

Guide to the Adee Dodge Papers

WA MSS S-2701



by Beinecke staff

2007-05-16

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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 Adee 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 |
| <p>Events Arranged roughly chronologically.</p> | | |
| 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 |
| <p>Landscape Arranged roughly chronologically.</p> | | |
| b. 55, f. 463-472 | Photographs of the Navajo Nation landscape | 1967-1989, undated |
| <p>Other Photographs Arranged roughly chronologically.</p> | | |
| 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