Finding aid to the Northern California Indian Association Newsletters and Bulletins MS.1311

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234 Museum Drive
Los Angeles, CA, 90065-5030
323-221-2164
rroom@theautry.org
2013 January 04
Title: Northern California Indian Association newsletters and bulletins
Identifier/Call Number: MS.1311
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.1 Linear feet (2 folders)
Date: Early 20th Century
Abstract: The Northern California Indian Association, formed in 1894, was a branch of the Women's National Indian Association, which formed in Philadelphia in 1879. The Northern California Indian Association, based in San Jose, CA, campaigned for "the physical, moral, and educational advancement" of the California Indians. This collection consists of newsletters and bulletins from the Northern California Indian Association in the early 20th century. Many of the items focus on the Zayante Indian Conferences held annually in Mount Hermon, California beginning in 1906. There is also information about the Association's efforts to start an industrial school for Indians and a report from the Indian Board of Co-Operation.

creator: Northern California Indian Association.

Administrative History note
The Northern California Indian Association, formed in 1894, was a branch of the Women's National Indian Association, which formed in Philadelphia in 1879. The Northern California Indian Association, based in San Jose, CA, campaigned for "the physical, moral, and educational advancement" of the California Indians. The organization considered itself non-denominational Christian. In 1901, the national organization's name changed to the National Indian Association, though its membership remained mostly female. The following people were officers in the San Jose branch: Mrs. Josephine Gilchrist, Mrs. Mary Edwards, Mrs. Jessie Knight Jordan, Mrs. E.D. Van Denburgh, Miss Jennie Farwell, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mr. Charles E. Kelsey, Mrs. Edith Beasly, Miss Cornelia Taber, Mrs. Mary Bacon, and Mrs. Ed Williams.

Biographical note
George Wharton James (1858-1923) was born in Gainsborough, England. He became a preacher for the Methodist Church before coming to California in the 1880s. While in California, James abandoned the ministry and traveled throughout the United States. He was well known as a writer, explorer, book collector, artifact collector, and an Indian civil-rights activist. Like Charles Lummis, James was considered an eccentric of the American West. The two men had a notable rivalry though James served as editor of Lummis's *Out West* magazine beginning in 1912.


Related Archival Materials note

  Folder 1: Northern California Indian Association, Zayante Indian Conferences
  Folder 2: Liquor Problem Among the Indians

Scope and contents
This collection consists of newsletters and bulletins from the Northern California Indian Association in the early 20th century. Many of the items focus on the Zayante Indian Conferences held annually in Mount Hermon, California beginning in 1906. There is also information about the Association's efforts to start an industrial school for Indians. A report from the Indian Board of Co-Operation is also included. The document in Folder 2 was found along with Folder 1, though the creator and date of this document is unknown.

Custodial history
This collection was part of the George Wharton James Collection donated to the Southwest Museum Library in 1928.

Processing history
Initial processing and finding aid created by Natalie Sims, 2010. Final processing of collection and publication of finding aid made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

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Access
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org.

Acquisition
Donated by Edith E. Farnsworth as part of the George Wharton James Library, 1928 November 28.

Preferred citation
*Northern California Indian Association Newsletters and Bulletins*, Early 20th century, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.1311; [folder number] [folder title][date].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Women’s National Indian Association (U.S.).
Bulletins
Indians of North America -- Alcohol use
Indians of North America -- California
Indians of North America -- California -- Economic conditions
Indians of North America -- California -- Social life and customs
Indians of North America -- Education
Newsletters
Zayante Indian Conferences

Folder 1

*How Christmas Came to the Rivers* undated

Language of Material: English

Scope and contents
Story about an Indian family’s first Christmas, leading to a request for donations to California Indian schools and missions written by Kelsey, Mrs. C.E. and Miss Cornelia Taber.

Folder 1

*The Third Annual Zayante Indian Conference*. circa 1908

Scope and Contents note
Leaflet includes plans for establishing the Industrial School for California Indians.

Folder 1

*The California Indian and Whiskey* undated

Physical Description: 8.0 pages

Scope and Contents note

Folder 1

“To the Christian People of California and Elsewhere” 1907 February 18

Scope and Contents note
Article published by the Northern California Indian Association. Includes subheadings, “Government grant for land, education, field matrons, missions, home missionary societies, present day needs”.

Folder 1

“Facts You Want To Know About California Indians” 1908

Scope and Contents note
Flyer by the California Indian Association that describes the number of Indians in California, education, government schools, government field matrons, missions, and the wants of the Indians of California.
Folder 1

**The Third Annual Zayante Indian Conference circa 1908**

- **Physical Description:** 8.0 pages
- **Scope and Contents note**
  - Summary of the conference and an article by C.E. Kelsey on possible land purchases for the California Indians.

Folder 1

**“Fifteenth Annual Report of the Northern California Indian Association” by Taber, Cornelia 1910, January 1**

- **Scope and Contents note**
  - Includes “An Urgent Plea for Missions” by Honorable James Bryce, British Ambassador in Washington; numerical description of the Indian population in California; listing of the Association’s officers; chronological description of the Association’s work; financial report of the Association; information about the Hannah E. Bean Memorial Fund; Annual Report on land, field matrons, missions, auxiliaries, Christmas, Indian industries, programs for Indian Days, membership information, and a report on the Fourth Zayante Indian Conference held in Mount Hermon, California in 1909.

Folder 1

**The Indian Population of California by Merriam, Dr. C. Hart undated**

- **Scope and Contents note**
  - Based on an address given by Dr. Merriam of the Biological Survey, Washington, D.C.

Folder 1

**“Indian Industrial School” booklet circa 1910**

- **Scope and Contents note**
  - Includes description of the purpose of the Indian School; numerical description of Indian populations by California counties; “The Present Condition of the California Indians” by C.E. Kelsey; picture of the First Christian Indian Council at the Third Zayante conference in 1908 and the Second Christian Indian Council at the Fourth Zayante conference in 1909; Map of California showing county divisions, reservations, boarding schools, locations of field matrons and missionaries, lands recently purchased, and rancherias; “A Basis of Solid Facts” outlining seven points on the condition of the California Indians. 3 copies total, 1 copy missing first page.

Folder 1

**“Another ‘Scrap of Paper’? Not Exactly, But Consider the Case of the California Indians” by Indian Board of Co-Operation undated**

- **Scope and Contents note**
  - A small booklet describing the condition of the California Indians.

Folder 1

**“And Not to Have Left this Undone” by the Indian Board of Co-Operation after 1918**

- **Scope and Contents note**

Folder 1

**“To agents, superintendents, teachers, and other employees of the Indian School Service and all others interested in Indian education” circa 1904**

- **Scope and Contents note**
  - Program for the June 1904 meeting of the Congress of Indian Educators in St. Louis, Missouri.

Folder 1

**The Solvent of the Race Problem for the Seventeen Thousand Indians in California by Gilchrist, Reverend Hugh W. circa 1909**

- **Scope and Contents note**
  - An address delivered at the Third Zayante conference in 1908 August. Includes an historic note on the Zayante Indian Conferences.
Folder 1: Mount Hermon Mid-August Assemblies 1910. circa 1910
Scope and Contents note
Details the Fifth Indian Conference Temperance Sessions. Includes programming details.

Folder 1: To the California Indians circa 1907
Scope and Contents note
Describes the history of the Mount Hermon Indian Association and the Zayante conferences.

Folder 1: Northern California Indian Association Assembled in the Zayante Indian Conference circa 1907
Physical Description: 8.0 pages
Scope and Contents note
Includes the “Report of the Presidential Committee” outlining the demands of the California Indians and signed by 20 California Indians (pictured), a map of California showing county boundaries, reservations, boarding and day schools, and denominational missions, and a program for the “Industrial, Civil, and Religious advancement of the California Indians.”

Folder 2: “The Liquor Problem Among the Indians” undated
Scope and Contents note
Four pages of quotes extracted from letters received from ministers, missionaries, government officials, teachers, field matrons, “white friends” and Indians themselves in 22 California counties. The compiler of these quotes and the date this document was created are unknown.