



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Richard Carver Wood Photographs

NMAH.AC.0964

Michelle Holewa and Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

[archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu)

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

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: People, 1935-1960, undated.....	4
Series 2: Places, 1939-1978, undated.....	8
Series 3: Subjects, 1941, undated.....	10

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Richard Carver Wood Photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1935-1978, undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0964
<b>Creator:</b>	Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964 (Photographer) Asch, Patsy (Donor) Wood, Richard Carver (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Cubic feet (11 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Photographs taken by Wood including persons prominent in the New York City social, literary, and theatrical fields. Other subjects include architecture, landscapes, still life, dunes, military, and theater in the United States and other countries.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Richard Carver Wood Photographs</a>

---

## Administrative Information

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Wood's daughter, Patsy Asch, to the Archives Center in 2007.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard- Simmons.

### Preferred Citation

Richard Carver Wood Photographs, 1935-1978, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of Patsy Asch.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at [archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu) or 202-633-3270.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

Richard Carver Wood was born in 1902 in Binghamton, New York to Frank Hoyt and Eva Wood. He studied at Hamilton College then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1922-1929 where he graduated with a degree in architecture. In the 1930s, Wood struggled to find work in his field and turned his attention to photography. His adopted father, a professor at Hamilton College, put him in contact with a former student, Alexander Woollcott, by then a theater critic with *The New Yorker*. It was through Woollcott that Wood met many of the famous people he photographed, many on Woollcott's Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, property, though Wood also photographed places, buildings, and subjects like the Perkins School for the Blind.

When America became involved in World War II, Wood was stationed in Hawaii as part of the Army Signal Corps. It was there that he turned to film, and after the end of World War II he worked first with a small dental company for a few years, and then began freelancing. His film work culminated with the 1954 Academy Award winning documentary *The Unconquered*, a biography of his one-time photography subject Helen Keller.

It was around the time of the Keller documentary that Wood again found work as an architect with an East Hampton firm. He would remain in architecture from then on, rarely taking photographs. Wood died on November 23, 1989 at the age of eighty-seven years old.

---

## Scope and Contents

Photographs, in both print and negative form, by Richard Carver Wood, including architectural photographs; art photographs, including landscapes and still life's; portrait and family photographs; photographs of persons prominent in the New York City social, literary, and theatrical fields. Many of these were taken at theater critic Alexander Woollcott's property at Lake Bomoseen in Vermont, and include Dorothy Parker, Vivien Leigh, Ethel Barrymore, and numerous others. Materials were maintained in the three series that Wood created: Series 1, People, Series 2, Places and Series 3, Subjects. The materials in each series are arranged in alphabetical order by Wood's folder titles.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: People, 1935-1960, undated

Series 2: Places, 1939-1978, undated

Series 3: Subjects, 1941, undated

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Celebrities -- 20th century  
Photographers -- New York

Names:

Abbott, George, 1887-1995  
Baragwanath, Jack

Barrett, Edith  
Barrymore, Ethel  
Borge, Victor  
Bowman, Patricia  
Brown, John Mason, 1900-1969  
Cassini, Igor, 1915-  
Castle, Irene, 1893-1969  
Cornell, Katharine, 1893-1974  
Coward, Noel, 1899-1973  
Dowling, Eddie  
Eckstein, Gustave  
Edmonds, Walter Dumaux, 1903-1998  
Fleischmann, Raoul L.  
Fontanne, Lynn  
Frost, Robert, 1874-1963  
Gordon, Ruth, 1896-  
Hart, Moss, 1904-1961  
Keller, Helen, 1880-1968  
Leigh, Vivien, 1913-1967  
Lunt, Alfred  
Martin, Mary, 1913-  
Marx, Harpo, 1888-1964  
McMein, Neysa  
Meade, Donald  
Miller, Alice Duer, 1874-1942  
Olivier, Laurence, 1907-1989  
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994  
Parker, Dorothy, 1893-1967  
Radziwill, Lee Bouvier, 1933-  
Rice, Grantland, 1880-1954  
Skinner, Cornelia Otis, 1901-  
Swope, Herbert Bayard, 1882-1958  
Woollcott, Alexander, 1887-1943

Places:

Vermont

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: People, 1935-1960, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Baraquanath, John (Jack), undated
Box 3	Barrett, Edith, 1939-02
Box 1, Folder 2	Boll, William, undated
Box 3	Borge, Victor, undated
Box 11, Folder 1	Bouvier, Jacqueline, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Bouvier, Jacqueline and Lee, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Bouvier, Jacqueline and Lee, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Bouvier, Jacqueline and Lee, undated
Box 3	Bouvier, Jacqueline and Lee, winter scene, undated
Box 11, Folder 2	Bouvier, Jacqueline and Lee, undated
Box 3	Bowman, Patricia, undated
Box 3	Brown, John Mason, 1939-09-09
Box 1, Folder 6	Bull, Howard Sr., undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Castle, Irene, undated
Box 3	Cohan, George and Peggy Conklin, 1939-10-23
Box 1, Folder 7	Cornell, Katharine, undated
Box 3	Cornell, Katharine, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Coward, Noel, undated
Box 3	de Konning, Willem, 1960
Box 1, Folder 10	Dietz, Howard, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Dowling, Eddie (Joseph Nelson Goucher), undated

Box 4	Eckstein, Gustav, 1936-11
Box 4	Eckstein, Gustav and canaries, 1942
Box 1, Folder 12	Eckstein, Gustav, undated
Box 4	Edmonds, Walter Dumaux, 1941-11-29
Box 1, Folder 13	Edmonds, Walter Dumaux, undated
Box 4	Edmonds, Walter Dumaux, Northland, Boonville, New York, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Emerson, Margaret, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Eustice, Grace, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Fleischman, Roaul, undated
Box 4	Fontanne, Lynn, 1935-08
Box 1, Folder 17	Fontanne, Lynn, undated
Box 4	Frank, Morris, 1938-04-16
Box 4	Franken, Rose, Redbook Magazine, 1943
Box 4	Frost, Robert, undated
Box 4	Gordon, Jones, 1937-11
Box 4	Gordon, Ruth, son, age 8, 1937-11-17
Box 4	Gordon, Ruth, son, 1937-12-09
Box 1, Folder 18	Gordon, Ruth, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Harriman [William Averell], undated
Box 5	Hayes, Helen and Gustav Eckstein, Hamilton College, New York, 1939-01
Box 1, Folder 20	Hennessey, Joseph, undated
Box 5	Herbert, Cooper, 1938-08
Box 5	Hill, George Washington, American Tobacco President, Fortune Magazine, 1936-10
Box 5	Hunter family, undated

Box 1, Folder 21	Kaufmann, Beatrice (Bea), undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Kaufmann, George S., undated
Box 5	Keller, Helen, 1954
Box 5	Keller, Helen, undated
Box 5	Knickerbocker, "Cholly", 1939-04-10
Box 1, Folder 23	Lederer, Charles, undated
Box 5	Lunt, Alfred, 1935-08
Box 1, Folder 24	Lunt, Alfred, undated
Box 5	Lunt, Alfred, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Lunt, Alfred and Lynn Fontanne, undated
Box 5	Lunt, Alfred and Lynn Fontanne, undated
Box 5	Lunt, Alfred and Lynn Fontanne, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Mann, William M., 1935
Box 6	Martin, Mary, glamour, 1939-11-14
Box 2, Folder 3	Marx, Arthur (Harpo), undated
Box 6	Marx, Harpo (Arthur) at Bomoseen, Vermont with Alice Duer Miller and Ethel Barrymore, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	McMein, Neysa, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Meade, Donald, 1940
Box 6	Meade, Donald, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Miller, Alice Duer, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Parker, Dorothy, undated
Box 7	Rice, Grantland, 1938-11-14
Box 2, Folder 8	Rodgers, Dorothy Feiner, undated
Box 7	Rogers, Richard, children, 1940-10-02



Box 7	Richard Rogers, Mrs. Rogers, and children, number 323, 1940-10-20
Box 2, Folder 9	Roosevelt, Eleanor Butler, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Roosevelt, Theodore Jr., undated
Box 7	Theodore Roosevelt Jr., undated
Box 7	Skinner, Cornelia, Cosmopolitan Magazine, 1940-01-20
Box 7	St. Vincent Millay, Edna, undated
Box 7	Stone, Edward, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Swope, Herbert B., Sr., undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Swope, Herbert B., Jr., undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Wilder, Thornton, undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Woollcott, Alexander, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Woollcott, Alexander, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Woollcott, Alexander, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Woollcott, Alexander, undated
Box 11, Folder 6	Woollcott, Alexander, undated
Box 7	Woollcott, Alexander and friends, undated
Box 11, Folder 7	Woollcott, Alexander and friends, undated
Box 11, Folder 3	Woollcott, Alexander and Gustav Eckstein, undated
Box 2, Folder 18	Woollcott, Alexander, Lake Bomoseen, undated
Box 11, Folder 4	Unidentified man, undated
Box 11, Folder 5	Unidentified men, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Places, 1939-1978, undated

Box 8	California, 1976
Box 11, Folder 9	Clinton, New York, Hamilton College, Edward Root house, undated
Box 8	Heinz, Pittsburgh, undated
Box 8	Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, circa 1938
Box 8	Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, 1939-09-07
Box 9	Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, winter scenes, 1941-01
Box 9	Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, undated
Box 11, Folder 8	Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, undated
Box 8	Ohio colleges, undated
Box 8	Sands Point, New York, croquet at Margaret Emerson's home, undated
Box 8	Sands Point, New York, croquet at Margaret Emerson's home, undated
Box 9	Vermont, 1978
Box 9	Alpo, Capri, and Pompeii, Italy, undated
Box 10	Coimbra, Portugal, undated
Box 9	Europe, undated
Box 9	Jamaica, undated
Box 9	Les Baux-de-Provence, France, undated
Box 10	Mexico, undated
Box 10	Salamanca, Spain, undated
Box 9	Sorbonne, Paris, France, undated
Box 9	Sorrento and Amalfi Coast, Italy, undated
Box 10	Wales, undated

Box 9

Unidentified garden outside city house, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 3: Subjects, 1941, undated

Box 2, Folder 22	Architecture, undated
Box 10	Brook's Tourney, Lake Bomoseen, Vermont, undated
Box 2, Folder 23	Dunes, undated
Box 2, Folder 19	Grounds, undated
Box 10	Here Come the Clowns, Eddie Dowling, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Houses, undated
Box 2, Folder 25	King Cort School (?), undated
Box 2, Folder 26	Landscapes, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	The Man Who Came to Dinner, undated
Box 10	The Man Who Came to Dinner, 1941-02-02
Box 2, Folder 20	Men, undated
Box 2, Folder 28	Military, undated
Box 2, Folder 29	Ocean, undated
Box 10	People, undated
Box 10	Seeing Eye, undated
Box 11, Folder 10	Seeing Eye, undated
Box 11, Folder 11	Seeing Eye, M. Frank and Dog, undated
Box 2, Folder 30	Still life , undated
Box 10	Theater, Here Come the Clowns, undated
Box 10	Three students on unidentified college campus, undated
Box 2, Folder 21	Women, undated
Box 2, Folder 31	Miscellaneous, undated
Box 10	Miscellaneous, undated

Box 10

Unidentified, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*