

MS-208

The Museum of Northern Arizona
Harold S. Colton Memorial Library
3101 N. Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928)774-5213 ext. 256

Title

Kate T. Cory collection

Dates

1905-1912

Extent

762 photographic images (620 nitrate negatives, 737 prints, 734 copy negatives), 4.5 cm textual material

Biographical History

Kate Thompson Cory (8 February 1861 – 12 June 1958) was born in Waukegan, Illinois to a newspaper editor, ardent abolitionist, and friend of Abraham Lincoln's. She studied art at Cooper Union and the Art Student's League in New York City, and later became an art instructor. In 1904, she met painter Louis Akin, who had just returned from Arizona. He suggested that the Hopi mesas would be the perfect place for an artist colony. Cory promptly took the train to the southwest and never used her return ticket. She lived in the Hopi villages of Oraibi and Walpi from 1905-1912 and photographed numerous ceremonies and dances, as well as the daily lives of turn of the century Hopi. She became a close friend of many in the tribe and was asked to become a member, but courteously declined. Cory was also one of the first people to document the Hopi language.

When she was 51, Cory left the Hopi and moved to Prescott, Arizona. She built her own house and was active in the community, despite her demure demeanor. She spent most of her time painting.

During the 1920s and '30s, Cory was a consultant for Western films in Hollywood. And in 1930, the Bureau of Reclamation hired Cory to paint the site where the Boulder Dam would soon after be built. She completed several works from the trip, each one residing in the Arizona Capitol Museum, the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott.

Kate passed away in 1958 at the Arizona Pioneers' Home and is buried in the Arizona Pioneers' Home Cemetery, with her gravestone reading: "Kate Cory, Artist of Arizona. Hers was the joy of giving."

Scope and Content

This collection consists of the original nitrate negatives Cory took while a resident on the Hopi mesas from 1905-1912, as well as copy negatives and prints that were produced at a

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later date. The collection also includes a copy of a partial dictionary of the Hopi language created by Cory, and 2 copies of Cory's diary from 1909-1910.

Conditions Governing Access

Viewing restrictions were placed on particular photographs in this collection due to the culturally sensitive nature of the subjects. These restrictions were placed by the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Contact the Museum of Northern Arizona archivist for information on obtaining permission for viewing these images.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Unpublished and published manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Languages and Scripts of the Materials

English and Hopi

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection purchased from Bess Hoffman, executor of Kate Cory's estate in 1976 (Accession #MS-208)

Existence and Location of Originals

The original textual material belongs to the Smoki Museum.

Related Archival Materials

The Waukegan Historical Society, the Sharlot Hall Museum, and the Smoki Museum all have Kate T. Cory collections.

Publication Note

Many of Cory's photographs appear in:

Cory, Kate, Marnie Gaede, Barton Wright, and Marc Gaede. 1986. *The Hopi photographs: Kate Cory, 1905-1912*. La Cañada, Calif: Chaco Press.

Description Control

Finding aid written by Eileen Hogan using *DACS*, 5 August 2010

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Title

Series 1: Photographs

Dates

1905-1912

Extent

762 photographic images (620 nitrate negatives, 736 prints, 734 copy negatives)

Scope and Content

This collection consists of the original nitrate negatives Cory took while a resident on the Hopi mesas from 1905-1912, as well as copy negatives and prints that were produced at a later date by Marc Gaede in association with the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Series 1: Photographs				
File Item #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-208-1	Hopi Photographs	1905-1912	620 nitrate negatives, 737 prints, 734 copy negatives	Box 1-3, nitrate freezer

Title

Series 2: Journals and other writings

Dates

circa 1905-1912

Extent

4.5 cm textual material

Scope and Content

2 copies (one photocopy, one typed) of Kate Cory's diary, and 1 photocopy of "Notes, Definitions, Pronunciations: A Partial Dictionary of Hopi-English."

Series 2: Hopi Notes				
Item #	Item Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-208-2-1	Hopi Notes (photocopy)	1909-1910	2 cm textual	Box 4.1
MS-208-2-2	Hopi Notes (typed)	1909-1910	1 cm textual	Box 4.2
MS-208-2-3	A Partial Dictionary of Hopi-English	circa 1905-1912	1.5 cm textual	Box 4.3

LCSH Access Points

Cory, Kate, 1861-1958

Hopi children

Hopi dance

Hopi Indian Reservation (Ariz.)

Hopi Indians

Hopi Indians -- Social life and customs.

Hopi Indians -- Women
Hopi language
Hopi language materials
Oraibi (Ariz.)
Snake Dance