



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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	New York World's Fair Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0134
Date:	1939
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	Community Life, Div. of (NMAH, SI)
Language:	English .

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

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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 Tylon & Perisphere sculptures. It commemorated the 150th anniversary of the innauguration 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.

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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.)

Geographic Names:

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
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder
Postcards 5F-125 Statuary - Constitutional Mall - N.Y.W.F. [postcard], 1939-1940
1 Item (Silver gelatin? on paper.; 3.6" x 5.6".)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Underwood & Underwood, Photographer
English.
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.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Local Numbers
 AC0134-0000002 (AC Scan)

Names: New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)
Topic: Exhibitions
 Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century

Genre/
Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints
 -- Reproductions
 Postcards
- Box 1, Folder
Postcards 5F-134 The Perisphere - N.Y.W.F. [postcard], 1939-1940
1 Item (Silver gelatin? on paper.; 3.6" x 5.6".)
[Image\(s\): 5F-134 The Perisphere - N.Y.W.F. \[postcard\].](#)
Underwood & Underwood, Photographer
English.
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.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Local Numbers
 AC0134-0000001 (AC Scan)

Names: New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)
Topic: Exhibitions
Genre/
Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints
-- Reproductions
Postcards

Box 1, Folder
Postcards

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".)

[Image\(s\): 5F-137 A Portion of Constitutional Mall - N.Y.W.F. \[postcard\].](#)

Underwood & Underwood, Photographer

English.

View of Constitutional Mall with a few New York World's Fair visitors.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Local Numbers

AC0134-0000003 (AC Scan)

Names: New York World's Fair (1939-1940 : New York, N.Y.)
Topic: Exhibitions
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century
Genre/
Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints
-- Reproductions
Postcards

Box 1

Newspaper and magazine articles