



Smithsonian
Institution

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REPATRIATION
ACTIVITIES OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**

2012

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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Smithsonian Institution

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native
Affairs
1327 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs
1327 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cantwell, Vice Chairman Barrasso, Chairman Young, and Ranking Member Hanabusa:

On behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, we are pleased to transmit this report regarding the repatriation activities of the Smithsonian Institution for Calendar Year 2012. The Smithsonian is committed to the respectful return of Native American human remains and cultural objects to affiliated tribes across the United States. In fact, the Smithsonian has been engaged in such returns even prior to the passage of the federal repatriation legislation. The Smithsonian is proud of this rich history and the relationships the repatriation process has fostered with many Native constituents.

The following report accomplishes many goals. First, the report provides an overview of the repatriation programs conducted at both the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), including detailed statistical information regarding completed repatriations, consultations with native communities, and claims processing for 2012. Statistics, alone, however cannot truly convey either the magnitude or importance of the repatriation activities for the past year. Therefore, the report also contains brief case studies of recent repatriations for both NMAI and NMNH. Finally, the report highlights other repatriation-related activities, including conferences, meetings, and publications, for both museums during the past year.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss or provide additional information on the contents of this report or the Smithsonian's repatriation program, in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Johnson
Director
National Museum of Natural History

Kevin Gover
Director
National Museum of American Indian

I. REPATRIATION AND THE SMITHSONIAN: AN OVERVIEW

The Smithsonian Institution has a long and proud history of the respectful return of Native human remains and cultural objects. In fact, even prior to the passage of the federal repatriation legislation, the Smithsonian engaged in such returns, including the voluntary return of numerous human remains in the early 1980s and the well-publicized return in 1987 of certain cultural objects affiliated with the Zunis.

In 1989, Congress enacted the National Museum of the American Indian Act (NMAIA). This law established the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) as part of the Smithsonian Institution and authorized the transfer of the collections of the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian in New York City to the Smithsonian. The legislation is also the first piece of federal legislation addressing Native American repatriation as the NMAIA required the Smithsonian to return, upon request, Native American human remains and funerary objects to culturally affiliated Federally-recognized Indian tribes. The NMAIA was amended in 1996, following the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), to include the return of certain Native American cultural objects, including sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. To assist the museums in the repatriation process, both the NMAI and NMNH have drafted repatriation policies and procedures.

The Smithsonian has repatriated or made available for repatriation the human remains of more than 6,000 individuals, 225,000 funerary objects, and 1,100 sacred objects and/or objects of cultural patrimony. These totals far exceed any other museum complex in the United States and almost all other federal entities with Native American collections. The Smithsonian is committed to the repatriation process and consults with Native Americans throughout the Nation. This annual report to Congress will be sent to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, Congressional Regents, the Government Accountability Office, and will be posted on the repatriation websites for the NMNH and NMAI.

II. REPATRIATION ACTIVITIES: YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

a. Repatriations (human remains and funerary objects available for repatriation or that have been repatriated)¹

	NMNH		NMAI	
	CY 2012 ²	OVERALL	CY 2012	OVERALL
Human Remains³				
Number of Individuals	88	5,828	6	463
Catalog Numbers	78	5,292	3	262
Funerary Objects⁴				
Number	4,623	195,582	6 ⁵	29,416
Catalog Numbers	261	2,914	0	1,003

¹ For categories of objects eligible for repatriation but not defined in the NMAIA, both NMNH and NMAI have adopted the definitions and criteria established in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. §3001 et seq.

² CY 2012 lists the number of human remains and objects made available for repatriation during the year. Overall lists the total number of human remains and objects made available for repatriation, including CY 2012.

³ “Human Remains” means the physical remains of a human body of a person of Native American ancestry. The term does not include remains or portions of remains that may reasonably be determined to have been freely given or naturally shed by the individual from whose body they were obtained. The “Number of Individuals” refers to the “minimum number of individuals” or MNI; a concept commonly used in anthropology to represent the fewest possible number of human remains in a skeletal assemblage. The “Number of Individuals” calculation should not be misconstrued as representative of an entire skeletal assemblage for each MNI. “Catalog Numbers” refers to the quantity of museum numbers assigned to the human remains or objects.

⁴ “Funerary object” means an “object that, as part of a death rite or ceremony of a culture, is intentionally placed with individual human remains either at the time of burial or later.” NMAI Act 20 U.S.C. §80q-14 (4).

⁵ These objects were associated with human remains and not assigned separate object catalog numbers.

b. Repatriations (sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony)

	NMNH		NMAI	
	CY 2012	OVERALL	CY 2012	OVERALL
Objects of Cultural Patrimony⁶				
Number	0	50	1	19
Catalog Numbers	0	12	1	9
Sacred Objects⁷				
Number	0	2	34	811
Catalog Numbers	0	2	24	724
Objects of Cultural Patrimony/Sacred Objects⁸				
Number	2	2	0	298
Catalog Numbers	2	2	0	236
Other Items⁹				
Number	0	26	0	31
Catalog Numbers	0	21	0	26

⁶ “Objects of cultural patrimony” mean items “having ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group [Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization] or culture itself, rather than property owned by an individual.” NAGPRA 25 U.S.C. §3001 (2) (3) (D).

⁷ “Sacred objects” mean items that are “specific ceremonial objects which are needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents.” 25 U.S.C. §3001 (2) (3) (C).

⁸ “Objects of Cultural Patrimony/Sacred Objects” refer to claims for the repatriation of cultural items that mean the definition of both an object of cultural patrimony and a sacred object.

⁹ “Other Items” refer to circumstances in which the cultural item offered for repatriation does not meet the definition of an object available for repatriation under the NMAI Act or the policies of the NMNH and the NMAI. Since the NMAI Act was not intended to limit the authority of the Smithsonian to conduct repatriations of certain items from its collections, the category of “Other Items” was developed to track and monitor museum collections offered for return for which no other repatriation category is available or appropriate.

b. CY 12 Consultations

	NMNH	NMAI	Joint NMNH-NMAI ¹⁰
Consultation Visits			
Number of Visits	42	16	5
Number of Tribes	51	29	5
Number of Smithsonian-sponsored Tribal Visits ¹¹			
Number of Representatives	25	37	11
Number of Tribes	14	29	5

c. Repatriation Reports and Claim Processing

	NMNH		NMAI	
	CY 2012	OVERALL	CY 2012	OVERALL
Claims				
Claims In Queue	3	3	22	22
Repatriation Reports in Process	10	10	21	21
Completed Repatriation Reports	6	110	6	100

¹⁰ Counted also under each museum

¹¹ The Smithsonian does, in certain circumstances, fund the travel of tribal representatives in order to visit the Smithsonian as part of the repatriation process.

III. OVERSIGHT OF REPATRIATION ACTIVITIES

Native American Repatriation Review Committee

The Native American Repatriation Review Committee met in Washington, DC, on May 22-23, 2012, and November 13-14, 2012, to monitor the progress of repatriation at the NMNH. The committee is composed of individuals nominated by tribes, tribal organizations, and scientific and museum organizations. The members in 2012 are Jane Buikstra, Professor, Arizona State University; T.J. Ferguson (Vice-chair), Anthropologist, Tucson, Arizona; John Johnson, Chugach Alaska Corporation; Walter Lara, Sr., Yurok Tribe; Bonnie Newsom, Penobscot Indian Nation; Shelby Tisdale, Director, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology, Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Gordon Yellowman, Sr. (Chair), Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.



Native American Repatriation Review Committee members (left to right): John Johnson (Chugach Alaska Corporation), Jane Buikstra (Arizona State University), Bonnie Newsom (Penobscot Indian Nation), Shelby Tisdale (Museum of Indian Arts & Culture), Walter Lara, Sr. (Yoruk Tribe), and T.J. Ferguson (Anthropologist). Gordon Yellowman, Sr. (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes), not shown.

National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees

The National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees meets three times a year to discuss museum business, including repatriation matters brought forth through the repatriation committee of the board. As necessary, the repatriation committee of the board meets outside the full board meetings to complete committee work. In 2012, these members were made up of Committee Chairperson, Brenda Toineeta Pipestem (Eastern Band of Cherokee), Lawyer; Philip Deloria (Standing Rock Sioux), Professor, University of Michigan; Catherine Fowler, Professor of Anthropology Emerita, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation; George Gund III, Businessman and Philanthropist; Jackie Old Coyote (Crow Nation), Director of Education and Outreach for The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development; and Jose Zarate (Quechua), Coordinator, Indigenous Communities and Latin America and Caribbean Development Program, Primates World Relief and Development Fund.



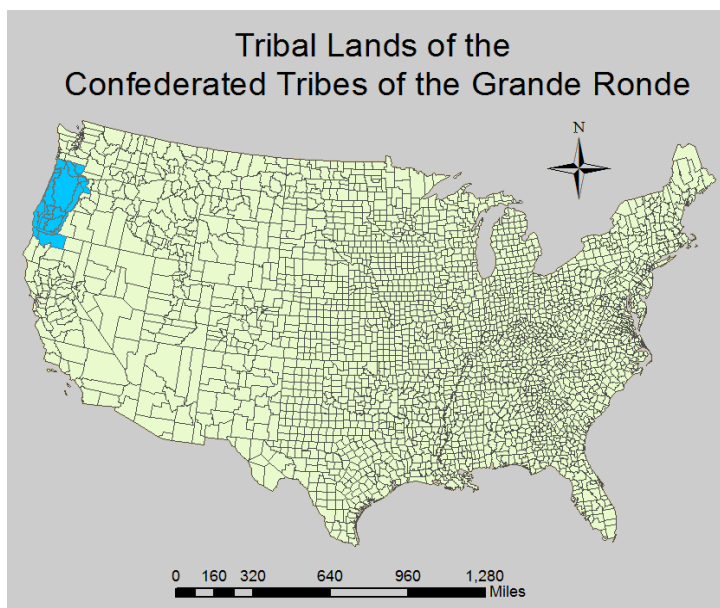
National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees with Additional Individuals. Back row (left to right): Jose Zarate (Quechua); Haunani Apoliona (Native Hawaiian); Byron I. Mallott (Tlingit), former Board of Trustee; Ronald Solimon (Pueblo of Laguna); John Ernst; Clarence Jackson (Tlingit) Circle of Elders; Brian Patterson (Oneida Nation of New York); Andrew Lee (Seneca); Marx Sterne, NMAI National Council Member; Philip Deloria (Standing Rock Sioux); Marshall McKay (Yocha Dehe Tribal Wintun Nation); Manley Begay (Navajo); and Kevin Gover (Pawnee), NMAI Director. Seated (left to right): George Gund III (now deceased), Margot Ernst (NY Board Member), Patricia Zell, Joan Sterne (NMAI National Council Member), Roberta Conner (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla), Lucille Echohawk, (Pawnee), Freda Porter (Lumbee), and Brenda Toineeta Pipestem (Eastern Band of Cherokee).

IV. HIGHLIGHTED REPATRIATION ACTIVITIES

NMAI and NMNH have engaged in a variety of repatriation-related activities during the past year. The listing below provides a representative sampling of some of this past year's activities and programs:

Geographic Information System (GIS) Database Development Project

The NMAI Repatriation Department contracted for further development of the ArcGIS geodatabase project of tribal territory, which began as an intern project in 2011. This project involves the creation of maps of tribal territories and areas of interest for federally-recognized tribes within the United States. Resources utilized in this project include information from Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Repatriation Representatives, the Native American Consultation Database, Royce maps, treaty maps, and other sources. The end product will be a searchable database that the NMAI Repatriation Department can use to identify the appropriate tribes to consult for collections that originate in a particular locale. As a result of this project, a presentation was made to The 4th Irregularly Scheduled GIS@SI Conference on January 16, 2012 by Repatriation Specialist Lauren Sieg and GIS Contractor, Kira Beam.



Example of a GIS Map Showing Consultation Region for the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.

Aleutian Repatriation

The NMNH is working on a series of repatriation assessments for human remains and funerary objects from the Aleutian Islands. Human remains and funerary objects were obtained from many of the islands in the first half of the twentieth century and a series of assessments will be completed by island or island group. The first repatriation of human remains was completed in 2012 to the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island. An assessment is underway for human remains and funerary objects from Unga Island for the Native Village of Unga.

Embassy of Australia, September 19, 2012

NMAI Repatriation staff members Jackie Swift and Lauren Sieg supported a request from the Embassy of Australia to assist in the support of a handover ceremony of Australian Aboriginal human remains. Materials and logistical information were provided in coordinating the arrangements facilitating the Smoking Ceremony conducted by the descendants of Neddy Larkin. On September 18th, Emma Crimmings (Acting Director of Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Australia), escorted Afzal Khan, Great-Great-Great Grandson of Neddy Larkin (the key family representative on this return), Roslyn Sten, Great-Great Niece of Neddy Larkin (Elder of the Lismore Bundjalung people and cultural authority to perform the Smoking Ceremony at the handover ceremony), and Mathew Cornwell (Program Officer, Indigenous Languages, Culture and Repatriation Team within the Office for the Arts), to meet with repatriation staff members and tour the museum. The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University purchased the remains of Neddy Larkin in 1891 from A. P. Goodwin, who was an acquaintance of Neddy Larkin during his lifetime. According to research by James Cook University's Department of History and Politics, Goodwin secretly dug up and removed Neddy Larkin's remains from his grave at the edge of Lismore and sold them to the Museum.



Embassy of Australia (left to right): Matthew Cornwell, (Program Officer, Indigenous Languages, Culture and Repatriation Team), Roslyn Sten, (Great-Great Niece of Neddy Larkin) and Afzal Khan, (Great-Great-Great Grandson of Neddy Larkin).

Pesticide Partnership Development Meeting, December 14, 2012

NMAI Repatriation Department Manager Jackie Swift attended a meeting with the Conservation Department and the Indian Health Service to determine if a working partnership could be developed with Indian Health Service regarding the analysis of pesticide testing results for tribal communities following the repatriation of objects back to the community.

Hopi Tribe of Arizona

NMNH staff consulted with the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, the USDA Forest Service NAGPRA Office, the Coconino National Forest, and the Museum of Northern Arizona concerning the Coconino National Forest repatriation project with the Hopi Tribe. The Coconino National Forest repatriation project has been characterized as the single largest repatriation project in the nation and will involve multiple museums and federal agencies. Following these consultations, in October of 2012 the NMNH repatriated to the Hopi Tribe the human remains of 60 individuals and 4,453 funerary objects from the sites in Coconino National Forest, Arizona.

Sand Creek Massacre Repatriation

Representatives of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Northern Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe participated in the repatriation of two individuals who were victims of the November 29, 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado by troops under the command of Colonel John Chivington. Representatives from the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapahoe, Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho came to the NMNH to consult on the museum records related to these two individuals in late 2011 and early 2012. The skeletal remains of the individuals were obtained from the surface by two army officers several years after the massacre. The names of the individuals are not known and it could only be determined that the individuals were Cheyenne or Arapaho. Otto Braided Hair of the Northern Cheyenne came to the museum for the repatriation and was accompanied by Bill Billeck (NMNH) back to Colorado where the remains were buried on November 21, 2012 at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. The repatriation coincided with the 14th Annual Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run.



Sand Creek Massacre Repatriation: Bill Billeck (NMNH) and Otto Braided Hair (Northern Cheyenne) signing repatriation deaccession papers at the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Colorado.

V. CASE STUDY: THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Tlingit Clan Conference and Smithsonian 3D Scanning

A Killer Whale hat repatriated to a Tlingit clan in 2005 was returned to the NMNH by the current clan leader for laser scanning and digital replication. The clan authorized the Repatriation Office to work with Office of Exhibits Central to make a replica of the hat, which will be added to the collections and displayed in the museum's new education center to tell the story of the repatriation and the importance of clan objects to the Tlingit.

R. Eric Hollinger, NMNH Repatriation Office; Adam Metallo, 3D Digitization Coordinator, Smithsonian Digitization Program Office; and Carolyn Thome, Model Maker, Office of Exhibits Central, took the replica to Sitka, Alaska, for the Tlingit Clan Conference. There the replica was displayed with the original hat and later worn in dances alongside the original. The Smithsonian digitization team demonstrated the 3D technology over the four days of the conference, and clan leaders brought forward some of their most important clan hats and other objects to be scanned and archived as security against loss to fire or some other disaster. Hollinger also gave a presentation on repatriation at the clan conference.



Top Left: Clan leader Edwell John, Jr., examining digitally produced replica of the Killer Whale hat; Top Right: R. Eric Hollinger (NMNH) laser scanning a Tlingit clan hat; Bottom Right: dancing of the Killer Whale Hat and replica hat at the Tlingit Clan Conference, Sitka, Alaska.



VI. CASE STUDY: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN INDIAN

Navajo Nation (Joint Consultation with NMNH)

The Repatriation Department conducted a repatriation consultation April 18-19, 2012, with Mr. Timothy Begay, Repatriation Representative, and Mr. Tony Joe, Supervisory Anthropologist. Begay and Joe reviewed ceremonial objects and provided extensive cultural context. The Navajo Nation representatives requested that several of the objects be escorted outside each season to rejuvenate their powers. The representatives also consulted with the Repatriation Office at the NMNH on April 16-17, 2012, as part of a joint consultation effort.



Emily Kaplan, Conservator, NMAI; Timothy Begay, Repatriation Representative, Navajo Nation; and Peter McElhinney, Conservation Fellow, NMAI, review XRF results to determine levels of pesticide contamination on Navajo objects during consultation.

Tony Joe, Supervisory Anthropologist, Navajo Nation, and Timothy Begay, Repatriation Representative, Navajo Nation, provide prayers for ceremonial objects and introduce them to their current surroundings.



VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on the repatriation activities of the Smithsonian Institution, please contact the individuals and websites listed below.

Bill Billeck
Program Manager
Repatriation Office
Department of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
10th and Constitution Ave
Washington DC 20560
billeckb@si.edu

Jacquetta (Jackie) Swift
Repatriation Manager
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of the American Indian
Cultural Resources Center
4220 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746
swiftj@si.edu

Repatriation Web Sites:

NMNH Repatriation webpage: <http://anthropology.si.edu/repatriation/>

NMAI Repatriation webpage: <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/repatriation/>