

MNA archaeological collections contain over 140,000 cataloged artifacts gathered from over sixty years of fieldwork, principally of Anasazi, Sinagua, and protohistoric cultures of the southern Colorado Plateau. These collections, most of which are held in trust for federal agencies or Native American tribes, are the largest at MNA, and care and conservation of the irreplaceable objects is continual. Since the 1980s, funding has been received from various sources to computerize collections records, provide conservation work, and make the collections more accessible to researchers.

### **Ethnology**

As Curator of Art and Ethnology, Mrs. Colton worked with Edmund Nequatewa to record Hopi legends and folklore and document traditional methods that were quickly being lost. She developed a market for Hopi silverwork and other crafts, and purchased items for the MNA ethnological collections. Dr. Colton's primary contribution to ethnology is his classic compilation of Hopi katsina dolls. Subsequent staff and researchers with specific expertise in Colorado Plateau Native Americans have contributed further information to MNA's ethnological knowledge and collections.

Ethnology today is directed by the Senior Archaeologist, who also serves as the Curator of Anthropology. Several Research Associates work in specific areas of the collection.

### **COLLECTIONS**

MNA's ethnological collections consist of over 10,000 pieces chronicling the lives of Native Americans on the Colorado Plateau. The collections of Hopi pottery (1,500 pieces) and Navajo textiles (750 pieces) are outstanding in terms of collection size, quality, and documentation, and they attract many scholars.

Over the years, all MNA collections have been increased by donations and gifts as well as purchases by the Collector's Club—a group of MNA friends who have contributed money specifically

for the purchase of items for the collections. Collections have also come to MNA in other ways. In 1962, Dr. Danson reported on MNA's acquisition of old Hopi materials from a man on his way to California who found himself stranded in Flagstaff with tire trouble. He sold the materials to the Museum for enough money to continue his journey.

---

*Botanist Walter Byron McDougall was mandatorily retired from the National Park Service when he reached 72 years of age in 1955. Because he still wanted to work, he wrote Dr. Colton offering his help in botany. Dr. Colton replied that if Dr. McDougall worked a bit in the Herbarium, he could have MNA housing. Dr. McDougall accepted the terms and was soon working full-time as the sole botany staff member. He remained at the Museum until his death in 1980. In his 90th year, he published the classic Seed Plants of Northern Arizona, typing all 1,828 pages of the manuscript himself.*

---

### **BIOLOGY**

At MNA, biology is an aggregate term for the study of biology, botany, and zoology in northern Arizona and upon the Colorado Plateau. Staff shortages at MNA have meant inconsistent coverage of collections and research over the years, but work somehow continues, usually with little or no funding but with the continued dedication of researchers and volunteers.

This Division's beginnings are credited to Lyndon Hargrave, who was hired as an archaeologist, but who also developed MNA's biological research programs and systematically established complete collections of fauna of the Colorado Plateau. Environmental concerns in the 1970s led to a boom in money, staff, and research for awhile, as the science of ecology became the recipient of government funds. For the past decade, this Division has been maintained by a retired zoologist and the MNA Collections Manager. Future plans