

Kate Cory Collection: 1905-1912
Finding Aid
Sharlot Hall Museum Archives
D.B. 146
DB 412

Biographical

Born on 8 February 1861 in Waukegan, Illinois, Kate Cory was a pioneer in more than the usual sense of the word. She was indeed extraordinary. A "maiden lady" of forty-four, she journeyed alone to the Hopi mesas of Arizona hoping to become a member of a developing artist colony. When no one else joined her she remained, little realizing that she would become a valuable ethnographer of the Hopi. In the seven years she lived in the pueblo of Old Oraibi, she became friend and confidant of the Hopi, and, as an artist of great talent, was able to capture their culture in photographs and on canvas.

Although not born in Arizona, it was Prescott that Kate considered home. Living in a stone house in the Idylwild Tract on Thumb Butte Road, she continued her work as an artist and sculptor, becoming one of the West's most famous artists. Her paintings can be found today in the Smoki Museum, Sharlot Hall Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the First Congregational Church, and in the homes of the descendants of her many friends and relatives. Kate belonged to the First Congregational Church and was an honorary member of the Monday Club. Cory Avenue off West Gurley Street in Prescott is named for her.

She left a memorable impression on all who knew or met her. She was not concerned if the clothes she wore were old or her house in disarray. And her food for the day might consist of eating only beans from a tin. Her values revolved around artistic expression and sharing with others. Stories of both her generosity and eccentricity still continue to surface. Kate died on 12 June 1958 at the Arizona Pioneers' Home and is buried in the Arizona Pioneers Home Cemetery.

ACQUISITION

Much of the material in this collection has no accession record. The Eugene Newman correspondence was a gift from Lila Cook in 1999, and Kate Cory's original manuscripts for *People of the Yellow Dawn* are part of the Leroy Eslow Collection (DB 146) and the Virginia Brown. The rest has been found scattered throughout the Sharlot Hall Museum Archives and Library and gathered here to place it in context. *There is room for the collection to grow as new material is identified and connected with Kate Cory.*

Restrictions

The manuscripts in the Leroy Eslow collection are restricted to no photocopying or use in a publication. The photographs, particularly ceremonial photographs of the Hopi, are also restricted. No reproduction is allowed without the express written consent of

Museum of Northern Arizona and the Hopi Tribe. Please see archivist before proceeding.

See Also

Vertical File, Cory, Kate T.

PB 76—Four folders of Hopi Photographs as well as a scrapbook containing images for “People of the Yellow Dawn”, 1905-1912

Inventory

DB 146—Leroy Eslow Collection

F.1—Misc manuscripts, Kate T. Cory, c. 1920—RESTRICTED UNTIL 2010

F.2—Manuscript, *Children in Hopiland*, partial, c. 1920

F.3—Correspondence of Leroy Eslow, re: Kate Cory, c. 1966

--Kate T. Cory’s story of *People of the Yellow Dawn*, as told to Leroy E.

Eslow (4 versions), unpublished manuscript, RESTRICTED UNTIL 2010

--Kate T. Cory’s story of *Children in Hopiland*, as told to Virginia M. Brown and Leroy E. Eslow, unpublished manuscript, RESTRICTED UNTIL 2010

DB 412

Administrative folder

F.1—Autobiographical information

A page of notes in Kate’s handwriting, describing her parents

F.2—Cory Coat of Arms

Sent to her by a distant cousin

F.3—Correspondence—Eugene Newman (1910-1942)

Letters from Cory to Newman, her real estate agent, regarding her home in Idyllwild and its construction

F.4—Misc Correspondence

F.5—Misc. Notes

Notes by Cory regarding the Horribles and the firemen’s hose companies

F.6—Legend of Thumb Butte

Hand colored copy of her book, *A Legend of Thumb Butte*

F.7—“A Theatrical Performance at Walpi”

Copy of pamphlet by J. Walter Fewkes. Inscribed to Cory by Fewkes

F.8—Smoki Museum Exhibition Brochure

F.9—Magazine, *Plateau*, Magazine of The Museum of Northern Arizona, titled “Images of Hopi”, featuring the photographs of Kate Cory, 1991

F.10—Photographs—b/w, 8 ½ x 11—Copy prints from MNA

I.1—Samiwiki, Antelope Priest, Walpi

I.2—Teowaima Katka

I.3—Bean Ceremony, Old Oraibi

- I.4—A-He-La marking homes, First Mesa**
- I.5—Anak'china at Sichomwi, Unga Kachina(2)**
- I.6—Young girls**
- I.7—Bean Ceremony, Old Oraibi**
- I.8—Wuwuchim, Walpi**
- I.9—Kakapti**
- I.10—Snake Dance, First Mesa**
- I.11—“My house below the Mesa at Walpi”**
- I.12—“Ta-ma wearing regular Hopi dress before white man...”**
- I.13—untitled**
- I.14—Niman Kachina, Walpi**
- I.15—Old Oraibi**
- I.16—off to gather snakes, First Mesa**
- I.17—getting ready for the gathering of the snakes, snake kiva, First Mesa**
- I.18—Men Wrestling, Walpi**
- I.19—Basket Dance, Women coming out of kiva, First Mesa**
- I.20—Basket Dance, Women's dance, First Mesa**
- I.21—La Kon, First Mesa**
- I.22—Somikoli, First Mesa**
- I.23—Alosacum, First Mesa or part of Wu-Wuchina Ceremony**
- I.24—Somikoli, First Mesa**
- I.25—Snake Dancers, First Mesa**
- I.26—Two women basket throwers in Basket Dances, First Mesa**
- I.27—Niman, Home Dance, First Mesa**
- I.28—Snake dancers entering plaza (Antelope Priests), First Mesa**
- I.29—Snake Kiva with ladder**
- I.30—Ini Yow-W, Ma**
- I.31—Flute Boy**
- I.32—Katka**
- I.33—“Saa-See, a Snake priest**
- I.34—Soyoko**
- I.35—Kwatoko**
- I.36—Long Hair Dance, First Mesa**
- I.37—Untitled**
- I.38—Walpi Prayer Stick**
- I.39—Complete Inventory of Kate Cory Photographs at MNA, including call numbers and titles**
- Loose—3 35mm projection slides of Kate Cory**