

# PONCA

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

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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 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. The repository can be reached at (301) 238-1310 or [naa@si.edu](mailto: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.

## PONCA ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

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

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 the 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 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.

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**Some Bureau of American Ethnology manuscripts are being reorganized and redescribed. During this process, some of the links in this guide may get broken. For more information, or to report a broken link, please contact the repository at (301) 238-1310 or [naa@si.edu](mailto:naa@si.edu).**

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## 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](#).

This collection is divided into two parts: Manuscript 247-a and Manuscript 247-b. Manuscript 247-a includes Wichita and Tawakoni words, sentences, and texts, and Ponca-English vocabulary, partially from Francis LaFlesche. Manuscript 247-b includes vocabulary, recorded in the schedule<sup>1</sup> of John Wesley Powell’s [Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages](#) and is 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](#).

This collection contains “Brief historical notes” on the Kwapa and other Dhegiha; “Quapaw Vocabulary,” including grammatical notes; “Comparative Kwapa-Ponka vocabulary;” and “The Mystery of the Ponca Removal.”

### **[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](#).

This manuscript contains grammatical notes and a letter of transmittal to Joseph Henry.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Manuscript 1357: Comparative vocabulary of Dakota, Winnebago, Omaha, and Ponka, 1864 February**

Created by Stephen Return Riggs. 9 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This manuscript contains a comparative list of nouns of kinship; comparative lists of nouns for body parts; a list of body parts, tools, meteorological phenomena, and seasonal terms; a page of nouns, animals, geological and elemental features; a comparative list of colors, age, locatives, and adjectives; a comparative list of temporal relations, numerals, and a few words related to ethereal (spiritual) phenomena; and a comparative list of verbs.

**Manuscript 1389: Language of the Dakotas and Cognate tribes, 1880s (?)**

Created by Alfred Longley Riggs. 27 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available.

This manuscript contains marginal queries by James Owen Dorsey. It lists languages of the “Dakotan” [Siouan] stock, makes general observations on them, and 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](#).

This manuscript consists of miscellaneous working notes, in various stages of revision. An analysis of the contents was made by William C. Sturtevant, Department of Anthropology Curator, Smithsonian Institution, in March 1960. Sturtevant noted that 1800-e includes “**Ponca-Winnebago** comparative vocabulary, without indication of sources, without comments or analysis. 5 pages, unarranged.”

**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](#).

The title at the top of the handwritten notes within this manuscript reads: “Dorsey—Ponca Grammar Stress—Accent.” The 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 is 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](#).

This collection contains vocabularies on cards compiled from information furnished in reply to letters of inquiry. The information is secondary and lacks documentation. Ponca terms are thought to be included.

### **Manuscript 4558: 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 copies are 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 (BAE), and Francis La Flesche (1856-1923), an anthropologist with the BAE. Due to the close professional and personal relationship of Fletcher and La Flesche, their papers have been arranged jointly. Included in the collection are 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](#) represents Fletcher and La Flesche's ethnographic work and publications. Ethnographic materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject. [Ponca field notes \(includes Sun and Ghost Dance materials\), 1890-1896](#) and [Ponca general papers, 1922, undated](#) 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 O. 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. This collection comprises 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. Materials related to the Ponca can be found in the following locations:

- [Series 1: Siouan-Catawban, 1870-1894, undated](#) 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 1870-1956](#) 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** in the folders [Clippings, miscellaneous, circa 1870s-1880s, undated](#) and [Notebook of newspaper clippings, 1871-1873](#).
- [Series 6: Miscellaneous and Reprints, 1875, 1880 1891-1894, undated](#) 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. The collection includes two maps related to the Ponca:

- [Series 13: Maps / Country Known to the Omaha \(Nebraska\), 1911](#) was created by Alice Cunningham Fletcher and Francis LaFlesche (annotator unknown) and includes information on the Omaha, Ponca, and Pawnee. It was printed in the [Bureau of American Ethnology 27th Annual Report](#), p. 88.
- [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](#) was created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and shows Indian reservations, including Ponca, Oneida, Shoalwater, and Chippewa. The map section reads: "Ponca Indian Reservation, Indian Territory, compiled from plates 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 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 J.P. Harrington papers is 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. Materials related to the Ponca can be found in the following locations:

- [Series 5: Papers relating to the Native American History, Language, and Culture of the Plains, 1916-1951, undated](#) 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.
  - [Subseries: Siouan, 1919-circa 1945 \(bulk 1937-1939\)](#) 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 the Ponca.

#### [James Henri Howard papers, 1824-1992 \(bulk 1950-1982\)](#)

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 to 1982 and primarily deal with his work as an anthropologist, archeologist, and ethnologist, studying Native American languages and cultures. The collection consists of correspondence; 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; sound recordings of Native American music and dance; photographs; and drawings and artwork. [Series 2: Writings and Research, 1824-1992](#) consists of subject files that comprise language and cultural research material about various Native American 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 document his field work, research, and professional activities, primarily in relation to his work studying Native American languages. 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. Materials related to the Ponca can be found in the following locations:

- [Series 1: Quapaw, 1972-1991, undated](#): **Box 1** includes the folder [OIAC Quapaw language project, also Ponca, 1977-1978](#).
- [Series 4: Subject and Correspondence files, 1886, 1956-2007, undated](#): **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 the folder ["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: Digital files are restricted for preservation concerns; contact the repository 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 document his research and professional activities from his time in graduate school in the 1970s through the end of his career at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. The 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, undated](#): the folder [Holmer-Sonant-Surds in Ponca Omaha, 1945](#) can be found in **Box 14**.

## 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. "Ponca" + "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. "Ponca") 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.

### **Manuscript 4605: James E. Taylor scrapbook of the American West, circa 1863-1900**

Created by James E. Taylor. 1 scrapbook, 118 pages. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available.

This manuscript consists of a 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 Native Americans, U. S. Army soldiers and scouts, historical sites, forts, and scenery. There are [two images within this collection catalogued as Ponca](#).

### **Manuscript 4968: Outdoor photographic portraits, 1970 July**

Created by Dick Ferrar (photographer). 33 35mm color slides. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

The photos in this collection are 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 was supplied by James Boon, Center for the Study of Man, Smithsonian Institution, who accompanied the photographer.

### **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](#).

This collection consists of 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, the number of skulls photographed, the photograph number, the negative number, and data on photographic technique. The collection 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 collection<sup>2</sup> comprised of works by multiple creators. Approximately 18,000 items. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are 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. The collection includes [sixty images identified as Ponca](#). The majority of these can be found in the section [Series 1: America north of Mexico / Plains / Ponca](#).

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

### **Photo Lot 25: Albertype Company photograph collection relating to Native Americans, circa 1890-1910**

Created by the Albertype Company. 318 nitrate and copy negatives. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

The Albertype 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 Albertype 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

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

are [ten images within this collection catalogued as Ponca](#). Other images within this collection may be related, 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 repository for more information regarding access.*

#### **Photo Lot 59: Library of Congress Copyright Office photographs of Native Americans, circa 1860s-1930s**

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

This collection contains photographs which document Indigenous North American peoples and cultures from over 100 communities. Most of the photographs are portraits of individuals and groups, often in a studio setting, but there are also photographs of people engaged in various activities, views of camps, villages, dances and ceremonies, and scenery. This collection includes [five photographs by Edward Curtis](#) and [ten by other photographers](#) identified as Ponca.

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

#### **Photo Lot 60: Bureau of American Ethnology photograph albums of Native Americans, 1858-1905**

Created by the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian. 16 albums consisting of 926 prints total. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This collection consists of 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. The collection includes [twenty-seven images identified as Ponca](#).

#### **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](#).

This collection contains 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 Paul 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 the Northeast and Plains, 1901-1914**

Created by De Lancey W. Gill. 12 mounted prints (platinum). [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#).

This collection contains studio portraits of Native Americans, including Thas-hunke-hine-kota (Roan Horse), Wa-sho-she (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-to-keco (Strange Horse), and Hodjiagede (Fish Carrier). The prints were originally part of a framed display. Two photos within this collection are identified as Ponca, and read, "Siouan Family, Ponca." They include 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 Native Americans, circa 1874-1890**

Created by C.M. (Charles Milton) Bell. Approximately 340 copy prints, 333 glass negatives, and 69 copy negatives. [Finding Aid available through SOVA](#). Digital copies are available for most images.

This collection consists of portraits of Native Americans made by Charles Milton Bell in his Washington, DC, studio. Many images within this collection remain unidentified, so it may include images of Ponca.

*Restrictions: Original glass negatives are restricted from in-person access due to preservation concerns. Please contact the repository 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 copies are available.

This collection contains 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. The collection contains [two portraits of Luther Standing Bear which are catalogued as Ponca](#).



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

**Photo Lot 85-21: Robert M. Farring Jr. photograph collection 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 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. The collection includes a photograph of "Ponca Delegation, 9-24-70, Emmet Primeaux, Vice Chairman; John Williams, Chairman; Thomas Roughface, Secretary."

**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.](#)

This collection 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 came to Washington, DC, to sign a treaty.

*Restrictions: This image was acquired for reference purposes and cannot be reproduced. Please contact the repository for more information.*

**Photo Lot 89-8: Willis G. Tilton collection of photographs 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 Native Americans. 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. The photographs include portraits and images of artifacts, basket weaving, cradles, dress, dwelling, tipis and other dwellings, and tree burials. The collection includes [seventeen images catalogued as Ponca.](#)

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



**Photo Lot 90-1: George V. Allen collection of photographs of Native Americans 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 copies are 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. The collection includes six images catalogued as Ponca (numbers 69, 70, 71, 72, 270, 271).

*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 repository 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 copies are available for some images.

This 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. The collection includes [117 images catalogued as Ponca](#).

*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 repository for more information regarding access.*

**Photo Lot 4286: James E. McClees studio photographs of Native American delegates to Washington, DC, circa 1850-1863 (bulk 1857-1858)**

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](#).

This collection consists of studio portraits made by the James E. McClees Studio and published by the Blackmore Museum, depicting Native American visitors to Washington, DC. 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. The collection includes the photograph [Portrait of Wi-ga-sa-pi \(The Whip\), a Ponca Chief 1857-1858](#).

**[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 copies are available.

This collection consists of albums which were probably assembled by William Henry Jackson and which mostly contain portraits of Native American delegations in Washington, DC, 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. The collection includes one image catalogued as Ponca Indians: [Twelve Iowa and Oto delegates, most with pipe-tomahawks and two interpreters, 1877 November 14](#).

*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](#).

This collection contains photographs made by Stanley J. Morrow depicting Plains Indians, agencies, and United States Army installations and expeditions. About half of the subjects relate to Native Americans, including Ponca. 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: These images were acquired for reference purposes and cannot be reproduced. Please contact the repository for more information.*

### **James Henri Howard papers, 1824-1992 (bulk 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 are described more fully on page 9 of this guide.

[Series 4: Photographs, 1879-1985](#) consists primarily of photographs 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 [Ponca \(Northern\)](#), [Northern Ponca Hethuska Drum & Northern Style Grass Dance Costume \(1 & 2\)](#), and [Ponca Straight Dance Costume \(24\)](#) in **Boxes 18-20**.

## SOUND RECORDINGS

### **James Henri Howard papers, 1824-1992 (bulk 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 are described more fully on page 9 of this guide.

[Series 3: Sound Recordings, 1960-1979](#) consists of fifteen 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 in 1960-1979, although three 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.

*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](#). Digital copies are available for most sound recordings.

The Robert Rankin papers are described more fully on pages 9-10 of this guide. [Series 9: Sound Recordings, 1963-1987, undated](#) consists of cassettes, sound tape reels, and CDs that did not easily fit within other series in this collection. The 121 sound recordings include material related to Native American languages and tribes outside of Quapaw and Kaw (Kansa, Kanza), including the Ponca. Some of the items may be produced or

otherwise copyrighted language tapes that Rankin copied and used in classes or for his own personal studies. The contents of the majority of these sound recordings have not been verified. **Boxes 51-54**-Ponca include the following:

- Items 154-158: [Ponca 1-5, 1970](#): 5 sound tape reels (5 inch), possibly from project with Bill Leap.
- Item 159: [Ponca demo, undated](#): 1 sound cassette.
- Item 160: [Ponca gospel hymns, Joe Standing Bear, 1970s](#): 1 sound cassette.
- Item 161: [Ponca vocabulary, undated](#): 1 sound cassette.
- 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.*