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Elsie Worthington Clews Parsons collection4079199

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Parsons, Elsie Worthington Clews, 1874-1941
Title:	Elsie Worthington Clews Parsons collection
ID:	4079199
ID:	MS#0978
Date [inclusive]:	1883-1894
Physical Description:	1.5 linear feet 3 boxes
Language of the Material:	The journals include extensive information in and on the Hopi language.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Elsie Worthington Clews Parsons papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Elsie Worthington Clews Parsons (1875-1941) was an anthropologist, sociologist, feminist, and public intellectual. She received her academic training at Barnard College (AB, 1896) and Columbia University (AM, 1897; PhD, 1899).

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Biographical / Historical

In regard to her professional research, Dr. Parsons wrote such pioneering feminist sociological investigations as *The Family* (1906), *Religious Chastity* (1913, under the pseudonym John Main), *The Old Fashioned Woman* (1913, as John Main), *Fear and Conventionality* (1914),

Social Freedom (1915), and *Social Rule* (1916). She also took up the anthropological exploration of Native American tribes and published such studies as the *Social Organization of the Tewa of New Mexico* (1929), *Hopi and Zuni Ceremonialism* (1933), *Mitla: Town of the Souls* (1936), and *Pueblo Indian Religion* (1939). She also wrote about West Indian and African American folklore. In addition, Dr. Parsons meticulously edited the *Hopi journal of Alexander M. Stephen* (2 vols., 1936).

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Biographical / Historical

Active in several learned societies, Dr. Parsons was president of the American Folklore Society (1919-1920) and for many years associate editor of its journal. She also served as treasurer (1916-1922) and president (1923-1925) of the American Ethnological Society; and as the first woman to be elected president of the American Anthropological Association (1940). Dr. Parsons also helped found the New School for Social Research and lectured at its first session in 1919.

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Summary

Field notebooks detailing the customs and ceremonies of the Native American Hopi tribe, collected by Elsie Worthington Clews Parsons, PhD (1874-1941). Thirty of these volumes were the notebooks of Alexander M. Stephen (d. 1894), a U.S. Army officer who, in about 1882, started observing Hopi life. Although chiefly concerned with the Hopis, there are some notes on Hopi-Navajo relations and a few references to the Native American Tewa and Hokya tribes. Stephen's penciled notes and drawings were edited and published by Dr. Parsons as the *Hopi journal of Alexander M. Stephen* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1936). Also included are three unpublished notebooks of observations made by a young American physician with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Jeremiah Sullivan (1850-1916), who lived among the Hopis (1881-1888) in the village of Sichomovi. A letter from anthropologist Alfred L. Kroeber, PhD (1876-1960) to Dr. Parsons explains the provenance of one of Sullivan's notebooks. These last three notebooks [Vols. 31-33] have also been attributed to Alexander M. Stephen by Alex Patterson (February 1994). [See, Alex Patterson's full note at subseries I.2. Jeremiah Sullivan (Vols. 31-33).]

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Replaced PDF with a structured finding aid containing edited and enhanced description. cml Following guidelines outlined in the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials, corrected inaccurate Hopílavayi [Hopi] language spellings, and added appropriate cultural identifiers regarding geography. cml 2020-08-16 2020-08-16

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

Readers must use microfilm of materials. Originals restricted due to the extremely fragile condition of the notebooks.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Parsons, John E. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1972. Accession number--M-72.

Alternate Form Available

Most of the notebooks have been published.

Custodial History

Gift of John E. Parsons, 1972.

Processing Information

Catalogued Christina Hilton Fenn 08/--/89.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Materials

[Columbia University Press records, 1893-2000s, bulk 1923-2000s, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library \[MS#0268\]](#) (See, folders titled: "Parsons, Elsie Worthington Clews" in Series I: Catalogued Correspondence, 1893-1954 (Box CC8) and Subseries II.1 Editorial Files, 1920s-1959 (Box 178)).

Related Materials

The American Philosophical Society holds the Elsie Clews Parsons papers ([Mss.Ms.Coll.29](#))

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Controlled Access Headings

- Hopi Indians -- Social life and customs
- Hopi Indians -- Rites and ceremonies
- Hopi Indians -- Land tenure
- Hopi language -- Glossaries, vocabularies, etc
- Navajo Indians -- Land tenure
- Tewa Indians -- Social life and customs
- Ethnology -- West (U.S.)

- Anthropologists
- Indians of North America -- West (U.S.)
- Drawings (visual works)
- Field notes
- Women anthropologists
- Hokya Indians -- Social life and customs
- Feminists
- Intellectuals -- United States
- Stephen, Alexander MacGregor, -1894
- Sullivan, Jeremiah
- Kroeber, A. L (Alfred Louis), 1876-1960
- Patterson, Alex

Publications About Described Materials

Stephen, Alexander M., *Hopi journal of Alexander M. Stephen*; edited by Elsie Clews Parsons, PhD (New York: Columbia University Press, 1936)

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Collection Inventory

I. The Hopi Journals in the Elsie Worthington Clews Parsons collection

I.1. Alexander M. Stephen (Vols. 1-30)

Scope and Contents

This numerically arranged subseries encompasses (30) volumes containing the notebooks of Alexander MacGregor Stephen (1850?-1894), who was a Scottish mining prospector trained in metallurgy at the University of Edinburgh. He came to the United States in 1861. After service in the American Civil War, he travelled to Keams Canyon, Arizona, where he made acquaintance with Tom Keam, the trader, and built relationships with many members of the Navajo tribe. Stephen learned to speak Navajo. Diné bizaad was also his first language among the Hopi. Stephen's language skills made him an invaluable guide for investigators of the Bureau of American Ethnology (Bureau) (1882-1894). The bulk of his notebooks comprise the period (1891-1894), when he systematically recorded the ceremonial and daily life of the Hopi on the First Mesa Reservation. Some of Stephen's accounts were published by the Bureau. Dr. Parsons asserted that one of the most important contributions of Stephen's journal is the picture it presents of the relations at this time and earlier between the Navajo and Hopi tribes. There are also a few references to the Native American Tewa and Hokya tribes.

Scope and Contents

After Stephen's death, his notebooks were bought from his estate by Stewart Culin (1858-1929), the curator of Ethnology at the Institute of Arts and Sciences of the Brooklyn Museum. In 1922, Dr. Parsons

purchased the notebooks for \$500.00 from Culin. Beginning in 1927, Parsons worked on editing the notebooks each summer. Dr. Parsons conceived of the edited *Hopi Journal* as "primarily a biography of ceremonial, doing for the ceremonial round of the year what a day book would do for personal biography." Parsons claimed that Stephen's notebooks were invaluable for such a task, because he was a true insider. He lived in both Hopi and Tewa households. He could communicate with most of his neighbors in Navajo, and he was learning Hopi. The elders also talked freely to Stephen, initiated him into three societies and gave him access to Kiva life. By the end of summer 1931, Dr. Parsons had finished editing the *Hopi Journal* and had arranged with Franz Boas (1858-1942) the Columbia University affiliated anthropologist to publish it in the Columbia anthropology series. In summer 1934, she completed a series of appendices, a glossary, and a bibliography. Parsons also illustrated the journal with some of Stephen's hundreds of black and white and colored drawings and a dozen of his maps. In February 1935, Dr. Parsons finished the proofs and the detailed index. In this regard, the correspondence of Dr. Parsons relating to the publication of the *Hopi Journal* is located in the [Columbia University Press records, 1893-2000s, bulk 1923-2000s, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library \[MS#0268\]](#). (See, folders titled: "Parsons, Elsie Worthington Clews" in Series I: Catalogued Correspondence, 1893-1954 (Box CC8) and Subseries II.1 Editorial Files, 1920s-1959 (Box 178)).

Scope and Contents

Bibliography: Deacon, Desley, *Elsie Clews Parsons: Inventing Modern Life* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997): XI, 353-356.

Scope and Contents

Stephen, Alexander MacGregor, *Hopi Journal of Alexander M. Stephen*, edited by Elsie Clews Parsons (New York: Columbia University Press, 1936): XX, L.

Scope and Contents

White, Leslie E., Review of *Hopi Journal of Alexander M. Stephen*, edited by Elsie Clews Parsons, *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (April-June, 1938): 306-307.

Title/Description	Instances
Vol. 1--Tales; Accounts of obsolete dances, 1883 April-1884 May 13	box 98-2107
Vol. 2--Tales (continued); Extracts--general, from books, et cetera, 1885	box 98-2107
Vol. 3--Botany: Zea-maize; Courtship note; Hunt note; Hopi-Navaho vocabulary (agricultural), 1887	box 98-2107
Vol. 4--Zoology: Word lists (animal, directions) Hopi, Navaho, Tewa, 1888	box 98-2107
Vol. 5--List of native authorities; Tewa clan list; Hopidan name; ceremonial terms, et cetera, 1888	box 98-2108
Vol. 6--Hopi calendar dates; Names of springs, ruins, et cetera; Locality terminology, circa 1888	box 98-2108
Vol. 7-- Lists of Snake and Antelope members; Navaho marriage ceremony; Rattlesnake bite cured by Hopi; To fit a new pair of moccasins; Hopi town planning and building notes; Other notes., 1888-1889	box 98-2108

Vol. 8--Kachina; Kallimachies; Navaho gambling and slavery; Hopi rain arrow heads and lightning, 1888-1892	box 98-2108
Vol. 9--Lakon; Ki, 1889-1891	box 98-2109
Vol. 10-Snake; Hüm'is; Nima'n; (Wawash) Kachinas, 1890-1891	box 98-2109
Vol. 11-Aña'kchina; Suma'ikoli, 1890 January 3	box 98-2109
Vol. 11-Aña'kchina; Suma'ikoli, 1892 July 29-August 2	box 98-2109
Vol. 12-Mamzrau; Naash'naiya (Wü wüchīm), 1891	box 98-2109
Vol. 13-Note on Owaküli Society; Kinship terms; Word lists; Numbers; Society membership lists, 1892	box 98-2110
Vol. 14-Agri-horticulture and cognate concerns; Carrying harvest from fields (Hopi), 1892	box 98-2110
Vol. 15-Koma'nchi Comanche; Malo; Duck; Mamzrau; Nima'n; Flute ceremony; Powa'mû notes; Ritual at Kowa'waimovi; Pa'lülüköñtī; La'lakontü; Comanche and buffalo., 1892 February 17-September 28	box 98-2110
Vol. 16-Winter solstice circa 1892; Warrior prayer Stick; kick-ball races; Marriages-Traditions; Girls adolescence ceremonies; ___ pictures; Winter prayer stick; Making of the Snake-Antelope, 1892 October-1893 March 8	box 98-2110
Vol. 17-Powa'mû; Genealogies, 1893 January-February	box 98-2111
Vol. 17-Powa'mû; Genealogies, 1894 January-February	box 98-2111
Vol. 18-Buffalo dance; Pa'lülüköñtī, 1893-1894	box 98-2111
Vol. 19-Kachina; Tihü; Additional notes on: Malo Kachina; Zuñi Duck Kachina (dances); Navaho Kachina; Tewa Aña'kchina; Hopi Aña'kchina; Pai'akyamû, 1893 April-June	box 98-2111
Vol. 20-Notes (first draft): Sha'lako; Mamzrau, 1893 June 22-September 30	box 98-2111
Vol. 21-Caiacu; Nima'n, 1893 July 8-21	box 98-2112
Vol. 22-Snake-Antelope, 1893 July 28-August 14	box 98-2112
Vol. 23-winter solstice ceremonies; Warrior prayer-stick making, 1893 October-28 December	box 98-2112
Vol. 24-Curing ritual for Stephen; Nachina dances of spring and early summer; Nima'n, 1893 March 20-1894 January 20	box 98-2112
Vol. 25-Zigzag dance, 1894 January	box 98-2112
Vol. 26-Fictile products and pigments; Ritual pigments; Directions, undated	box 98-2113
Vol. 27-Index [?], undated	box 98-2113

Vol. 28-Textile; Fabrics; Weaving, undated	box 98-2113
Vol. 29-Ceremonial Vocabulary, undated	box 98-2113
Vol. 30-Vocabulary, undated	

I.2. Jeremiah Sullivan (Vols. 31-33)

Scope and Contents

This numerically organized subseries includes three unpublished notebooks (Vols. 31-33) of observations made by a young American physician with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Jeremiah Sullivan (1850-1916), who lived among the Hopis (1881-1888) in the village of Sichomovi. A letter from anthropologist Alfred L. Kroeber, PhD (1876-1960) to Dr. Parsons explains the provenance of one of Sullivan's notebooks. These last three notebooks [Vols. 31-33], in turn, have also been attributed to Alexander M. Stephen by Alex Patterson (February 1994).

Scope and Contents

Note by Alex Patterson: The Sullivan Journals-Notebooks 31, 32, and 33 are highly similar to the drawing and handwriting styles of the Alexander M. Stephen's Notebooks. On the fly page of Notebook Number 32 you will find that a pencil drawing of a *Si-pa-pu* [Hopi word for a small hole or indentation in the floor of a kiva or pithouse] has been inked and designated Fig. 6 (this is how Elsie Clews Parsons prepared Alexander M. Stephen's pencil drawings for publication). It [the drawing] matches Fig. 6 on page 10 of the Hopi Journal of Alexander M. Stephen. Notebook 31, with "J. Sullivan, Compiler" on its front, has a date of 1883 near the beginning, crude ethnographic comments, and many drawings in color with children's (?) crayons. I believe these are Alexander M. Stephen's earliest writing and drawing efforts. Only two drawings marked "Sullivan Collection" with "J S 12 / 83" on the drawings are Sullivan's, in my opinion. Your Notebook Number 7 contains a "Memo from Catalogue" (pp. 40 thru 36a) which outlines the highlights of a manuscript by Stephen, dated December 29, 1890 entitled *Pottery of Tusayan-Catalogue of the Keam Collection* (unpublished manuscript, no. 3282, Archaeology-Bureau of American Ethnology-Smithsonian Institution). [The "Memo from Catalogue"] details seven questions which appear to require further research. Your Notebook Number 27 appears to be the beginnings of an Index to an early version of *Pottery of Tusayan*. My version [Alex Patterson] of *Pottery of Tusayan* will appear this spring under the title *Hopi Pottery Symbols* (Boulder, CO: Johnson Books, 1994.)

Scope and Contents

Bibliography: Hieb, Louis A., "Social Memory and Cultural Narrative: The Hopi Construction of a Moral Community", *Journal of the Southwest*, 44, no. 1 (2002): 80.

Title/Description	Instances
Vol. 31-Designs of masks; Native artifacts and other notes, 1885	box 98-2106
Vol. 32-Ruins, housebuilding, et cetera; Warrior dance; Oraibi clans; Snake clansmen; Walpi, 1887	box 98-2106
Vol. 33-Tales of clan migration; Bean dance; Notes on kiva use; general notes, 1888	box 98-2106

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