
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 029
CUMMINGS, BYRON 1861-1954
Photographs, 1915-1940

DESCRIPTION

This collection reflects Dr. Cummings' forty years service as an archeologist, professor at the University of Arizona, and Arizona State Museum director while in Tucson, Arizona. The photo collection provides a vivid picture of Cummings' work at archeological sites in Mexico including Chichen Itza, Cuicuilco, and Cholula Puebla. He visited and worked many excavation sites in the United States including Kinishba, Montezuma Castle, and photographed many pictographs from numerous locations in the southwestern United States. In addition to Arizona and Mexico locations photos depict visits to sites in New Mexico, Utah, California, and Europe. Many photos show topics of interest in addition to archeological projects including people Cummings worked with, plants and animals, city and village scenes. One outside item contains oversized photos within the collection.

15 Boxes, 6 linear feet

ACQUISITION

The collection was received in June 1960 from the Byron Cummings estate with later donations in November 1961, February 1962, and December 1963.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

RELATED MATERIALS

A manuscript collection is also available (MS 200) containing correspondence, lecture notes, field notes, and manuscripts of Dr. Cummings.

PROCESSING

The collection was originally processed at the Historical Society and reviewed by William Tackenberg in July 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

The photo collection was originally arranged and labeled in record cartons. With the decision to rebox the collection into standard sized containers it was decided to retain the original box order and picture identification numbers. Since every picture is labeled with an original box and folder number it was decided to retain this method. Therefore new boxes have been labeled to correspond to the original storage configuration (Box 5, Box 5A, and Box 5C all came from the original box 5). Identification on the folders within the collection also references the original box locations and commences with folder #1 with each original box.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr. Byron Cummings was a distinguished southwestern archeologist, professor of the University of Arizona from 1915 until his retirement in 1938, and served as president of the University in 1927-1928. He was born September 20, 1861 in Westville, New York. After earning his master's degree from Rutgers in 1892 he went to the University of Utah where he taught Latin, Greek, mathematics, English, and football. After studying archeology at the University of Berlin in 1915 he came to the University of Arizona where he established the Arizona State Museum and taught archeology. He served as president in 1921 and again in 1927-1928. Upon retirement in 1937 he became director emeritus of the museum.

Dr. Cummings became a world-recognized authority in scientific circles for his archeological achievements. He conducted numerous explorations in the southwestern states and Mexico and made extensive investigations of Cliff Dwellers, Maya, and Aztec ruins. He was the first white man to see Rainbow natural bridge in San Juan county, Utah, and discovered evidence of Pleistocene man in southern Arizona. He discovered and excavated such prehistoric pueblo ruins as Keel Seet, Betatakin, and Bat Woman house. In 1924-1925 Dr. Cummings directed the expedition of the National Geographic society in Mexico which uncovered Cuicuilco temple near Mexico City, believed to predate the pyramids of Egypt and to be the oldest man-made structure in North America.

Dr. Cummings published many pamphlets dealing with his work and research. In 1940 he published *Kinishba, a Prehistoric Pueblo of the Great Pueblo Period* which followed an extensive project on the Kinishba pueblo ruins near Whiteriver. In addition he published *Indians I Have Known* (1952) and *First Inhabitants of Arizona and the Southwest* (1953).

He was a member of the Archeological Institute of America, American Anthropological association, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi. Dr. Cummings was married to Cynthia Ann Chatham in October 1947. His first wife, Isabelle McLaury Cummings, died in November 1929.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection reflects Dr. Cummings' forty years service as an archeologist, professor at the University of Arizona, and Arizona State Museum director while in Tucson, Arizona. The photo collection provides a vivid picture of Cummings' work at archeological sites in Mexico including Chichen Itza, Cuicuilco, and Cholula Pueblo. He visited and worked many excavation sites in the United States including Kinishba, Montezuma Castle, and photographed many pictographs from numerous locations in the southwestern United States. In addition to Arizona and Mexico locations photos depict visits to sites in New Mexico, Utah, California, and Europe. Many photos show topics of interest in addition to archeological projects from Mexico and the Americans. Photos feature individuals Cummings worked with, plant vegetation and cacti, street dances and festivities, and photos of family and friends. The photo collection complements the manuscript collection (MS 200) reflecting many locations visited by Dr. Cummings.

Dr. Cummings' photos of Mexico depict extensive archeological projects on excavations of burial sites, pueblos, Maya ruins, and Mexican cities. Ruins include photos from 46 sites featuring buildings, temples, pottery, figurines, and artwork from different parts of the country. Locations include: Ajusco, Atzacatzalco, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Cuernavaca, Cuicuilco, Cholula, Huexotla, Chichen Itza, Mitla, Pedregal, Sonora, Tenayuca, Teotihuacan, Tepoztlan, Texcoco, Tlalixcanhuacan, Tlalixcoyan, Xochicalco, Xochimilco, Zacatepec, and Zapata. In addition to archeological photos Cummings prints include scenes from Mexican cities and villages including: Mexico City, Guadalajara, Hermosillo, Mazalan, San Andres, San Cristobal, San Fernando, and Vera Cruz. People in these photos are engaged in street scenes, festivals, work, marketing, and group poses.

The photo collection also contains a large number of photos from sites in the southwestern United States. Prints include locations in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, California, and additional southwestern and general US locations. Scenes depict archeological subjects including ruins, pottery, landscapes, and historical structures. Arizona points of interest in the collection include Monument Valley, Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest, Pictographs, Mission at San Xavier del Bac, and Colossal Cave.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1

- f.1 Archeology-Anthropology-Guatemala and Nicaragua
- f.2 Archeology-Anthropology-Japan-Ainu Customs
- f.3 Archeology-Anthropology-Egypt and Middle East
- f.4 Archeology-Anthropology-India-Angkor Wat
- f.5 Archeology-Anthropology-New Zealand-Maori
- f.6 Archeology-Anthropology-Peru
- f.7 Archeology-Eastern United States
- f.8 Archeology-Southwest United States
- f.9 Arizona
- f.10 Art Album
- f.11 Arizona Ruins I
- f.12 Arizona Ruins II
- f.13 Arizona Ruins III
- f.14 Arizona Scenery

Box 1A

- f.15 Arizona State Museum
- f.16 Artifacts-Silver Bell Road, Lead
- f.17 Artifacts-Weaving
- f.18 Bells-Copper
- f.19 Artifacts-Bone, Stone, and Shell
- f.20 Burials
- f.21 Ruins-Canyon de Chelly, Betatakin
- f.22 Ruins-Casa Grande
- f.23 Cave Creek
- f.24 Chiricahua National Monument
- f.25 Ruins-Colorado
- f.26 Colossal Cave
- f.27 Cummings Mesa
- f.28 Early Man Sites
- f.29 Elden Pueblo, Turkey Hill

Box 2

- f.1 Europe-England, Ireland, and Scotland
- f.2 Europe-France
- f.3 Europe-Azores
- f.4 Aztec Ruins
- f.5 Europe-Belgium
- f.6 Europe-Germany I
- f.7 Europe
- f.8 Europe-Germany II
- f.9 Europe-Germany III
- f.10 Europe-Germany-Dresden
- f.11 Europe-Germany-Kaiser and Kaiser's Family
- f.12 Europe-Germany-Oberammergau
- f.13 Europe-Gibraltar

- f.14 Europe-Greece
- f.15 Europe-Holland
- f.16 Europe-Italy

Box 3

- f.1 Indians-Apache (Chief Barebetis)
- f.2 Indians-Apache
- f.3 Indians-Art-Basketry
- f.4 Indians-Fort Apache
- f.5 Fresno Ranch-Baboquivari Mountains
- f.6 Gila Bank Ruin
- f.7 Grand Canyon
- f.8 Grasshopper Ruins
- f.9 Indians-Kiva
- f.10 Indians-New Mexico-Taos (Tigua Tribe), Zuni
- f.11 Flora and Fauna
- f.12 Flora-Cacti
- f.13 Indians-Hopi I
- f.14 Indians-Hopi II
- f.14A Indians-Hopi II
- f.15 Indians-Pima
- f.16 Indians-New Mexico Pueblo
- f.17 Indians-Miscellaneous (Not Arizona)

Box 3A

- f.18 Indians-Kivas
- f.19 Indians-Navajo I
- f.20 Indians-Navajo II
- f.21 Indians-Papago
- f.22 Indians-Education-Indian Trading School, Minn.

Box 4

- f.1 Kayenta Ruins
- f.2 Arizona Ruins-Kinishba
- f.2A Arizona Ruins-Kinishba
- f.3 Arizona Ruins-Kinishba II
- f.4 Arizona Ruins-Kinishba III
- f.5 EcEvan Cave
- f.6 Martinez Hill Ruin
- f.7 Mercer Ruin
- f.8 Mines and Mining-Brookline Mine
- f.9 Mescal Mountains-Turners Lost Mines
- f.10 Missions-Guebabi
- f.11 Missions-San Xavier del Bac
- f.12 Missions-San Xavier del Bac
- f.13 Missions-Tumacacori
- f.14 Montezuma Castle and Well Ruins
- f.15 Miscellaneous-Unidentified (Eskimo, Indian, Mammoth Tooth)

- f.16 Mexico General-West Coast
- f.17 Mexico General-Mexican Types
- f.18 Mexico General-Museo Nacional, Mexico City

Box 4A

- f.19 Mexico General-Map of Mexico and Border Area
- f.20 Mexico General-Escavations
- f.21 Mexico General-Mexican Dancers-Moro
- f.22 Mexico General-Churches-Guadalupe
- f.23 Mexico and Elsewhere-Dr. Cummings and Friends
- f.24 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Ajusco and Mt. Ajusco
- f.25 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Atzacapatzalco
- f.26 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Chiapas-Lacandon Indians and palenque
- f.27 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Chihuahua
- f.28 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Coatlichan
- f.29 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuernavaca
- f.30 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco Burials
- f.31 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco
- f.31A Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco
- f.32 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cholula Puebla
- f.33 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco
- f.33A Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco
- f.34 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco-Figurines

Box 5

- f.1 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco-Pedregal
- f.2 Mexico-General Unidentified
- f.3 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Cuicuilco-Men
- f.4 Mexico-Archeological Sites-El Desierto de los Leones
- f.5 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Guadalajara
- f.6 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Hermosillo
- f.7 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Huexotla
- f.8 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Album Ceramics and Idols
- f.9 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Maya-Chichen Itza I
- f.10 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Maya-Chichen Itza II
- f.11 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Maya-Kabah
- f.12 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Maya-Uzmal
- f.13 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Maya-Zayi
- f.14 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Mazatlan
- f.15 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Mexico City
- f.16 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Mitla
- f.17 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Molino de Flores
- f.18 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Monte Alban
- f.19 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Oaxaca
- f.20 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Orizaba

Box 5A

- f.21 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Pedregal and Cuicuilco

- f.22 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Pena Povre
- f.23 Mexico-Archeological Sites-San Andres
- f.24 Mexico-Archeological Sites-San Cristobal de la Llave
- f.25 Mexico-Archeological Sites-San Fernando
- f.26 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Sonora
- f.27 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Tecali
- f.28 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Tenayuca, Mexico,
- f.29 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Teotihuacan
- f.30 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Tepoztlan
- f.31 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Texcoco
- f.32 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Tlaxcahuacan
- f.33 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Tlalizcoyan
- f.34 Mexico-Archeological Sites- Vera Cruz
- f.35 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Xochicalco
- f.36 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Xochimilco
- f.37 Mexico-Printed Material: "The Dating of Cuicuilco"
- f.38 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Zacatepec
- f.39 Mexico-Archeological Sites-Zapata
- f.40 Mexico-Mexico and Elsewhere-Dr. Cummings
- f.41 Mexico-Mexico and Elsewhere-Dr. Cummings and Friends
- f.42 Mexico-Mexico and Elsewhere-Dr. Cummings and Friends
- f.43 Natural Bridges

Box 5B

- f.44 Navajo Mountain
- f.45 New Mexico Ruins and Scenes
- f.46 Photo Negative to Rare
- f.47 Nitsie Canyon I
- f.47A Nitsie Canyon I
- f.48 Nitsie Canyon II

Box 6

- f.1 U.S.-Arizona-Miscellaneous
- f.2 Arizona-Painted Desert
- f.3 Arizona-Petrified Forest
- f.4 Archeology-Pictographs I
- f.5 Archeology-Pictographs II
- f.5A Archeology-Pictographs II
- f.6 Archeology-Pottery I
- f.6A Archeology-Pottery I
- f.7 Archeology-Pottery II
- f.7A Archeology-Pottery II

Box 6A

- f.8 Arizona-Point of Pines
- f.9 Arizona-Indians-Prescott Smoki Dances
- f.10 Arizona-Rock Printing, Inscription House
- f.11 Arizona-San Francisco Mountains

- f.12 Arizona Segazlin Mesa Ruins
- f.13 Sierra Anchas
- f.14 Arizona-Tonto Ruins
- f.15 Arizona-Tsagie Canyon Segi I
- f.15A Arizona-Tsagie Canyon Segi I
- f.16 Arizona-Tsagie Canyon Segi II
- f.16A Arizona-Tsagie Canyon Segi II
- f.17 Arizona-Webb Ruins
- f.18 Arizona-The Wetherills Trading Post
- f.19 Arizona-Yellowhead Canyon Ruins

Box 6B

- f.20 People-Identified Groups and Individuals I
- f.20A People-Identified Groups and Individuals I
- f.21 People-Identified Groups and Individuals II
- f.21A People-Identified Groups and Individuals II

Box 7

- f.1 University Ruins
- f.2 Utah-White Mountain Ruins
- f.3 Utah-Montezuma Canyon Ruins
- f.4 Utah-Fable Valley Ruins
- f.5 Utah-Alkali Ridge Ruins
- f.6 Utah-Ruins-General
- f.7 U.S.A.-Southwest Miscellaneous
- f.8 Unidentified Scenery
- f.9 People-Unidentified Groups and Individuals-Family and Friends
- f.10 Places and Locations-unidentified
- f.11 Indians

Box 7A

- f.12 Utah Scenery
- f.13 Utah-San Juan River Ruins
- f.14 Utah-Nine Mile Ruins
- f.15 Utah-Monument Valley
- f.16 U.S.A-Scattered (Not Southwest)
- f.17 U.S.A.-California
- f.18 U.S. Wars-World War I

Outside Items:

Archeological Scenes in Central America
 Arizona Monument Valley
 Navajo Indians
 Montezuma Castle and Well
 Rainbow Natural Bridge
 Identified People (Dr. Cummings & Friends)
 Pictographs
 Utah Ruins