



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Comalk-Hawk-Kih songs of
Akimel O'odham (Pima) stories

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	
Bibliography	3
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Comalk-Hawk-Kih songs of Akimel O'odham (Pima) stories
Date:	circa 1903
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.435
Creator:	Comalk-Hawk-Kih (Singer) Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940 (Recordist)
Extent:	12 Sound cylinders
Language:	Multiple languages .
Summary:	This collection contains 12 wax cylinder sound recordings of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Museum of the American Indian/Heye Foundation by J. William Lloyd in 1922.

Provenance

According to Museum of the American Indian wax cylinder inventory undated paperwork, these wax cylinders were originally in a wooden box with a pencil notation on top: "Mouldy when packed--July 14--1922." The paperwork also reads, "Phonograph records of Pima Songs presented by J. Wm. Lloyd Esq. July 1922." This inventory also includes handwritten annotations numbering the song titles from 1-12.

At some point, these wax cylinders were transferred to archival boxes and were labeled with the following ID number: 83-906-F. Each wax cylinder was also at some point assigned a number and a letter: SCY 6026/A- SCY 6037/L.

It is believed that SCY 6026/A corresponds to song title #1 on this list, SCY 6026/B corresponds to song title #2 and so on. However the order of the songs 1-12 does not appear to match Lloyd's description of the order of the songs as they were told to him. Therefore, in this finding aid, the songs have been organized by the order which they were sung to Lloyd, but each original item number was preserved in the finding aid.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Comalk-Hawk-Kih songs of Akimel O'odham (Pima) stories, image #, NMAI.AC.435; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is closed until the materials have been digitized and further tribal community consultation.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) was known as an American utopian anarchist. In 1901, he befriended Edward H. Wood [Akimel O'odham (Pima)] at the Pan-American Fair, at Buffalo. According to Lloyd, the two became friendly and Wood relayed that his grand-uncle Comalk-Hawk-Kih (also known as Thin Buckskin and William Higgins) was a see-nee-yaw-kum, or professional traditionalist, and that he had no successor to learn ancient Akimel O'odham (Pima) stories.

In 1903, Lloyd and Wood visited the Gila River Reservation in Arizona. Over the course of several weeks, Comalk-Hawk-Kih told several Akimel O'odham (Pima) stories, which were translated by Wood and transcribed by Lloyd. According to Lloyd, "The stories were also embellished with songs, some of which I had translated. They were chants of from one to four lines each, seldom more than two, many times repeated in varying cadence; weird, somber, thrillingly passionate in places, and by no means unmusical, but, of course, monotonous. I obtained phonograph records of a number, and the translations given are as literal as possible."

In 1911, Lloyd published, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, which recounted this trip, his meetings with Comalk-Hawk-Kih, and transcriptions of the translated songs and stories. Lloyd's transcriptions of the song lyrics are included in this finding aid.

However, it should be noted that Lloyd's language and terminology reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation, and may include culturally sensitive information. As a 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.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 12 Edison moulded wax cylinder sound recordings of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih (also known as Thin Buckskin and William Higgins), translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded on wax cylinders by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903.

The songs titles as recorded by Lloyd include:

1. Song of Creation
2. Before the Flood
3. Song of Superstition Mountains
4. Ee-ee-toy Makes the World Serpents
5. When Noo-ee Meets the Sun
6. When Noo-ee Kills Ee-ee-toy
7. Song of Ee-ee-toy's Army
8. Song of the Hunter's Failure
9. Song Before the Fight with Cheof-hahvo Seeven
10. Corn To Tobacco's Father
11. Tcheunassat Seeven's song
12. Lark's Song about his Lost Wife, flute song

Arrangement

The recordings are arranged in the order that Comalk-Hawk-Kih presumably sung them to J. William Lloyd in 1903.

Bibliography

J. William Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, contains additional information about his visit to Gila River Reservation in 1903, about the stories told and sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih, and his interpretations of this information. This publication has been digitized and is available online through various sources.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Cultures:

Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Container Listing

Recording 1: Song of Creation, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"Juhwerta Mahkai's Song of Creation"

Juhwerta mahkai made the world—

Come and see it and make it useful!

He made it round—

Come and see it and make it useful!

SCY 6029/D

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 2: Before the Flood, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"Juhwerta Mahkai's Song before the Flood"

My poor people,

Who will see,

Who will see

This water which will moisten the earth!

SCY 6035/J

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 3: Song of Superstition Mountains, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"The Song of Superstition Mountains"

We are destroyed!

By my stone we are destroyed!

We are rightly turned into stone.

SCY 6032/G

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 4: Ee-ee-toy Makes the World Serpents, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih
Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940
Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"Ee-ee-toy's Song when He made the World Serpents"

I know what to do;

I am going to move the water

both ways.

SCY 6027/B

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 5: When Noo-ee Meets the Sun, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih
Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940
Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"The Song of Nooee when he went to the Sun"

The Rising (Sun) I am going to meet. (Repeated many times)

SCY 6031/F

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 6: When Noo-ee Kills Ee-ee-toy, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"When Nooee Killed Ee-ee-toy"

The gun, he gave it to me as a cane;

With it I killed the Brother's heart.

SCY 6037/L

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 7: Song of Ee-ee-toy's Army, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"The First Song of Ee-ee-toy's Army"

The White Earth I come to and sing;

Where many war-bonnets are shaking with the wind;

There we come together to dance and to sing.

SCY 6033/H

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 8: Song of the Hunter's Failure, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights*

Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona, the translation of the song is as follows:

"The Doctor's Song to the Hunters"

Sahn-a-mahl!*

Haymohl give me the necklace!

Soadack Ceeavawt give me the turquoise ear-rings!

[* Sahn-a-mahl: This word was not translated—probably archaic and the meaning forgotten.]

SCY 6034/I

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 9: Song Before the Fight with Cheof-hahvo Seeven, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"Song before the Fight with Cheof-Hahvo Seeven"

In the land where there are a great many galley-worms—

I will get the doctor out,

It will lighten his heart.

SCY 6028/C

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 10: Corn To Tobacco's Father , 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903.

SCY 6026/A

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 11: Tcheunassat Seeven's song, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated

by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903. According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"A Song of Tcheunassat Seeven"

There stands a dead vahahkkee

On top of it there runs back and forth the Seeven

And he has a robe with yellow hand prints on it.

SCY 6030/E

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)

Recording 12: Lark's Song about his Lost Wife, flute song, 1903

1 Sound cylinder

Singer: Comalk-Hawk-Kih

Recordist: Lloyd, J. Wm. (John William), 1857-1940

Notes: This item is a sound recording of Akimel O'odham (Pima) songs that were sung by Comalk-Hawk-Kih [Akimel O'odham (Pima)], translated by his grandnephew Edward H. Wood, and recorded by J. William Lloyd (1857-1940) on the Gila River Reservation, Arizona in 1903.

According to Lloyd's 1911 publication, *Aw-Aw-Tam Indian Nights Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona*, the translation of the song is as follows:

"The Lark's Song about his Lost Wife"

My poor wife!

In the West she seems to be bound by the song of the Bamboo.

Lloyd notes the following about the song, "This is a Pima flute-song, a record of which I obtained for my phonograph while in Arizona. It has no direct connection with the legends; but illustrates the Story of Tcheunassat Seeven a little, as it is about a woman, the wife of an Indian named the Lark, who is led away by the seductive singing of another Indian named the Bamboo; the Indians having an idea that women were most easily seduced by music. The Pimas, when they speak English, calling the wild cane bamboo."

SCY 6036/K

Culture: Akimel O'odham (Pima)