

Summary Information

Title: The Owen A. Tomlinson Collection

Collector: Owen A. Tomlinson

Donor: Laurine T. Tomlinson, William S. Tomlinson

Dates: Collected 1899-1915; Accessioned 1979 & 2002

Extent: 114 catalog records representing approximately 114 objects.

Abstract:

Owen Tomlinson served in the U.S. Army and later the Constabulary in the Philippines. He spent the majority of his time in the mountain province of Ifugao. The collection is made up of a variety of textiles and additional ethnographic objects including assorted weapons, utensils, and hats.

Accession number: 3461 & 2002-3

Language: English

Repository:

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

3600 Varsity Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

734.764.0485

e-mail: ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu

Home Page: <https://lsa.umich.edu/ummaa>

Other Repositories:

Bentley Historical Library

1150 Beal Ave

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734.764.3482

Collection Guide Created by: Sophie Wolf

Year Collection Guide Created: 2022

Funding for collection guide provided by: ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan

Access and Use

Acquisition Information:

Accessions 3461 and 2002-3 were gifts of Mrs. Laurine T. Tomlinson.

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open to research.

Copyright:

Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright is not held. Patrons are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

Preferred Citation:

UMMAA Object #/Document title. Accession #. The Owen A. Tomlinson Collection, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. Date Accessed.

Biography

Owen A. Tomlinson fought in the Philippine-American war in Central Luzon starting in 1899. In 1905 he began his service in the Constabulary and was commissioned in April to serve with the Second Bulacan Company. In 1909, then commander of the Fourth Mountain Company in Banaue, he chose to remain in Ifugao (Northern Luzon), where he eventually rose to occupy the position of Lieutenant-Governor. He left the post in September of 1915 upon his return to the United States.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is composed of ethnographic material collected by Owen Tomlinson throughout his time in the Philippines (primarily spent in the mountains/Northern Luzon). The collection includes various weapons, clothing, assorted textiles, and eating utensils. All items were collected between the years 1899-1915 in the Philippines.

The collection as a whole has not been attributed to any Philippine ethnolinguistic groups. A cultural expert has not reviewed the collection; the catalog information reflects what has been previously provided by the donor and the Museum's historic naming conventions. At this time, it cannot be stated with specificity when, where, or by whom the objects were created.

Supplementary material includes:

- Original donation letter from Mrs. Laurine T. Tomlinson to curator Dr. Karl L. Hutterer, including "a sketchy listing of the contents of the shipment"

- Accession object list, Laurine T. Tomlinson, “Owen A. Tomlinson Collection: Artifacts”
- Varied correspondence between Dr. Karl L. Hutterer and the Tomlinson family regarding the donation process
- University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology Registration Checklist
- Museum of Anthropology Accession Record
- Description of Bentley Library Michigan Historical Collections on Owen A. Tomlinson
- Correspondence between Jean Tomlinson and Robert M. Warner of the Bentley regarding photocopies made of documents/photos
- Letter from William S. Tomlinson to Collections Manager Karen O’Brien with additional details about select ethnographic items in accession
- Two letters from Karen O’Brien 20 years later casting doubt on provenance of textiles/ inclusion in original accession due to error in paperwork
- Object catalog records/original museum inventory
- Photo negatives of textiles

The collection contains the following objects (organized by the museum’s historic naming conventions):

- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Arrow (7)
- Agriculture and Subsistence–Hunting Object–Spear
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Dagger (2)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Kris
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Pistol
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Sheath (6)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Spear (9)
- Armour and Weapons–Weapon–Sword (2)
- Container–Bag (5)
- Container–Basket
- Container–Box
- Container–Bowl (2)
- Container–Container (generic)
- Container–Quiver
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Accessory–Belt (2)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Girdle
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Hat (8)
- Dress and Personal Adornment–Clothing–Shirt (2)
- Food Preparation and Consumption–Eating Utensil (2)
- Food Preparation and Consumption–Spoon (12)
- Furnishings and Furniture–Blanket

- Furnishings and Furniture–Curtain
- Furnishings and Furniture–Table cloth
- Furnishings and Furniture–Tapestry
- Music–Percussion Instrument–Drum
- Religion or Ritual–Pipe (2)
- Textile–Textile (29)
- Tools and Equipment–Axe (4)
- Tools and Equipment–Knife (4)
- Unassigned–Bead Work (3)

Subject Terms

- Tomlinson, Owen A.
- Constabulary
- Ifugao/Northern Luzon (Philippines)
- Philippines–Philippine American War, Philippines, 1899-1902

Bibliography

Jenista, Frank Lawrence

1978 The White Apos: Ifugao and American Perceptions of Colonial Rule. PhD
Dissertation, Department of Philosophy and History, University of Michigan.

1987 The White Apos: American Governors on the Cordillera Central. Quezon City:
New Day Publishers.