



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the A.R. Van Tassell Photograph Albums

NMAH.AC.1015

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	A.R. Van Tassell Photograph Albums
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1015
Date:	1900-1956.
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Source:	Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI Engineering and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI. Van Tassell, A.R. Jackson, Paul
Language:	English
Summary:	Photograph album documenting the work and life of A.R. Van Tassell, an engineer who worked on structures in Hawaii as well as the Panama Canal.
Digital Content:	Image(s): A.R. Van Tassell Photograph Albums

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated to the National Museum of American History's Division of Engineering and Industry by Paul Jackson, 1987.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Engineering and Industry in 2007.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

W. P. Stine Panama Canal Papers (NMAH.AC.1039)

John Frances Little Panama Canal Scrapbook Photograph Albums (NMAH.AC.0708)

Katherine Kingsford Panama Canal Photograph Album (NMAH.AC.1040)

Processing Information

Collection processed by Kiley Orchard (intern); supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons (archivist), 2008.

Preferred Citation

A.R. Van Tassell Photograph Album, 1900-1956, 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.

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 Note

In 1900, A.R. Van Tassell took his first engineering job in Honolulu, Hawaii at the age of seventeen. In 1902, he went to Mexico City to help build the Central Post Office. He also worked on the Panama Canal and was employed as an engineer during the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. He was married at least twice and had one daughter, Janet.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of two photograph albums documenting A.R. Van Tassell's engineering career and family life. The first album includes photographs that begin in 1900 and include images of buildings, structures, ships, harbors, a sugar factory, the Kilauea Volcano, mills, and the "Rainbow Bridge" near Hilo, which Van Tassell was involved in building. Other images feature Van Tassell's friends and family, as well as his wedding trip to Laredo, Texas. The album also contains photographs from Mexico City, Havana, and various travels in the United States. Van Tassell has included tickets from bull fights and musical programs in Mexico City. The photographs are captioned and dated. Three loose postcards found in this album have been placed in a folder. The second, smaller album consists of photographs taken of the Panama Canal.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series.

Series 1, Photograph Albums, 1900-1956

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Bridges -- Hawaii
Bullfights -- Mexico
Canals -- Panama
Castles -- Cuba
Engineers
Harbors -- Cuba
Harbors -- Hawaii
Hawaii -- Hawaii -- Hilo
Pyramids -- Mexico
Sugar -- Cuba
Sugar -- Hawaii

Types of Materials:

Photograph albums -- 20th century
Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 20th century

Names:

Engineering and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI.
Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

Geographic Names:

Cuba
Cuba -- Havana
Havana (Cuba)
Hawaii
Hawaii -- Oahu -- Honolulu
Hilo (Hawaii)
Honolulu (Hawaii)
Kilauea Volcano (Hawaii.)
Mexico
Panama
Panama Canal (Panama)

Container Listing

Series 1: Photograph Albums, 1900-1956

Box 1, Folder 1 Postcards, 1954, 1956, undated

Box 1, Folder 2 Panama Canal, undated

Box 1, Folder 3 Panama Canal, 1900-circa 1954

Post Office Job -- Mexico City 1902 [5 black-and-white photoprints on album page], 1902

1 Item (10" x 13".)

[Image\(s\): Post Office Job -- Mexico City 1902 \[5 black-and-white photoprints on album page\].](#)

Van Tassell, A.R., Collector

The photographs depict construction of a post office.

Box No. 1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1015-0000001.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Building
 Post office buildings

Place: Mexico -- 1900-1910
 Mexico City (Mexico)

Genre/
Form: Photographs -- 1890-1910 -- Black-and-white photoprints

Bull Fight Scenes Mexico City -- 1903 [hand-written title on page]. [Black-and-white photoprints on album page], 1903

1 Item (10" x 13".)

[Image\(s\): Bull Fight Scenes Mexico City -- 1903 \[hand-written title on page\]. \[Black-and-white photoprints on album page\].](#)

Van Tassell, A.R., Collector

Six prints mounted on page.

Box No. 1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1015-0000002.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Bullfighting -- Mexico -- 1900-1920.
Place: Mexico -- 1900-1910
Mexico City (Mexico)
Genre/
Form: Photographs -- 1890-1910 -- Black-and-white photoprints

[National Railroad Station, Bull Fighting ticket, etc.], 1903. [black-and-white photoprint and color print]

1 Item (10" x 13").

[Image\(s\): \[National Railroad Station, Bull Fighting ticket, etc.\], 1903. \[black-and-white photoprint and color print\].](#)

Van Tassell, A.R., Collector

A photograph and tickets, 1903.

Box No. 1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Silver gelatin and ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1015-0000003.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Bullfighting -- Mexico -- 1900-1920.
Railroad terminals
Genre/
Form: Photographs -- 1890-1910 -- Black-and-white photoprints
Place: Mexico -- 1900-1910

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