

Summary of the Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection and Braun Research Library Collection

Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection:

The Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection is a collection of Native American material culture unparalleled in size and depth by any nongovernmental institution in the world. The collection of the Southwest Museum encompasses a span of more than 12,000 years and represents Native American cultures from Alaska to South America. The majority of its 350,000 ethnographic and archaeological artifacts exemplify the history and cultures of indigenous peoples from areas such as the American Southwest, the Great Plains, the Colorado Plateau, the Great Basin, California, the Columbia River, and the Pacific Northwest Coast. Highlights of the collection include pottery, baskets, Katsina dolls, Navajo textiles, Pueblo textiles, and beadwork, regalia, clothing, tools, and paintings from the Great Plains, Plateau and Eastern Woodland Nations.

Within the collection are also a significant collection of non-Native material related to the history of the American West, including objects from the Spanish Colonial period and Mexican and post-Mexican California, Mesoamerican and South American pre-Columbian pottery and textiles, Hispanic folk and decorative arts as well as fine art by important American painters such as Maynard Dixon and William Keith.

Braun Research Library Collection:

The collections are enhanced by archival material holdings of the Braun Research Library Collection. These items document hundreds of years of Native American culture as well as much of the museum's ethnographic and archaeological collections. Comprised of 50,000 volumes, 700 manuscript collections, over 100,000 photographs, 994 wax cylinder sound recordings, numerous anthropological papers focusing on the founding of anthropology and archaeology as disciplines in the United States, and more than 150 linear feet of ephemera material. It includes personal collections of such noteworthy scholars as Charles F. Lummis, George Bird Grinnell, George Wharton James, and Frederick Webb Hodge