



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Andre De La Varre Collection

NMAH.AC.0782

NMAH Staff

2003

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Andre De La Varre Collection
Date:	circa 1920-1930
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0782
Creator:	Varre, Gretl de la, Mrs. Holmes, Burton, 1870-1958 Varre, Andre de la, 1904-
Extent:	3.5 Cubic feet (4 boxes, 2 loose photographs)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Mrs. Gretl de la Varre, June 30, 2001.

Related Materials

Materials at Other Organizations

[The Travel Film Archive](#)

Andre De La Varre

Born in Washington D.C. in 1902, Andre de la Varre quit school at age 17, bought a motion picture camera, and went to Europe to find adventure. He began making his own travel films and in 1924 became a cameraman for Burton Holmes. In the early 1930's, de la Varre went out on his own as "The Screen Traveler" and made theatrical shorts for independent release as well as for many of the major Hollywood Studios. He traveled and filmed constantly. In an autobiographical sketch, he wrote: "During the winter of 1938-39 I drove more than 10,000 miles through Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. I covered not only cities and coastal regions but criss-crossed back and forth over the Atlas, Djurdjura, Kebelie, and Aures mountains. I also visited many of the oases on the Northern Sahara and crossed over trails or no trails in the deserts and mountains." De la Varre continued traveling and making films for the next forty years and died in Vienna, Austria at the age of 87.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, 2003.

Preferred Citation

Andre De La Varre Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Scope and Contents

Papers relating to the travel writer, photographer and lecturer Burton Holmes, and to De La Varre's own activities as a travel photographer. Includes letters, photographs, printed material, and a set of travel books written by Holmes.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into five series.

Series 1: Letters

Series 2: Photographs

Series 3: Papers relating to appearances of Burton Holmes and Andre La Varre

Series 4: Printed Materials

Series 5: Books

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Bullfights
- Lecturers
- Photographers
- Travel photography -- 1900-1950

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Lecture notes
- Posters
- Press releases

Places:

- Angkor Wat (Cambodia)
- Spain

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters, undated

Box 1, Folder 1-11

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Series 2: Photographs

Scope and Contents: Photograph subjects include: Miami; Spain (incl. bullfights) and Catalonia; Hawaii, Angkor Wat; Abyssinia; Hawaii; Washington, D.C.; and family photographs. Includes glass negatives and photograph albums.

Box 1, Folder 12	Photographs: Miami
Box 1, Folder 13	Photographs: Bullfights
Box 1, Folder 14	Photographs: Spain
Box 1, Folder 15	Photographs: Spain
Box 1, Folder 16	Photographs: Spain and Italy
Box 1, Folder 17	Photographs: Cars, ships, planes
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographs: Catalonia
Box 1, Folder 19	Photographs: Hawaii
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs: Angkor Wat
Box 1, Folder 21	Photographs and items from 1928 trip to Spain, letter, map, bullfight tickets
Box 1, Folder 22	Photographs: Abyssinia, 1930
Box 1, Folder 23	Photographs: Washington, D.C. and West Virginia
Box 1, Folder 24	Commercially produced photographs of Spain
Box 1, Folder 25-37	Photographs: unidentified and/or mixed subjects
Box 1, Folder 38	Photographs, loose, may have become detached from album
Box 1, Folder 39	Album of photographs, most appear to be family photographs
Box 1, Folder 40	Family photographs
Box 2, Folder 1	Glass negatives
Box 2, Folder 2	Album of negatives
Box 2, Folder 3	Hawaii, negatives, 1920
Box 2, Folder 4	Negatives marked Wayson's wedding, Honolulu

Box 2, Folder 5 Small box of negatives

Box 2, Folder 6 Unidentified glass negatives

Box 2, Folder 7 Unidentified glass negatives

Box 2, Folder 8 Unidentified negatives

Family photographs (no container)

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Papers relating to appearances of Burton Holmes and Andre La Varre

Box 2, Folder 9	Lecture notes (?)
Box 2, Folder 10	Announcements of appearances by Burton Holmes or Andre La Varre
Box 2, Folder 11	Programs from appearances by Burton Holmes or Andre La Varre
Box 2, Folder 12	Press releases for Andre La Varre=s films
Box 2, Folder 13	Posters announcing Andre La Varre=s films
Box 2, Folder 14	Carnegie Hall programs

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Printed material

Box 2, Folder 15	Articles
Box 2, Folder 16	Articles
Box 2, Folder 17	Articles
Box 2, Folder 18	Articles
Box 2, Folder 19	Articles
Box 2, Folder 20	Book about Burton Holmes, 1939
Box 2, Folder 21	Miscellaneous printed material

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Books

Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume One
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Two (2)
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues Volume Five (2)
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Six (2)
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Seven
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Eight (2)
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Nine
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Ten
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Eleven
Box 3	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Twelve
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Two
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Three
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Four
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Seven
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Nine
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Eleven
Box 4	Burton Holmes Travelogues, Volume Thirteen
Box 4	The Traveler's Russia by Burton Holmes

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