

# Pouches Pipebags and Purses





1. *Left:* WOMAN'S POUCH, buckskin with seed beads and metal jingles, possibly Arapaho. Late 19th c.  
*Right:* WOMAN'S POUCH SET, buckskin with "cut" beads, nickel silver jingles. Made in 1967 by Melvin Blackman, Cheyenne/Arapaho.



2. HANDBAG, buckskin with "cut" bead medallion, bone beads and cowrie shells. Made in 1979 by LaVerna Jane Capes, Kiowa/Wichita.



3. CLUTCH PURSES, suede with "cut" beads and metal spots. Made in 1965 by LaVerna Jane Capes, Kiowa/Wichita.



4. HANDBAGS, buckskin with seed beads and metal jingles. Left made in late 1940's by Blossom Haozous, Ft. Sill Apache, right made ca. 1951 by Bessie Gooday, Ft. Sill Apache.



5. PIPEBAG, buckskin with seed beads. Made in 1940 by Anna Tohaddlemah Konad, Kiowa.



6. PIPEBAG, buckskin with quillwork. Made in 1983 by Tim Lamers, Oglala Sioux.



7. *Left:* BAG, seed beads on canvas, Plateau region. Made ca. late 1940's, early 1950's.

*Right:* BAG, seed beads on canvas. Made ca. 1950 by Josephine Lumpry, Spokane.



9. HANDBAGS, buckskin with "cut" bead medallions, seed and "cut" bead fringe. Left and center made in 1979 by Alice Littleman, Kiowa. Right made by Mrs. Littleman in 1988.

8. TULIP BAG, suede with seed beads. Made ca. 1976 by Mable Little Bull, Blackfeet.



10. HANDBAG, buckskin with "cut" bead medallion, bone beads and cowrie shells. Made in 1984 by Eugenia and Junior McDaniels, Kiowa/Sioux.



11. HANDBAGS, lower portion of deer leg with dewclaws, decorated with buckskin, bone, seed and Crow beads. Made in 1986 by Debbie Rutherford Monroe, Blackfeet.



12. PIPEBAG, buckskin with "cut" and steel beads, quillwork wrapping. Made in 1986 by Tim Ramsey, Choctaw/Cherokee/Cheyenne.



13. *Left:* PIPEBAG, horsehide with seed beads. Made in 1983 by Patricia Russell, Cheyenne. *Right:* PIPEBAG, caribou hide with seed beads. Made in 1979 by Leah Thompson, Cheyenne/Sioux.



14. HANDBAGS, suede with seed beads and metal spots. Made in 1990 by Marjorie Sovo, Comanche/Mohawk.



15. HANDBAGS, suede with metal jingles, metal spots and seed beads by Angeline Stephens, Caddo. Left made in 1967, right made ca. 1978.



16. POUCH or CHILD'S PURSE, buckskin with seed bead medallion and "cut" bead fringe. Made in 1941 by Gladys Ahtape Parton, Kiowa.



17. *Left:* PAINT BAG, smoked buckskin with velvet, seed beads and powdered pigment. Caddo, Late 19th C. *Right:* CHILD'S PURSE, velvet with seed beads. Made ca. 1905 by Mrs. Whitebread, Caddo.

### COVER:

*Left:* PIPEBAG, horsehide with seed beads, metal spots and abalone shell with quillwork. Made ca. 1985 by Dennis Eagle Horse, Hunkpapa Sioux.

*Center:* WOMAN'S POUCH SET, buckskin with "cut" beads; nickel silver jingles. Made in 1978 by Alice Littleman, Kiowa.

*Below:* SHOULDER PURSE, buckskin with "cut" and steel beads. Made in 1981 by Nettie Standing, Kiowa.



18. ROUGE BAG, buckskin with seed beads. Comanche, Late 19th C.



## Pouches, Pipebags and Purses

An Exhibition, January 13-February 14, 1991

This exhibition, comprised of fifty pouches, pipebags and purses by Native American craftsmen from the Great Plains region, has been organized to demonstrate the importance of tradition in the evolution of new and exciting functional art forms. Derived from the permanent collections of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's national museum program, the Southern Plains Indian Museum is pleased to present work from its own collection as well as Northern Plains Indian examples from the Board's Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, Montana and Sioux pipebags, pouches and purses from the Board's Sioux Indian Museum in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Contemporary Native American craftsmen are projecting many of the unique values distinctive to their cultural traditions into expressive, modern forms with a scope and freshness of vision which significantly enrich contemporary culture in America. The craftsmen's concern for cultural preservation and interpretation of various aspects of their respective tribal heritages is a motivating force in handing down knowledge of techniques, usage of raw materials and distinctive designs comprising specific artistic traditions.

Traditional activities such as beadwork and buckskin sewing have been practiced by many Indian families for generations. Thus we see grandmothers such as Blossom Haozous, Ft. Sill Apache (illus. 4) passing on her talents to her children and grandchildren and mothers such as Anna Tohaddlemah Konad, Kiowa; (illus. 5) Lucy Jackson, Kiowa; Frances Russell, Cheyenne; Marjorie Sovo, Comanche/Mohawk (illus. 14) and Nettie Standing, Kiowa (cover) passing their talents onto their respective daughters;—including Alice Littleman (cover and illus. 9); Gladys Ahtape Parton (illus. 16); Patricia Russell (illus. 13); Denese and Diana Gail Sovo and Laverna Jane Capes (illus. 3). Other traditional family practitioners include brother and sister, Junior and Eugenia McDaniels, Kiowa/Sioux (illus. 10) and Melvin Blackman, Cheyenne/Arapaho (illus. 1) who has imparted his artistic knowledge to his nieces.

Raw materials used in the creation of pouches, pipebags and purses range from native smoked and tanned buckskin and caribou hide to commercially tanned buckskin, horsehide and suede as well as canvas and velvet fabric. One of the more unusual adaptations of traditional raw materials is exemplified by Blackfeet Indian craftsman, Debbie Rutherford Monroe who fashions her contemporary purses from lower portions of deer legs with dewclaws attached (illus. 11).

Designs are applied with either "lazy" or overlay stitch, using seed and/or "cut" beads. On one example, created by Oglala Sioux craftsman, Tim Lammers, a pictorial design has been created with quillwork (illus. 6). Most pouches, pipebags and purses are fringed with buckskin which may be left plain (illus. 5 & 13) or decorated with metal jingles (illus. 4, left), bone beads, aurora borealis beads and cowrie shells (illus. 10). Often the fringes are composed solely of beads (illus. 4, 16, 18) which in three notable examples form a pictorial design (illus. 9).

The production of arts and crafts for non-Indian markets is of considerable economic importance to contemporary Native Americans. One highly successful Indian arts and crafts enterprise, the Oklahoma Indian Arts and Crafts Cooperative, is particularly identified with a line of modern fashion accessories based upon traditional Indian craft skills of the Southern Plains region.

Originating as a Federal project in the 1930's, the early style handbags produced by Blossom Haozous, Bessie Gooday and others (illus. 4) closely resembled specific historic styles. Later, Oklahoma Indian Arts and

Crafts Cooperative members began developing their own exclusively-designed handbags produced by Cooperative members Angeline Stephens, Caddo (illus. 15), Nettie Standing, Kiowa (cover) and LaVerna Jane Capes, Kiowa/Wichita (illus. 3). Today, the Cooperative is extremely proud of the very fine handbags created exclusively by Marjorie Sovo, Comanche/Mohawk (illus. 14).

In presenting this Special Exhibition to the public, the Southern Plains Indian Museum is pleased to identify the following individuals whose work is featured. These people are just a few of the many outstanding Native American craftsmen involved in the production of pouches, pipebags and purses today.

**Flossie Bear Robe:** Oglala Sioux, b. 1/4/22, d. 4/15/88.

**Melvin Blackman:** Cheyenne/Arapaho, b. 8/24/32, resides in Geary, Oklahoma.

**LaVerna Jane Capes:** Kiowa/Wichita, b. 12/10/39, resides in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

**Dennis Eagle Horse:** Hunkpapa Sioux, b. 4/25/47.

**Bessie Gooday:** Fort Sill Apache, b. 1883, d. 1970's.

**Blossom Haozous:** Fort Sill Apache, b. 1/25/93, d. 12/30/81.

**Anna Todaddlemah Konad:** Kiowa, b. 1882, d. 1968.

**Tim Lammers:** Oglala Sioux, b. 9/4/57, resides in Rapid City, South Dakota.

**Mable Little Bull:** Blackfeet, b. 3/4/24, resides in Browning, Montana.

**Alice Littleman:** Kiowa, b. 2/8/10, resides in Washita, Oklahoma.

**Josephine Lumpry:** Spokane, b. 11/24/18, d. 10/21/81.

**Eugenia McDaniels:** Kiowa/Sioux, b. 11/16/51, resides in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

**Junior McDaniels:** Kiowa/Sioux, b. 7/12/57, resides in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

**Debbie Rutherford Monroe:** Blackfeet, b. 9/17/61, resides in Browning, Montana.

**Gladys Ahtape Parton:** Kiowa, b. 8/7/14, resides in Verden, Oklahoma.

**Tim Ramsey:** Choctaw/Cherokee/Cheyenne, b. 1/22/60, resides in Norman, Oklahoma.

**Patricia Russell:** Cheyenne, b. 7/13/44, resides in Canton, Oklahoma.

**Marjorie Sovo:** Comanche/Mohawk, b. 1926, resides in Sterling, Oklahoma.

**Nettie Standing:** Kiowa, b. 8/15/16, d. 5/20/87.

**Angeline Stephens:** Caddo, b. 12/15/15, d. 1/27/80.

**Leah Thompson:** Cheyenne/Sioux, b. 1890, d. 9/9/86.

**Mrs. Whitebread:** Caddo, b. 1831, d. 1932.

Although the work in this exhibit is not for sale, the following Indian owned and operated enterprises are sources of contemporary pouches, pipebags and purses. Inquiries should be directed to:

Oklahoma Indian Arts and  
Crafts Co-op  
P.O. Box 966  
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005  
Tel. (405) 247-3486

Northern Plains Indian  
Crafts Assoc.  
P.O. Box E  
Browning, Montana 59417  
Tel. (406) 338-5661

Tipi Shop, Inc.  
Box 1542  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709  
Tel. (605) 343-8128

SOUTHERN PLAINS INDIAN MUSEUM AND CRAFTS CENTER, HIGHWAY 62 EAST, ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA