



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Domestic Life and Photograph Collection

NMAH.AC.0725

NMAH Staff

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Domestic Life Stereograph and Photograph Collection
Date:	circa 1862-1920
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0725
Creator:	Centennial Photographic Co. Roth, Rodris Myers, Susan H.
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Cultural History
Extent:	2 Cubic feet (9 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Hundreds of stereographs and other photographic imagery, especially a large number of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia; other subjects include: the World's Columbian Exhibition (1893); the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the Great Sanitary Fair; a large number on Massachusetts, including a set of images from Old Sturbridge; buildings and scenery; miscellaneous other subjects.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Domestic Life Stereograph and Photograph Collection

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Susan Myers.

Provenance

Photographs collected in the Division of Domestic Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life) by curators Rodris Roth and Susan Myers. Ms. Myers donated some of the stereographs from her personal collection. The stereographs of the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition were collected in connection with the production of the Smithsonian re-creation of the exhibition in the Arts and Industries Building, "1976." Other donors are represented in the collection. Transferred to the Archives Center in 2000 by the Division of Social History, through Rodris Roth, Domestic Life Collections (now Division of Cultural and Community Life).

Processing Information

Collection processed by David Haberstich, archivist, 2004.

Preferred Citation

Domestic Life Stereograph and Photograph Collection, circa 1862-1920, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

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.

Rights situation uncertain. Probably in public domain, applicable copyrights expired.

Historical

Stereographs were employed to document and popularize the great world's fairs of the second half of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century in the United States and Europe. The Centennial Photographic Company, in particular, was formed essentially to disseminate information about the 1876 fair and to profit from its "educational" products. More generally, the three-dimensional photographic medium was considered an ideal way to provide views of regional attractions in the United States. This collection contains both subjects.

Scope and Contents

The collection is composed largely of photographs related to world's fairs, especially the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, particularly in the form of stereographs. Other photographs document Williamsburg, Old Sturbridge, Mass., and other locations.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series. Arranged geographically and topically.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Exhibitions
- Exhibitions -- Missouri
- World's fairs

Types of Materials:

- Stereographs

Names:

- Appalachian Exposition. (Knoxville, Tennessee: 1911)
- California-Pacific International Exposition (San Diego, California: 1935-1936)
- Centennial Exhibition (1876 : Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Exposition universelle de 1867 à Paris
- International Exhibition of 1862 (London, England)
- Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904: Saint Louis, Mo.)
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Cultural History
- World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

Places:

Sturbridge (Mass.)

Container Listing

Box 1	Unidentified expositions
Box 1	World's Fair, London
Box 1	Great Centennial Fair, Philadelphia
Box 1	Paris Universal Exposition
Box 1	Philadelphia Centennial Exposition
Box 1	World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago
Box 1	Paris Exposition, 1900 Two cards by Underwood & Underwood
Box 1	Pan American Exposition, Buffalo, New York
Box 1	Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St Louis
Box 1	Appalachian Exposition, Knoxville, Tennessee
Box 1	California-Pacific Exposition, San Diego, California
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Agricultural Hall
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Buildings, Miscellaneous
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Foreign buildings
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Horticultural Hall
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Machinery Hall
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Main Building
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Main Building, US
Box 2	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Main Building, Foreign
Box 3	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Memorial Hall
Box 3	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, State Buildings
Box 3	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Government Building
Box 3	Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, 1876, Woman's Building

Box 3 Mrs Maxwell's Collection or Mrs Maxwell's Rocky Mountain Museum in the Colorado Building, a nature habitat exhibit with animals
Notes: 7 views, all by Centennial, some imprinted on verso, Copyrighted 1877 by Mrs M A Maxwel@ Rubber stamp on verso, Given Feb 28, 1933, Given Feb 28, 1927 / By Wm S Appleton, all crossed out.

Box 3	Miscellaneous
Box 4	"Duplicates from Carl Gatter(?)"
Box 4	Louisiana Purchase Exposition
Box 4	Antique Villages, Tyrol
Box 4	Philippine Villages
Box 4	Japanese Gardens
Box 4	World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago
Box 4	Martha's Vineyard,
Box 5	Gay Head, Massachusetts
Box 5	Nantucket
Box 5	New Bedford, 1862
Box 5	Eastport
Box 5	Miscellaneous Massachusetts?, 1867
Box 5	Campground and Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, 1876
Box 6	Massachusetts, Miscellaneous, 1893
Box 6	Falmouth, Massachusetts
Box 6	Illinois, mostly Chicago, 1901
Box 6	Mississippi, 1904
Box 6	New Hampshire, 1910
Box 6	New York, 1935-1936
Box 6	New York—American Institute

Box 6	Sanitary Fairs
Box 7	Miscellaneous American
Box 7	Europe
Box 7	Genre scenes
Box 7A	Newlywed series, #5556-5560, published by H C White, 1903
Box 7A	Old maid and burglar series from "Character Sketches," published by Keystone View Co, cat Nos 12360-12368 (9), 1956
Box 7A	Nutcrackers sequence Notes: Catalog Numbers 4693-4694, by C H Graves, published by Universal Photo Art Co.
Box 7A	"Biddy, You May Serve the Tomatoes Undressed," 1900 Notes: Catalog Numbers 10409-10410, by B L Singley, published by Keystone View Co.
Box 7A	Williamsburg, Virginia, mostly by Keystone View Co Notes: NMAH Cat Nos 1987301242-68, Keystone nos 38414-38437, undated, no descriptive text printed on verso, but stamped "Willow Brook School" (23); and Keystone Cat Nos 37561-37564, with text on verso, undated
Box 7A	Old Sturbridge, Massachusetts Notes: (Domestic Life cat Nos 1987301269-88), by Keystone View Co, undated, Keystone Cat Nos 38284-38307, undated
Box 7A	Genre sculptures from "Stereoscopic Gems of Foreign and American Scenery" Notes: By The Fellows Photographic Co, Philadelphia. Catalog Numbers 1256-1400 (with gaps), pale yellow mounts, undated.
Box 7A	Miscellaneous includes Au Sable Chasm
Box 8	Non-stereographic photographs, scenic views, most unidentified
Box 9	Grand Rapids Historical Exhibit, Vol I / Keystone View Co, original library storage box With set of cards, captioned and numbered with Keystone catalog numbers Imprint on verso: Grand Rapids Historical Furniture Exhibit / in connection with / one hundredth furniture market / January 3-21, 1928