Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949
Notes: Photograph of a Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) dance on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation near Browning, Montana. Probably photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909.
Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)

Photo-folder 2 P25974: RESTRICTED, 1906-1909
1 Stereograph
Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949
Notes: Photograph of Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan) man Black Bear making a speech at a Sun Dance ceremony on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth between 1906 and 1909.
Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)

Photo-folder 2 P25970: [Salish \(Flathead\) Chief Antoine Moise and his family, 1907](#)
1 Stereograph
Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949
Notes: Photograph of Salish (Flathead) Chief Antoine Moise and his family on the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth in 1907.
Culture: Salish (Flathead)

Photo-folder 2 P25977: [Salish \(Flathead\) group, 1907](#)
1 Stereograph
Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949
Notes: Photograph of a large group of Salish (Flathead) people gathering to witness a women's dance on the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth in 1907.
Culture: Salish (Flathead)

Photo-folder 3 P25980: [Duncan MacDonald and his wife, 1907](#)
1 Stereograph
Creator: Forsyth, N. A. (Norman A.), 1869-1949
Notes: Photograph of Salish (Flathead) man Duncan MacDonald and his wife on the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. Photographed by N.A. Forsyth in 1907.
Culture: Salish (Flathead)

Photo-folder 3 P25976: [Shoshone chief in eastern Idaho, 1902](#)
1 Stereograph
Creator: Graves, C. H. (Carleton H.), -1943

Notes: Portrait of an unnamed Shoshone man, identified only as the Chief of the Snake River Indians. Photographed by C.H. Graves in eastern Idaho in 1902.

Culture: Shoshone