

*Object of the Month-October 2011
Sheila-Marie Untiedt*

Ida Claymore Suitcase 2010.19



Medium: *Decorative Arts and Utilitarian Objects, Beadwork | Beads, hide, metal, oilcloth, thread*

Size: *12 1/2 x 17 11/16 x 10 1/4 in. (31.75 x 44.93 x 26.04 cm) (closed)*

Creation Place: *North America, United States, Great Plains region*

Culture: *Probably Minneconjou Lakota, North America, United States, Great Plains region*

Style: *19th-20th century*

Inscriptions: *Signature on side with Native Americans, URC, in blue beads: [Ida(?) Claymore]*

Physical Description: *doctor bag-style with metal closure and metal handle; beaded overall with blue ground; geometric shapes on sides (crosses and triangles); one side has scene of two cowboys (one on white and black horse and one on rust-colored, white and yellow horse) roping blue and red steers; opposite side decorated with three Native*

American figures with teepee; horse in LLC and horses' heads around top and L sides; lined in light green

Credit: Collection Minneapolis Institute of Arts; The Robert J. Ulrich Works of Art Purchase Fund

Accession Number: 2010.19

Artist: Ida (?) Claymore

Role: Bead Worker

Nationality: , Minneconjou Lakota (probably)

Label narrative;

“Beaded pictographs produced by Plains Indian women in the late 19th and early 20th century were an extension of pictographs that had been drawn by men for many generations. Men's pictographs usually recorded stories of battle, visionary experiences, hunting, and courting. Women mostly beaded geometric designs, but the rare object with pictographs usually depicted domestic scenes and courting. The very few beaded suitcases/satchels in existence were produced by the Lakota, from either Cheyenne River or Standing Rock Reservation. The beaded signature suggests the artist's name is Ida Claymore. She drew on conventions of painted and drawn works to illustrate the story depicted on the suitcase. On one side, a suitor brings many horses, which are shown by multiple heads, to his potential mate as a gift. The horse that is fully illustrated is given to the woman, shown by her holding its reins. Furthermore, the camp scene, featuring a tipi, and a rack that holds multiple decorated hides, implies that this event took place in a traditional camp setting. The other side of the suitcase features two cowboys roping domestic cattle”.

Native American "lazy" stitch beadwork (also known as "lane" stitch for the manner in which short rows are stitched into lanes) is most commonly used for covering larger areas of leather for amulets, medicine bags, clothing decorations, or moccasins. Often seen on ceremonial pow wow clothing and objects, lazy stitch is recognizable by the characteristic humps created by each lane of stitching.

Beads became available after contact with Western military, scouts and settlers. Porcupine quill had previously been used often as a decorative element.

From Joe Horse Capture- “This object was produced from 1880-1910, as a response to reservation life. Most beadwork was applied to objects created for Native use prior to reservation confinement. But with the introduction of new materials and western objects, women applied beads to non-traditional objects such as western made suitcases and doctor's satchels. Such beaded items were very attractive to the western eye and were probably created as honor gifts or for the market. A late 19th/early 20th century photograph in the collection of the State Historical society shows a couple standing behind a table with at least 9 beaded suitcases and

satchels. The photograph reads "Joe Claymore bead work exhibit" and the MIA beaded suitcase is shown in front of the man. This photo was likely taken at a fair where items on the table were available for purchase."

The Ida Claymore suitcase pairs nicely with Man's Beaded Jacket 2003.186 and Baby Bonnet 91.93. Also, the Baby Bonnet was created in 1991 in the style and tradition of previous works. Unfortunately, neither item is currently on display but the gallery is full of excellent options.



[How to Do Native American Lazy Stitch Beadwork | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/how_5625858_do-american-lazy-stitch-beadwork.html#ixzz1a1iJyya)
http://www.ehow.com/how_5625858_do-american-lazy-stitch-beadwork.html#ixzz1a1iJyya

How beading is done

<http://www.nativetech.org/glasbead/glaslane.html>

Overview of various beaded styles and items

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt4wcbTah4M&feature=related>