



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Monroe Killy Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) films

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Monroe Killy Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) films
Date:	circa 1939-1949
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.430
Creator:	Killy, Monroe P., 1910- (Filmmaker)
Extent:	6 Film reels
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains 6 moving image films depicting the Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) community in Minnesota that were filmed by amateur filmmaker Monroe P. Killy, circa 1939-1949.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Acquired from Monroe P. Killy in 1972.

Related Materials

The Minnesota Historical Society also holds Monroe P. Killy films.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Monroe Killy Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) films, image #, NMAI.AC.430; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is closed to researchers until it has been digitized.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Monroe P. Killy was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on October 28, 1910. He worked as an amateur photographer and ethnologist, while he managed the Eastman Kodak store Minneapolis laboratory. In addition to being an avid collector of American Indian cultural materials, he was also active in the Minneapolis Photographic Society. He died in 2010.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 6 moving image films shot by Monroe P. Killy from 1939-1949. The films depict Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) community in Minnesota and include the following titles: Sugar Bush (1939), Chippewa Handicraft (1939), The Moccasin (1940), Wild Rice Harvest (1940), Anishinaabe (1949), and Pow-wow (date unknown).

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology.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

Films are arranged in 6 film canisters by date.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Cultures:

Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Container Listing

Sugar Bush, 1939
1 Film reel
Filmmaker: Killy, Monroe P., 1910-
Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Chippewa Handicraft, 1939
1 Film reel
Filmmaker: Killy, Monroe P., 1910-
Notes: This film depicts Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) possibly at the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation in Minnesota, harvesting and preparing wild rice, spearfishing through ice, collecting sap and making maple syrup, playing games, gathering birchbark making birchbark items, and preparing skins for leather and sewing moccasins. Filmed by Monroe Killy in 1939.
Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

The Moccasin, 1940
Filmmaker: Killy, Monroe P., 1910-
Notes: This film shows Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) women at Leech Lake, Minnesota tanning hides and making moccasins decorated with beadwork and a woman [Sahnish (Arikara) or Minitari (Hidatsa)] at Fort Berthold, North Dakota tanning cow hide and doing quillwork on clothing. Filmed by Monroe P. Killy in 1940.
Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Wild Rice Harvest, 1940
1 Film reel
Filmmaker: Killy, Monroe P., 1910-
Notes: This film shows a traditional Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) wild rice harvest including parching, threshing or jiggling by foot power, and fanning. Participants are the John Chicag family and Gerald Strong. Filmed by Monroe P. Kelly (1910-2010) on the Nett Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota in 1940.
Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Anicnabe [Anishinaabe], 1949
1 Film reel
Filmmaker: Killy, Monroe P., 1910-
Notes: This film shows pictographs on Drum Island, Nett Lake and spirit houses at Kathio, Mille Lacs Indian Reservation in Minnesota. The film also includes footage showing Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa) games (stick game, moccasin game and bowl game) played at the 1949 Territorial Centennial at Itasca State Park and a pow-wow at Lake Calhoun during the 1949 Minneapolis Aquatennial. Filmed by Monroe Killy in 1949.
Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Pow-wow
1 Film reel
Filmmaker: Killy, Monroe P., 1910-
Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)