

## Finding Aid to the Richard Critchfield Photograph Collection

### Critchfield, Richard, 1931-1994

Richard Critchfield photograph collection, 1910s-1994

224 photographic prints

2 photograph albums (504 photographic prints)

123 negatives

Collection number: Photo 2055

---

[Biography](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Folder List](#)

### OVERVIEW

**Links:** Finding Aid to the initial accession of [Richard Critchfield Papers](#)  
Finding Aid to the second accession of [Richard Critchfield Papers](#)  
Finding Aid to the [Critchfield Family Papers](#)  
View Collection in [Digital Horizons](#).

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

**Provenance:** Donated by Richard Critchfield and Peggy Moffett (Acc 2440).

**Property rights:** The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

**Copyrights:** Copyrights to this collection remain with creator

**Citation:** Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (item number)

### BIOGRAPHY

Richard Patrick Critchfield was born March 23, 1931 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Ralph James and Anne Louise (Williams) Critchfield. The family lived at Fessenden, North Dakota at the time and until 1932 when they moved to Fargo, North Dakota. Richard Critchfield received his B.A. from the University of Washington, Seattle. In 1957 he received his M.S. in journalism from Columbia University and did additional graduate work at the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck as well as Northwestern University.

In his career as a journalist and author, Richard Critchfield reported from all over the world, concentrating mainly on the Third World. He wrote for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *American University Fieldstaff Report* and the *Washington Post*. In 1965 he won the Overseas Press Award for his reporting in Vietnam. His books include *Lore and Legend of Nepal* (1971); *The Long Charade: Political Subversion in the Vietnam War* (1968); *The Golden Bowl Be Broken: Peasant Life in Four Cultures* (1973 and 1988); *Shahhat: An Egyptian* (1978); *Villages* (1981); *Those Days: An American Album* (1986); *An American Looks at Britain* (1990); *Tress, Why Do You Wait?* (1991); and *Villagers* (1994). In 1981 Mr. Critchfield received the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. He continued to work as a journalist and author up to his death on December 10, 1994.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The photographic prints detail Richard Critchfield's career as journalist and author. The prints mainly cover Critchfield's coverage and study of village life in the Third World. The other prints are portraits of Richard Critchfield and his brother William (Bill). The two photo albums are of the Critchfield, Williams, and Collins families. The albums also contain newspaper clippings of Richard Critchfield and letters written to him by various journals. Also included is an eleven-page commentary on the photographs in the two albums written by Peggy Moffett. The collection also contained a series of negatives that were used in *Those Days: A Family Album*. The collection is organized into five series: Richard and William Critchfield, Villages, Publications, Family Albums and Negatives.

The [Richard and William Critchfield Series](#) contains portraits of both Richard and Bill as well as views of the towns of Hunter and Fessenden, N.D. The pictures of Richard are head and shoulder portraits along with pictures of him with people he met as a journalist and author. The pictures of Bill cover his years as a navy Seabee. The pictures of Hunter and Fessenden are included because they document Richard's tracing of his family history.

The [Villages Series](#) contains photographs of the villages Richard Critchfield visited during his years as a journalist and author. The photographs are working scenes and portraits of many of the villagers he lived with and studied. The photographs cover Africa, China, the Middle East, India, Indonesia, Poland, and Mexico.

The [Publications Series](#) contains pictures Critchfield used in his books. The photographs in this series are from *The Golden Bowl Be Broken*; *Shahhat, An Egyptian*; *The Villagers*; *Villages*, and *Those Days*.

The [Family Albums Series](#) consists of two photograph albums that contain pictures of the Critchfield, Williams, and Collins families, but primarily document the life and career of Richard Critchfield. They are quite a complete documentation of snapshots and formal photographs of the Critchfield family. Clippings of Critchfield's articles and a copy of the letter from the MacArthur Foundation notifying him that he was a recipient of a grant are also included in the albums. The pages are numbered and the pasted-in captions were written either by Richard or his sister, Peggy Moffett. The accompanying commentary written by Peggy Moffett provides valuable details regarding the photographs on a page by page basis. She explains who is in the photograph as well as where and when it was taken.

The [Negative Series](#) consists of negatives for most if not all of the images used in *Those Days*. They are mainly of immediate family members as well as grandparents and cousins. There are also a small number of original negatives not found in *Those Days* that appear to be Critchfield family members. The 35mm subseries includes original images of Anne Critchfield and Peggy Moffett and others taken in 1982. The remainder of the 35mm negatives are copies of photographs, likely from the Wells County Historical Society in Fessenden, N.D.

<b>BOX/FOLDER</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b> (number of images)
1/1	Finding aid, and comments by Peggy Moffett
	<b>Richard and William Critchfield Series</b>
1/2	Richard Critchfield-portraits (14)
1/3	Richard Critchfield with others (14)
1/4	Richard Critchfield-color (6)
1/5	William Critchfield (25)
1/6	Hunter and Fessenden, N.D. (10)
	<b>Villages Series</b>
1/7	Africa (5)
1/8	China (2)
1/9	Mexico (4)
1/10	Indonesian and Indian villages (2)
1/11	Middle East and Egyptian working scenes (15)
1/12	Poland-working scenes (5)
1/13	Middle East, Egypt and Indonesia-single people portraits (22)
1/14	Middle East, Egypt and Indonesia-color portraits (20)
1/15	Poland-single people portraits (9)
1/16	Middle East, Egypt, and Indonesia- multiple people portraits (21)
1/17	Middle East, Egypt, and Indonesia-color portraits (8)
1/18	Poland-multiple people portraits (4)
	<b>Publications Series</b>
1/19	<i>The Golden Bowl Be Broken</i> (4)
1/20	<i>Shahhat: An Egyptian</i> (8)
1/21	<i>The Villagers</i> (11)
1/22	<i>Villages</i> (12)
1/23	<i>Those Days</i> (5)
	<b>Family Albums Series</b>
2/24	Photograph album
3/25	Photograph album
	<b>Negatives Series</b>
	<b>5" x 7" Negatives Subseries—</b>

- 43 Hadwen and Jessie Williams, 1885
- .44 Members of wedding of Jim and Anne Critchfield, 1913
- .45 Hadwen and Jessie Williams
- .46 Jim Critchfield
- .47 Duck hunting party, Fessenden
- .48 Anne, Jimmy & Billy in car (similar to number 52)
- .49 Beecher Beal and Anne Louise Williams
- .50 Two women and man in row boat in water (not in *Those Days*)
- .51 Jim and Betty in wash tub, Maddock, N.D., 1922
- .52 Anne, Jimmy and Billy in car (similar to number 48)
- .53 Fessenden's Alfalfa Day entertainers, 1928
- .54 "Who Wouldn't" sheet music cover
- .55 Critchfield family, Fessenden, 1930
- .56 Three teacher friends and Anne Louise Williams
- .57 Woman standing holding baby outside (original, & not in *Those Days*)

**4" X 5" Negatives Subseries—**

- .56 Jim Critchfield
- .57 Peggy, Pat and Betty Critchfield
- .58 Jim, Anne and Betty at Hunter
- .59 Anne Williams in high school graduating class, Le Clarie, Iowa
- .60 Betty Critchfield in buggy
- .61 Jim Critchfield, age 16
- .62 Henry Critchfield
- .63 Jim and Anne's wedding, 1913
- .64 Anne Louise Williams, age 16
- .65 Anne Louise Williams, age 16
- .66 Anne, Jimmy and Betty on porch
- .67 Wedding members, 1913
- .68 Hunter street
- .69 Hunter Hotel
- .70 Wells County fair
- .71 Hadwen and Jessie Williams
- .72 Anne Critchfield
- .73 Jim and Anne's wedding, 1913
- .74 Jim and Henry Critchfield on horses, 1902
- .75 Beecher Beal and Anne Williams swimming
- .76 Man on machine (binder?) in field

**120mm Negatives Subseries—**

- .265 Anne Critchfield in stripped skirt
- .266 Boy and two girls in a row ("Bill, Peggy and Leila Sorthard?")
- .267 Two girls on house steps with shaggy dog
- .268 Boy and girl standing in back yard
- .269 Two boys and a small child standing one in front of the other by house
- .270 Man and three women by monument (text on monument in German)

**35mm Negatives Subseries—**

- 121-126 Series of Anne Critchfield, Peggy Moffett and several other people, 1982
- 127 Well County fair, Fessenden

128	Unidentified man, Lillie Critchfield, Critchfield home in Hunter, N.D.
129	Wrestling? in outdoor ring
130	Wrestling? in outdoor ring, threshing scene, unidentified man
131	Baseball game, threshing scene, Wells County fair grandstand
132	Store interior, main street scene (Fessenden?), baseball game
133	Wells County fair grandstand and crowd
134	Wells County fair crowd (two views)
135	Wells County fair horse race, horses, elevated view of grounds
136	Fessenden Golf Club
137	Fessenden Golf Club
138	Fessenden Golf Club, Wells County fair crowd