

Guide to the Adee Dodge Papers

WA MSS S-2701



by Beinecke staff

2007-05-16

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-2701

CREATOR: Dodge, Adee

TITLE: Adee Dodge papers

DATES: 1930-2005

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 22.39 linear feet (64 boxes) + 1 broadside folder

LANGUAGE: In English, Navajo and Lakota.

SUMMARY: The Adee Dodge Papers consist of drawings, research files, financial records, correspondence, and biographical files documenting the life and work of Navajo visual artist and linguist Adee Dodge. Personal papers consist chiefly of biographical documentation compiled by Dodge's daughter, Nanabah Grogan. Business papers document Dodge's uranium prospecting business in the 1950s. Research files document Dodge's research on the Navajo language and on the comparative mythology of peoples of the Native Southwest and other world cultures, including Europe and India. Also included is a transcript of the autobiography of Alex Charging Crow (also known as Alex Adams) in Lakota and in English. The custodial history of this autobiography, and Dodge's relationship to it, are undetermined. Artwork consists chiefly of sketches by Dodge, some of which are drafts of paintings. Photographs document Dodge's life and family, the landscape and people of the Navajo Nation, and Dodge's paintings. Other material includes realia (two wool rugs and art supplies).

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.dodge>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.dodge>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.	box
f.	folder
	item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Silver Wolf Books on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 63 (acetate audiodisc): Restricted fragile material. Reference copy may be requested. Contact Access Services for further information.

Box 64 (microcassettes): Access to original audio tapes is restricted. Reference copy may be requested. Contact Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Adee Dodge Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Adee Dodge Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat MSS 762, Uncat MSS 781

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization in 2012.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Adee Dodge (1912-1992)

Adee Dodge, Navajo artist and linguist, was born Adolph Dodge Bitanny on November 16, 1912 in Fort Defiance, Arizona and died January 4, 1992 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He served in the National Guard and the Army Air Corps from 1931 to 1947, achieving the rank of Captain. He studied Navajo orthography and linguistics at the Hogan School in 1934, under the guidance of Gladys Reichard. He briefly studied Anthropology at Columbia University, where he collaborated with Reichard as a linguistic consultant. In the 1930s and 1940s he worked chiefly as a Navajo language teacher and translator and contributed to a Navajo medical dictionary. In the 1950s he forayed into uranium mining, founding Adee Dodge Enterprises,

Inc. His prolific career as a visual artist, begun circa 1945, flourished in his later years, when he met with commercial success.

Dodge married Effie Jean Casey in 1943, and married Veah (Mauscha M.) Pillsbury in 1950. He had one daughter, Nanabah Grogan.

Scope and Contents

The Adee Dodge Papers consist of drawings, research files, financial records, correspondence, and biographical files documenting the life and work of Navajo visual artist and linguist Adee Dodge. Personal papers consist chiefly of biographical documentation compiled by Dodge's daughter, Nanabah Grogan. Business papers document Dodge's uranium prospecting business in the 1950s. Research files document Dodge's research on the Navajo language and on the comparative mythology of peoples of the Native Southwest and other world cultures, including Europe and India. Also included is a transcript of the autobiography of Alex Charging Crow (also known as Alex Adams) in Lakota and in English. The custodial history of this autobiography, and Dodge's relationship to it, are undetermined. Artwork consists chiefly of sketches, some of which are drafts of paintings. Photographs document Dodge's life and family, the landscape and people of the Navajo Nation, and Dodge's paintings. Other material includes realia (two wool rugs and art supplies).

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Personal Papers and Business Papers, 1935-2005. II. Artwork, circa 1950-1973. III. Research Files, 1930-circa 1999. IV. Photographs, circa 1930-1992. V. Realia, undated.

Collection Contents



Series I: Personal Papers and Business Papers, 1935-2005

1.67 linear feet (5 boxes)





Series I consists of biographical files, correspondence, and legal and financial documents. Personal papers consist chiefly of biographical documentation compiled by Dodge's daughter, Nanabah Grogan. Business papers document Dodge's uranium prospecting business in the 1950s.

Boxes 63 and 64 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 1, f. 1-3	Biographical files, including obituaries	1948-1992, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Cards from Veah (wife)	1973, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence, incoming	1938-1957
b. 1, f. 6-15	Adee Dodge Enterprises, Inc. Includes articles of incorporation, clippings, maps, and material related to uranium prospecting.	1952-1955, undated
b. 2, f. 16-18	Adee Dodge Enterprises, Inc. (continued)	1952-1955, undated
b. 2, f. 19-22	Veterans Affairs correspondence and records	1988-1994
b. 3, f. 23-26	Material from scrapbooks Includes biographical notes by Dodge's daughter, personal documents, correspondence, and ephemera.	1935-2004
b. 4, f. 27-28	Biographical research files compiled by Nanabah Grogan	1950s-1990s
b. 64	Interview with Nanabah Grogan 5 Microcassettes	
b. 64,  39002137185550	Interview with Nanabah Grogan, Tape 1 1 Microcassette 02:04:33 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) The program is distorted at times. High background noise. High amounts of buzz. Warble can be heard. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2005 April 7
b. 64,  39002137185568	Interview with Nanabah Grogan, Tape 2 1 Microcassette 02:02:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) The program is distorted at times. High background noise can be heard. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2005 April 12

Interview with Nanabah Grogan (continued)

b. 64,  39002137185576	Interview with Nanabah Grogan, Tape 3 <i>1 Microcassette 01:59:36 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High background noise can be heard. The program is distorted at times. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2005 April 12
b. 64,  39002137185592	Interview with Nanabah Grogan, Tape 4 <i>1 Microcassette 02:03:45 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. High background noise can be heard. High amounts of buzz can be heard. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2005 April 13
b. 64,  39002137185584	Interview with Nanabah Grogan, Tape 5 <i>1 Microcassette 01:52:44 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. High background noise can be heard. High amounts of buzz are present. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2005 April 15
b. 5, f. 30	Ephemera and notes by Adeë and Veah Dodge	1955-1963, undated
b. 5, f. 31	<i>Mirage</i> , University of New Mexico Yearbook	1936
b. 5, f. 32	<i>Mirage</i> , University of New Mexico Yearbook	1950
b. 63,  39002137218898	Song by Veah to Tom Pillsbury <i>1 Audio Disc ; 8-inch acetate disc 00:04:57 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Skips can be heard during the program due to warping. Static, clicks, and pops are present. The program is distorted at times. The first segment, at about 00:02:30 in, is heavily distorted. High amounts of hum can be heard. Access to original audiodisc is restricted. Reference copy may be requested. Contact Access Services for further information.	undated

Series II: Artwork, circa 1950-1973*7.13 linear feet (25 boxes) + 1 broadside folder*

Series II consists chiefly of sketches by Adee Dodge and records relating to the sale of his artwork. Also included are several paintings.

Organized into three subseries: Papers Relating to Artwork, Drawings and Sketches, and Other Artwork.

Papers Relating to Artwork Not arranged in any particular order.		
b. 6, f. 33-38	Buyer records	1962-1973, undated
b. 6, f. 39-42	Clippings relating to Adee Dodge and his work	1950s-1960s
b. 6, f. 43-44	<i>Arizona Highways</i> , printed versions	1958-1967
b. 7, f. 45-46	<i>Arizona Highways</i> , printed versions (continued)	1958-1967
b. 7, f. 47-57	Descriptions and interpretations of Dodge paintings, by Dodge and others	undated
	Photocopies of magazine covers Stored in: Oversize Box 63	undated
	"So proud the blue stallion," cover for <i>Arizona Highways</i> Stored in: Oversize Box 63	1959
Drawings and Sketches Not arranged in any particular order.		
Photocopies of sketches		
b. 8, f. 58-68	1-965	undated
b. 9, f. 69-70	966-1046	undated
b. 9, f. 71	[Unidentified]	undated
b. 9, f. 72-73	"Computer copies" of sketches	undated
Drawings (photocopies)		
b. 9, f. 74-76	Files 153-160	undated
b. 10, f. 77-78	Unnumbered files	undated
b. 10, f. 79	"The Coyote"	undated
b. 10, f. 80	"Turquoise Horse of the Moon Goddess"	undated
b. 10, f. 81	Clippings and photographs	undated
b. 10, f. 82-88	Sketches	undated
b. 11, f. 89-94	Sketches	undated
b. 12, f. 95-100	Sketches and notes	undated

Drawings and Sketches (continued)

b. 13, f. 101-107	Sketches and notes	undated
b. 14, f. 108-115	Sketches and notes	undated
b. 15, f. 116-133	Sketches and notes	undated
b. 16, f. 134-139	Sketches	undated
b. 17, f. 140-145	Sketches	undated
b. 18, f. 146	Sketches	undated
b. 18, f. 147	Calendar	undated
b. 18, f. 148-150	Photocopies of sketches	undated
b. 18, f. 151	Notes	undated
b. 19, f. 152-173	Sketches	undated
b. 20, f. 174-184	Sketches	undated
b. 21, f. 185-209	Sketches	undated
b. 22, f. 210-216	Sketches	undated
b. 23, f. 217-223	Sketches	undated
b. 24, f. 224	Sketches	undated
b. 25, f. 225-239	Sketches	undated
b. BSD, folder 240	Sketches	undated
Other Artwork Not arranged in any particular order.		
b. 26, f. 241-242	Paintings on board	undated
b. 27, f. 243	Watercolor painting of a buffalo	undated
b. 28, f. 244-245	Framed paintings	1967, 1971
b. 29, f. 246	Sand painting	undated

Series III: Research Files, 1930-circa 1999**6.17 linear feet (11 boxes)**

Series III consists of correspondence, notes, and clippings relating to Dodge's research on Navajo language, history, and ethnography, and on comparative Native American, European, and Asian mythology. Also included is a transcript (in Lakota) of the autobiography of Alex Charging Crow (also known as Alex Adams), and an English translation.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 30, f. 247-249	Correspondence	1935-1960
b. 30, f. 250	Gladys Reichard correspondence (photocopies of letters from the 1930s)	undated
b. 30, f. 251	Notes on biology by Milton Lehr	1935
	Notes on the Navajo Language	
b. 30, f. 252	Ediphone Index	1930s
b. 30, f. 253	[Transcriptions of audio recordings?]	undated
b. 30, f. 254-257	Analysis of verbs (files no. 1-32, 40, 42)	1930s
b. 31, f. 258	Analysis of verbs (files no. 44-49, 50-58)	1930s
b. 31, f. 259-260	Verb stems	undated
b. 31, f. 261	Adjectives	undated
b. 31, f. 262	Analysis of verbs and prefixes	undated
b. 31, f. 263	List of Navajo prefixes by Edward Sapir, typescript	1930
b. 31, f. 264-267	Material related to teaching Navajo language	1936-1941
b. 31, f. 268	Translations of religious phrases into Navajo	1978
b. 32	Slip files on Navajo vocabulary	undated
b. 33	Slip files on Navajo vocabulary	undated
b. 34, f. 269-270	Notes on introductory Anthropology courses at Columbia	circa 1935
b. 34, f. 271-273	Notes on Evolution and Anthropology	undated
b. 34, f. 274-276	<i>Your Health</i> , National Broadcasting Corporation, transcripts	1938
b. 34, f. 277-280	Notebooks	1950s, undated
b. 35, f. 281-293	Notebooks	1950s, undated
b. 36, f. 294-303	Notebooks	1950s, undated
b. 36, f. 304	Material from a Criminology course	1959
b. 36, f. 305	"Adee Dodge, Navajo Painter," term paper by Sue Katterjohn, typescript	1963
b. 37, f. 306-315	Notes on mythology	undated

b. 37, f. 316	Report of the Arizona Governor's conference on the problems of the Navajo people	undated
b. 38, f. 317-321	Drafts of writings on Navajo culture	undated
b. 38, f. 322-323	Newspaper clippings on archaeology, and on Southwestern culture and history	1954-1958
b. 39, f. 324	Newspaper clippings on Navajo culture and military service	1990s
b. 40, f. 325-328	"History of the Lakotas as told by Alex Charging Crow," Lakota version, typescript Includes "Story of Mrs. Rump Bone."	undated [1930s?]
b. 40, f. 329-332	"History of the Lakotas as told by Alex Charging Crow," English version, manuscript and typescript Includes "Story of Mrs. Rump Bone."	undated [1930s?]

Series IV: Photographs, circa 1930-1992*6.92 linear feet (17 boxes)*

Series IV consists of photographs of Adee Dodge and family, of Dodge's paintings, and of the people and landscape of the Navajo Nation.

Organized into five subseries: Adee Dodge and Family, Adee Dodge Paintings, Events, Landscape, and Other Photographs.

Adee Dodge and Family

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 41, f. 333-340	Adee Dodge and family Also stored in: Oversize Box 63	1930s-1940s, undated
b. 41, f. 341	Dr. Hooper's office	1975
b. 41, f. 342	Adee Dodge	1940s
b. 41, f. 343	Council meetings, Henry Chee Dodge as chairman of Navajo tribe	undated
b. 41, f. 344	Medicine man from Wheatfield	undated
b. 41, f. 345	Dodge and Henry Gatewood, Window Rock, Arkansas	1940s
b. 41, f. 346	Weavers who worked with Reichard and Bitanny; Navajo camp near Wheatfield Lake	undated
b. 41, f. 347	Navajo language class; Adults language class; Adults in hogan; Dodge-Grogan collection	undated
b. 41, f. 348	Tingly Hospital and Paul Chee Mrs. Dodge, Nanabah	undated
b. 41, f. 349	Thomas Giles Pillsbury and Meecha Pillsbury	undated
b. 41, f. 350	Dodge with wife and daughter	1955
b. 41, f. 351	Roger Davis and Grace family	undated
b. 41, f. 352	White Clay and Chaba's oldest sister	undated
b. 41, f. 353	Navajo family near their hogan	undated
b. 41, f. 354	Sugar Bowl Ice Cream Parlor, Nanabah C. Dodge and Yeah (Meecha) Dodge	1973
b. 41, f. 355	Image of General MacArthur in Manila from <i>Purple Heart Magazine</i> , printed version	1994
b. 42, f. 356-367	Family photographs	circa 1940-1979
b. 43, f. 368-375	Family photographs	1980-1986
b. 44, f. 376-381	Family photographs	1987-1992
b. 45, f. 382-388	Family photographs	undated

Adee Dodge Paintings

Arranged roughly chronologically. Slides are filed at the end of the subseries.

Adee Dodge Paintings (continued)

b. 46, f. 389-396	Photographs of paintings	1963-1968
b. 47, f. 397-403	Photographs of paintings	1969-1971
b. 48, f. 404-410	Photographs of paintings	1972-1974
b. 49, f. 411-419	Photographs of paintings	1974-1978
b. 50, f. 420-429	Photographs of paintings	circa 1970-1983
b. 51, f. 430-434	Photographs of paintings	undated
b. 52, f. 435-444	Slides of paintings	1960-1968, undated
Events Arranged roughly chronologically.		
b. 53, f. 445-452	Photographs of pow wows, fairs, rodeos, and other events	circa 1950-1968
b. 54, f. 453-462	Photographs of pow wows, fairs, rodeos, and other events	1969-1983, undated
Landscape Arranged roughly chronologically.		
b. 55, f. 463-472	Photographs of the Navajo Nation landscape	1967-1989, undated
Other Photographs Arranged roughly chronologically.		
b. 56, f. 473-482	Unsorted and unidentified photographs	1968-1991, undated

Series V: Realia, undated

1.75 linear feet (5 boxes)

Series V. consists of art supplies and two wool rugs.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 57	Rug, wool	undated
b. 58	Rug, wool	undated
b. 59	Colored pencils	undated
b. 60	Paintbrushes	undated
b. 61	Paints	undated

Oversize Material*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 62, f. 483	Photocopies of magazine covers (Series II)	undated
b. 62, f. 484	"So proud the blue stallion," cover for Arizona Highways (Series II)	1959
b. 62, f. 485	Family photographs by Adee Dodge (Series IV)	undated
b. 62, f. 486	Adee Dodge (Series IV)	1970s
b. 62, f. 487	Adee Dodge and family (Series IV)	1950s
b. 62, f. 488-491	Navajo Medical Interpreters School (Series IV)	1940

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Art, American -- 20th Century
Artists, American
Artists -- United States
Dakota language -- Texts
Lakota dialect -- Texts
Linguists -- United States
Native American literature
Navajo art
Navajo artists
Navajo Indians -- Education
Navajo Indians -- Folklore
Navajo Indians in art
Navajo Indians -- Pictorial works
Navajo language -- Grammar
Navajo painting
Navajo rugs
Uranium industry -- United States

Geographic Names

Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah --
Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Drawings (visual works) -- United States --
20th Century
Paintings (visual works) -- United States -- 20th
Century
Photographic prints -- United States -- 20th
Century
Rugs (textiles) -- United States -- 20th Century
Sound recordings

Occupations

Artists -- United States -- 20th Century
Linguists -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Charging Crow, Alex
Dodge, Adee