Guide to the Collections of the National Anthropological Archives

PONCA

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Digitization and preparation of these materials for online access and the development of this subject guide has been funded by the National Science Foundation under BCS Grant No. 1561167 and the Recovering Voices initiative at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

INTRODUCTION

This guide highlights archival collections held at the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) and the Human Studies Film Archives (HSFA) related to the Ponca. 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 Ponca 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 cultures and wanted to record them before they 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 (1913-2001), 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.

**PONCA ARCHIVAL MATERIAL**

The Ponca archival materials held at the NAA date from mid-nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. These materials include vocabularies, grammatical notes, field notes, photographs, artwork, maps, moving image media, and sound recordings. Much of this material was collected by Robert Rankin, a linguist at the University of Kansas from 1969 to 2005, who worked with the last native speakers of the Quapaw and Kaw (Kansa, Kanza) languages, and carried out research with other tribes—including the Ponca—and fellow linguists. Some material represented in the following guide has been published. Where possible, this guide provides links to those publications.

Alternate names or spellings for Ponca are Mahairi, Ponka, Ppankka, and Umanhan. The documentation in the records listed in this guide may be in the Omaha-Ponca language, English, and/or in other languages of the Dhegihan branch of the Siouan family.
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.

**TEXTUAL MATERIALS**

**Manuscript 247: Wichita and Tawakoni words, sentences and texts, 1892**  
Collected by Albert Samuel Gatschet; created by Francis LaFlesche. 359 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Includes: Manuscript 247-a: Wichita and Tawakoni words, sentences, and texts, approximately 250 pages, 695 terms; and Ponca-English vocabulary, partially from Francis LaFlesche (Ponka words, pages 27-36, in a bound notebook containing Wichita linguistic material). Manuscript 247-b: Vocabulary, recorded in Schedule of John Wesley Powell’s Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages, approximately 109 pages, most likely a copy of Manuscript 247-a.

**Manuscript 918: A Quapaw Vocabulary and the Quapaw and Ponca compared; Also the Mystery of the Ponca Removal... by Ingonompishi, late Clerk of the Quapaw Nation, 1882**  
Created by Lewis F. Hadley and Ingonompishi. 80 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Includes “Brief historical notes” on the Kwapa and other Dhégia, 6 pages; “Quapaw Vocabulary,” including grammatical notes, 43 pages; “Comparative Kwapa-Ponka vocabulary,” 9 pages; and “The Mystery of the Ponca Removal,” 20 pages.

**Manuscript 935: Comparative vocabulary of Winnebago, Omaha, Ponka, and Dakota, 1868 March 19**  
Created by Thomas Williamson and addressed to Joseph Henry. 34 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Includes grammatical notes and letter of transmittal to Joseph Henry (2 pages).
Manuscript 1357: Comparative vocabulary of Dakota, Winnebago, Omaha, and Ponka, 1864 February
Created by Stephen Return Riggs. 9 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA.
Contains the following: comparative list of nouns of kinship (1 page); comparative lists of nouns for body parts (1 page); list of body parts, tools, meterological phenomena, and seasonal terms (1 page); page of nouns, animals, geological and elemental features; comparative list of colors, age, locatives, and adjectives (1 page); comparative list of temporal relations, numerals, and a few words related to ethereal (spiritual) phenomena (1 page); comparative list of verbs (2 pages).

Manuscript 1389: Language of the Dakotas and Cognate tribes, 1880s (?)
Created by Alfred Longley Riggs. 27 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.
Includes marginal queries by James Owen Dorsey. Lists languages of the “Dakotan” [Siouan] stock, makes general observations on them, compares Dakota, Ponka, Hidatsa, Mandan, and Iowa numerals.

Manuscript 1800: Winnebago linguistic notes, undated
Created by Paul Radin. 211 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA.
Consists of miscellaneous working notes, in various stages of revision. Informants, locations, and dates are not given. An analysis of the contents was made by William C. Sturtevant, Department of Anthropology Curator, Smithsonian Institution, March 1960. Sturtevant noted the following: “1800-a: Notes on morphology keyed to a missing text or other notes. Key numbers run from 310 to 800, with many gaps and duplications (may be more than one text represented); many items have one digit number following comma after above 3 digit number. Date stamp on back of one page notes: “Bur. American Ethnology Jun 17, 1909”. 56 pages, unarranged. 1800-b: Miscellaneous notes on morphology-- paradigms, list of affixes, summary statements, etc. No references to sources. Back of one page has note: “Frances La Mere/Winnebago/Nebraska/City/Thurston County” evidently in LaMere’s hand; but this page is semi-analyzed, not original notes. 139 pages, unarranged. 1800-c: Notes on phonology. 2 pages. 1800-d: Lexical notes. Plant names, food and food preparation, with a few ethnographic notes: 4 pages Kinship terminology: 7 pages; total; total, 11 pages. 1800-e: Ponca-Winnebago comparative vocabulary, without indication of sources, without comments or analysis. 5 pages, unarranged.” More information can be found in the catalog record.
**Manuscript 3869-a: Notes on J. Owen Dorsey’s Ponca grammar, undated**
Collected by John Napoleon Brinton Hewitt. 2 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Title at top of handwritten notes within this manuscript reads: “Dorsey—Ponca Grammar Stress—Accent.” Notes indicate that the placement of stress on the words are important for interpreting proper meaning. The notes make some reference to another data set for verbal roots and pronouns. A short list of article pronouns are on page 1. Page 2 is blank except for the name Dorsey. Page 3 is titled, “Verbs,” and describes verbal prefixes and some description of verbs.

**Manuscript 3931: Miscellaneous vocabularies, undated**
Compiled by John Napoleon Brinton Hewitt. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

On cards compiled from information furnished in reply to letters of inquiry. The information is secondary and lacks documentation. Terms of the following languages are thought to be included: Achomawi, Alibamu, Arikara, Athapascan, Blackfoot, Catawba, Choctaw, Copehan, Creek, Dakota, Hitchiti, Hopi, Iowa, Kansa, Klikitat, Mandan, Muskhoge, Niuskoki, Nez Perce, Omaha, Osage, Oto, Paiute, Pawnee, Piman, Ponka, Quapaw, Santee, Seminole, Shahaptian, Shoshone, Teton, Washakie, Winnebago, Ute, and Yankton.

**Manuscript 4556: Alice Cunningham Fletcher and Francis La Flesche Papers, 1873-1939**
Created by Alice Cunningham Fletcher and Francis La Flesche. 19 linear feet. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.

These papers reflect the professional lives of Alice Cunningham Fletcher (1838-1923), an ethnologist with the Peabody Museum of Harvard and collaborator with the Bureau of American Ethnology, and Francis La Flesche (1856-1923), an anthropologist with the Bureau of American Ethnology. Due to the close professional and personal relationship of Fletcher and La Flesche, their papers have been arranged jointly. The papers cover the period from 1874 to 1939. Included in the collection is correspondence, personal diaries, lectures, field notes and other ethnographic papers (primarily dealing with their research among the Plains Indians, particularly the Omaha and the Osage), drafts, musical transcriptions, publications by various authors, maps and photographs.

- **Series 3: Papers relating to the anthropological research of Alice Fletcher and Francis La Flesche, 1877-1939** These materials represent Fletcher and La Flesche’s ethnographic work and publications dating from 1882 to 1939. Ethnographic materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject. Although some of the materials in this section represent work by only Fletcher or La Flesche, they have been filed together to maintain consistency with the papers’ prior arrangement. “Ponca field notes (includes Sun and
“Ghost Dance materials” and “Ponca general papers” can be found in Box 30A; sheet music from various tribes including Ponca can be found in Boxes 18 and 41.

Restrictions: This collection contains culturally sensitive materials; contact the NAA for access and use information.

**Manuscript 4800: James Owen Dorsey papers, circa 1870-1956 (bulk 1870-1895)**
Created by James Owen Dorsey. 30 linear feet. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Reverend James Owen Dorsey (1848-1895) was a missionary and Bureau of American Ethnology ethnologist who conducted extensive research on Siouan tribes and languages. The papers of James Owen Dorsey comprise mostly ethnographic and linguistic materials on various tribes of the Siouan language family as well as tribes from Siletz Reservation in Oregon. These materials include texts and letters with interlinear translations; grammar notes; dictionaries; drawings; and his manuscripts. In addition, the collection contains Dorsey's correspondence, newspaper clippings, his obituaries, and reprints.

- **Series 1: Siouan-Catawban, 1870-1894.** This series contains Dorsey’s linguistic and ethnological research on the tribes of the Siouan-Catawban language family, spanning from his days as a missionary among the Ponca to his research as a BAE ethnologist. Materials consist of field notes, census, reading notes, drafts of manuscripts for publication, and papers for presentations. The series also contains dictionaries that he compiled on Omaha, Ponca, Quapaw, and Biloxi, as well as his work editing Steven Riggs’ Dakota-English Dictionary. Ponca-related linguistic materials can be found in Boxes 12 (Items 117, 118, 127, 131, 132), 14 (Items 157, 158, Map folder 217, 32 (Item 218 and map folder 218-225), 39-40 (Item 268). Ponca-related ethnographic material, including notes, maps, songs, myths, kinship materials, and census records can be found in Boxes 12 (Items 32, 129, 130), 14 (Item 153, 156, 162), 15 (items 163-174, 183-187), 32 (Items 211, 214-216), and rolled map 212 (genealogical charts).

- **Series 5: Personal Papers, circa 1870s-1956.** Consists of newspaper clippings, obituaries for Dorsey, and letters of condolence to Dorsey's widow. The clippings pertain to Dorsey, including articles about him after his death; Native American issues; and religion. Ponca-related ethnographic material can be found in Box 64A.

- **Series 6: Miscellaneous and Reprints, 1891-1894, 1880, 1875.** This series consists of reprints collected by Dorsey and an assortment of materials that do not fit neatly in the other series. These include manuscripts by Dorsey, Albert Gatschet, J.N.B. Hewitt, and John Wesley Powell on Native American languages; manuscripts by Dorsey and James Mooney on folklore; general linguistic notes; and non-Native American linguistic materials. Ponca-related linguistic materials can be found in Boxes 1 (item 14), 2, (Items 42, 62), 3 (Item 78), 4 (Item 81, map folder 81, 89).
Records of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1878-1965
Created by the Smithsonian Institution’s Bureau of American Ethnology. 245 linear feet (375 boxes and 10 map drawers). Finding Aid available through SOVA.

The records in this collection embody the administrative functions of the Bureau of American Ethnology from 1879 to 1965. The collection consists of correspondence, card files, registers, official notices, annual and monthly work reports, research statements, research proposals, grant applications, personnel action requests, notices of personnel action, meeting minutes, purchase orders and requisitions, property records, biographical sketches, resolutions, newspaper clippings, reviews of publications, drafts of publications, circulars, programs, pamphlets, announcements, illustrations, cartographic materials, photographic prints, photographic negatives, bibliographies, and reprinted publications.

- **Series 13: Maps / Country Known to the Omaha (Nebraska), 1911**
  Created by Alice Cunningham Fletcher and Francis LaFlesche; annotator unknown. 2 sheets, 63 cm x 48 cm.

- **Series 13: Maps / Ponca Indian Reservation, Indian Territory: Chehalis; Swinomish Indian Reservation, Washington Territory: Munsee and Chippewa Indian Reservation, Kansas: Lummi Indian Reservation, Washington Territory: Shoalwater Indian Reservation, Washington Territory: Oneida Reservation, Wisconsin: Port Madison, 1882**
  Created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. 1 sheet, 50 cm x 33 cm.
  Map of Indian reservations include Ponca, Oneida, Shoalwater, and Chippewa. The map section reads: “Ponca Indian Reservation, Indian Territory, compiled from plats of survey in the U.S. Indian office, 1882.”

John Peabody Harrington papers, 1907-1959 (some earlier)
Created by John Peabody Harrington. 63 linear feet. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.

John Peabody Harrington was an ethnologist and linguist employed by the Smithsonian Institution’s Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) for forty years, from 1915 to 1955. Through his extensive travel and research, J. P. Harrington amassed an unprecedented record of linguistic and cultural knowledge. The J.P. Harrington Collection of linguistic and cultural materials is therefore one of the largest holdings at the NAA. The collection includes documentation on over 130 languages, close to one million pages of notes, over 200 sound recordings, circa 3,500 photographs, and thousands of botanical and other natural specimens.
• **Series 5: Papers relating to the Native American History, Language, and Culture of the Plains.** 12.5 linear feet total (34 boxes). This series within the John Peabody Harrington papers represents the results of Harrington’s study of the native languages and cultures of the Plains, a region where he worked briefly during the period 1918-1921 and, intermittently, in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. The documents focus primarily on linguistic data, although they also include small amounts of ethnographic and historical information. Material on the Cheyenne tribe, which is located geographically in the Plains, has been filed with notes on related eastern groups in his Northeast/Southeast files.
  
  o **Subseries: Siouan, 1919-circa 1945, bulk 1937-1939.** This subseries of the Plains series consists primarily of Harrington’s research on Dakota and Lakota languages. Small amounts of additional Siouan data include Oto and Dhegiha linguistic notes, and miscellaneous notes on the Dakota, Chiwere, Omaha/Ponca, Osage/Kansa, Kiowa, and Kansas/Kaw languages. **Microfilm Reel 17: Box 934** contains linguistic notes related to Ponca.

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**James Henri Howard papers, 1950-1982**

Created by James Henri Howard. 10.25 linear feet (22 boxes, 1 map-folder) and 15 sound recordings. **Finding Aid available through SOVA.**

The James Henri Howard papers document his research and professional activities from 1949-1982 and primarily deal with his work as an anthropologist, archeologist, and ethnologist, studying Native American languages & cultures. The collection consists of Series 1 correspondence; Series 2 writings and research, which consists of subject files (language and culture research materials), manuscripts, research proposals, Indian claim case materials, Howard’s publications, publications of others, and bibliographical materials; Series 3 sound recordings of Native American music and dance; Series 4 photographs; and Series 5 drawings and artwork.

• **Series 2: Writings and Research, 1824-1992.** This series consists of subject files that comprise language and cultural research material about various American Indian tribes from the Plains, Southeast, and Northeast, as well as topics relating to archeology; Manuscripts of writings by Howard; Research proposals and Indian claim cases; Publications by others; Publications by Howard; and Biographical materials. Ponca-related ethnographic material, including notes, publications, land use history, claim cases, and music, can be found in **Boxes 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14.**
**Robert Rankin Papers, 1886, 1914, 1956-2011**

Created by Robert Rankin. 31.77 linear feet (55 boxes, 1 map folder, and 196 sound recordings). **Finding Aid available through SOVA.**

The Robert Rankin papers, 1886, 1914, 1956-2011, document his field work, research, and professional activities, primarily in relation to his work studying American Indian languages. Rankin was professor of linguistics at the University of Kansas from 1969 until his retirement in 2005. The collection consists of sound recordings, field notebooks, vocabulary lists and bibliographies, dictionaries, research files, slip files, word lists, correspondence, ephemera, notes, readings and reprints, writings, drafts, and teaching materials. This includes materials from Rankin's work with the last native speakers of the Quapaw and Kaw (Kansa, Kanza) languages and subsequent research, writings, and collaborations with tribes and fellow linguists.

- **Series 1: Quapaw, 1972-1991, undated:** Box 1 includes “OJAC Quapaw language project, also Ponca, 1977-1978”
- **Series 4: Subject and Correspondence files, 1886, 1956-2007:** Boxes 5, 11, 19, 22, and 24 contain dictionaries, notes, and vocabularies (some on cd-rs) related to Ponca.
- **Series 6: Writings, 1975-2010, undated:** Box 35: includes “Ponca Vowel Length and the Transcriptions of James Owen Dorsey” by Rankin and Kathleen Shea, undated
- **Series 7: Teaching and Academic Files, 1973-2006, undated:** Box 37: includes “Linguistics 575: ‘Ponca Rabbit Song’ and ‘A Vocabulary of the Omaha Language.’” undated (2 cd-rs)

**Restrictions:** some digital files within the Robert Rankin papers may be restricted for preservation concerns; contact the NAA for access and use information.

**Blair Rudes papers, 1974-2008**

Created by Blair Rudes. 13 linear feet. **Finding Aid available through SOVA.**

The Blair Rudes papers 1967-2008, document his research and processional activities from his time in graduate school at the University of Buffalo in the 1970s through the end of his career at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Materials primarily deal with linguistic and historical research on Native American languages, particularly those in eastern North America. There is also a significant amount of material related to the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe and their petition to the federal government for recognition, and Rudes’ work as a consultant on language education projects. The collection consists of research files, linguistic research and data, correspondence, papers and other writings written by Rudes and his colleagues, official documents for the Golden Hill Paugussett federal recognition case, movie scripts and related materials, and audio/visual recordings.

- **Series 4: Writings, 1967-2007:** “Holmer-Sonant-Surds in Ponca Omaha, 1945” can be found in Box 14.
PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTWORK

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. “Ponca” + “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.

**Manuscript 4605: James E. Taylor Scrapbook of the American West, 1863-1900**
Created by James E. Taylor. 1 scrapbook, 118 pages. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.

Scrapbook entitled “Our Wild Indians in Peace and War: Surveys, Expeditions, Mining and Scenery of the Great West,” compiled by James E. Taylor, possibly as a source for his own illustrations. The album includes photographs (mostly albumen with three tintypes), news clippings, wood engravings, and lithographs, some of which are reproductions of Taylor’s own illustrations and paintings. Photographs depict American Indians, US Army soldiers and scouts, historical sites, forts, and scenery. There are 2 images within this collection catalogued as “Ponca.” Digital surrogates are available online.

**Manuscript 4968: Outdoor photographic portraits, 1970 July**
Created by Dick Ferrar (photographer). 33 35mm color slides. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Photos relate to portraits of Cherokee, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kickapoo, Kiowa, Kiowa-Apache, Osage, Pima, Ponca, and Shawnee participants in the Smithsonian Institution American Folk Life Festival, Washington, D.C., July, 1970. Identification supplied by James Boon, Center for the Study of Man, Smithsonian Institution, who accompanied the photographer. These images were transferred from Center for the Study of Man, Smithsonian Institution, September, 1970. Black and white prints were made, and filed as negative Numbers 57,096-57,125 (contact the NAA for further information).
**Photo Lot 6A: United States Army Medical Museum composite photographs of skulls, circa 1884-1885**

Created by the U.S. Army Medical Museum. Approximately 78 albumen prints. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

Army Medical Museum photographs prepared under the supervision of John Shaw Billings and Washington Matthews, and created by superimposing images of several skulls for comparative purposes. Each image has a caption that includes tribal or racial identification, number of skulls photographed, photograph number, negative number, and data on photographic technique. The collection includes representations of Aleuts, Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Dakota, Eskimo, Hidatsa, Navajo, Oglala, Ojibwa, Paiute, Piegans, Ponca, Wichita, African Americans, Hawaiians, and people of San Miguel and San Nicholas Islands (California). Includes three images of “eight male adult Ponca skulls”.

*Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive, including images of human remains.*

**Photo Lot 24: Photographs of Native Americans and Other Subjects, 1840s-1960s**

This is an artificial collection¹ comprised of works by multiple creators. Approximately 18,000 items. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#) Digital surrogates available for some photographs.

The collections consist 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 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.

- SPC Plains Ponca: There is 1 box labelled ‘Plains Ponca,’ and 1 oversized box of large mixed images, in which 59 images catalogued as ‘Ponca’ can be found. Other Ponca related images may be found within this collection but have not yet been identified. Many of the Ponca images within this collection are individually catalogued and digitized online.

*Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive.*

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¹ 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.
Photo Lot 25: Albertye Company photograph collection relating to American Indians, circa 1890-1910
Created by the Albertye Company. 318 nitrate and copy negatives. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.]

The Albertye Company, headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, published view books and postcards for national distribution. Founded by Adolph and Herman Witteman, the company began publishing souvenir photographic albums as early as 1867. The Wittemans established Witteman Brothers in 1885, and then the Albertye Company in 1890. From 1890 to 1950, the firm published collotypes made from the photographs of its agents (including Adolph Witteman), other companies, and independent photographers. The firm was purchased in 1952 by Art Vue Post Card Company. There are 10 images within this collection catalogued as ‘Ponca.’ These are individually catalogued online. Other images may be related within this collection, contact the NAA for more information.

Restrictions: Original nitrate negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. Modern copy prints and copy negatives for nearly all images are available. Please contact the NAA for more information regarding access.

Photo Lot 59: Library of Congress Copyright Office photograph collection of Native Americans 1860s-1930s (bulk 1890s-1920s)
Created by the Library of Congress Copyright Office. Approximately 6,085 mounted prints (albumen, collodion, silver gelatin, and platinum). [Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.]

This collection consists of photographs relating to American Indians, 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. This collection includes 11 photographs identified as “Ponca.” Please contact the NAA for more information on this collection.

Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive.

Photo Lot 60: Bureau of American Ethnology Photograph Albums of American Indians, 1858-1905
Created by the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian. 16 albums consisting of 926 prints total. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.]

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Photograph albums prepared by the Bureau of American Ethnology or the photographic lab, possibly for reference purposes by staff. The use of such albums has been mentioned by BAE photographer De Lancey W. Gill. The albums contain photographs made from the Bureau of American Ethnology’s collection of negatives, documenting numerous tribes and culture groups. The bulk of the photographs are studio portraits made at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition on Omaha in 1898 or during delegation visits to Washington, DC. There are 27 images within this collection catalogued as “Ponca.” Digital surrogates for most of these images are available online.

**Photo Lot 66D: “Photographs of Native American burials”, circa 1890**
Created by Joseph Alexander Gilfillan, Truman Ward Ingersoll, and Father Peter Paul Prando (photographers). 9 mounted prints (silver gelatin) and 2 mounted prints (albumen). Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Photographs depicting graves (mostly above-ground) of Red Lake Chippewa, Ponca, and Crow Indians (including Iron Bull, Crazy Wolf, and Ten Bears). Some photographs were made by Father Peter Paulus Prando, one by T. W. Ingersoll, and one possibly by Reverend J. A. Gilfillan.

*Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive, including images of human remains.*

**Photo Lot 79-4: De Lancey W. Gill portraits of Northeast and Plains Indians**
Created by De Lancey W. Gill. 12 mounted prints (platinum). Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Studio portraits of American Indians, including Thas-hunke-hine-kota (Roan Horse), Wa-sho-sha (Brave), Cka-gthe (White Plume, Wa-Sho-She’s wife), Shunga-neha-ga-he (Horse Chief Eagle), Me-kon-tunga (Big Goose), Apeyohantanka (Big Man), Yshidiapas or Aleck-shea-ahoos (Plenty Coups), Mary Baldwin, Imetacco (Little Dog), Kishkinniequote (Jim Deer), Ta-semke-tokeko (Strange Horse), and Hodjiagede (Fish Carrier). The prints were originally part of a framed display. 2 photos within this collection are identified as Ponca, and read, “Siouan Family, Ponca.” Image A-4, titled “Me-kon-tunga=Big Goose,” and image A-2: “Shunga-Neha-Ga-He=Horse Chief Eagle.”

**Photo Lot 80: Charles Milton Bell photographs of American Indians, circa 1874-1890**
Portraits of American Indians made by Charles Milton Bell in his Washington, DC studio. Depicted individuals include Red Cloud, Oglala; Spotted Tail, Brule; Quanah Parker, Comanche; Nawat, Arapaho; Scabby Bull, Arapaho; Wolf Robe, Cheyenne; D. W. Bushyhead, Cherokee; John Jumper, Seminole; Plenty Coups, Crow (Apsáalooke); Rushing Bear, Arikara; Gall, Hunkpapa; John Grass, Sicasapa; Lean Wolf, Hidatsa; Chief Joseph, Nez Perce; and Lone Wolf, Kiowa; as well as people associated with Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show. The collection also includes copies of some images by other photographers, including G. G. Rockwood and F. T. Cummins. May include images of Ponca, but many images within this collection remain unidentified. Contact the NAA for more information.

Restrictions: Original glass negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. Please contact the NAA for more information regarding access.

Photo Lot 81-12: John N. Choate photographs of Carlisle Indian School, circa 1879-1902
Created by John N. Choate. 1,200 glass negatives and 16 copper printing plates. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.

Photographs by John N. Choate documenting the United States Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The images include studio portraits of students, parents, and other visitors, as well as interior and exterior images of the school, buildings, and classrooms. Some photographs were probably made by other photographers and possibly collected by Choate. These include images of Dickinson College, the [Mount Holly?] Brick Works, downtown Carlisle, Carlisle residences and farms, national guard troops, a military expedition, and some portraits. Some of the photographs were made by other photographers and perhaps collected by Choate. A few copper plates prepared for publications are also included in the collection. There are 2 images within this collection specifically catalogued as “Ponca.” Digital surrogates are available online.

Restrictions: Original glass negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. Please contact the NAA for more information regarding access.

Photo Lot 85-21: Robert M. Farring Jr. photograph collection of Indian Delegations
Created by Robert M. Farring Jr. 169 color Polaroid prints, color and 61 silver gelatin prints. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Photographs in this collection depict tribal delegates, probably made by Robert M. Farring during tribal group visits to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Washington office. Many of the photographs were originally mounted in notebooks with identification of pictured individuals and their affiliations. One photo title “Ponca Delegation, 9-24-70, Emmet Primeaux, Vice Chairman; John Williams, Chairman; Thomas Roughface, Secretary,” is included in this collection.
**Photo Lot R86-31: Copy of Jeremiah Gurney photograph of Ponca delegation, 1858**
Created by Jeremiah Gurney. 1 copy print. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Includes a copy of a studio portrait by Jeremiah Gurney depicting nine men, including Ponca chiefs (names not listed) and John B. Robertson, United States Indian Agent. Jeremiah Gurney (1812-1895) was a pioneering New York City photographer and operator of one of the first American portrait galleries. He opened his studio in 1840, first making daguerreotypes of the city’s cultural elite. He transitioned to paper processes around 1853. The Ponca delegates were photographed at Gurney’s studio in 1858, when they met to sign a treaty in Washington, DC.

Restrictions: This image were acquired for reference purposes and cannot be reproduced. Please contact the NAA for more information.

**Photo Lot 89-8: Willis G. Tilton Photograph Collection of Native Americans, circa 1880-1930 (bulk 1899-1904)**
Created by Willis G. Tilton. Approximately 685 negatives. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

This collection consists of photographs collected by Willis G. Tilton, a dealer in artifacts and photographs relating to American Indians. Many of the photographs were made by Field Columbian Museum photographer Charles Carpenter at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904; many others were created by various photographers for Field Museum publications. Photographs include portraits and images of artifacts, basket weaving, cradles, dress, dwelling, tipis and other dwellings, and tree burials. There are 17 images within this collection catalogued as “Ponca.” Digital surrogates are available online.

Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive, including images of human remains.

**Photo Lot 90-1: George V. Allen photograph collection of American Indians and the American frontier, circa 1860-1935**
Collected by George V. Allen. Approximately 1,000 stereographs; approximately 50 printed stereographs; approximately 239 mounted and unmounted prints; an album of 96 prints; 12 postcards; 67 lantern slides; 26 glass negatives; 10 negatives; and 6 autochromes. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available for some images.

George V. Allen was an attorney in Lawrence, Kansas and an early member of the National Stereoscope Association. Between the 1950s and 1980s, Allen collected this extensive collection of photographs of the American West, mostly in stereographs, but also including cartes-de-visite and other styles of mounted prints, photogravures, lantern slides, autochromes, and glass
negatives. There are 6 images (numbers 69, 70, 71, 72, 270, 271) catalogued as ‘Ponca,’ many of which are individually catalogued and digitized online.

Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive, including images of human remains. Original glass negatives and nitrate negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. Please contact the NAA for more information regarding access.

**Photo Lot 176: Bureau of American Ethnology Negatives, circa 1858-1925**

Created by the Smithsonian Institution’s Bureau of American Ethnology. Approximately 8,000 gelatin and collodion glass negatives. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available for some images.

The collection includes original and some copy negatives that were created or collected the Bureau of American Ethnology. The BAE, sometimes aided by other Smithsonian photographers, continued the work of making studio portraits and photographs of American Indian delegations who came to Washington. BAE staff, collaborators, and contributors also made many field photographs concerning American ethnology and archeology. Many of these images were added to this collection. In addition, photographic negatives were acquired from various sources, including, for example, images made at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, photographs of artwork in repositories outside Washington, and copies of photographic prints. There are 115 images within this collection catalogued as ‘Ponca.’ Many of these images have been digitized and can be found online.

Restrictions: Original glass negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. However, reproductions can be viewed online or in person. Additionally, the NAA has copy prints in the research room of most of these images as well as digital copies of most. Please contact the NAA for more information regarding access.

**Photo Lot 4286: James E. McClees studio photographs of American Indian Delegates, circa 1850-1863**

Created by James E. McClees (studio owner and photographer), Samuel A. Cohner, and Julian Vannerson (photographers). 32 mounted prints (albumen). Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Studio portraits made by the James E. McClees Studio and published by the Blackmore Museum, depicting American Indian visitors to Washington, D.C. The series is identified by an 1863 broadside in the collection as “Photographs of some of the principal Chiefs of the North American Indians, made when they have visited Washington as deputations from their Tribes.” Yankton, Sisseton, Mdewakanton, Wahpeton, Pawnee, Potawatomi, Sauk and Fox, Ponca, and Ojibwa Indians are represented. Three additional portraits depict men (possibly Cree) and were
probably made by a different photographer. Includes “Portrait of Wi-ga-sa-pi (The Whip), a Ponca Chief 1857-1858”. 1 print, NAA INV 01172400.

**Photo Lot 4420: William Henry Jackson photograph albums based on his Descriptive Catalogue of Photographs of North American Indians, circa 1877**

Created by William Henry Jackson (collector and photographer), Alexander Gardner (photographer), and other photographers. 9 albums, approximately 4,000 prints. Finding Aid available through SOVA. Digital surrogates available.

Albums probably assembled by William Henry Jackson, mostly containing portraits of American Indian delegations in Washington, D.C. and photographs made on US Geological Surveys (including the Hayden and Powell surveys). Photographs from the field include John K. Hillers’ photographs of the Southwest, photographs of Fort Laramie (possibly by Alexander Gardner), Orloff R. Westmann’s photographs of Taos Pueblo, and Jackson’s photographs of Crow, Shoshoni, Pawnee, and Nez Perce Indians and related sites. Most of the photographs were made circa 1860s-1870s. 1 image within this collection is catalogued as including images of “Ponca Indians:” “Twelve Iowa and Oto delegates, most with pipe-tomahawks and two interpreters, 14 Nov 1877.” Digital surrogate can be found online.

*Restrictions: This collection contains images that may be culturally sensitive, including images of human remains.*

**Photo Lot R4468: Copies of Stanley J. Morrow photographs, circa 1865-1887**

Created by Stanley J. Morrow. 434 copy prints. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

Photographs made by Stanley J. Morrow depicting Plains Indians, agencies, and United States Army installations and expeditions. About half of the subjects relate to American Indians, including Arikara, Hidatsa, Mandan, Ponca, Crow, Cheyenne, Bannock, Hunkpapa, Oglala, and other Teton Sioux including “Loafer Band,” Yanktonai, Santee, Sisseton and Wahpeton. The rest include views of Yankton, Vermillion, Deadwood and Rapid City in the 1880s; Civil War scenes; the Battle of Slim Buttes (1876); the reburial expedition at Little Big Horn (1877); and Morrow family portraits. Though the bulk of the photographs appear to have been made by Morrow, some were likely created by other photographers.

*Restrictions: The images were acquired for reference purposes and cannot be reproduced. Please contact the NAA for more information.*
James Henri Howard papers, 1950-1982
Created by James Henri Howard. 10.25 linear feet (22 boxes, 1 map-folder) and 15 sound recordings. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

The James Henri Howard papers document his research and professional activities from 1949-1982 and primarily deal with his work as an anthropologist, archeologist, and ethnologist, studying Native American languages & cultures. The collection consists of Series 1 correspondence; Series 2 writings and research, which consists of subject files (language and culture research materials), manuscripts, research proposals, Indian claim case materials, Howard's publications, publications of others, and bibliographical materials; Series 3 sound recordings of Native American music and dance; Series 4 photographs; and Series 5 drawings and artwork.

- Series 4: Photographs, 1879-1985. This series consists primarily of various Native American Cultural groups. There are also some of James H. Howard, archeological sites where Howard worked, and winter counts [oversize], 1879-1985. The photographs of objects in binders are James Howard’s American Indian Cultural Collection. Ponca-related photographs can be found in Boxes 19 and 20.

SOUND RECORDINGS

James Henri Howard papers, 1950-1982
Created by James Henri Howard. 10.25 linear feet (22 boxes, 1 map-folder) and 15 sound recordings. Finding Aid available through SOVA.

The James Henri Howard papers document his research and professional activities from 1949-1982 and primarily deal with his work as an anthropologist, archeologist, and ethnologist, studying Native American languages & cultures. The collection consists of Series 1 correspondence; Series 2 writings and research, which consists of subject files (language and culture research materials), manuscripts, research proposals, Indian claim case materials, Howard's publications, publications of others, and bibliographical materials; Series 3 sound recordings of Native American music and dance; Series 4 photographs; and Series 5 drawings and artwork.

- Series 3: Sound Recordings, 1960-1979. Series 3 consists of 15 recordings on ¼” inch sound tape reels that document music and/or dance of the Mississippi Choctaw, Choctaw-Chickasaw, Yanktonai Dakota, Dakota Northern, Delaware, Sarcee, Ponca, Iowa, Sauk, Oto, and Cherokee, which were produced between 1960-1979, although 3 of them do not have dates. The titles of the tapes [and content descriptions] have been transcribed from information on the tape boxes. The content of recordings has not been verified.
Box 17 includes: Item 2: “Songs sung by Charles Roubideaux (Robidoux) and Sylvester Warrior,” 1968 August (1 sound tape reel, 59 minutes, 7 inch), singers listed as Charles Roubideaux, Sauk of Missouri, Falls City, Nebraska and Sylvester Warrior, Southern Ponca; and Item 3: “Ponca Songs, including War Dance Songs” 1966 September (1 sound tape reel, 30 minutes, 7 inch), singers listed as Sylvester Warrior and Lamont Brown, taped for T. Y. Stewart. Digital surrogates can be found online.

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

Robert Rankin Papers, 1886, 1914, 1956-2011
Created by Robert Rankin. 31.77 linear feet (55 boxes, 1 map folder, and 196 sound recordings). Finding Aid available through SOVA.

The Robert Rankin papers, 1886, 1914, 1956-2011, document his field work, research, and professional activities, primarily in relation to his work studying American Indian languages. Rankin was professor of linguistics at the University of Kansas from 1969 until his retirement in 2005. The collection consists of sound recordings, field notebooks, vocabulary lists and bibliographies, dictionaries, research files, slip files, word lists, correspondence, ephemera, notes, readings and reprints, writings, drafts, and teaching materials. This includes materials from Rankin's work with the last native speakers of the Quapaw and Kaw (Kansa, Kanza) languages and subsequent research, writings, and collaborations with tribes and fellow linguists.

  - Items 154-158: Ponca 1-5, 1970, 5 sound tape reels (5 inch), possibly from project with Bill Leap, digital surrogates available online
  - Item 159: Ponca demo, undated, 1 sound cassette
  - Item 160: Ponca gospel hymns, Joe Standing Bear, 1970s, 1 sound cassette, digital surrogate available online
  - Item 161: Ponca vocabulary, undated, 1 sound cassette, digital surrogates available online
  - Items 197-198: Ponca Tribe Historical Anthology (recorded at Ponca Tribal Affairs Building), 1976 November 16, 2 sound discs (cd)

Restrictions: Some sound recordings cannot be reproduced without permission of the tribe. Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the National Anthropological Archives may not be played.