



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

Thomas Croft cabinet cards

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Thomas Croft cabinet cards
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.350
Date:	1888-1894
Creator:	Croft, Thomas
Extent:	19 Cabinet photographs 0.04 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of nineteen cabinet card images depicting individuals from a number of Southern Plains Indian communities in the Oklahoma and Indian Territories between approximately 1888 and 1894.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Joanne Reiter in 1995.

Related Materials

Thomas Croft's photographic work is extensive and resides in many cultural heritage repositories, including the Kansas City Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri, the Department of Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, and the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University in Texas, among other locations.

Processing Information

Processed by Nathan Sowry, Reference Archivist, in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Thomas Croft cabinet cards, NMAI.AC.350; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Thomas Croft was born in 1849 and lived in Illinois before moving further west. In the years soon after his 1885 arrival in Arkansas City, Kansas, Croft joined two already established photographers in the area, William Prettyman and George Cornish. Croft documented daily life in Arkansas City, but also frequently traveled to the then Oklahoma and Indian Territories to capture images of Native Americans living on nearby reservations. He maintained Elite Studio in Arkansas City, Kansas, and later another studio in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory. Croft continued to practice photography into the early years of the twentieth century until his death in 1909. In addition to his numerous photographs of Native Americans, Croft is also known for documenting the 1893 Land Run in Oklahoma, as well as for taking what is considered to be the first photographic image of a tornado, shot in May of 1896 in Oklahoma City.

Scope and Contents

The Thomas Croft cabinet cards collection consists of nineteen cabinet card images taken between approximately 1888 and 1894 near Arkansas City, Kansas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory. The photos depict men, women, and children from a number of Southern Plains Indian communities living in the regions then known as the Oklahoma and Indian Territories. Communities depicted include Oklahoma Cherokee, Niuam (Comanche), Kiowa, Otoe, Chaticks Si Chaticks (Pawnee), Ponca, and Sac and Fox individuals and groups. These cabinet cards consist of studio portraits as well as less formalized photographs shot outside of the studio on Native reservations and at the nearby Chilocco Indian School.

Scope and Contents

Please note that the language and terminology used in this collection reflects the context and culture of the time of its creation, and may include culturally sensitive information. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

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:

- American Indian -- Southern Plains
- Chaticks Si Chaticks (Pawnee)
- Kiowa
- Niuam (Comanche)
- Oklahoma Cherokee

Oto
Ponca
Sac and Fox (Sauk & Fox)

Cultures:

American Indian -- Southern Plains
Chaticks Si Chaticks (Pawnee)
Kiowa
Niuam (Comanche)
Oklahoma Cherokee
Oto
Ponca
Sac and Fox (Sauk & Fox)

Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	<p>P26728: Chilocco Indian School buildings, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph</p> <p>Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Chilocco Indian School buildings. Photographed by Thomas Croft.</p> <p>Culture: American Indian -- Southern Plains</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P26724: Unidentified Native American woman, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph</p> <p>Notes: Portrait photograph of an unidentified Native American woman. Photographed in the field by Thomas Croft.</p> <p>Please note that the language and terminology used in this collection reflects the context and culture of the time of its creation, and may include culturally sensitive information. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.</p> <p>Culture: American Indian -- Southern Plains</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P26722: Joel B. Mayes, Principal Chief of the Oklahoma Cherokee, 1888-1891 1 Cabinet photograph</p> <p>Notes: Portrait photograph of Joel B. Mayes, Principal Chief of the Cherokee in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Photographed by Thomas Croft.</p> <p>Culture: Oklahoma Cherokee</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P26732: Niuam (Comanche) village near Fort Sill, Indian Territory, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph</p> <p>Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of a Niuam (Comanche) village near Fort Sill, Indian Territory. Photographed by Thomas Croft.</p> <p>Culture: Niuam (Comanche)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P26733: Unidentified Niuam (Comanche) woman and child, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph</p> <p>Notes: Portrait photograph of an unidentified Niuam (Comanche) woman and child. Photographed in the field by Thomas Croft.</p> <p>Please note that the language and terminology used in this collection reflects the context and culture of the time of its creation, and may include culturally sensitive information. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.</p> <p>Culture: Niuam (Comanche)</p>

Photo-folder 2 P26734: [Unidentified Niuam \(Comanche\) girls, circa 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Portrait photograph of two unidentified Niuam (Comanche) girls. Photographed in the field by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Niuam (Comanche)

Photo-folder 2 P26723: [Hummingbird, Kiowa Chief, circa 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Portrait photograph of Chief Hummingbird of the Kiowa. Photographed in the field by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Kiowa

Photo-folder 2 P26725: [Dosino or Do-Chan-No, Kiowa, circa 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Portrait photograph of Dosino or Do-Chan-No, daughter of Kiowa Chief Hummingbird. Photographed in the field by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Kiowa

Photo-folder 2 P26729: [Chief Hummingbird's Camp, circa 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Kiowa Chief Hummingbird's Camp. Photographed by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Kiowa

Photo-folder 2 P26730: [Unidentified Kiowa girls and child, circa 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Portrait photograph of two unidentified Kiowa girls and child. Photographed in the field by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Kiowa

Photo-folder 3 P26731: [Little Bow's Tipi, circa 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Little Bow's Tipi in a Kiowa village in the Oklahoma Territory. Photographed by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Kiowa

Photo-folder 3 P26727: [Otoe Indian Police, 1892](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of unidentified Otoe Indian Police. Photographed by Thomas Croft.
Culture: Oto

Photo-folder 3 P26740: [Chaticks Si Chaticks \(Pawnee\) women and children, 1890](#)
1 Cabinet photograph
Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of several Chaticks Si Chaticks (Pawnee) women and children. Individuals believed to be (from left to right): Lizzie Leading Fox, Kate Sky Seeing, Clara Ricketts holding Ben Gover, and Stah-kah Coons with unidentified child. Photographed by Thomas Croft.

	Culture: Chaticks Si Chaticks (Pawnee)
Photo-folder 3	P26735: RESTRICTED, 1894 1 Cabinet photograph Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Ponca mourning dance. Photographed by Thomas Croft. Culture: Ponca
Photo-folder 3	P26738: RESTRICTED, 1894 1 Cabinet photograph Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Ponca burial ground. Photographed by Thomas Croft. Culture: Ponca
Photo-folder 4	P26739: Ponca women's dance, July 1894 1 Cabinet photograph Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Ponca women's dance. Photographed by Thomas Croft. Please note that the language and terminology used in this collection reflects the context and culture of the time of its creation, and may include culturally sensitive information. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution, but is available in its original form to facilitate research. Culture: Ponca
Photo-folder 4	P26726: Sac and Fox Chief Pa-Ship-Pa-Ho and community members, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Sac and Fox community members with Chief Pa-Ship-Pa-Ho in center. Photographed by Thomas Croft near Stroud, Oklahoma Territory. Culture: Sac and Fox (Sauk & Fox)
Photo-folder 4	P26736: Sac and Fox Chief Pa-Ship-Pa-Ho with council, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph Notes: Cabinet Card photograph of Sac and Fox council members with Chief Pa-Ship-Pa-Ho in center. Photographed by Thomas Croft near Stroud, Oklahoma Territory. Culture: Sac and Fox (Sauk & Fox)
Photo-folder 4	P26737: Sac and Fox Chief Pa-Ship-Pa-Ho, circa 1890 1 Cabinet photograph Notes: Portrait photograph of Sac and Fox Chief Pa-Ship-Pa-Ho. Photographed by Thomas Croft near Stroud, Oklahoma Territory. Culture: Sac and Fox (Sauk & Fox)