



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to "Memories of the New York World's Fair"

NMAH.AC.0592

Wendy Shay and Catherine Keen.

2011

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series : Memories of the New York World's Fair, 1939-1940.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	"Memories of the New York World's Fair"
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0592
Date:	1939-1940
Extent:	1 Item
Source:	Pezzano, John A. Pezzano, Frank J., 1908-1983
Language:	English
Summary:	The film, titled "Memories of the New York World's Fair" by filmmaker Frank J. Pezzano documents the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair. Pezzano edited the film and included hand-drawn and typed intertitles identifying the various locations and activities he filmed.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by John A. Pezzano, 1996

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center:

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, 1790-1980s (AC 0300)

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, circa 1724-1977 (AC 0060)

Larry Zim World's Fair Collection, 1841-1988 (AC 0519)

Edward J. Orth Memorial Archives of the World's Fair, 1939-1940 (AC 0560)

Processing Information

Processed by Wendy Shay, archivist, 2010.

Preferred Citation

"Memories of the New York World's Fair" Filmed by Frank J. Pezzano, 1939-1940, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection materials available for reproduction. The Pezzano family retains interests in the film and must be contacted for permission for any third-party, commercial use. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply.

Biographical / Historical

The film, titled "Memories of the New York World's Fair" by filmmaker Frank J. Pezzano, documents the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair. Pezzano edited the film and included hand-drawn and typed intertitles identifying the various locations and activities he filmed.

The theme of this fair was "The World of Tomorrow," symbolized by the Tylon and 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, New York, and was divided into seven geographic and thematic zones: Amusement, Communications and Business Systems, Community Interests, Food, Government, Medicine and Public Health, Production and Distribution, Science and 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." Sixty-two nations built exhibit halls. World War Two began September 1, 1939, as the Nazis overran countries represented at the Fair, such as France, Denmark, and Belgium.

His family believes Mr. Pezanno attended the fair alone as indicated by the fact that no family members are depicted in the film. Pezzano's film presents a comprehensive tour of the exterior elements of the fair and includes footage of many of the iconic corporate, state, and national pavillions as well as the images of the fair at night. Pezzano also filmed special attractions such as "Frank Buck's Bring 'Em Back Alive," the parachute ride, and an ice show.

Scope and Contents

Collection consists of one compilation reel created by the Archives Center of 8mm color amateur motion picture film of the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair. When originally acquired, the collection comprised two reels of 8mm color camera reversal motion picture film. Archives Center staff created a single compilation reel for long-term storage and handling.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Series 1, Memories of the Fair, 1939-1940

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

No reference copy exists. Special arrangements must be made with the Archives Center to view the original 8mm color camera original reversal film over a light table.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Amateur films -- 1930-1940
Exhibitions

Types of Materials:

8mm films
Home movies
Motion pictures (visual works) -- 1930-1950

Names:

New York World's Fair (1939-1940)
Pezzano, John A.

Geographic Names:

Queens (New York, N.Y.)

Preferred Titles:

World of Tomorrow

Container Listing

"Memories of the New York World's Fair," 1939-1940

1 Item

Reel 1

8mm motion picture film

[Return to Table of Contents](#)