

Guide to the Alexander W. Chase Photographs of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa Indians Circa 1870

Photo Lot: 2003-10
Creator: Chase, Alexander W.
Title: Alexander W. Chase Photographs of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa Indians
Date Span: Circa 1870
Quantity: 9 prints (1 manuscript folder): Albumen

Summary: Studio portraits of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa Indians made by Alexander W. Chase while working for the Coast Survey. Also included are photographs of artifacts from his ethnographic and archaeological collection.

Historical Background: Alexander W. Chase worked as a surveyor for the Coast Survey from 1862-1878. While working near both the San Francisco Bay area and Southern Oregon, he had the opportunity to visit several Indian reservations. As an amateur artist, photographer, and scientist interested in ethnology, he studied the daily lives of the various groups residing there and recorded his first-hand observations in a journal. He published his findings on a visit to the Alsea Reservation in a newspaper article for the *Topeka Daily Capitol*, dated Sunday, November 27, 1887. He also published a longer paper on the Siletz Reservation in 1869. In addition, he was a major contributor to Stephen Powers' monograph *Tribes of California* (1877) with ethnographic and archaeological data, photographs, and sketches.

Scope and Content: This collection consists of studio portraits taken by Alexander W. Chase of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa Indians, and photographs of his personal collection of ethnographic and archaeological artifacts. The photographs are glued onto brown paper, and copies of 2 newspaper articles, including Alexander Chase's own article for the *Topeka Daily Capitol*, are glued to the back of two of the photographs.

Preferred Citation Photo Lot 2003-10, Alexander W. Chase Photographs of Klamath, Modoc, and Tolowa Indians, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Acquisition Information: The photographs were donated to the National Anthropological Archives in 2003 by Jean Prentiss.

Publications relating to this collection:

Blackburn, Thomas. "Some Additional Alexander W. Chase Materials." *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 25, no. 1 (2005): 39-54.

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open to the public.

Restrictions on Use: Contact the repository for terms of use.

Note on Processing: The collection was processed by Jennifer Hawkins, 2010.

Finding aid prepared by: Jennifer Hawkins, 2010.

Note on Description: Collection and image descriptions provided in this finding aid were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material (i.e. documents, publications, and websites), and subject matter experts. While every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is understood that errors may reveal themselves following review by other subject experts, and new information is welcome.

Repository Information

Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History
National Anthropological Archives
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 238-1300
www.nmnh.si.edu/naa

Inventory

Box/Folder	Item	Description
1/1		
	Klamath	
	1	Klamath Indian girl dressed for White Deer Skin Dance
	2	Young Klamath Indian woman dressed for White Deer Skin Dance
	3	Klamath Indian woman
	4	Klamath Indian women
	5	Klamath Indian man and wife
	Modoc	
	6	Modoc Indian man
	Tolowa	
	7	Tolowa medicine man
	Artifacts	
	8	Ethnographic and archaeological artifacts
	9	Stone drills and projectile points