

THIS OJIBWE LEATHER PIPE BAG or tobacco pouch with a leather thong drawstring closure features a panel of appliquéd glass seed beads attached so as to present different floral motifs on the bag's front and back sides. The typically long leather fringe is accented with glass bugle beads. Several images in the Society's collections show Niganibines, or Leading Bird of Prey, of Leech Lake Reservation holding or wearing this bag. (Niganibines was also known by his father's English name, Flat Mouth.) According to Mrs. Dorothy Record Bauman, who donated this bag to the Society in 1962, Niganibines eventually sold it to her mother, Mrs. James L. Record.



Rarely do museums receive objects with the maker, user, or owner identified; even more rarely do we find such objects also documented in dated photographs. Yet here, in 1898, stands Niganibines, fully attired as an Ojibwe leader, holding the bag (its other side facing out) in his left hand. A year later he traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of a Leech Lake delegation. The Society has three photographs of the group in Washington, all of which show Niganibines in this same clothing, wearing the bag in the traditional way: tucked into the belt or sash at his waist. In a fourth image, he is seated and holding the bag in his right hand.

This bag and an image of Niganibines are featured in the History Center exhibit, *Camera Ojibwe*, based on the new MHS Press book by Bruce White, *We Are at Home: Pictures of the Ojibwe People*. The exhibit is on view through August 12, 2007.

—Marcia Anderson, senior curator



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