



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Ernest Roblin photograph of execution of Pedro Prestán, 1885

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National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Ernest Roblin photograph of execution of Pedro Prestán
Date:	1885
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.81-54
Creator:	Roblin, Ernest
Extent:	1 Albumen print (mounted)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Nathan Appleton to the National Museum in 1891 as part of accession 24212. Transferred from the Department of Anthropology Processing Lab to the National Anthropological Archives in 1981.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The Library of Congress holds the Nathan Appleton papers, 1850-1904.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Appleton donated five other photographs to the Department of Anthropology in accession 24212.

Available Formats

Digital surrogate is available.

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 81-54, Ernest Roblin photograph of execution of Pedro Prestán, 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.

Biographical Note

Ernest Roblin joined the Societe Francaise de Photographie in 1880. Around 1885 he left Paris and opened a studio in Granville, which he called Photographie Parisienne. He changed the name in 1890 to the Photographie Maritime Castel-Photo.

Pedro Prestán was a rebel against the Colombian government. In 1885, he seized Aspinwall, Panama, including the American ship Colon and other American property. Threatened by government troops following United States intervention, the insurgents burned the city and abandoned it. Later the same year, the insurgents were captured and hanged.

Nathan Appleton was an American agent for Compagnie universelle du canal interocéanique de Panama, a French company attempting to build a canal across Panama, from 1881 through 1888. He probably obtained the photograph during this time.

Scope and Contents

Photograph depicting Pedro Prestán hanging from gallows on railway tracks, with an open coffin and five men standing nearby and others in the background. Prestán was hung in Apsinwall, now called Colon, Panama, on August 18, 1885.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 81-54, USNM ACC 24212

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Hanging
Panamanians

Cultures:

Panamanians

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Appleton, Nathan, 1843-1906
Photographie Parisienne, photography studio
Prestán, Pedro, 1852-1885

Places:

Colon (Panama)
Panama