
**NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACT COLLECTION
GRAND OPENING**



**Minot State University
Gordon B. Olson Library Special Collections
September 17, 1993**

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACT COLLECTION GRAND OPENING

Welcome & Introductory Remarks Dr. H. Erik Shaar

Special Hosts Harold Aleshire
Jane Shaar
Jack Stewart

Summary of Collections:

Ralph Hubbard Collection

Ralph Hubbard was born in East Aurora, New York, in 1885, to Elbert and Bertha Hubbard. Ralph first visited North Dakota in 1902 while traveling to Billings, Montana, by train. He stayed over for a day in Medora, North Dakota. It is perhaps fitting that he would spend his last years in Medora where he established the Fur Trader Museum.

After completing his education in the East he came to the West again in 1910 and ranched in Montana and Colorado. Over the years he developed a very close relationship with Native Americans, particularly in Montana, Colorado, and in North and South Dakota. Even before he joined the faculty of Minot State University in 1947, he had earned a reputation as one of the leading experts in American Indian lore in America.

In addition to the museum in Medora, he helped to establish the museum at Wounded

Knee, South Dakota (Oglala Sioux) and the Three Affiliated Tribes museum in New Town, North Dakota. While on the faculty at MSU, he dreamed of creating a Native American museum on campus--a dream that was never realized. However, in his will he requested that the remainder of his private collection be sold to Minot State University with the proceeds to be used for scholarships. In awarding the scholarships, preference was to be given to Native American students. The Minot State University Alumni Association purchased the collection for \$70,000.

The Hubbard Collection, made up of approximately 150 pieces, contains many outstanding and rare specimens.

Hubbard died in Medora, North Dakota, in November 1980 at the age of 95.

Harold Robinson Collection

Minot State University received a collection of Indian artifacts from the surviving members of the George L. Robinson and William Henry Robinson families. The collection came to the university through the leadership of George's grandson, Harold R. Robinson, long time university supporter and current member of the MSU Board of Regents. Others participating in the donation were Margaret Robinson and the family of William Laidman Robinson.

The Robinson Collection was compiled as a result of a long and meaningful relationship among George L. Robinson, his son William Henry Robinson, and the many Native Americans living in, and passing through, the Fort Berthold region. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Robinson maintained a trading post in Garrison, North Dakota, which provided an essential link between the white and Native American populations. The Robinsons were particularly respected by the indigenous people because they took the time to understand their ways and customs. The Indians frequently expressed their appreciation for the Robinsons' efforts by presenting them

with gifts made through the industry of their own hands. The items were also used in trade and for the payment of debts. Over the years these items were retained and now form the basis of the Robinson Collection.

The Robinson Collection is comprised of 90 items covering a full array of Native American ornamentation. Two war-bonnet headdresses are particularly noteworthy. The first is believed to have Hidatsa origins with a single trail of 34 golden eagle "old man" feathers on a buckskin base and a sundance plume on the crown. An eagle feather and horse track design covers both sides of the trailer and cowhorn side pieces adorn its beaded cap. The second is a very old, single-trail buckskin war bonnet with buffalo horn attachments at the crown and approximately 50 hawk feathers used throughout its sundance plum.

The collection has an appraised value in excess of \$20,000 and contains a number of items which provide a strong complement to the Native American items already in Minot State's possession.

Miller-Tibbs Collection

The 18 pieces that make up the Miller-Tibbs Collection include some fine examples of Native American Artifacts. Included in the collection is a war bonnet of crown type consisting of 30 immature Golden Eagle Feathers with a felt base and red tail hawk feather drops on each side. There is a beaded brow band, with Golden Eagle breast feather "shingles" on the felt crown. The bonnet appears to be very old, probably from the late 1800's to the 1910 period and was given to

Hans C. Miller in the early 1900's as a gift to the family by an enrolled member of the Fort Berthold Reservation.

The collection also includes pieces such as corn husk bags, moccasins, pouches, a man's choker, and a war club with a fully beaded handle. The total value of the Miller-Tibbs Collection is estimated at \$4,795. The Miller and Tibbs Families donated the collection to Minot State University in October 1992.

Clarence Parker Collection

Clarence H. Parker, whose name has become something of a legend in Minot and northwestern North Dakota, was born in Michigan and came to North Dakota with his parents in 1883. During his lifetime, he was involved in many business ventures including the establishment of the Leland Parker Hotel (later the Clarence Parker Hotel), cattle ranching near Williston, and his CP Ranch which was located about 26 miles northwest of Minot on the Upper Souris. It was here that he maintained what was considered the largest private buffalo herd in the country.

Over the years his contact with North Dakota Indians was extensive, and he eventually col-

lected many Native American artifacts. During the 1950's his collection was given to Minot State University. The bulk of the collection has been stored in boxes over the years, while some pieces have, until this past summer, been on display in MSU's Cyril Moore Hall. Recently, those items were brought to the Olson Library where some of the items have been photographed, catalogued, and properly stored. These items number over 100 with as many as 200-300 stone and bone tools, arrowheads, and other miscellaneous items yet to be identified and catalogued.

Wilson Collection

Glenn F. (Jim) Wilson was a life-long student of American Indian lore. His interest was sparked when he became a member of the Koshare Indian Dancers, a Boy Scout troop of La Junta, Colorado, in about 1937. It was also about this time that he became acquainted with Ralph Hubbard, and for the rest of his life, remained a disciple and close friend of Hubbard.

Prior to his death on September 22, 1986, Jim Wilson suffered from heart disease and other illnesses. This caused him to dispose of many of his nice Old Plains Indian items, but his wish was that whatever was left and applicable be donated

to the Ralph Hubbard museum scholarship collection.

Jim Wilson emulated Hubbard to a considerable degree: teacher on Indian Reservations, Boy Scout Master with Indian dance groups in various places, craftsman, Indian trader, and to illustrate his latest abilities, his final contribution was teaching illiterate Navajo boys and girls computer science in Gallup, New Mexico.

The 22 items in this collection were donated to the Ralph Hubbard Collection at Minot State University by Mrs. Marge Wilson in April 1988 on behalf of her late husband Jim.

Other Items

The MSU collection has also received two beautiful Navajo rugs from Lila Hoffine of Minot.