



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the New York World's Fair Collection

NMAH.AC.0134

NMAH Staff

2010

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	New York World's Fair Collection
Date:	1939-1940, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0134
Creator:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Community Life (Collector)
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection of material relating to the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair, held in Flushing Meadows in Queens, New York.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life), December 1984.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff.

Preferred Citation

New York World's Fair Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Preferred Citation

New York World's Fair Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

The theme of this fair was "The World of Tomorrow," symbolized by the Trylon & Perisphere sculptures. It commemorated the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as President in New York City.

The Fair was held on 1216 acres in Flushing Meadows, Queens, N.Y., divided into 7 geographic and thematic zones: Amusement, Communications & Business Systems, Community Interests, Food, Government, Medicine & Public Health, Production & Distribution, Science & Education, and Transportation.

In expanding on the theme, the Fair tried to show that what was being built then would be the World of Tomorrow. 62 foreign nations built exhibit halls. World War II began Sept. 1, 1939, as the Nazis overran countries represented at the Fair, such as France, Denmark, and Belgium.

World War II started September 1, 1939 putting a damper on the 1940 season as the Nazis overran countries which were represented at the Fair such as France, Denmark & Belgium.

Scope and Contents

Newspaper articles, fair schedules and maps, exhibit brochures, and pictures of the Fair grounds.

Scope and Contents

Newspaper articles, fair schedules and maps, exhibit brochures, and pictures of the Fair grounds.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series by subject or type of document.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Amusements
- Exhibitions
- Recreation

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Brochures -- 1930-1940
- Maps -- 1880-1940
- Postcards -- 1930-1940
- Schedules

Names:

- New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)

Places:

Queens (New York, N.Y.)

Preferred Titles:

World of Tomorrow

Container Listing

Box 1	Exhibit brochures
Box 1	Foreign countries brochures
Box 1	Maps of Fair ground and schedules of events
Box 1	Miscellaneous
Box 1, Folder Postcards	<p>5F-125 Statuary - Constitutional Mall - N.Y.W.F. [postcard], 1939-1940 1 Item (Silver gelatin? on paper.; 3.6" x 5.6".) Photographer: Underwood & Underwood Language: English. Notes: AC0134-0000002 (AC Scan) Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves. View of Constitutional Mall with a few New York World's Fair visitors. This item must be inspected to determine whether it is a photographic print or an ink reproduction of a photograph.</p> <p>Names: New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.) Topic: Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century Exhibitions</p> <p>Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Reproductions Postcards</p>
Box 1, Folder Postcards	<p>5F-134 The Perisphere - N.Y.W.F. [postcard], 1939-1940 1 Item (Silver gelatin? on paper.; 3.6" x 5.6".) Photographer: Underwood & Underwood Language: English. Notes: AC0134-0000001 (AC Scan) Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves. View of the Perisphere with a few New York World's Fair visitors. Note: This item should be checked to determine if it is photographic or an ink reproduction of a photograph.</p> <p>Names: New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.) Topic: Exhibitions</p> <p>Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Reproductions Postcards</p>
Box 1, Folder Postcards	<p>5F-137 A Portion of Constitutional Mall - N.Y.W.F. [postcard], 1939-1940 1 Item (Silver gelatin? on paper.; 5.6" x 3.6".) Photographer: Underwood & Underwood Language: English. Notes: AC0134-0000003 (AC Scan)</p>

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
View of Constitutional Mall with a few New York World's Fair visitors.

Names: New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)

Topic: Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century
Exhibitions

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints --
Reproductions
Postcards

Box 1

Newspaper and magazine articles