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### Collection Overview

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Repository:</th>
<th>Archives Center, National Museum of American History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>John A. Beemer Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifier:</td>
<td>NMAH.AC.0957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>1907-1956 (bulk 1919-1931)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>3 Cubic feet (4 boxes; 3 oversize folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
<td>Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of [former name], NMAH, SI. Beemer, John A., 1879-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary:</td>
<td>Papers document Beemer's engineering activities as a civil engineer who worked on irrigation and dam related projects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Administrative Information

**Acquisition Information**

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

**Provenance**

Transferred to the Archives Center from Division of Work and Industry, 2006.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2016.

**Preferred Citation**


**Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.
Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

John Arthur Beemer (b. 1879) was born in Fincastle, Virginia. He earned a B.S. in Engineering from the Case School of Applied Science (now known as Case Western Reserve) in 1907.

Beemer, a civil engineer, joined the United States Reclamation Service of the Department of the Interior as a junior engineer in 1907. He worked for the Department until 1913, and again from 1933-1943, on a number of reclamation and irrigation dam projects. Between 1913 and 1933, Beemer worked as an engineer for the Philippines government, 1913-1916; consulting engineer in Idaho, 1916-1917; captain in the Army Engineer Corps, 1917-1918; engineer for the U.S. Indian Service, 1918-1921; engineer for projects in Nevada and California, 1921-1929; and as a consulting engineer for the Russian government, 1929-1931.

Scope and Contents

Papers document Beemer's engineering activities. Includes correspondence, reports, plans, drawings, blueprints, and specifications concerning reclamation and irrigation dams in the Philippines, 1913-1918; Idaho, 1916-1917, 1941-1943; California, 1921-1926; the Soviet Union, 1929-1931; Wyoming, 1935-1938; and Utah, 1938-1941. Also includes data on metal gates, lifts, weirs, rating flumes, and gauging stations; and employment records for Beemer.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into three series.

Series 1: Professional Materials. 1907-1956
Series 2: Projects, 1910-1948
Series 3: Miscellaneous, 1915-1946

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
  - Civil engineering
  - Civil engineers
  - Dams
  - Dams -- California
Dams -- Idaho
Dams -- Utah
Dams -- Wyoming
Irrigation
Public works

Names:
 Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of [former name], NMAH, SI.

Geographic Names:
 Soviet Union
Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Materials, 1907 - 1956
This series contains documentation about Beemer's professional career as a civil engineer and the type of employment he held. Materials include resumes, engineering certificates, published articles, correspondence, especially with the United States Civil Service about retirement and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Box 1, Folder 1  Resumes and articles, 1915 - 1915, 1950 - 1950

Box 1, Folder 2  Construction of the Nampa Division of the Boise Irrigation project (thesis for B.S. in Engineering, Case School of Applied Science), 1913

Box 1, Folder 3  Federal employment materials, 1907 - 1956

Box 1, Folder 4  State of California employment materials, 1929 - 1931

Box 1, Folder 5  Correspondence, 1912 - 1934

Box 1, Folder 6  Correspondence, 1929 - 1944

Box 1, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1945 - 1946

Box 1, Folder 8  Correspondence, 1947

Box 1, Folder 9  Correspondence, 1948

Box 1, Folder 10  Correspondence, 1949 - 1950
Series 2: Projects, 1910 - 1948

This series consists of correspondence, notes, contracts, agreements, reports, statistical data, work estimates, maps, plans, and other charts for the projects Beemer worked/consulted on. Beemer was employed by the Trans-Caucasia Water Economy Service in Tiflis, Russia, as a civil and construction engineer for irrigation, drainage and flood control work from 1929-1931. The documentation includes handwritten and typescript correspondence, agreements, telegrams, reports, travel expenses, and receipts related to his work there. This series is arranged alphabetically by project.

Map-folder 2; Alcorn Dam Project, 1935 - 1938
Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12 Anderson Ranch Dam, 1942 - 1948

Box 1, Folder 13 Big Springs irrigation District, 1927 - 1927

Box 2, Folder 1-2 Boise Project , 1910 - 1910, undated

Map-folder 2 Carson Valley District (plans), 1917 - 1917, 1913 - 1913

Box 2, Folder 3 Carson Valley District (correspondence), 1922 - 1923

Box 2, Folder 4 Davis Dam (correspondence), 1948 - 1948

Map-folder 1; Deer Creek Dam Project (Utah), 1938 - 1941
Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 6 Dwinnell Hydraulic Dam (reports and notes), 1927 - 1929

Box 2, Folder 7; Hazel Valley Dam/El Dorado, 1926
Map-folder 2

Box 2, Folder 8 Haye Bridge Reservoir (report), 1930 - 1930

Map-folder 1; Montague Water Conservation District Reservoir, 1921 - 1929
Box 3, Folder 1;
Box 2, Folder 9-12

Box 4, Folder 7; Metal gates and lifts, 1919 - 1920
Map-folder 1

Map-folder 1; Philippine's/Pillar Irrigation Project, 1914 - 1915
Box 3, Folder 2

Box 3, Folder 3; Shasta River , 1929 - 1929, undated
Map-folder 2

Map-folder 2 State of Idaho Irrigation, 1917

Box 3, Folder 4-10; Trans-Caucasia Water Economy Service (Zakavvodhoz), 1929 - 1931, undated
Map-folder 2

Box 4, Folder 1-5; Walker River irrigation District, 1909 - 1930
Box 3, Folder 11;
Map-folder 3

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Series 3: Miscellaneous, 1915 - 1946

Box 4, Folder 6  
Newspaper Clippings, 1937 - 1937, 1922 - 1922

Map-folder 2  

Box 4, Folder 8  
Water distribution, operation, rules and regulations, 1918 - 1928