

COEUR D'ALENE



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Documentation on the Coeur d’Alene Language and Culture: National Anthropological Archives Subject Guide

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

This guide highlights archival collections held at the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) and the Human Studies Film Archives (HSFA) related to the **Coeur d’Alene**. This guide is intended to facilitate research on the highlighted documentation by enhancing the discoverability of materials and efficiency of searches. The materials represented in this subject guide and held at the NAA are not exhaustive, nor are they representative of all the **Coeur d’Alene** documentation in existence. It is also important to understand that given the historical nature of this documentation—these materials were collected and catalogued throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries—its metadata reflects terminology in use at the time, which may be at odds with contemporary terminology. This terminology does not reflect the views of

the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives but is left in its original form to facilitate research. This guide is also a living document, subject to change and revision as staff updates catalog descriptions and access policies, and as further materials are processed and/or acquired by the NAA. *The NAA welcomes input and edits from Native community members, and works to incorporate these changes into catalog records, access policies, collection information, and subsequently, subject guides.*

Additional information about each collection is available in the catalog record in Collections Search Center ([CSC](#)) or the Smithsonian's Online Virtual Archive ([SOVA](#)). Further information for some collections can also be found in finding aids. Finding aids are more detailed than the annotations in this guide. They provide context for the materials described as well as a contents list, usually to the box and folder level, and sometimes to the item level. The existence of a finding aid will be noted (and linked) in the annotations within this guide. The National Museum of Natural History ([NMNH](#)) and the National Museum of the American Indian ([NMAI](#)) also have extensive object collections which can be searched in [CSC](#). NMAI's archival collections can likewise be searched both in [CSC](#) and in [SOVA](#).

Some of the materials within the collections of the NAA and HSFA are restricted because either the NAA or the community to which the records relate have deemed the materials sensitive.

UNDERSTANDING THE EMBEDDED LINKS IN THIS GUIDE

Links through the title of a collection will usually lead you to a record in the Collections Search Center (CSC) for the full collection. In cases where a CSC record does not exist for the full collection, the link will lead you to a set search in CSC which displays the items within the collection that have been catalogued.

Links through the phrase “Finding Aid available through SOVA” will lead you to the finding aid in the Smithsonian Online Virtual Library (SOVA). The finding aid's main page will contain all of the same information as the CSC catalog record, but if the collection is described in more detail, the lower levels of the collection can be navigated more easily through the SOVA record as their hierarchy is visible.

Links through the titles of articles or books will link you to a digital copy of the material.

Finally, links embedded in the name of other institutions will lead you to the websites of those institutions.

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

The NAA, along with the HSFA, collects and preserves historical and contemporary anthropological materials that document the world's cultures and the history of anthropology. The materials housed within the NAA include the papers of Smithsonian Institution employees, materials donated by other scholars, and materials copied from other institutions. The NAA is the successor to the archives of the Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE). The BAE was founded in 1879 as the Bureau of Ethnology (the name changed in 1894). It was created by the United States Congress as a subsidiary department of the Smithsonian Institution. The first director, John Wesley Powell (1834-1897), and his staff were concerned that the expansion of white culture into the west would lead to the destruction of Native American culture and wanted to record it before it disappeared. Powell was primarily interested in recording the languages of Native American tribes and directed his staff accordingly. He created a "schedule" of languages, which today we would call a standardized form. This schedule was a list of words grouped by theme with blank spaces to enter translations. These schedules comprise a significant portion of the BAE's early archival collections and were used in Powell's [*Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages*](#). In addition to linguistic records, Powell directed his staff to collect cultural objects and specimens, which was the primary interest of the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. After Powell's death in 1902, the activities of the BAE became less focused, and the staff members began to follow their own interests rather than a single overarching purpose. In 1964, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Dillon S. Ripley, announced that the BAE would be combined with the Department of Anthropology of the National Museum of Natural History. In 1968, The NAA was established, incorporating the collections of the BAE as well as the papers of the National Museum of Natural History's Division of Ethnology (Department of Anthropology). These collections include the Smithsonian's earliest attempts to document North American Indigenous cultures and the cultures of the world. The archival collections of the BAE are known as the Numbered Manuscript Collections. Much of the NAA's current holdings related to language documentation and ethnology were collected and created by Smithsonian anthropologists in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

COEUR D'ALENE BACKGROUND

The Coeur d'Alene tribe was originally called Schitsu'umsh (meaning "the discovered people" or "those who were found here")¹. They were given the name Coeur d'Alene (meaning "Heart of the Awl") by French traders in the late 18th or early 19th century. They have also been called the Skitwish. They speak a dialect of Salish and have traditionally inhabited a region of what is now northern Idaho, western Montana, and eastern Washington state. The Coeur d'Alene reservation

¹ "History," Coeur d'Alene Tribe, accessed August 3, 2021, <https://www.cdatribe-nsn.gov/our-tribe/history/>

was established by executive order in 1873 and encompasses 345,000 acres in northwestern Idaho, on the border of Washington state.

COEUR D'ALENE ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

The most significant portion of the NAA's collections relating to the Coeur d'Alene is the Robert E. Johnson papers (1969-1971). Johnson was a linguistic anthropologist who conducted fieldwork on the Coeur d'Alene reservation between 1969 and 1970 for his dissertation. He received his BA in anthropology from Stanford University and his PhD from Washington State University. He later taught at Gallaudet University in the Department of Linguistics.

It is important here to note the distinction between a creator and a collector. The creator of an archival collection is generally the person who collected the materials, regardless of who created the materials themselves. Many NAA collections are named for their collectors, who may have created all of the materials included, collected all of the materials included, or (most likely) some combination of the two. Where possible, the collections included in this guide list the people who created the materials as creator and the people who collected the materials as collector, though you will find the collectors listed as creators when you follow the links. It is possible, however, that information has been missed in some cases and so may appear misleading.

VOCABULARIES AND GRAMMATICAL NOTES

[Geoffrey N. O'Grady papers, 1949-2007 \(bulk 1957-1998\)](#)

Created by Geoffrey N. O'Grady. 11.8 Linear feet (24 document boxes, 3 card file boxes, 3 oversized boxes, 4 record storage boxes, and 3 map folders). [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

This collection is comprised of the professional papers of linguistic anthropologist Geoffrey O'Grady. Included are research materials consisting of field notes and notebooks, correspondence, published and unpublished writings, annotated copies of other scholars' work, photographs, and sound recordings. The materials in this collection document O'Grady's career as a linguistic scholar from his days as a jackaroo in the Australian outback to his time at the University of Victoria. The majority of the collection is made up of field research, which contains detailed vocabularies and linguistic analysis for aboriginal peoples of Australia and First Nation communities of Canada. [Series 5: Writings by Others, 1959-2005](#) includes an outline for a paper entitled [Historical Aspects of Coeur d'Alene Harmony](#).

[Robert E. Johnson papers on the Coeur d'Alene and Makah Languages, 1969-1971](#)

Created by Robert E. Johnson. 2.7 linear feet (4 document boxes, 2 boxes of index cards, and 16 sound recordings) plus 1 oversize box. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Some digital surrogates available.

This collection documents the research Robert E. Johnson conducted for his dissertation on the **Coeur d'Alene language**, as well as his fieldwork on the **Makah language**. Johnson's papers consist of field notes, audio recordings, index cards, and transcripts concerning both languages. **The Coeur d'Alene recordings are of Lawrence Nicodemus. The Makah recordings were done** with several of the last remaining speakers of that language, most of whom were over eighty years old when the recordings were made. [Series 1: Coeur d'Alene Language, 1969](#) contains field notes, index cards, and audio recordings from Johnson's doctoral research on the Coeur d'Alene language. The audio recordings were made with Lawrence Nicodemus on the Coeur d'Alene reservation in Idaho.

ETHNOGRAPHY

[Manuscript 1717: The Salishan Tribes of the Western Plateaus, before 1928](#)

Created by James Alexander Teit. 738 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

Includes "The Coeur d'Alene," "The Okanagon," and "The Flathead Group."

[Manuscript 3663: Correspondence concerning the Skitswish, 1922-1924](#)

Created by J. Neilson Barry. 1 folder. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

Concerns the Skitswish tribe, including the derivation of the name.

[Bureau of American Ethnology Administrative File, 1949-1965](#)

Created by the Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology. 20 linear inches.

Includes letters, memoranda, reports, statements, lectures, manuscripts, illustrations, cartographic material, minutes of meetings, research proposals, grant applications, lists, printed forms relating to travel and time, and other printed and processed materials. A considerable number of the documents concern efforts to justify the continued existence of the BAE during its last fifteen years. Other material relates to the research of staff anthropologists; publications, including a proposed handbook of Middle American Indians; and the management of the BAE in terms of office space, manpower, and budget. The collection includes [Ethnology and history of the Coeur d'Alene Indians: a research project, 1947](#).

[Center for the Study of Man records, 1966-1982](#)

Created by the Center for the Study of Man (Smithsonian Institution), Samuel Leonard Stanley, and Wes White. 80.72 linear feet (191 boxes and 32 audio reels). [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

The Center for the Study of Man (CSM) was a bureau level division of the Smithsonian Institution. These records were maintained by the Program Coordinator, Samuel L. Stanley, and include correspondence, scholarly papers, transcripts, administrative materials, photographs, and audio recordings. The materials relate to conferences and programs in which CSM took part. There are materials related to the Coeur d'Alene within [Series 8: American Indians General, undated](#).

MAPS

[Records of the Bureau of the American Ethnology, Map Collection, 280: Devil's Lake Reservation, Dakota: Coeur D'alene Indian Reservation, Idaho 1881](#)

Created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. 1 sheet, 43cm x 27cm.

SOUND RECORDINGS

[Robert E. Johnson papers on the Coeur d'Alene and Makah Languages, 1969-1971](#)

Created by Robert E. Johnson. 2.7 linear feet (4 document boxes, 2 boxes of index cards, and 16 sound recordings) plus 1 oversize box. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Some digital surrogates available.

This collection documents the research Robert E. Johnson conducted for his dissertation on the Coeur d'Alene language, as well as his fieldwork on the Makah language. Johnson's papers consist of field notes, audio recordings, index cards, and transcripts concerning both languages. The Coeur d'Alene recordings are of Lawrence Nicodemus. The Makah recordings were done with several of the last remaining speakers of that language, most of whom were over eighty years old when the recordings were made. [Series 1: Coeur d'Alene Language, 1969](#) contains field notes, index cards, and audio recordings from Johnson's doctoral research on the Coeur d'Alene language. The audio recordings were made with Lawrence Nicodemus on the Coeur d'Alene reservation in Idaho.

- [\[Sound Recording 01\] - C d'A #1 Field, 1969](#)
Coeur d'Alene Field Tape #1; Lawrence Nicodemus -1969; recordings of "F" notebook begin at approximately 144. Digital surrogate available.
- [\[Sound Recording 02\] - C d'A #2 Field, 1969](#)
#2 C d'A LN Field Notes 1969 Complete 9/23/69. Digital surrogate available.

Restrictions: Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the Human Studies Film Archives may not be played.

ARTWORK

[Manuscript 385.668-692: Maps, missions, forts, council meeting scenes, Indians, and activities of Northwest Plateau, 1853-1862](#)

Created by Gustavus Sohon. 25 drawings.

Graphite and brown ink drawings mounted on paperboard mats. The collection includes three drawings of the Coeur d'Alene Mission.

- [“Coeur d'Alene Mission in 1855”](#) depicts a view of the Mission showing a large Baroque style church, wood buildings, a child and a woman carrying an infant in a cradleboard, and a group in costume near tipis.
- [“Indian Mission, Coeur D'Alene,” 1855](#) depicts a view of the Mission across a lake showing a large Baroque style church and wood buildings.
- [“Indian Mission, Coeur D'Alene,” 1855](#) depicts a view of the Mission across a lake showing a large Baroque style church and wood buildings with a man in a canoe on the water.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The NAA has extensive photographic collections. Description and arrangement of photographic collections vary widely depending on the circumstances of creation, collection, and accession into the NAA. The records described below should be considered starting points for research; they should not be considered a comprehensive list.

Researchers looking for more specific images will probably be best served with keyword searches of the Smithsonian's Collection Search Center ([CSC](#)) because a large number of photographs have been given item-level catalog records. We suggest using specific terms (e. g. “Coeur d'Alene” + “basket”) and narrowing the results by using “National Anthropological Archives” as the catalog record source and “Photographs” as type.

Please note that any Photo Lot number preceded by the letter “R” represents a reproduction of a collection held at another repository.

[Photo Lot 24: Source Print Collection: Photographs of Native Americans and Other Subjects, 1840s-1960s](#)

This is an artificial collection² comprised of works by multiple creators. Approximately 22,000 items. Some digital surrogates available.

The collection consists mostly of original and copy prints. There are also some negatives, artwork, photographs of artwork, and printed materials. Included is a large miscellany of ethnological, historical, and some archaeological subjects collected by the Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) from a wide variety of sources. To these have been added some photographs and other illustrative material acquired and sometimes accessioned by the Department of Anthropology of the United States National Museum/National Museum of Natural History. **There are also prints of photographs from the archives' collection of Glass Negatives of Native Americans** (see page 63) and the subject and geographic file. Although most of the material relates to North America, some images relating to historical events and to areas outside of North America are included.

Restrictions on collection: Some photographs are restricted due to cultural sensitivity.

[Photo Lot 59: Library of Congress Copyright Office photographs of Native Americans, 1860s-1930s \(bulk 1890s-1920s\)](#)

Collected by the Library of Congress Copyright Office. Approximately 6,085 mounted prints (albumen, collodion, silver gelatin, platinum). [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

The collection consists of photographs relating to Native Americans which were submitted to the copyright office of the Library of Congress in and around the early 20th century. Many of the photographs are studio portraits as well as photographs made as part of expeditions and railroad surveys. It includes images of people, dwellings and other structures, agriculture, arts and crafts, burials, ceremonies and dances, games, food preparation, transportation, and scenic views. Some of the photographs were posed to illustrate literary works, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Hiawatha*, while others depict paintings or other artwork.

[Photo Lot 80: Charles Milton Bell photographs of American Indians, circa 1874-1890](#)

Created by Charles Milton Bell. Approximately 340 copy prints, 3 albumen prints, 333 glass negatives (wet plate collodion and dry gelatin), and 69 copy negatives. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#) Digital surrogates available.

² An artificial collection is one which was created at the archive rather than transferred to the archives in its full form. The distinction is primarily important in this context because the materials within the collection have come from different sources and so have a wide variety of creators.

Portraits of Native Americans made by Charles Milton Bell in his Washington, DC, studio. The collection also includes copies of some images by other photographers, including G. G. Rockwood and F. T. Cummins. This collection includes a **portrait of a Coeur d'Alene delegation.**

[Photo Lot 85-21: Robert M. Farring Jr. photographs of Native American delegations, 1967-1971](#)

Created by Robert M. Farring Jr. 61 silver gelatin prints and 169 color Polaroid prints. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

Photographs depicting tribal delegates, probably made by Robert M. Farring during tribal group visits to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Washington office. Many of the photographs were originally mounted in notebooks with the identification of pictured individuals and their affiliations. **Includes two photographs of the “Coeur d'Alene tribal grain elevator.”**

[Photo Lot 90-1: George V. Allen photograph collection of Native Americans and the American frontier, circa 1860-1935](#)

Collected by George V. Allen. 67 lantern slides; 26 glass negatives; 10 nitrate negatives; 6 autochromes; approximately 50 halftone and color halftone printed stereographs; approximately 1,000 albumen and silver gelatin stereographs (some tinted); approximately 239 mounted and unmounted albumen and silver gelatin prints (including cartes de visite, imperial cards, cabinet cards, and one tinted print; some modern copies); 96 silver gelatin prints (album); and 21 silver gelatin, collotype, color halftone, and halftone postcards. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#) Digital surrogates available.

Photographs relating to Native Americans or frontier themes, including portraits, expedition photographs, landscapes, and other images of dwellings, transportation, totem poles, ceremonies, infants and children in cradleboards, camps and towns, hunting and fishing, wild west shows, food preparation, funeral customs, the U.S. Army and army posts, cliff dwellings, and grave mounds and excavations. The collection also includes images of prisoners at Fort Marion in 1875, Sioux Indians involved in the Great Sioux Uprising in Minnesota, the Fort Laramie Peace Commission of 1868, Sitting Bull and his followers after the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and the aftermath of the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890. There are studio portraits of well-known Native Americans, including American Horse, Big Bow, Four Bears, Iron Bull, Ouray, Red Cloud, Red Dog, Red Shirt, Sitting Bull, Spotted Tail, Three Bears, and Two Guns White Calf. **The collection includes a stereograph of the Coeur d'Alene Mission by Jay F. Haynes.**

[Photo Lot 176: Bureau of American Ethnology negatives collection, 1850s-1930s](#)

Collected by the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution. 5,588 negatives. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Some digital surrogates available.

The collection includes original and some copy negatives that have been numbered and cataloged. Virtually all are glass but there are some film negatives. Almost all relate to Native Americans and include a large number of studio photographs. This collection includes 10 images identified as Coeur d'Alene.

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| Chiarpa, Peter | Photo Lot 80: Charles Milton Bell photographs of American Indians, circa 1874-1890 |
| Floating Horn | see Suckitillschin (Floating Horn), called Thomas Prosper |
| Moctelme, Peter | Photo Lot 80: Charles Milton Bell photographs of American Indians, circa 1874-1890 |
| Nicodemus, Lawrence | Robert E. Johnson papers on the Coeur d'Alene and Makah Languages, 1969-1971 |
| Polotkin, Paul | Photo Lot 80: Charles Milton Bell photographs of American Indians, circa 1874-1890 |
| Prosper, Thomas | see Suckitillschin (Floating Horn), called Thomas Prosper |
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