
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 200
Byron Cummings
Papers, 1861 - 1954

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of documents relating to Cummings' interest in southwestern archaeology. Other topics include ancient Greece and Rome, Mexican archaeology, life in Arizona, and his experiences working at both the University of Utah & the University of Arizona.

14 Boxes, 1 Oversize Box (Oversized Area), 10 linear ft.

RELATED NOTE

PC 29 Cummings Photograph Collection

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated by the Byron Cummings' estate in June 1960 with additions in November 1961, February 1962 and December 1963.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

Processed by Library/Archival Staff in 1991.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Byron Cummings, archaeologist, teacher, and former University of Arizona president, was born in Westville, New York, on September 20, 1860. He was the youngest of eight children of Roxana Hoadley (1819-1897) and Moses Cummings. Byron Cummings attended public schools in Potsdam, New York, where he studied Latin and Greek. He graduated from Oswego Normal School in 1885. He taught Greek and mathematics at Syracuse (N.Y.) High School (1887-1888) and at Rutgers Preparatory School (1889-1893). He received his Bachelor of Arts (1889) and Master of Arts (1892) degrees from Rutgers University.

In the fall of 1893, he joined the University of Utah faculty as instructor in Greek, Latin, and mathematics, becoming a full professor in 1895. At Utah, he also served as Dean of Men (1904-1915), Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences (1906-1915), and Dean of the Medical School (1910). A dedicated supporter of athletic programs at the University of Utah, Cummings was known as the Father of University Athletics. He organized the university's first football team in 1893 and was involved in the Athletic Association there from 1894 through 1910. The University named its first athletic field in his honor.

In 1906, Cummings began archaeological exploration in southeastern Utah, followed two years later by his first excavation work. On August 14, 1909, he became the first white man to see the Rainbow Bridge. In the summers of 1910 and 1911, he studied archaeology at the University of Berlin. Under University of Utah auspices, he led excavation parties in the San Juan River regions of northern Arizona, and discovered several notable cliff dwellings (Betatakin, Inscription House, Keet Seel, and Bat Woman).

In the spring of 1915, Cummings resigned from the University of Utah with twenty-four other faculty members in a protest over the administration's policy of academic tenure. Shortly thereafter, he joined the University of Arizona as Professor of Archaeology and Director of the Arizona State Museum. He founded the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, and was appointed Dean of the School of Arts, Letters and Sciences from 1917 to 1921. In 1921, Cummings served as Acting President of the University. That same year he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Arizona. In 1924, Cummings received a Doctorate of Science degree from Rutgers University.

Following the resignation of Dr. Cloyd H Marvin in January 1927, Cummings assumed the position of Acting President at the University of Arizona. He was appointed President from June 1927 to July 1928. From 1931 through 1939, Cummings worked on the excavation and restoration of the Kinishba pueblo ruins on the Apache Indian Reservation in east-central Arizona. He founded the Kinishba Museum at Whiteriver, Arizona. Cummings retired as head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Arizona in 1937 and as Director Emeritus from the Arizona State Museum in 1938.

Cummings died on May 21, 1954 in Tucson, Arizona.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection of Byron Cummings (1861-1954) consists of 14 document boxes with one oversized box of archival materials (10 linear feet) arranged in 14 series: (1) Correspondence 1891-1958; (2) Field Notes (archaeological and ethnographic), 1900-1944; (3) Maps; (4) Manuscripts (published and unpublished), 1900-1953; (5) Speeches and Scripts; (6) Lecture Notes and Classroom Records, c. 1893-1920; (7) Student Papers; (8) Printed Material, 1887-1958; (9) Professional Memberships and Certificates, 1889-1945; (10) Hohokam Museum Association Records, 1937-1946; (11) Publication Council Records, 1944-1960; (12) Guest Books and Autograph Book, 1925-1957; (13) Bibliographies; (14) Clippings, Drawings, and Plates. The bulk of the collection consists of documents relating to Cummings' interest in southwestern archaeology. Other topics include ancient Greece and Rome, Mexican archaeology, life in Arizona, his experiences working at both the University of Utah and the University of Arizona, and his family and personal life.

SERIES ONE, Correspondence, 1891-1958

Series consists of approximately 500 letters arranged chronologically. Most of the correspondence is addressed to Cummings. The series includes information on Cummings' roles as teacher, administrator and archaeologist, as well as some personal and family correspondence. Major topics in this series include the 1915 dismissal of faculty members at the University of Utah and Cummings' resignation in 1915; Cummings' appointment as acting president of the University of Arizona in 1927; correspondence regarding Jackson Tewa and Hopi grazing problems, 1939-1944; professor of archaeology and Director of the Arizona State Museum in 1915; the publication of Cummings' book Kinishba: A Prehistoric Pueblo of the Great Pueblo Period, and efforts to designate the site of Kinishba (located in Arizona) as a national monument.

SERIES TWO, Field Notes, 1900-1944

This series consists of archaeological and ethnographic material compiled by Cummings and is arranged chronologically. Information on the following archaeological regions and sites in Arizona and Utah is included in this series: Alkaii Ridge; Batwoman House; Beef Basin; Betatakin; Casa Grande, Arizona; Casas Grandes, Chihuahua; Chilchintaboko; Duggagli Ruin; King's Ruin; Kinishba; Martinez Hill; Navaho Mountain; Nitsin Canyon; Pahute Cave; Pueblo Bonito; Red House Ruin; Roger's Canyon; Salt River Valley; San Juan Region; Scaffold House; Segezin Mesa; Slab House Ruin; Superstition Mountains; Tsegie Canyon; Turkey Hill Ruin; Twin House Ruin; and Walnut Canyon.

Ethnographic material includes an account of Cummings' first meeting with traders John and Louisa Wetherhill in 1908, several Native American myths including "The Big Eagles", "The History of Blue Feather" and "The Story of Tonethpel", a description of the Hopi Snake dance in 1911 and 1930, a journal of Cummings' trip to Europe in 1911, a talk made by John Taylor (Apache) and recorded by anthropologist Grenville Goodwin in 1932, and a description of an Apache Lightning ceremony of 1940.

SERIES THREE, Maps (Located in OVERSIZED BOX 13)

This series consists of maps of archaeological sites in the Greater Southwest. Included in the series are maps of the following areas: Alkali Ridge in San Juan County, Utah; Betatakin

Ruin; Kinishba; the Salt River Valley; Segezin Mesa; the Tanque Verde Pithouse Village; and the Turkey Hill Ruin.

SERIES FOUR, Manuscripts, 1900-1953

This series consists of published and unpublished manuscripts by Cummings, arranged alphabetically by title. Most manuscripts are in draft form. The major topic addressed in these manuscripts is archaeology of northern and southern Utah. Included are materials on Betatakin, Keetseel, Kinishba, the Miami Gold Pueblos, "Picture Rocks" of Tucson, the San Juan Valley, the 76 Ranch, and Tsegie Canyon. Other topics include ancient Greece and Rome, the discovery of Rainbow Bridge, the archaeology of Cuicuilco, Mexico, and Arizona State Museum annual reports. Also included in this series are drafts for Kinishba: A Prehistoric Pueblo of the Southwest, First Inhabitants of the Southwest, and Cummings' unpublished memoirs Trodden Trails.

SERIES FIVE, Speeches and Scripts

Series 5 consists of speeches, radio scripts, and pageant scripts. Topics of the speeches include archaeology, life in Tucson, and the University of Arizona (included is Cummings' speech as retiring President of the University). Also included in this section are speeches made by Antonio Azul (Papago) and Chief Red Jacket (Seneca). Scripts include a radio script about Cummings' experience as an archaeologist in the field and as director of the Arizona State Museum.

SERIES SIX, Lecture Notes and Classroom Records, 1893-1920

This series consists of material relating to Cummings' teaching duties at the University of Utah, 1893-1915, and the University of Arizona, 1915-1937. These are arranged chronologically. Class record books list students and their grades. These cover the years 1893 to 1915 at the University of Utah, and 1915 to 1920 at the University of Arizona.

SERIES SEVEN, Student Papers

This series includes manuscripts written by Cummings' students on a variety of topics. The first fifteen manuscripts appear to be translations of a Spanish work on Tenayuca, Mexico and the history of the Chichimec people. Other papers feature a variety of topics (primarily archaeological) arranged alphabetically by author.

SERIES EIGHT, Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints, 1887-1958

Series 8 contains reprints of articles written by other people concerning archaeology. The series is arranged alphabetically by author. Folder 97 contains biographical information on Cummings written by colleagues and peers.

SERIES NINE, Professional Memberships and Certificates, 1889-1945

This series contains of one application and several certificates relating to Cummings' professional memberships.

SERIES TEN, Hohokam Museum Association, 1937-1946

This series entails records of the Hohokam Museum Association with which Cummings was actively involved. The stated purpose of this organization was to provide support for the Arizona State Museum. In fact, it primarily sponsored programs on archaeological subjects and supported Cummings' work to develop a museum at Kinishba.

SERIES ELEVEN, Publication Council, 1944-1960

This series consists of material generated by the Cummings' Publication Council, including minutes, 1952-1960; financial records, 1944-1960; and an index card file of members. The stated purpose of this organization was to publish material of the Southwest.

SERIES TWELVE, Guest Books and Autograph Book, 1925-1957

The first guest book appears to be personal. It begins with Cummings' marriage to Ann C. Chatham in 1947 and concludes in 1953. The remaining four guest books, 1941-1951, appear to be from the Kinishba Museum.

SERIES THIRTEEN, Bibliographies

There are several incomplete bibliographies of Cummings' work, a bibliography compiled by Cummings and a bibliography compiled by George M.B. Hawley entitled "Frauds: Hoaxes, Humbugs, Bluffs, Buncombs and Forgeries, in Art Science and Literature."

SERIES FOURTEEN, Newspaper Clippings, Drawings, and Plates, 1900-1915

This series consists of newspaper clippings relating to Cummings' archaeological work in Utah, but written by others. These clippings are housed in Box 13 Oversized of this collection. One box contains drawings and plates of archaeological artifacts intended for inclusion in publications.

Box and Folder Listing

SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1891-1958

Box 1

Folder 1-15	General Correspondence	1891-1944
f.16	Correspondence re: Jackson Tewa and the Hopi Grazing Problem	1939-1944
f.17	General Correspondence	1945-1947

Box 2

f.18	Scrapbook of Cummings' 90 th birthday containing cards, telegrams, and photographs	1950
f.19	Scrapbook of Cummings 90 th birthday	1950
f.20-21	General Correspondence	1950-1953

Box 3

f.22-24	Birthday Greetings	1953
f.25	General Correspondence	1954-1958
f.26	General Correspondence and Foreign Currency	undated
f.27	List of Correspondents	1891-1957

SERIES 2: FIELD NOTES, 1900-1944

f.28-41	Fieldnotes (includes Joshua Miller's 1891 report on Pueblo Grande Ruin)	1900-1929
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Box 4

f.42-53	Fieldnotes	1930-1944
f.54	Field notes and itinerary	date unknown

SERIES 3: MAPS (OVERSIZED BOX 13)

f.55	Miscellaneous maps of archaeological sites and regions (now Folders #131 & 132)	
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SERIES 4: CUMMINGS' MANUSCRIPTS, 1900-1953

f.56	Cummings' Manuscripts A	
	"Ancient Arizona"	undated
	"The Ancient Inhabitants of the San Juan"	c. 1909-1910
	"Ancient Ireland and the Hill of Tara"	undated
	"Antiquity of Man in the Americas"	Nov. 7, 1933
	"Ancient Mexico, The Land of Charm and Mystery" (one in Spanish)	1934
	"Ancient Pueblos on the 76 Ranch"	1936
	"The Arizona Missions"	undated
	<u>Aztecs of Mexico</u> , Book Review by Cummings	1943
f.57	Cummings' Manuscripts B	1943
	"Bolzan, Priest of Mitla"	undated

- f.58 "Bolzan, Priest of Mitla" undated
- f.59 Cummings' Manuscripts C-E
- "The Chiricahua Pinnacles" undated
- "The Cliff Dwellers of Southeastern Utah" Salt Lake Herald Aug. 12, 1908
2 copies
- "Colossal Cave"
- "The Dating of Cuicuilco" (published by Cummings' Publication Council) c. 1952-1953
- "Describes Famous Region of the Cliff Dwellers" Salt Lake City Herald Aug. 4, 1907
- "Early Days in Utah" Nov. 1, 1936

Box 5

- Cummings Manuscripts F
- f.60 First Inhabitants of Arizona and the Southwest (draft) undated
- f.61 First Inhabitants of Arizona and the Southwest (draft) undated
- f.62 First Inhabitants of Arizona and the Southwest (published by Cummings Publication Council) (incomplete) undated
- f.63 "Ft. Lowell" (2 copies) undated
- "Full Text of Dr. Cummings' Report on Alleged Artifacts" Jan. 21, 1930

Box 6

- f.64 Cummings' Manuscripts G
- "The Girls Puberty Ceremony of the White Mountain Apaches" undated
- "The Gods of Greece - Their Festivals and Temples" c. 1900
- "Going Strong", Museologists Oct. 1944
- "The Greeks in Art & Literature" c. 1900
- "Greek Life" c. 1900
- "Greek Literature" c. 1900
- f.65 Cummings' Manuscripts J
- Jim's Christmas undated
- f.66 Cummings' Manuscripts K
- Kinishba: A Prehistoric Pueblo of the Great Pueblo Period (draft) undated
- f.67 Cummings' Manuscripts K
- "The Kinishba Museum" undated
- "Kivas of the San Juan Drainage" undated
- f.68 Cummings' Manuscripts L
- "Life in Ancient Rome" undated
- f.69 "A Message to the Past, Present and Prospective Students of the University of Arizona", Arizona Wildcat undated
- "A Mixican Pompeii" (Cuicuilco, Mexico) from Literary Digest Aug. 26, 1922
2 copies
- "Monuments & Ruins of Utah" undated
- "Arizona State Museum" 1915-1922
- "Arizona State Museum" 1916-1917
- f.70 Cummings' Manuscripts N-O
- "The Navajo Tribe & the Prehistoric Peoples of the Navajo Reservation" undated
- "Nomenclature in Southwestern Archaeology" c. 1930

f.71	“Origin of the American Indian”	undated
	Cummings’ Manuscripts P	
	“Picture Rocks”	undated
	“Pottery of the Miami-Globe Pueblos” (incomplete)	undated
	“Prehistoric Man in America”	undated
	“Plato’s Philosophy”	c. 1900
	“Prehistoric Arizona”	c. 1930s
	“Prehistoric Irrigation in the Salt River Valley”	undated
	“The Prehistoric Record of Arizona and the Southwest”	undated
	“Problems of a Scientific Investigator”, <u>Science</u> (draft and clipping)	Mar. 26, 1926
f.72	Cummings’ Manuscripts R-S	
	“Restoration of Kinishba and the Apache Laborers”	undated
	“Sa Nonnezoshie, The Greatest Natural Arch Yet Discovered”	1909-1915
	“Shall Arizona Preserve Her Heritage”	undated
	“Some Unusual Kivas Near Navajo Mountain”	1930
	“Southeastern Utah”	undated
	“Textile Fabrics in the Prehistoric Southwest”	undated
f.73	Cummings’ Manuscript T	
	<u>Trodden Trails</u> (incomplete)	undated
f.74	Cummings’ Manuscript T	
	<u>Trodden Trails</u> (incomplete)	undated

Box 7

f.75	Cummings’ Manuscripts T-U	
	“The True Function of Language Work in Education”	undated
	“Unusual Textiles From the Prehistoric Pueblo Period”	undated
	“Unwritten History”	undated
	Untitled article from <u>Tucson Magazine</u>	June, 1933
	Untitled manuscript about the Greeks (incomplete)	undated
	Untitled manuscript about the Greeks (incomplete)	undated
	Untitled manuscript about Arizona	undated
	Untitled manuscript about Indian children	undated
	Untitled manuscript about Indian education (incomplete)	undated
	Untitled manuscript about Kinishba presented to the Woman’s Club	undated
	“Utah’s Cliff Dwellers Farthest North are Explored”, <u>Salt Lake City Herald</u>	Oct. 14, 1906
f.76	Cummings’ Manuscripts W	
	“What Can the Investigations of the Scientists Contribute to the Social and Political Betterment of Our Indian Communities”	undated
	“Wild Arizona”	undated
	“Thomas Woodrow Wilson”	undated

SERIES 5: SPEECHES AND SCRIPTS

f.77	Speeches by Cummings
f.78	Speeches by Others
f.79	Scripts

SERIES 6: LECTURE NOTES AND CLASSROOM RECORDS, 1893-1920

f.80 List of courses taught by Cummings

f.81-83 Lecture Notes

undated

Box 8

f.84-86 Lecture Notes

undated

f.87-93 Class Records

1893-1920

SERIES 7: STUDENT PAPERS

Box 9

f.94 Manuscripts which appear to be translations of a Spanish work on Tenayuca, Mexico and the history of the Chichimac people

f.95 Manuscripts which appear to be notes taken by students from published sources

f.96 General student papers

SERIES 8: MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS AND REPRINTS, 1894-1958

- Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints B
- f.97 Cummings' Biographical Manuscripts
- f.98 Baldwin, Gordon C., "An Analysis of Basket maker III Sandals from Northeastern Arizona", American Anthropologist, no. 3 July, 1938
- Baldwin, Gordon C., "Excavations at Kinishba Pueblo, Arizona", American Antiquity, Vol. 4, no. 1 July, 1938
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- f.99 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints B-G
- Barnes, Will C., "Apache Mutiny of 1882, Echoes in Life of a Fort Huachuca Scout", The Apache Scout, Vol. XIV, no. 7 July, 1936
- Colton, Harold S., "Archaeology and the Reconstruction of History" American Antiquity, Vol. 8, no. 1 July 1942
- Denniger, Henri Stearnes, "Prehistoric Syphilitic Lesions" c. 1935
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- Gallio, Anthony, "Origins of the Indian in America" June 21, 1938
- f.100 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints H

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- Hawley, Florence M., "Prehistoric Pottery Pigments in the Southwest." 1929
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- f.101 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints H-J
- Hawley, Florence M., "Pueblo Social Organization as a Lead to Pueblo History", American Anthropologist, Vol. 39, no. 3 1937
- Hill, Gertrude Frances, "The Art of the Navajo Silversmith." 1937
- Hodge, F.W., "Biographical Sketch and Bibliography of Adolph Frances Alphonse Bandalier", New Mexico Historical Review Oct. 1932
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- Judd, Neil M., "The Braced-up Cliff at Pueblo Bonito," 1958
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- Judd, Neil M., "The Discovery of Rainbow Bridge"
- Judd, Neil M., "The Discovery of Rainbow Bridge", National Parks Bulletin, no. 54 Nov. 1927
- Judd, Neil M., "The Use of Adobe in Prehistoric Dwellings of the Southwest", Holmes Anniversary Volume 1916
- f.102 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints K-M
- Kennedy, William D., "Kinishba! The Apaches are Coming", Ford Times Oct. 1946
- Leh, Leonard L., "Prehistoric Pueblo Ruins in Range Creek Canyon, Utah", University of Colorado Studies Vol. 23, no. 2 Jan. 1936
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- McClintock, James W., "An Arizonan Pompeii", Salt River Valley News, Vol. II, no. 17. May 28, 1887
- Muench, Joyce & Joseph, "The Dean of the Southwest", Arizona Highways Apr. 1946
- f.103 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints M
- Moorehead, Warren K., "The Moundbuilder Problem: A Brief Review" (with a map showing "Distribution of Mound Cultures") 1933
- Moorehead, Warren K., "Mr. Barnum was Right," Hobbies Magazine Dec. 1933
- f.104 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints P-S
- Patrick, H.R., "The Ancient Canal Systems and Pueblos of the Salt River Valley, Arizona," Bulletin #1 - Phoenix Free Museum 1903
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- f.105 Miscellaneous Manuscripts and Reprints S-W
- “Symposium on Prehistoric Agriculture”, Proceedings of the 1936
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1936, University of New Mexico Bulletin, Anthropological
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A.M., LL.D., Sc.D.”
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University”
- Wiley, Gordon R., “A Preliminary Report on the Monagrillo Culture 1951
of Panama”, The Civilization of Ancient America

SERIES 9: PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATES, 1889-1945

- f.106 Application for National Roster of Scientific & Specialized Personnel 1940-1942
- f.107 Certificates & Program 1889-1945

SERIES 10: HOHOKAM MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, 1937-1946

- f.108 Minutes 1937-1943
- f.109-117 General Records 1937-1946

SERIES 11: CUMMINGS’ PUBLICATION COUNCIL, 1944-1960

- f.118 Minutes 1952-1960
- f.119 Correspondence 1950-1960
- Financial Reports 1944-1960
- f.121 Miscellaneous Financial 19??-1960
- f.122 Index cards listing members of the Council, A-G undated

Box 11

- f.122A Index cards listing members of the Council, H-O

f.122B Index cards listing members of the Council, P-Z

SERIES 12: GUEST BOOKS AND AUTOGRAPH BOOK, 1925-1957

f.123 Autograph book and Guest book (personal) 1925-1953
f.124-125 Guest book (Kinishba Museum) 1941-1949

Box 12

f.126-127 Guest book (Kinishba Museum) 1949-1957

SERIES 13: BIBLIOGRAPHY

f.128 Bibliographies

SERIES 14: MISC NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, DRAWINGS, & PLATES, 1900-1915

Box 13 (Oversized Box Located in Oversize Storage Area)

f.129 Newspaper Clippings Featuring Cummings Work
f.130 Two Photographs
f.131 Two Maps of Ancient Canals and Cities in Salt River Valley (Formally Folder #55)
f.132 Four Maps of San Juan River Drainage Area (Formally Folder #55)
f.133 Hand Sketches of Fabric/Textile Materials
f.134 Drawings of Kinishba Ruins
f.135 Educational Certificates for Cummings
f.136 Miscellaneous Sketches
f.137 Phonograph Record (Content Unknown)

Box 14

Archaeological Drawings and Plates

Folder 1 Pencil Tracings

f.2 Art Drawings #1-#29
f.3 Art Drawings #30-#39
f.4 Art Drawings #43-#70
f.5 Art Unnumbered and Miscellaneous Drawings & Plates

Oversized Item (Located in Oversize Storage Area)

Drawing, Map of Segezin Mesa, Cummings Expedition, Summer 1930