

WEAVING, NAVAJO – MATERIALS/TOOLS

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: D.Y. Begay, Scottsdale, Arizona

Title: Weaving, Navajo – Materials/Tools

Dates: 1999

Quantity: 1 cf

Identification: Folk Art

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

D.Y. Begay is a weaver, a daughter of a weaver's daughter. She is a Navajo born to Totsohini, the Big Water People, and born for Ta'chii'nii, the Red Earth Streak People. She resides in Teselani and Scottsdale, Arizona, with her husband and son.

She learned at an early age to shear sheep, card and spin wool, pick the plants for dyeing the fleece to obtain the varied and subtle colors in her weaving. As she says, "Everything in my weaving is natural. I use the same techniques passed from my ancestors to me to create designs that have artistic and traditional values."

D.Y. Begay has exhibited her weavings at the Indian Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and other important markets and museums throughout the United States. She was a contributor to the Smithsonian's *Woven by the Grandmothers: Nineteenth Century Navajo textiles from the National Museum of the American Indian* (1996). She participated as a traditional artist-in-residence for the Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library's *Navajo Exploration* project, co-hosted by the Hyde Collection Art Museum in the Fall of 1999.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Dyes, natural
Dyes, natural – Navajo

Places: Teselani, Navajo Nation
Scottsdale, Arizona

Santa Fe, New Mexico
Washington, D.C.
Glens Falls, New York

Important People: Begay, D.Y.

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Dine' (Navajo) Plant Dye Materials
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Acquired from D.Y. Begay in connection with the *Navajo Exploration* project in 1999.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

Dyes used in the rugs made by Navajo weaver D.Y. Begay

4 small plastic bags, each containing a specimen of a dye plant. Attached to each is a hank of yarn which has been dyed with that plant.

1. Ch'il gohwehi – Navajo Tea
2. Chaad'iniih – Canyaignre
3. Hwoshntxyeed binsed'a' – Prickly Pear
4. Ha'attsedih – Walnuts

Wool

4 bags of wool: 1 bag of brown wool, raw; 2 bags of cream-colored wool washed and combed; 1 bag with some cream and some natural colored wool. None of this wool is dyed – the color grew on the sheep.

2 spools of wool which has been combed and then hand-spun: one cream, one grey.

Comb

Comb carved from a single piece of wood. It measures $10 \frac{3}{4}$ inches in length x 2 inches wide with a pointed handle at one end and ten $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inch teeth at the other.

The comb is used to un-tangle the sheared wool before spinning.

Spindle

Wooden spindle $32 \frac{1}{2}$ inches long, made from two pieces of wood. The long piece is pointed at one end and rounded at the other. The circular piece is 3+ inches in diameter and located closer to the pointed end.

The spindle is used to make the combed wool into thread.