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<b>Object ID:</b>	1941.42	<b>Conservation ID:</b>	CL5.1941.42	<b>Date Examined:</b>	1/13/2021
<b>Artist:</b>	Tsomah Poolaw	<b>Conservator:</b> Emily Brzezinski			
<b>Culture:</b>	Kiowa				
<b>Country:</b>	United States				
<b>Title:</b>	Cradle				
<b>Object Name:</b>	cradle				
<b>Dates:</b>	1897-98				
<b>Medium:</b>	Leather (possibly brain tanned), textile, beadwork, wood, unknown white metal alloy, rawhide				
<b>Dimensions:</b>	L: 45 in, W: 13 in, D: 10 1/2 in				

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## Condition Report and Treatment Proposal

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### Object Description

The wooden cradleboard lattice is created by four pieces of wood lashed together with strips of leather or rawhide through holes in the wood. The cradle is created by layers of leather and textile with the traditional oval headpiece and is similarly lashed to the lattice. The footboard appears to have at least one layer of fur as well as the layers of textile and leather. An opening extends from the front of the headpiece to the foot, laced closed with strips of leather at the time of examination. The exterior of the cradle is fully beaded with yellow, green, and pink decorations and a blue background. The foot is decorated with leather fringe, and there is a decorative leather piece above the headpiece with beadwork and beaded triangular tassels.

### Condition Description

#### Lattice:

The frame is moderately unstable. While the wood is in good condition, the lashing that connect the wooden elements are highly embrittled and have cracked, split, and fully broken, making the lattice loose overall. Specifically, the lashings that secure the proper right vertical wooden member have almost entirely broken. The upper members have been secured with a metal wire where the lashings have failed, probably a prior repair. The lashing has also broken under the foot piece, where the horizontal wooden member connects to the proper right vertical member. As a result, the horizontal foot piece is loose and unstable. There is a split through the lower foot piece extending through the upper proper right hole.

Additionally, the placement of the vertical members is off approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch and the placement of the original holes do not match up. This is partially due to the broken lashing and previous wire repair. The decorative leather element above the wooden member exhibit deformations and cupping, which may have contributed to pulling the vertical wooden members out of alignment.

#### Beadwork:

There is minor loss to the beadwork, primarily in the blue beads. The largest area of loss occurs on the proper right side, to the lower right of the green design element. Here, there are two sections of three to four rows of beads missing, each measuring approximately 1 – 1 ½ inches long.

The two triangular beaded tassels that hang from the leather crosspiece exhibit several areas of loss. The beaded strings are missing from the tips of the tassels: the proper left is missing the right beaded string and the proper right is missing both. The majority of the edge beading is missing. The proper right tassel exhibits about four rows of missing beads in the upper right corner.

#### Textile:

The outer beaded textile is lifting from the frame on the lower proper right side, likely due to a broken leather lashing that would secure the textile into the wooden lattice.

There is an approximately 1 inch long hole to the textile on the rear of the piece, located approximately 6.5 inches from the bottom.

There is light damage to the textile elements around the perimeter of the headpiece.

Other Elements:

The leather appears brittle overall, and the upper leather elements exhibits minor cockling and deformations.

The metal tack on the far right of the proper right vertical wooden beam is loose.

A coiled rope is attached to the rear of the upper vertical cross beam, tied to the rear of a leather lashing. The leather is broken where the rope has been tied to it. This may be a previous display mechanism or related to the strap that would have been used to carry the cradleboard.

Overall knicks, splits, and abrasions are present to the wooden frame. There is a 1 inch long black accretion on the wood along the proper right side of the upper cross beam. Surface dirt and dust is present overall. There is no evidence of insect damage.

There may have been decorative leather tassels along the top and upper sides of the headpiece, seen in the remaining leather that protrudes from the beadwork. Similar tassels are seen in the illustration of the 1941 object card, and one beaded tassel is present on the proper left side.

### **Treatment Proposal**

1. Photograph the object before and after treatment.

2. Perform initial cleaning tests of the beadwork in a stable and unobtrusive area. Dry methods might include a soft bristle brush and variable speed vacuum, while wet methods could include a mild enzymatic solution cleared with ethanol. Cleaning methods should not disrupt the leather or thread beneath the beadwork.

3. Surface clean all areas using and the appropriate methods for each material and as informed by cleaning tests, such as cosmetic sponges on the wood and leather.

4. Remove the upper leather element from the wooden lattice. This will facilitate structural repairs to the lattice and allow the wooden members to be replaced back in their original position. It may not be possible to fully remove the leather element, depending on the attachment mechanism.

5. Stabilize the wooden lattice. Repairs should be made mechanically with an archival, strong, and flexible material analogous to the original leather, and placed in the original holes. Where visually necessary, the repair material could be placed beneath the original leather fragments or covered with a patch of Japanese paper toned to mimic the original leather.

6. The split to the lower horizontal member may require stabilization depending on the other repairs to the lattice. If necessary, stabilize the split with an appropriate adhesive and clamping, provided this does not risk the sensitive beadwork or leather.

7. Stabilize the losses to the beadwork using either mechanical methods or minimal adhesive, as necessary.

8. Reconstruct beadwork in areas of visually significant loss. The replacement beads should match and visually integrate the area, but still be distinguishable upon close examination. Replacement beads might be threaded into the losses using a distinguishable, archival material such as polyester thread. These areas include the large losses to the blue background on the proper right side, the beaded strings on the corners of the triangular tassels, and the loss to the proper right triangular tassel (time allowing). While there are other areas of missing beadwork, these areas are the most visually disruptive from an exhibition distance and would have the most significant stabilizing effect on the object. As treatment progresses, collaborate with curatorial to determine the specific bead choice and locations that require reconstruction.

9. Reattach the lifting section of textile on the lower proper right through mechanical means and utilizing the original holes.
10. Stabilize the loose metal tack on the far proper right to prevent future damage or separation from the object.
11. Create an interior form using the archival materials desired for exhibition. Collaborate with textiles conservation to determine size, shape, and color.
12. Reconstructing the potentially missing leather tassels or carrying strap is not recommended for this treatment. While these elements may have been lost after acquisition, their restoration would require heavy interpretation and might not reflect the cradleboard's original use, historical, or personal significance.

**Est. Hours:** 74.00

**Budget Estimate**

Contractor/Item	Hours/Quantity	Rate/Price per Item (\$)	Subtotal (\$)
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**TOTAL**

I authorize the treatment described above

Curator:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_