



# BUFFALO STATE

The State University of New York

ART CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT • ROCKWELL HALL 230 • 1300 ELMWOOD AVE. • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14222 • 716-878-5025

## PAPER EXAMINATION REPORT

CNS 197833-32

PAGE 1 OF 3

### OWNER/AGENT

DATE RECEIVED

### EXAMINER

FACULTY SUPERVISOR(S)

DATE OF REPORT

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

October 2, 2019

Margaret Priest

Theresa J. Smith

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## I. OBJECT INFORMATION

TITLE ("") or DESCRIPTION

Portrait of Pe-che-co, A Pottowattomie Chief from *The Aboriginal Port-Folio*

DATE/PERIOD OF MANUFACTURE

1935

PLACE OF MANUFACTURE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PUBLISHER

Lehman and Duval

EDITION

Unknown

### IMAGE/DESIGN TECHNIQUE

MEDIUM

Lithograph, hand-colored with watercolor

DIMENSIONS OF IMAGE (H x W, inches)

Approximately 9 x 7 in

INSCRIPTIONS/IDENTIFYING MARKS

Small "32" on bottom right corner of back

### SUPPORT MATERIAL

TYPE/QUALITY

Handmade wove

DIMENSIONS (H x W, inches)

18 ¼ x 11 ½ in

ESTIMATED ORIGINAL COLOR

Beige I (Lunning and Perkinson 1996)

PRESENT COLOR

Beige II (Lunning and Perkinson 1996)

WATERMARK/IDENTIFYING MARKS

N/A

MOUNT

N/A

MAT

N/A

FRAME/ACCESSORIES

N/A

## II. DESCRIPTION

### • GENERAL REMARKS ON IMAGE/DESIGN

The object is a single sheet from a larger collection, depicting Indigenous ("Aboriginal") chief, with the anglicized name Pe-che-co. It is a bust-length portrait of an elderly man wearing a tunic, shawl, and scarf. He holds a cane or staff in his left hand and rests his head on his right hand. He has white hair, a beard, and dark brown eyes. His expression is vague, but he makes eye contact with the viewer. His features are somewhat exaggerated in caricature, especially visible in his large nose, raised eyebrows, and small mouth.

Within the image, the signature of J. Barincou indicates the artist who transferred the original drawing onto

All conservation documentation should be retained with the artifact as part of its historical record. Documentation which the department provides complies with the principles set forth in the *Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice* of the American Institute for Conservation

the lithography stone. Below the image, the publisher's credit is listed "Lehman & Duval Lith<sup>rs</sup>." Below this, the printed text reads "PE-CHE-CO | A Pottowattomie Chief | Painted at the treaty of Massinnewa 1827. by J. O. Lewis." The drawing was originally created by J. O. Lewis after attending the treaty. The title likely refers to the Ratified Indian Treaty 147, "Miami – Near the Mouth of the Mississinewa Upon the Wabash, October 23, 1826." The treaty was between the U.S. Government and the Miami and Potawatomi Tribes and was ratified in January 1827. In the treaty, Miami chiefs ceded the majority of their reservation land in Indiana, which was previously given to them by the U.S. Government. The intended use of the land was for transportation, by road or canal. The tribe was compensated \$31,000 in silver and goods over the course of two years. Present parties are listed toward the end of the treaty, but Pe-che-co is not included among the chiefs, nor J. O. Lewis with the witnesses.

However, the chief is listed at the Ratified Indian Treaty 177, "Potawatomi (St. Joseph, Cold Water, Wabash and Elkhart Bands) - Tippecanoe River, Indiana, October 27, 1832," although his name is spelled as "Pe-che-co" and "Pet-chi-co" in different places. In the treaty, he is promised two sections of land. The execution of the 1832 treaty was challenged by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1859. The case mentions that "Pit-chi-co" passed away before being granted his land, though his heirs were given patents to the land. In the 1833 treaty with the Chippewa, "Me-Chain, daughter of Pe-che-co" is listed.

"To contextualize these lithographic prints, one must acknowledge how the prints were viewed through a racialized lens, caricaturing the bodies, clothes, and traditions of each figure. During the production of these prints, America was in the midst of the Industrial Revolution, a time when the United States sought to establish a distinctive identity through financial and political prosperity. Additionally, America sought to establish their visual and literary identity through knowledge production, while cementing white supremacist ideologies within its history. The commissioning and documentation of the Native American chiefs and figures existed as a measurement of the political climate of times, as the Indian Removal Act was enacted between 1830-1850. The Indian Removal Act instituted, by the U.S. government under Andrew Jackson, involuntarily forced Native Americans westward through brutal force and genocide. The very existence of this piece is a present documentation of how the myth of the "Vanishing Indian," a myth that historically cemented Native Americans as an extinct group of people, impacted the minds and documentation of those at this time." (Conliffe 2024).

#### ● **TECHNIQUE/MEDIUM**

The black ink lithograph is created in a chalk or crayon style that reveals some stone grain texture in the dark areas. In some midtone areas, the media was scraped away from the stone with a thin tool to create small highlights and texture. Selective areas of shadow are made darker with a pen and tusche in the lithograph. There is some residual ink from the printing process visible on the bottom edge of the plate. Seven colors of watercolor are used throughout the image: four shades of brown for the shawl, cane, skin, and eyes; a light blue for the tunic, a dark blue for the scarf, and a white for the hair and eyes. The watercolor appears to have been applied by brush in a wet-on-dry manner, as there are hard edges, with some areas of uneven pigment distribution.

#### ● **SUPPORT**

The support is handmade wove paper. As measured with a micrometer, it is 0.006 inches thick. Through transmitted light, the regular weave texture is especially pronounced, though it is also visible with raking light from the top. In feel, the support is similar to the 'Slightly textured II' sample from the Print Council of America Paper Sample book (Lunning and Perkinson 1996). The original color towards the center of the sheet is similar to 'Beige I,' but appears slightly discolored toward the edges to 'Beige II' (Lunning and Perkinson 1996).

### **III. CONDITION**

❖ **Main condition concern:** Tears and losses in the support make the print unstable for handling.

#### ● **MEDIA**

The media is in excellent condition and appears stable, with no signs of fading. There are no obvious risks of damage to the media from tears or stains that are affecting the support.

- **PAPER SUPPORT**

The support is in poor condition, with multiple tears around the edges and planar distortions from previously being bound and from regular handling. On the left of the top edge, a tear going down the paper has been folded back, leaving a triangular gap about 2 inches long that has been further torn towards the right of the paper about 1 inch. Also on the left top edge, but closer to the center of the paper is another tear going down and across the paper for about 1 ½ inches. It was previously folded back, causing a triangular gap, but has been flattened and now shows a crease. In the top right corner is a small fold that is under ¼ inch. In the center of the right edge is a tear from handling, about ¾ inch long. Along the left binding edge, there are several small fragments that resulted while the page was removed from its original binding. These have been stored in a plastic bag and kept alongside the object. The paper has some diagonal accordion pleating and creasing along the left edge which causes it to point upwards. It is likely a result from the pamphlet stitch being removed. Under raking light, there is cockling in the center of the page which goes in a horizontal direction. About ½ inch inwards from the left edge, there are three holes from the page's original storage with a pamphlet stitch before it was bound as a book. Around these holes is some denting. Throughout the page there are wrinkling and handling creases, which are especially concentrated on the bottom edge. On the spine edge, there is adhered residue from the spine fragment, and possibly interleaving tissue.

There are several brown stains on the front and back of the paper, which appear to be from different sources as they have different areas of diffusion, though most appear to be surface accretions. One significant accretion is the result from frass on the left edge of the back. Other surface stains in the corners appear to be from handling as they are located near the bottom edge. There are possible finger marks on the bottom edge as well. Around the edges, there is some oxidative staining.

#### **IV. PREVIOUS TREATMENT**

"The boards on the front and back of the portfolio were detached when the book was received. Paper conservator Theresa J. Smith and book conservator Anne Hillam disbound the book and removed the non-archival interleaving tissue. They cut the oversewn whipstitch and removed the plates. These steps were taken to prevent further mechanical damage to the brittle paper from the inflexible binding." (Shepherd 2024).

#### **V. REFERENCES**

Conliffe, Madison. 2024, *CNS 197833-10 Examination Report*.

Donald A. Heald Rare Books. n.d. "The Aboriginal Port-Folio by James Otto Lewis." Accessed November 17, 2025. <https://www.donaldheald.com/pages/books/41454/james-otto-lewis/the-aboriginal-port-folio>.

John Doe, Ex Dem. Curtis Mann and Dolphus Hannah, Plaintiffs in Error, v. William Wilson, 64 U.S. 457 (U.S. Supreme Court 1859). <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/64/457>.

Lunning, Elizabeth, and Roy Perkinson. Print Council of America Paper Sample Book: A Practical Guide to the Description of Paper. Boston: Print Council of America, 1996.

Shepherd, Charlotte. 2024, *CNS 197833-9 Examination Report*.

U.S. Government. 1826. *Ratified Indian Treaty 147: Miami - Near the Mouth of the Mississinewa Upon the Wabash, October 23, 1826*. General Records of the United States Government. National Archives at Washington, DC - Textual Reference. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/122213806>.

U.S. Government. 1832. *Ratified Indian Treaty 177: Potawatomi (St. Joseph, Cold Water, Wabash and Elkhart Bands)*. General Records of the United States Government. Tippecanoe River, IN. National Archives at Washington, DC - Textual Reference. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/146925340>.