Finding Aid to the Edward S. Curtis Collection MS.647

Finding aid prepared by Holly Rose Larson
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2012 October 29
Title: Edward S. Curtis Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS.647
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversized folder)
Date (inclusive): circa 1910, 1986
Abstract: Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) spent many years photographing, writing about, and recording the songs of Native Americans. This collection contains original manuscripts and photocopies of manuscripts by Edward Curtis regarding his studies and his photo book series *North American Indian*. Original manuscripts include a lecture on Native American religion, an annotated list of items in Curtis’ artifact collection and a synopsis of the list as it could be used in the *North American Indian* series, and a circa 1910 annotated catalogue of photographs for the *North American Indian* publication, including descriptions of photographs that do not appear in the publication. The collection also includes photocopies made in 1986 of materials from 1911-1962.

creator: Curtis, Edward S., 1868-1952
creator: Myers, W. E.
creator: Sniffen, Matthew K.

Biographical note
Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) spent many years photographing, writing about, and recording the songs of Native Americans. His work was finally realized in 20 encyclopedic volumes entitled *The North American Indian*, published between 1907 and 1930.

Scope and Contents
This collection contains original manuscripts and photocopies of manuscripts by Edward Curtis regarding his studies and his photo book series *North American Indian*. Original manuscripts include a lecture on Native American religion, an annotated list of items in Curtis’ artifact collection and a synopsis of the list as it could be used in the *North American Indian* series, and a circa 1910 annotated catalogue of photographs for the *North American Indian* publication, including descriptions of photographs that do not appear in the publication. Photocopied materials include a grouping of copies of material spanning from 1911-1962 of correspondence, clippings, newspaper clippings, and copies of images; copies of a collection of unpublished manuscripts and field notes, undated; photocopies of research and reference material used by Curtis, including handwritten references to other reference material and typed notes within the text, some by Curtis’ main field assistant, W. E. Myers; and photocopies of a group of transcripts from 1924-1937 of field notes from Curtis’ 1924 season living with Pueblo tribes, transcripts of interviews taken by others, including Matthew Sniffen, concerning religious freedom, and correspondence between Curtis and Sniffen.

Preferred citation
*Edward S. Curtis Collection*, circa 1910, 1986, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.647; [folder number] [folder title][date].

Processing history
Processing completed by Library staff after 1981. Finding aid completed by Holly Rose Larson, NHPRC Processing Archivist, 2012 October 29, made possible through grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commissions (NHPRC).

Custodial history
Andrew Smith bought the original Curtis materials in this collection from people who purchased it from C. E. Laurait Company.

Acquisition
Original manuscript material purchased in memory of Ronald Brooks from Andrew Smith, Inc., Albuquerque, NM, 1986 March 24. The photocopied material from the collection of Andrew Smith was given to the Library in exchange for photocopies of the Library’s Edward S. Curtis/Frederick Webb Hodge Correspondence.

Use
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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.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Clippings
- Cochiti (N.M.)
- Correspondence
- Field notes
- Haida Indians
- Indians of North America -- Portraits
- Indians of North America -- Religion
- Jemez Pueblo (N.M.)
- Jicarilla Indians
- Manuscripts
- Northwest Coast Indians
- Photocopies
- Transcripts