

The Rainbow Bridge/Monument Valley Expeditions in the 1930s sought college-aged men who wanted experience working in the area. This National Park Service-funded program, initiated by Ansel Hall, asked students to pay their own expenses and spend the summer doing research in archaeology, botany, zoology, biology, and ornithology in anticipation that the region might become a national park. MNA's own Lyndon Hargrave was Chief of Archaeology for this excursion for several years, and some project participants later worked at MNA. In this photo mule-, Ford-, and manpower are exerted in Monument Valley sand. Photo by Clifford Bond, 1936. (MNA collections MS122-1884)

MNA established a ceramic repository in 1932 to house samples of all Southwest ceramic potsherds to be used in establishing and describing type and ware classifications, which Dr. Colton and Lyndon Hargrave began following the 1927 Pecos Conference. This important contribution to southwest archaeology is in continous revision as new evidence emerges. The collection of over 19,000 pieces documents every known Anasazi ceramic variety and is used for comparison, illustrations, research, and conferences.

COLLECTIONS

The first items placed in the anthropology collections were historic Hopi ceramics collected by Lyndon Hargrave in the 1920s. The Coltons also added pieces, and items were donated by Flagstaff residents, giving Curator Katharine Bartlett plenty of material to catalog and organize. She also collected rare and unusual ethnographic items for inclusion into the collections, cataloged items recovered from archaeological excavations, and instituted conservation policies which had been nonexistent upon her arrival at MNA. She, like all MNA Curators, chose the materials for public exhibits that were designed to educate visitors about the area's past.