



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Anne E. Peterson Stereograph Collection

NMAH.AC.0402

David Haberstich

1992

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	
Series 1: Stereographs	4
Series 2: Pamphlet	7

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Anne E. Peterson Stereograph Collection
Date:	circa 1893-1904
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0402
Creator:	Strohmeyer & Wyman (Publisher) Young, R.Y. (Photographer) Underwood & Underwood (Publisher) American Stereoscopic Co. (Publisher) Peterson, Anne E. (photographic historian) (Collector) H. C. White Co. (Publisher) Clarke, Edw. (Photographer)
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection is comprised of twenty-two stereographs and a pamphlet.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Anne E. Peterson, 1990, December 31.

Provenance

The donor purchased these items from dealers over a 15-year period. The first group was donated in 1990. One Underwood & Underwood stereograph variant (a cotton series variant) and the pamphlet were donated in 1992.

Details on the history of the production of stereographs in the United States can be found in general works such as *The World of Stereographs* by William Culp Darrah. These stereographs and the pamphlet were acquired by the donor from commercial photographica dealers over approximately a fifteen year period. The collection includes two accessions, the majority of the items having been donated in 1991. This was followed in 1992 by the donation of items 22 and 23 on the container list.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by David E. Haberstick, curator, Archives Center.

Preferred Citation

Anne E. Peterson Stereograph Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Unrestricted research use on site. Photographs must be handled with white cotton gloves, unless they are housed in plastic sleeves.

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

Anne E. Peterson, the donor of this material, is a photographic historian who served as project manager for the Underwood & Underwood Videodisc Project in 1990-1992.

Ms. Peterson earned a B.A. in art history at the University of Texas (Austin) in 1970 and an M.A. in American civilization from George Washington University (Washington, D.C.) in 1980, with a concentration in history of photography and American arts. Working for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Decatur House, and Wilson House from 1975-1980, she was a guest curator at Wilson House for the exhibition and catalogue, Hornblower & Marshall, Architects (1976-1978). From 1978 to 1980 she worked for the Prints and Photographs Division at the Library of Congress, cataloging the Frances Benjamin Johnston photographic collections, and later served as a guest curator at the Library. She was Curator of Photography for the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans from 1981-1982, and later worked on exhibitions and publications for the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery (University of Maryland Baltimore County) and Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge).

Ms. Peterson became associated with the Archives Center in 1985, working on the Donald Sultner Welles Collection, especially the manuscript material, then worked on the Underwood & Underwood Collection from 1990, during which time she also prepared the Sultner Welles Collection brochure and assisted with the final editing and preparation of the register.

She has lectured and participated in seminars and symposia widely. Her most recent publication at this writing is the book, *Frances Benjamin Johnston: The Woman and Her Work*.

Scope and Contents

This collection is composed of two series: (1) 22 stereographs by several publishers, many of which relate to or were actually printed from negatives in the Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection; and (2) a pamphlet. The fourth group of cards illustrates certain aspects of how stereographs were used by various companies, including two variant images taken on the sugar levee in New Orleans, apparently in 1893 by a Strohmeyer & Wyman photographer, which later appeared in different versions by other publishers. This demonstrates how two negatives, apparently taken by the same photographer minutes apart, were published by four different publishers, although a nearly identical caption was retained for all five versions of the published photographs.

The other stereographs include comic and genre scenes (posed or staged), travel views, etc. Included is a tinted French tissue published by American Stereoscopic Co.

The pamphlet, published by Underwood & Underwood in 1902, illustrates one of the company's marketing techniques.

Most of these items are in fair to good condition.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: Stereographs

Series 2: Pamphlet

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Cotton -- 1890-1910
- Courtship -- 1890-1910
- Ethnic imagery
- Racism -- 1890-1910
- Sugar trade -- 1900-1910 -- New Orleans

Types of Materials:

- Pamphlets -- 1900-1910
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- 1890-1910
- Stereographs -- 1890-1910
- Tissue stereographs

Names:

- McKinley, William, 1843-1901
- Vatican Library (Rome, Italy)

Places:

- Bavaria (Germany) -- 1890-1910
- Berlin (Germany) -- 1890-1910
- Brussels (Belgium) -- 1890-1910
- Central Park (New York, N.Y.) -- 1890-1910
- Chartres (France) -- 1890-1910
- Germany -- 1890-1910
- New Orleans (La.)
- New York (N.Y.) -- 1890-1910
- Rome (Italy) -- 1890-1910

Container Listing

Series 1: Stereographs

Subseries 1.1: Published by American Stereoscopic Co

Box 1, Item 1991.3080.01	"Ta ta, Monsieur." Copyright 1902 by R. Y. Young.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.02	"Blissful Moments" (couple kissing, woman sitting on man's lap). Copyright 1896 by R. Y. Young.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.03	"Scenes in Public Park, Brussels, Belgium." Copyright 1896 by Edw. Clarke. Garishly hand colored.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.04	"Fountain and Terrace, Central Park, N.Y., U.S.A.," Tinted French tissue. Company address imprint: 725 727 Broadway, New York. Soiled., undated
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.05	"The Vatican Library, Rome, Italy," Buff mount. Address imprint: 853 Broadway., undated

Subseries 1.2: "Perfec" Stereographs by H. C. White Co.

Box 1, Item 1991.3080.06	Burglary scene from series, active no. 5452, #4 in series. "I've taught that fellow a lesson he won't come here again." Copyright 1902. Black mount, gold lettering.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.07	Couple sitting on couch, active no. 5545, #2 in series. "Nothing shall ever separate us, dear, but " Copyright 1903.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.08	Woman sitting on man's lap, active no. 5574, #1 in series. "11:30 P.M. George and Angelina are very fond of sitting up late." Copyright 1902.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.09	Seven black boys sitting on mule, active no. 5009. "Waitin' fo' de end man." Copyright 1901.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.10	Active #2262. "A Characteristic Scene before a Peasant Home in the Bavarian Highlands, Germany." Copyright 1902. Gray mount. [Cf. plate 496 C, box 1.1.7, Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection.]

Subseries 1.3: Stereographs by Underwood & Underwood

Box 1, Item 1991.3080.11	Active #9581, #52 in series. "Chartres and its glorious cathedral, N.W. from the bank of the Eure, France." U 96712. Gray mount. [Cf. #9581, Box 207, Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection.]
-----------------------------	--

Box 1, Item 1991.3080.12	Monastery...
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.13	Black man holding watermelons, looking at chicken. "Jes dis Niggah's foolluck [sic]! bofe arms full an' dat rooster a beggin' to be took along." Copyright 1904, no active number shown. Gray mount, stamped "JAMES R. WHITE" on verso.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.14	Kroll's Beer Garden, a popular resort of Berlin, Germany." "Series of 1894 by Bert Underwood," unnumbered and gray mount, undated
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.15	Couple and couch. "And they lived happily ever after." #10 from a series, copyright 1900. Buff mount.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.16.	#2 from French maid series, "Why, you little beauty! how long have you been our cook?" Copyright 1900. Buff mount.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.17	#3 from a series, "President McKinley and his eight chosen advisers Cabinet Room, Executive Mansion..." Copyright 1900 by Strohmeyer & Wyman. Buff mount.

Subseries 1.4: "The Sweetest Spot on Earth, Sugar Levee, New Orleans, Lousiana, U.S.A." from Cotton Series.

Box 1, Item 1991.3080.18	View by Strohmeyer and Wyman (sold by Underwood & Underwood), caption rubbed off. Buff mount.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.19	View from same negative as above, publ. by Underwood & Underwood, copyright 1893 by Strohmeyer & Wyman. Light peach mount. Active number not shown.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.20	Active #5750, #26 in a series, variant of the view in #18 and #19. Same caption, copyright 1902 by Underwood & Underwood. Sepia image on gray mount, with four paragraph text on verso, plus title in six languages.
Box 1, Item 1991.3080.21	Keystone View Company version of same image as #20, but with variant caption: 22. Another Underwood & Underwood version of this second variant image, but without active number or text on card verso. Brown image on gray mount. [1992 gift. For positive, see box 114, plate 5750, Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection.] Notes: "The Sweetest Spot on Earth Sugar Levee beside the Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana." Active #V23243, undated but Keystone copyright notice. Neutral image on gray mount. Text on verso almost identical to Underwood card above, without title translations.
Box 1, Item 22	Another Underwood & Underwood version of this second variant image, but without active number or text on card verso. Brown image on gray mount. [1992 gift. For

positive, see box 114, plate 5750, Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection.]

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Pamphlet

Box 1, Item 23

Light on Stereographs. New York and London: Underwood & Underwood, 1902. 24 pp. Contains introductions to stereoscopic tours through Palestine (by J. L. Hurlbut) and Russia (by M. S. Emery), with "Why People Should Use Stereoscopic Photographs," by A. E. Osborne." [1992 gift.]

[Return to Table of Contents](#)