



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

General Manuscripts and Ephemera collections

NMAI Archive Center staff

2017

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	General Manuscripts and Ephemera collections
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.998
Date:	undated
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Creator:	National Museum of the American Indian (U.S.)
Language:	English
Summary:	The General Manuscripts and Ephemera collections contains documents and ephemera concerning people, events, and activities related to the historical and contemporary lives of Native peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The National Museum of the American Indian and its predecessor, Museum of the American Indian, acquired the manuscripts and ephemera in this collection from 1916 to the present.

Processing Information

Processed by NMAI Archives staff.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); General Manuscripts and Ephemera collections, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive 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).

Conditions Governing Use

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Indian. For more information please see the Smithsonian's [Terms of Use](#) and NMAI Archive Center's [Digital Image request](#) website.

Biographical / Historical

The manuscripts, papers and ephemera in this collection were created by many different people and organizations and concern a variety of topics. For specific biographical and historical notes please see individual collections listed in this guide.

Scope and Contents

The General Manuscripts and ephemera collections is comprised of individual small collections of manuscripts, papers and ephemera that were acquired by the Archive Center from various sources. These small collections are presented together under a single collection for easy access and depict the historical and contemporary lives of Native peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Arrangement

This collection is organized in folders by accession numbers.

Container Listing

Map-case 14

1994.0022- "The Song of Hiawatha" program, circa 1908-1913

[Image\(s\)](#)

Dixon, Joseph K. (Joseph Kossuth)

Wanamaker, Rodman, 1863-1928

Rodman Wanamaker (1863-1928) was the sole surviving heir of Philadelphia-based department store magnate, John Wanamaker. Rodman, among his other philanthropic endeavors with the arts, believed that Native Americans were a "noble, though vanishing race," whose lives needed to be recorded before they disappeared. Because of this belief, he funded three expeditions (1908-1913) to "perpetuate the life stories of the first Americans." In addition, he also strove, and ultimately failed, to create a National Indian Memorial to be situated in New York City which would rival the Statue of Liberty.

Joseph K. Dixon (1858-1926) was born in New York, and received a bachelor of divinity degree from the Rochester Theological Seminary before becoming a lecturer for the Eastman Kodak photographic company in 1904. Two years later he was hired to work in Wanamaker's department store, and by 1908 he was chosen to lead the three Wanamaker expeditions (1908-1913) to document the lives and cultures of Native peoples of the United States. For the remainder of his life, Dixon frequently lectured on and continued to photograph the lives of Native Americans.

A program for the production of "the Song of Hiawatha" at the Wanamaker Auditorium in New York, New York, circa 1908-1913. The show was produced by Joseph K. Dixon.

Donated by Marguerite Lavin in memory of Sylvan Katz

2002.0018- North American Indigenous Games handbook, 2002

0.01 Linear feet

North American Indigenous Games Council

This file contains the North American Indigenous Games athletes handbook for the Winnipeg, Canada games in 2002. The handbook is in English and French.

Gift of Ann Drumheller, 2002.

2002.0021- Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum brochures, circa 2002

0.01 Linear feet

This file contains two brochures from circa 2002 for the Seminole's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Clewiston, Florida. One brochure is printed in English and the other in German.

Gift of Marian Kaminitz, 2002.

Souvenirs from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum are also held in NMAI's object collection under the catalog numbers 259664-259670.

Culture: Seminole

2003.0098- Denver March Pow Wow ephemera, 1983-2002

0.01 Linear feet

Denver March Pow Wow

This file contains ephemera related to the annual Denver March Pow Wow in Colorado. The material includes brochures, posters, programs, flyers, and wall calendars from circa 1983-2002.

Gift of Grace Gillette in 2003.

2004.0036- Paddle or Die bumper sticker, September 21, 2004

0.01 Linear feet

This file contains 1 bumper sticker that reads "September 21, 2004, Paddle or Die." The bumper sticker was commissioned for the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian's Mall Museum.

Box 1

2004.0056- Jim Thorpe autograph, 1940

0.01 Linear feet

Thorpe, Jim, 1887-1953

This file contains 1 sheet of paper with Jim Thorpe's autograph, and is dated to 1940.

Gift of Robert Lantz in 2004.

Box 1

2004.0079- Ancestors of Jim Thorpe: An Annotated Genealogy and Bibliography by Dagmar Thorpe, 2003

0.05 Linear feet

Seely, Dagmar

This file contains a copy of Dagmar Thorpe's Ancestors of Jim Thorpe: An Annotated Genealogy and Bibliography (1700-1887).

Gift of James Kincaid Johnson and Peggy Fontenot in 2004.

A Wheaties cereal box, featuring an image of Jim Thorpe and his daughter Grace Thorpe's autograph, was also donated to the NMAI by James Kincaid Johnson and Peggy Fontenot in 2004. This item was assigned object number 26/4641.

This material is not for reproduction, but for reference use only.

Names: Thorpe, Jim, 1887-1953

Box 1

2004.0093- Legislative Resolution proclaiming Navajo Code Talkers Day, 2004

0.01 Linear feet

This file contains a Legislative Resolution Memorializing Governor George E. Pataki to Proclaim August 14, 2004, as Navajo Code Talkers Day in New York State.

Gift of Catherine Nolan in 2004.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Box 1

2004.0104- Watie Riley Pickens materials, 1944-1994

0.03 Linear feet

This file contains paper and photographic materials relating to the early life and musical career of Cherokee songwriter and performer Watie Riley Pickens, including sheet music produced by Pickens and partner Bobby Lee Cude.

Gift of Bobby Lee Cude in 2004.

Culture: Oklahoma Cherokee

Box 1

2004.0105- Kateri Tekakwitha prayer cards and brochure, 2001

0.01 Linear feet

This file contains modern paper prayer cards and a paper brochure about the life of Mohawk Saint Kateri Tekakwitha created in 2001.

Gift of Kenneth Tietjen in 2004.

Culture: Mohawk

2004.0107- Indigenous Presence in Bolivan Folk Art exhibition catalog, 2004

0.01 Linear feet

Inter-American Development Bank

One exhibition catalog, "Indigenous Presence in Bolivan Folk Art," produced by the Inter-American Development Bank (an international organization supporting Latin American and Caribbean economic and social development, headquartered in Washington, D.C.). The exhibit ran at the Cultural Center Art Gallery in Washington, DC from August 23, 2004 to November 12, 2004. The catalog and exhibition featured some of the objects that were later donated to NMAI by Inter-American Development Bank. The catalog is in English and Spanish.

Donated to NMAI by the Inter-American Development Bank in 2004.

This booklet was donated to NMAI along with materials now housed in NMAI's object collection (catalog numbers: 265103-265118).

2005.0112- Rosebud Indian Land Sale document, 1929 December 5

0.01 Linear feet

[Image\(s\)](#)

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs

Leaf out of a newspaper describing a Rosebud Indian Land Sale held on December 5, 1929. This was found inside a Sioux Tobacco bag made sometime between 1880 and 1890. The bag has catalog number 26/5468 (265468) and can be found in NMAI's ethnographic collections. It was then used as inspiration for a lithographic print "Trust and Loss" by Dyani White Hawk Polk. The print is now in NMAI's modern and contemporary arts collection with catalog number 26/9784 (269784).

The tobacco bag was given to William J. Sheehan (Director of the Defense Department Office of Economic Adjustment) by McCarthy Nowlin (Deputy Directory of the Defense Department Office of Economic Adjustment) in the 1970s; given to NMAI by William J. Sheehan's wife, Kathleen Sheehan, in 2005, on behalf of William J. Sheehan, McCarthy Nowlin, and herself.

- Culture: Sicangu Lakota [Rosebud Sioux]
- Map-case 14 2005.0118- Executive Memorandum, 2004
0.01 Linear feet
Executive Memorandum reaffirming the federal government's commitment to support and respect tribal sovereignty and self-determination.
Gift of Ruben Barrales in 2005.
- 2006.0084- Advertisement for an Arzberg Porcelain with Tom Two Arrows design, circa 1960-1969
0.01 Linear feet
Advertisement for an Arzberg Porcelain (Arzberg, Germany) manufactured "Fawn" dinnerware pattern in the 1960s. The pattern is based on an original painting by artist Tom Two Arrows [Lenape (Delaware)]. The NMAI holds a similar plate in its collection cataloged as 259750.
Advertisement is the gift of Ann McMullen, 2006.
- Culture: Lenape (Delaware)
- Box 1 2007.0024- The Power of the Aboriginal Perspective booklet, 1992
0.01 Linear feet
Standing Rock College
This booklet consists of a number of essays written by students at Standing Rock College (now renamed Sitting Bull College) in Fort Yates, North Dakota, in 1992. The essays reflect Native American perspectives and traditional knowledge.
Gift of Tom Geoghan, Robert Becker, Edward and Sharon Village Center, and students at Standing Rock College. Donated in 2007.
- Culture: Dakota -- Standing Rock
Hunkpapa Lakota (Hunkpapa Sioux)
- Box 1;
Map-case 14 2007.0037- National HIV/AIDS Partnership booklet and poster, 2006-2007
0.02 Linear feet
Native American Management Services
This file contains a booklet and a poster from the National HIV/AIDS Partnership Red Ribbon Leadership Awards that took place on December 1, 2006 in Washington, DC.
Gift of Native American Management Services in 2007.
Former owner: Native American Management Services, Former owner
- 2007.0054- "Shaman Telling the Raven's Tale" poster by Marvin Oliver, 2007

0.01 Linear feet

[Image\(s\)](#)

Oliver, Marvin, 1946-

Marvin Oliver (Quinault/Isleta-Pueblo) is a Native American glass artist, sculptor and printmaker. Oliver has a B.A. from San Francisco State University and a M.F.A. from the University of Washington.

Oliver is Professor of American Indian Studies and Art at the University of Washington, and serves as Adjunct Curator of Contemporary Native American Art at the Burke Museum.

A signed poster depicting "Shaman Telling Raven's Tale" by Marvin Oliver (Quinault/Isleta) used for the 2007 Sante Fe Indian Market.

Donated by Marvin Oliver in 2007.

Culture: Isleta Pueblo
Quinault

Map-case 14

2008.0018- Indians as Mascots poster, 1987

0.01 Linear feet

Concerned American Indian Parents

Helmberger, Pat L., Donor

A poster featuring three fictional sports team pennants of the Pittsburgh Negroes, the Kansas City Jews, and the San Diego Caucasians, contrasted with one real pennant of the Cleveland Indians. The poster reads, "Maybe Now You Know How Native Americans Feel. For too long, America has treated its original citizens like mascots instead of people. If you'd like to help change that, write to us at 100 N. 6th Street, Suite 531-B, Minneapolis, MN 55403 or call (612) 333-5365. Concerned American Indian Parents."

This poster was created in 1987 by the Minnesota-based group Concerned American Indian Parents, and through the efforts of member/founder Phil St. John [Sisitonwan Dakota (Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe)]. St. John distributed the posters in order to challenge racial stereotyping and to confront the negative use of Indians as mascots.

Donated by Pat L. Helmberger in 2008.

Donor: Helmberger, Pat L., Donor

Box 1;
Map-case 14

2008.0041- American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California booklet, yearbook, and map, 2008

0.02 Linear feet

Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

This file contains a program booklet, yearbook, and map from the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California commemorative luncheon that took place on November 6, 2008 in Pasadena, California.

Gift of Kevin Gover in 2008.

Donor: Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

2008.0062- Native Vote (Obama) 2008 poster and postcards, 2008
0.01 Linear feet

[Image\(s\)](#)

Red Corn, Ryan, Artist

Poster and post cards for Native Vote 2008 with red image of a seated Barack Obama in suit with pin reading "Native Vote" in front of a large orange feather design on the left with text "Native Vote 2008" at top, all on yellow background. The poster was designed by Ryan Red Corn (Osage).

Donated by Kevin Gover, NMAI Director in 2008.

Donor: Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

Names: Obama, Barack

Box 1

2008.0063- Great Northern Railway menu, circa 1950-1959
0.01 Linear feet

Great Northern Railway Company

This file contains a menu for the Great Northern Railway, produced circa 1950-1959. The menu cover includes an illustration of Many White Horses and Eagle Calf, Pikuni (Piegan) men of the Blackfeet Nation in Browning, Montana.

Gift of Ann W. Rose in 2008.

Culture: Pikuni Blackfeet (Piegan)

Box 1

2010.0048- Muscogee (Creek) National Council pamphlet, 2010
0.01 Linear feet

This file contains a pamphlet created by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council in 2010. Included are brief addresses from the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and Speaker, as well as a History of the Creek Council House, and a Creek Council House Time Line.

Gift of Muscogee (Creek) National Council in 2010.

In addition to this pamphlet, the Muscogee (Creek) National Council also donated 4 objects including a t-shirt, a pen, a coin, and an ink well, which are now in the NMAI Object Collections. These items have been assigned object numbers 26/7961 - 26/7964.

Culture: Muscogee

Map-case 14

2012.0053- Diné (Navajo) 1968 calendar, 1968
0.01 Linear feet

Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah

Between 1863 and 1866, the U.S. Army forced almost 12,000 Diné (Navajo) people from their ancestral homelands and relocated them 400 miles away to Fort Sumner, Bosque Redondo Reservation in New Mexico. On June 1, 1868, General William T. Sherman and Colonel Samuel F. Tappen met in Fort Sumner

with Diné (Navajo) leaders led by Chief Barboncito to negotiate a treaty to allow the Diné (Navajo) to return to their ancestral homelands.

A poster-size calendar published by the Diné (Navajo) tribe in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of June 1, 1868. The calendar is in English and the Diné language and features photographs and timelines of historic dates.

Transferred from the National Anthropological Archives in 2012.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Box 1

2014.0010- Program booklet of the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in honor of Native American Code Talkers, 2013

0.01 Linear feet

Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

This file contains the program booklet from the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in honor of Native American Code Talkers that took place November 20, 2013 at the United States Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, DC.

Gift of Kevin Gover in 2014.

Donor: Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

Map-case 14

2017.0008- "We the Resilient" poster by Ernesto Yerena Montejano, 2017

0.01 Linear feet

[Image\(s\)](#)

Montejano, Ernesto Yerena

Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

Ernesto Yerena Montejano identifies himself as a Chicano/Native/Indigenous artist, and was born and raised in El Centro, CA. Yerena's work explores and challenges issues of identity, gender norms, and politics, and he regularly produces politically and socially conscious images. Yerena is the founder and curator of the Alto Arizona Art campaign as well as a founding member of the We Are Human campaign.

A poster featuring artist Ernesto Yerena Montejano's artistic rendition of photographer Ayşe Gürsöz's photograph of Helen "Granny" Redfeather (Lakota) protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock Reservation. The poster features the title "We the Resilient Have Been Here Before," and was used during the Women's March on January 21, 2017.

Donated by Kevin Gover in 2017.

Donor: Kevin, Gover, 1955-, Donor

Topic: Protest and social movements

Map-case 14

2017.0048- Trail of Broken Treaties protest march poster, 1973

0.01 Linear feet

[Image\(s\)](#)

Oakland Museum of California

The Trail of Broken Treaties cross-country protest began on the west coast in the fall of 1972 and ended in early November in Washington, DC. Participants traveled via car, bus, and van to bring attention to issues affecting American Indians and to advocate for better housing, education, and employment. Organizations that sponsored the protest included the American Indian Movement (AIM), the National American Indian Council, and the Native American Rights Fund.

A poster commemorating the 1972 Trail of Broken Treaties protest march. The poster was created for a 1973 exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California in Oakland, California. The poster reads, "Trail of Broken Treaties/ Co-Sponsors: Indians of all tribes and Special Exhibits and Education Department/ Cultural Activities Oakland Auditorium March 31- April 1/ Special Exhibition The Oakland Museum April 27-May 20."

Gift of Steve Hudziak in 2017.