



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the Frank F. Hilder papers

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February 2025

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical .....	1
Content Description .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Frank F. Hilder papers
<b>Date:</b>	1864-1916
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.2025-10
<b>Creator:</b>	Hilder, F. F. (Frank Frederick)
<b>Extent:</b>	.83 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English , Spanish; Castilian .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were retrieved from disposal by a neighbor of the Hilder family in Arlington, VA, who gave them to the Arlington Historical Society. The historical society then donated the collection to the NAA in 2024.

### Related Materials

The NAA holds Hilder photographs of the Philippines in NAA.Photolot.97, as well as correspondence in the Bureau of American Ethnology records and the Department of Anthropology records Manuscript and Pamphlet File.

The Anthropology department, National Museum of Natural History holds archaeological and ethnographic materials collected by Hilder in various accessions, including 37,769 (Philippines ethnology) and 31,883 (archaeology).

### Preferred Citation

Frank F. Hilder papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical

Frank Frederick Hilder was born in Hastings, England, in 1826. He joined the British Army as a young man, and was immediately sent to India where he saw action during the Indian uprising of 1857. Hilder traveled widely during his service, traversing India, Indonesia, Borneo, the Philippines, and also Africa, all the while learning about the ethnology and geography of the various lands. After distinguishing himself as a military expert in Egypt, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel at the request of the Khedive. His tenure in the Egyptian army was not long-lived,

however, as his eyesight was seriously injured in a sandstorm. He left the Military because of the injury, and came to the United States, where he continued to recover.

In the 1860s Hilder went to work for Remington Arms, representing the company internationally in Central and South America. He later established businesses dealing in small arms in Chicago and lumber in Mississippi City, and conducted archaeological research in the Mississippi Valley. Hilder served as secretary of the National Geographical Society in 1898-1899, and was hired to do translation work for the Bureau of American Ethnology around that time. In 1900 Hilder was sent to the Philippines to collect ethnologic materials for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo.

Hilder married Mary Anne Duckworth in 1850. Following her death in 1863, Hilder then married Jane Willard Crosswell. Hilder died on January 21, 1901 in Washington D.C.

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## Content Description

The Frank F. Hilder papers consist of a small set of largely miscellaneous papers. Though somewhat random, the correspondence, various business and real estate papers, ephemera, newspaper clippings, publications, and photographs help to illustrate the life of Hilder in his later years. Contents provide glimpses into hilder's activities including business dealings through written agreements, society membership letters, and newspaper clippings, as well as through lecture notices, business cards, ephemera, and correspondence.

Correspondence includes letters to Hilder's second wife Jane W. Hilder, as well as the father of Hilder's first wife, Caleb Crosswell.

Ephemera includes a wide variety of materials to include Mardi Gras Krewe invitations and a set of Philippine revolutionary propaganda pamphlets.

Photographs include colored albumen prints from from Japan and possibly Egypt, photos of Hilder and others on shipboard, as well as a number of unidentified prints.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

Krewe of Proteus (Organization)  
Krewe of Rex (Organization)

Places:

Philippines

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## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1864-1882 Notes: Includes correspondence of Caleb Crosswell, father-in-law to Hilder (from his first marriage).
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence - F.F. Hilder to Jane W. Hilder, 1868-1891
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1882-1885
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1886-1889
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1890-1899
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1900-1902, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence - empty envelopes, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Remington Arms, 1886, undated Notes: Contains letter of recommendation for Hilder, and list of arms.
Box 1, Folder 9	Mortgage and real estate papers, 1884-1889
Box 1, Folder 10	Business records, 1881-1887 Notes: Contains records of Hilder, May and Co. and other ventures and agreements.
Box 1, Folder 11	Writings and lectures, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Business cards, lecture notices, notebooks, and other items, 1890-1901, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Memberships, 1884-1897 Notes: Contains documentation of memberships held by Hilder including the Anthropological Society of Washington and the National Geographic Society.
Box 1, Folder 14	Publications by F.F. Hilder, 1897-1901, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Programs and booklets, 1870-1916 Notes: Includes programs from the dedication of a Robert E. Lee statue, and <i>The Charlie Chaplain Book</i> , published in 1916.
Box 1, Folder 16	Mardi Gras Krewe invitations, 1883-1888
Box 2, Folder 1	Miscellaneous notes and sketches, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Miscellaneous printed material, 1875-1899, undated

Notes: Contains cards, flyers, and other printed material, including a set of Philippines revolutionary propaganda pamphlets.

Box 2, Folder 3	Obituaries for F.F. Hilder, 1901
Box 2, Folder 4	Newspaper clippings re: F.F. Hilder, 1881-1900, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Newspaper clippings - Oil City newspapers, 1867
Box 2, Folder 6	Newspaper clippings - miscellaneous, 1871-1901
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs - Hilder and others on shipboard, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs - Japan and possibly Egypt, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs - miscellaneous, undated