

MAIDUAN



National Anthropological Archives
Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
301.238.1310 | naa@si.edu

Caitlin Haynes
Christina Laree Newhall

Documentation on the Maiduan Language and Culture: National Anthropological Archives Subject Guide

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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 Maiduan. 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 Maiduan 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. The repository can be reached at (301) 238-1310 or naa@si.edu.

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. Although the majority of the collections in this guide have a finding aid linked to them, only some of the finding aids are complete. Those that are incomplete will not provide more information than is in this guide, but those that are complete 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 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 specific items within a collection lead either to that item's record in the SOVA finding aid or to a set search within the SOVA finding aid.

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.

MAIDUAN ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

The NAA recommends that researchers consult with native communities prior to conducting research on those communities in our collections.

The Maiduan archival materials held at the NAA date from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. These materials include vocabularies, grammatical notes, field notes, and photographs. Much of this material was collected by John Peabody Harrington, an ethnologist and linguist employed by the Smithsonian Institution’s Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) for forty years, from 1915 to 1955. Other materials featured in this guide were collected by Albert Samuel Gatschet, an ethnologist and linguist employed by the BAE in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, who primarily worked among the Klamath people. Some material represented in the following guide has been published. Where possible, this guide provides links to those publications.

Materials within this guide may be listed in English, Konkow, Maidu, Nisenan, or other Maiduan languages. Alternative terms listed may be Neeshanam, Nishinam, Southern Maidu, and/or Pujunan. Language note: Golla (2011:136) notes that Chico Maidu, and Northeastern Maidu are more lexically similar, while Nisenan is the most divergent of the Maiduan languages. Kroeber (1967) referred to the Valley Konkow as “Ti-mah.”

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 the materials included, collected 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 646-a: Words, sentences, and texts from the language of the Otakimme or Indians of Chico, California, 1877 August-September

Created by Albert Samuel Gatschet. Approximately 131 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

This manuscript contains handwritten notes on numerals, parts of the body, kinship terms, animals, plants, weather phenomena, calendar, colors, grammatical terms, and word lists. Stock: Pujunan/Maidu language of the Otakimme/Otaki.

Manuscript 646-b: Linguistic material collected at the Chico Ranch of the Micho'pdo Indians (Maidu family) Sacramento Valley, California, 1877

Created by Albert Samuel Gatschet. 84 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#) Digital copies are available.

This manuscript consists of a handwritten booklet including sentences, short phrases, and descriptive terms. Some pages are noted to have been documented in Chico and include descriptive terms and short phrases, along with numerals and calendar/seasonal terms. Some language samples appear to include traditional practices described by the informant, such as processing acorns for food, fishing, and potato harvesting (pp. 59-61). The final page (p. 84) compares a few words from Michopdo and Klamath. Stock: Pujunan/Maidu language, Michopdo dialect; created in Sacramento, California.

Manuscript 646-c: Supplementary Maidu vocabulary and sentences, undated

The creator of this manuscript is unknown. 3 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

This manuscript contains a Maidu vocabulary, with lists of nouns, including animals, clothing, tools, place names, verbal paradigms (tense) and short verbal phrases. Stock: Pujunan.

Manuscript 646-d: Placerville vocabularies, undated

Collected by Israel Diehl. 6 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA.](#)

This manuscript consists of handwritten notes, including 1 page (front and back) with nouns, such as body parts, animals, kinship terms, and tools. Some verbs and short phrases are included throughout. Another page appears to contain ethnographic

information regarding burial practices and beliefs. The backside of this page includes interrogatives and descriptive terms. Another page contains imperatives, lists of nouns including animals, interrogatives, and short phrases. Place: Placerville, California, June 18, 1884. Stock: Pujunan. Language: Maidu or Nishinam.

Manuscript 646-e: Language (Dialect ?) of Indians on Feather and Yuba Rivers, California, undated

Created by Emil V. Sutter. 4 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript contains cardinal numbers and Indian-German vocabulary, with English equivalents added in pencil in an unidentified hand. Recorded 1878, from reminiscences of 1850-1860. More information can be found in the catalog record.

Manuscript 646-f: Vocabulary of Feather and Yuba Rivers, Sutter and Yuba Counties, California, undated

Created by Emil V. Sutter and annotated by Albert Samuel Gatschet. 7 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript is recorded in a Department of the Interior Comparative Vocabulary schedule¹. Copy by a clerk from NAA [Manuscript 646-e](#), with annotations (including the date of record) by A.S. Gatschet.

Manuscript 1326: Words and music to California Indian songs, circa 1877

Created by Stephen Powers, Usaka, and Kekhhoai. 2 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript contains Religious Song of the Ballo-Kai-Pomo. Dancing Song of the Ballo-Kai-Pomo, Potter Valley. Acorn Song, (Huchnom) [Yukian], sung by Usaka, a woman. Song of the Huchnom, Sung by old Kekhhoal (blind). Dancing Song of the Karok, Klamath River. Konkau [Maiduan] Dancing Song. Published in Powers, "Tribes of California," [Contributions to North American Ethnology, vol. III, Washington, 1877](#), on pages facing 28, 144, and 148.

Manuscript 1452: Yukian Vocabulary in Powell's Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages, undated

Collected by Jeremiah Curtin. 118 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript contains terms from the Maidu tribe occurring from place to place in a partly filled schedule² of John Wesley Powell's [Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages](#). Nothing in the schedule is specifically labeled Wintun or Maidu- MCB 1955.

¹ These "schedules" would today be referred to as standardized forms. They were essentially lists of English words, organized thematically, with spaces to enter the translation of the words into native languages.

² *ibid*.

Loose sheets, tribe not given: Names of women, 4 pages, and Myth- Hazel bush widow, 16 pages. On preliminary page [ii] are Nosa [Yana] chief's names- 1 page.

Manuscript 1522: Notes on names, and linguistic notes on Siouan, Athapascan, Caddoan, Iroquoian, and Muskhogean tribes, circa 1900

Collected by Francis T. Haggadorn. 256 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript contains vocabularies from various languages including Cushna (Maidu).

Manuscript 1627: Miscellaneous vocabularies of 32 different tribes, undated

Collected by J. H. Bartlett and others, along with multiple collaborators/informants (see catalog record for more detailed information). 183 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available.

This manuscript contains multiple vocabularies and grammatical notes. It includes "Vocabulary in the Digger (Pujunan) [Maidu] language, from manuscript in the possession of J. B. Moore obtained by H. B. Brown. 4 pages; Pages 113-116 Napa Valley (Digger) [Pujunan] vocabulary. 3 pages.; and Pages 117-123 Makah of Cape Flattery and Diggers [Pujunan] of Napa Valley- vocabulary. 6 pages." For a more detailed list of other vocabularies within this manuscript, see the catalog record.

Manuscript 4569-c: Vocabulary of the "Miduan tribes", undated

Created by C. Hart Merriam. 91 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available.

This manuscript contains names of persons, parts of the body, 41 pages (also carbon copy); names of animals, birds, and plants, 50 pages.

Manuscript 4971: Notes on the Manners and Customs, Beliefs and Superstitions of Soo-Boo' – Soo's Band of the Maydoo Indians, Formerly inhabiting Yuba, and parts of adjoining counties, in California, 1884

Created by Wyatt Harris. 49 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript contains a brief Maidu vocabulary and a biographical note on Chief Soo-Boo'-Soo (died 1852). Also note by J. Owen Dorsey to Director, Bureau of American Ethnology recommending retention of the manuscript and enclosing an outline of its contents. February 9, 1885. Typescript document. 2 pages. Material is based on Harris' observations while engaged as. Placer miner, ca. 1852-1860.

Ralph Leon Beals papers, 1919-1970

Created by Ralph Leon Bears. 48 linear feet. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

The Ralph Leon Beals papers document his professional and personal life as an author, anthropologist, and professor at the University of California. Included are his research

files, correspondence, grant proposals, notes, charts, census material, maps, newspaper clippings, appointment calendars, drafts of published and unpublished writings, photographs and card files. Beals' research focused primarily on California, the American Southwest, and Latin America, especially Mexico. In California, he carried out an ethnological survey of the Southern Maidu (Nisenan) during the summer of 1929, working under Kroeber and supported in part by funds from the Bureau of American Ethnology's Cooperative Ethnological Research program. [Series 9: California Indians materials, 1945-1955](#): Boxes 34, 38, 40 include materials on Nisenan.

Related Collections: A typescript of notes on the Nisenan from Beals is held in the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley.

Restrictions: Some personal materials have been restricted, but Beals provided edited copies for the use of current researchers. In addition, field assistants' materials have been restricted for the lifetime of the creators. Contact the NAA for information on access and use.

[Frederica De Laguna papers, 1890-2004 \(bulk 1923-2004\)](#)

Created by Frederica De Laguna. 38 linear feet. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

These papers reflect the professional and personal life of Frederica de Laguna. The collection contains correspondence, field notes, writings, newspaper clippings, writings by others, subject files, sound recordings, photographs, and maps. A significant portion of the collection consists of de Laguna's correspondence with family, friends, colleagues, and students, as well as her informants from the field. Her correspondence covers a wide range of subjects such as family, health, preparations for field work, her publications and projects, the Northwest Coast, her opinions on the state of anthropology, and politics. The field notes in the collection mainly represent de Laguna and her assistants' work in the Northern Tlingit region of Alaska from 1949 to 1954. [Series 4: Teaching, 1922-1988 \(bulk 1965-1988\)](#) contains materials related to her work as a professor. Mainly comprised of de Laguna's notes, syllabi, and subject files for courses she taught at Bryn Mawr College and at University of Pennsylvania. Box 2 contains two folders on Maidu.

Restrictions: Some of the original field notes are restricted due to Frederica de Laguna's request to protect the privacy of those accused of witchcraft. The originals are restricted until 2030. Photocopies may be made with the names of the accused redacted.

[John Peabody Harrington papers, 1907-1959 \(some earlier\)](#)

Created by John Peabody Harrington. 63 linear feet. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are 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 John Peabody Harrington papers are 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 2: Papers relating to the Native American history, language, and culture of northern and Central California, 1912-1957](#) represents the results of Harrington's work on the native languages and cultures of northern and central California from the Oregon border to the Tejon region in the San Joaquin Valley. The fieldwork was undertaken just prior to and during his employment as ethnologist by the BAE. The documents focus primarily on linguistic data, although they also include significant amounts of ethnographic and historical information.
 - [Subseries 2.6: Nisenan/Northern Sierra Miwok, 1939](#) contains material that supplements Harrington's research on Nisenan and Northern Sierra Miwok. A section of Harrington's field notes is based on Prince Paul of Wurttemberg's research on "Hok" (Southwestern Nisenan) dialect and "Kosume" (Northern Sierra Miwok). In 1937 Matthew W. Stirling, chief of the BAE, commissioned Charles Upson Clark to conduct research in Stuttgart, Germany, on Prince Paul's expedition of 1849-1851 to the Pacific Coast. A translation of a portion of Clark's journals was sent to Harrington in the field to be reheard with his various informants. The notes are organized on the basis of interviews which Harrington conducted with individuals or small groups. George Nye, described as a speaker of the "Yuba County language," and Lizzie Enos provided the bulk of the data. A variety of Nisenan dialects are represented, including the Northern and Central Hill varieties. Much of the ethnographic information interspersed with the linguistic notes is concerned with Harrington's attempts to locate the Hock Indian mound described by von Wurttemberg. Microfilm Reel 5: Box 89 contains Nisenan linguistic and ethnographic material.
- [Series 8: Notes and Writings on Special Linguistic Studies, 1907-1957, undated](#) represents the results of the linguistic studies which John P. Harrington conducted before, during, and after his employment at the Bureau of American Ethnology (1915 -1954). There are various materials which supplement the field notes described in the other series of his papers. The files, which are arranged by tribe or language, usually consist of only a few pages, although those for several of the California groups are more extensive.
 - [Subseries 8.2: Supplemental material on Northern and Central California, circa 1907-circa 1957](#) contains material that supplement Harrington's Northern and Central California field notes. Included are information and notes Harrington collected from the field, covering linguistic, botanical, biographical, geographical, and ethnographic topics. Microfilm Reel 1: Box 1046 contains material related to [Nisenan/Northern Sierra Miwok](#).

William C. Sturtevant papers, 1952-2007

Created by William C. Sturtevant. 220 linear feet (The total extent of the collection is 191.41 linear feet (consisting of 473 document boxes and 2 record boxes) plus 254 sound recordings, 94 computer disks, 42 card file boxes, 85 oversize folders, 9 rolled

items, 18 binder boxes, and 3 oversize boxes. Of the total extent, 4.79 linear feet (14 boxes) are restricted.) [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This collection contains the professional papers of William C. Sturtevant and documents his activities as Curator of North American Ethnology at the National Museum of Natural History, his work as the editor-in-chief of the *Handbook of North American Indians*, his research among the Seminole and Iroquois people, and other professional activities.

- [Series 3: Writings, 1952-2006](#) contains Sturtevant's published articles and monographs as well as his unpublished notes and drafts. Box 301 contains the folder [Maidu- AMNH, circa 1990](#).

Restrictions: Files containing Sturtevant's students' grades have been restricted, as have his students' and colleagues' grant and fellowships applications.

GRAPHIC MATERIALS

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. "Maiduan" + "basket") and narrowing the results by using "National Anthropological Archives" as the catalog record source and "Photographs" as type. Collections with item level inventories in their finding aids can also be searched within the SOVA record by typing a search term (e. g. "Maiduan") into the "Search within collection" field underneath the collection title.

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: Photographs of Native Americans and Other Subjects, 1840s-1960s](#)

This is an artificial collection³ comprised of works by multiple creators. Approximately 18,000 items. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available for some images.

This 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 from a wide variety of sources. To these have been added some photographs and other illustrative material acquired and sometimes

³ 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.

accessioned by the Department of Anthropology of the United States National Museum/National Museum of Natural History. There are also prints of photographs from [Photo Lot 176: Bureau of American Ethnology Negatives](#) 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 North America are included. The collection includes [24 images catalogued as Maidu](#), most of which can be found in [California](#). Other Maidu or Nisenan related images may be found within this collection but have not yet been identified.

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

Photo Lot 74-27: C. Hart Merriam photographs of Native Americans, circa 1902-1938

Created by C. Hart Merriam. 5,000 items (glass negatives, film negatives, lantern slides, and some prints). [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This collection contains photographs depicting Native American baskets and portraits of Native Americans with whom C. Hart Merriam worked, as well as scenic views and images of animals and plants, mostly in California. Many of the photographs were made by Merriam himself or his daughter Zenaida Merriam Talbot. In addition, Merriam collected photographs from other researchers and photographers, including J. S. Diller, John Peabody Harrington, Henry Wetherbee Henshaw, and O. E. Meddaugh. There are also images acquired from the Boysen Studio of Yosemite and photographs of Mark Twain, John Muir, basketmaker Maggie James, and Merriam's family. It may include images related to the Nisenan and Maidu.

Restrictions: Original glass negatives and nitrate negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. However, prints may be available. Please contact the NAA for more information regarding access.

Photo Lot 89-8: Willis G. Tilton collection of photographs of Native Americans, circa 1880-1930 (bulk 1899-1904)

Collected by Willis G. Tilton. Approximately 685 glass and nitrate negatives. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available for some images.

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 is [one image within this collection catalogued as Maidu](#).

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 89-25: Photographs of Harry Fonseca artwork, circa 1989

Created by Harry Fonseca. 15 copy negatives, 429 copy color slides. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This collection contains images of art pieces by Harry Fonseca, many of which depict his representation of the mythical figure Coyote. Included are copies of the 115 color slides Fonseca used in his lecture at the Smithsonian in 1989. There are also images of his "Stone Poems" series, each Smithsonian-exhibited piece, and views of the exhibit as a whole. Harry Fonseca is a Nisenan Maidu artist who was influenced by basketry designs, his experience as a Maidu dancer, and creation stories and myths. In 1979, he started his Coyote series, which depicts Coyote the trickster in non-traditional settings. Fonseca lectured on his work at the Smithsonian on February 9, 1989, as part of an exhibition of his art in the National Museum of Natural History.

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

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 copies are available for some images.

This collection contains 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. There are [twenty-five images within this collection catalogued as Maidu](#).

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.