

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Doris Ulmann collection, n.d.

AG 84

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AG 84

Creator

Ulmann, Doris, 1882-1934

Abstract

Photographic equipment of Doris Ulmann (1882-1934), American photographer. Includes tripods, lens, film holders, and camera.

Quantity/ Extent

1 linear foot plus oversize material

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

A New Yorker by birth, Doris Ulmann preserved the rural cultures of the southeastern United States through her photographs. She worked particularly in the "Southern Highlands" of the Appalachian Mountains, creating portraits of the residents. In 1933, she contributed photographs to *Roll, Jordan, Roll*, a book by novelist Julia Peterkin about the vanishing black culture, known as Gullah, of the South Carolina islands and coastal areas. In collaboration with musician, actor, and folklorist John Jacob Niles, she made what Niles called annual "folklore and photographic expeditions" to the Southern Highlands between 1928 and 1934.

Ulmann's equipment was somewhat cumbersome and old-fashioned for her time. She most often used a 6½ x 8½ inch, tripod-mounted view camera, although the lightweight, hand-held camera was more prevalent, and she produced soft-focus platinum prints. The muted, warm tonality of the platinum image was a gentle complement to her respectful, sympathetic portrayals of subjects whose lives were different from her own. [<http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/artists/1568/doris-ulmann-american-1882-1934/>]

Scope and Content Note

The Doris Ulmann Collection consists mostly of various photographic equipment such as a 4x5" Korona view camera with Unifocal l:4.5f 24cm lens, a camera case containing Kodak film pack adapter, lens cleaning paper, Agfa information brochures, and film holders. The collection also includes oversize materials consisting of three of Ulmann's tripods.

Names and Subject Terms

Ulmann, Doris, 1882-1934 [<https://lccn.loc.gov/n84006286>]

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

This material was a gift of Mrs. John Jacob Niles in 1981.

John Jacob Niles was Ulmann's assistant, friend, and co-author of *The Appalachian Photographs of Doris Ulmann* (1971).

Preferred Citation

Doris Ulmann collection, n.d. AG 84. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Processed in January 1987 by CCP archives staff. The finding aid was updated in 2017 by Paloma Phelps.

Container List

Box	Folder
1	Film holders, 4x5" Folimar Graflex and Premo (16)
2	Contact printing frame, 6 1/2 x 8 1/2"
3	Leather camera case and contents: 4x5" Korona view camera with Unifocal l:4.5f 24cm lens D.R.P. lens (Steinheil Munken no. 155087) Hand manufactured lens signed "Johnnie Miller Jan. 5, 1930" P&S no. 2 series VI lens (f4) 4x5" Kodak film pack adapter Piece of foil lined orange paper (possibly Agfa roll film wrapper) lens board cover Package of Kodak lens cleaning paper Agfa Superpan Roll Film information brochure Agfa Plenachrome Film information brochure Lens-size cardboard disks with small holes pierced in the center (possibly used to obtain smaller apertures in lenses) Black cardboard rectangles (possibly used to change film format in the back of the camera) Focusing cloth 4x5" ground glass 9" rail for camera
4	Tripods: Crown Tripod No. 1
5	Crown Tripod No. 4
6	Rochester Optical Co. Tripod