



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

Dr. E.C. MacDowell collection

Mattie Lewis

20025

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Dr. E.C. MacDowell collection
<b>Date:</b>	1929
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.360
<b>Creator:</b>	MacDowell, E. C. (1887-1973)
<b>Extent:</b>	85 Photographic prints 20 Photographic postcards
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection includes 50 photographs and 55 photograph post cards taken circa 1930 at the Chichen Itza and Uxmal ruins in Mexico.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Matthew B. Bessell, 1985.

### Related Materials

Field notes and drawings related to the trip can be found in the Museum of the American Indian records- NMAI.AC.001, box 260 folders 16-26 and box 429 folder 5.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Mattie Lewis, Archives Technician in 2025.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Dr. E.C. MacDowell collection, image #, NMAI.AC.360; 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)).

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## Biographical / Historical

Edwin Carleton (E.C.) MacDowell (1887-1973) was a geneticist specializing in experimental evolution. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 1909 and completed his PHD in Zoology from Harvard in 1913. He taught zoology at Dartmouth and biology at Yale before starting at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, where he studied hereditary factors for leukemia and the influence of alcohol on prenatal mortality. After World War I, he was a Quaker relief worker in France with the American Friends Reconstruction Unit. MacDowell also served as secretary of the Long Island Biological Association.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains 85 black and white gelatin prints and 20 black and white photograph postcards ranging in size from 1.5x2 inches to 3x5 inches. The photographer is unknown, but they were collected by Dr. E.C. MacDowell during an archaeological expedition to Chichen Itza and Uxmal conducted by the Carnegie Institution of Washington in 1929. Some of the photographs are repeats.

Image numbers P28608-PP28708, P24097-P34100.

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## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by site, then 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:

Maya (archaeological culture)

Cultures:

Maya (archaeological culture)

Places:

Chichen Itza (Mexico) -- Archeology

Uxmal (Mexico) -- Yucatan -- Mexico -- archeology

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## Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	Aerial photographs, 1929 2 Photographic prints Notes: Two copies of a black and white photograph overlooking an unknown site in Yucatan, Mexico. Image numbers P28684 and P28698.
Photo-folder 2	Architecture, 1929 2 Photographic prints 2 Photographic postcards Notes: Two 3x5 inch black and white photographs and two postcards of arches and churches in Mexico. Two of the sites are unidentified. The other two are El Arco del Puente Merida and La Catedral Merida. Image numbers P28617, P28629, P28639, P28640.
Photo-folder 3	Chichen Itza: Akab-Dzib, 1929 1 Photographic postcard Notes: One 3x5 in black and white photograph of the Akab-Dzib building at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image number P28624.
Photo-folder 4	Chichen Itza: ball court, 1929 2 Photographic prints 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Two black and white photographs and one black and white postcard of the ball court at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image numbers P28618, P28656, P28657.
Photo-folder 5	Chichen Itza: church, 1929 5 Photographic prints 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Five black and white photographs and one postcard of the church at the Chichen Itza ruins, a temple dedicated to Chaac, the god of rain. Image numbers P28622, P28633, P28659, P28660, P28671, P28689.
Photo-folder 6	Chichen Itza: excavation, 1929 6 Photographic prints Notes: Two 3x5 inch and four oversize black and white photographs and of the excavation site behind the warrior temple, where Dr. E.C. MacDowell was working at Chichen Itza. Image numbers P28631, P28643, P34097-P34100.
Photo-folder 7	Chichen Itza: Kukulcan pyramid, 1929

	5 Photographic prints 2 Photographic postcards Notes: Five black and white photographs and two black and white postcards of the Kukulcan pyramid (El Castillo) at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image numbers P28608, P28619, P28661, P28664, P28670, P28681, P28696.
Photo-folder 8	Chichen Itza: monastery, 1929 6 Photographic prints Notes: Five black and white photographs of the monastery (las monjas) at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image numbers P28655, P28702-P28706.
Photo-folder 9	Chichen Itza: observatory, 1929 2 Photographic prints 1 Photographic postcard Notes: Two black and white photographs and one black and white postcard of the observator (el caracol) at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image numbers P28621, P28668, P28692.
Photo-folder 10	Chichen Itza: ossuary, 1929 1 Photographic postcard Notes: One black and white photograph of the ossuary (el osario) at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image number P28620
Photo-folder 11	Chichen Itza: Red House, 1929 1 Photographic postcard Notes: One black and white photograph of the Red House (El Chichan Chob) at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image number P28623
Photo-folder 12	Chichen Itza: Temple of the Jaguars, 1929 4 Photographic prints Notes: Four photographs depicting the same view of two animal head statues at the Temple of the Jaguars at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image numbers P28666, P28667, P28690, P28691
Photo-folder 13	Chichen Itza: Temple of Three Lintels, 1929 1 Photographic print Notes: One 1.5x2 inch black and white photograph of the Temple of Three Lintels at the Chichen Itza ruins. Image number P28658.
Photo-folder 14	Chichen Itza: Warrior Temple, 1929

11 Photographic prints

5 Photographic postcards

Notes: Eleven black and white photographs and five black and white postcards of the Warrior Temple (Templo de Los Guerreros) at the Chichen Itzen Ruins.

Image numbers P28625-P28628, P28630, P28632, P28644, P28645, P28662, P28663, P28665, P28672, P28699, P28700, P28707, P28708.

Photo-folder 15

Gardens, 1929

4 Photographic prints

Notes: Four black and white photographs of gardens in Yucatan, thought to be near Chichen Itza.

Image numbers P28639, P28682, P28697, P28701.

Photo-folder 16

Thatched houses I, 1929

8 Photographic prints

1 Photographic postcard

Notes: Eight black and white photographs and one postcard of houses with thatched roofs, which were typical for the time and area.

Image numbers P28635-P28638, P28641, P28642, P28673-P28675.

Photo-folder 17

Thatched houses II, 1929

9 Photographic prints

Notes: Nine black and white photographs of houses with thatched roofs in the Yucatan, which were typical of the time and location.

Image numbers P28676-P28680. P28683, P28693-P28695.

Photo-folder 18

Transportation, 1929

13 Photographic prints

Notes: Thirteen black and white photographs of sea planes, a bus, and station.

Image numbers P28646-P28654, P28685-P28688

Photo-folder 19

Uxmal: Governor's Palace, 1929

2 Photographic postcards

Notes: Two black and white postcards of the Governor's Palace (El Gobernador) at the Uxmal ruins.

Image numbers P28614, P28615

Photo-folder 20

Uxmal: House of Pigeons, 1929

1 Photographic postcard

Notes: One black and white photograph of the House of Pigeons (Las Palomas) at the Uxmal ruins.

Image number P28616

Photo-folder 21

Uxmal: Monastery

1 Photographic print

4 Photographic postcards

Notes: Five black and white photographs of the monastery (Las Monjas) at the Uxmal ruins.

Image numbers P28610-P28613, P28669

Photo-folder 22

Uxmal: Pyramid of the Magician, 1929

1 Photographic postcard

Notes: One black and white postcard of the Pyramid of the Magician (El Adivino) at the Uxmal ruins.

Image number P28609