



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the W.A. Fishbaugh
Panama Canal Photograph Album

NMAH.AC.1021

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	W.A. Fishbaugh Panama Canal Photograph Album
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1021
Date:	1905-1908.
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	Hunt, Mary Alice Minear Hunt, George Laird Fishbaugh, William Arthur Engineering and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI. Minear, A. Bruce
Language:	English
Summary:	Photograph album of commercially-produced photographs of Panama Canal construction.
Digital Content:	Image(s): W.A. Fishbaugh Panama Canal Photograph Album
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated to the National Museum of American History's Division of the History of Science and Technology, Engineering and Industry Collections by Mary Alice Minear Hunt and George Laird Hunt, 1987.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of the History of Science and Technology, Engineering and Industry Collections. 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)

A.R. Van Tassell Photograph Albums (NMAH.AC.1015)

Processing Information

Processed by Kiley Orchard (intern), supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, 2008.

Preferred Citation

W.A. Fishbaugh Panama Canal Photograph Album, 1905-1908, 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

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Historical

On November 18, 1903, the United States and Panama negotiated the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, which granted the U.S. permission to construct a canal that would join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Construction for the Panama Canal began on May 4, 1904. The large workforce (at its highest population in 1913 it numbered 44,733 men, not including those sick, on leave, or otherwise absent) had a great impact on Panama. As there were not enough amenities to accommodate them when they arrived, they built entire communities, paved streets, improved communication systems, and installed water and sewage systems. Likewise, the railroad was improved for more efficient transportation of supplies, labor, food, and equipment. Much to the credit of Chief Sanitary Officer Dr. William Crawford Gorgas, yellow fever was completely eradicated on the Isthmus and malaria cases greatly reduced. Native villages and towns along the planned construction route were required to relocate.

The first self-propelled, ocean-bound vessel traveled on the canal on January 7, 1914, and the canal was formally opened in August of that year. The Panama Canal construction project was the most expensive construction project in U.S. history to that date, costing \$375,000,000.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a photograph album of 100 commercially produced views of Panama Canal construction. Also included are some views of life in the Canal Zone, including hospitals, villages, street scenes, jungles, cemeteries, animal life, and bullfights. The album was assembled by A. Bruce Minear, who was sent to Panama by President Theodore Roosevelt to develop the YMCA for the men working on the canal. Most photographs are captioned.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series.

Series 1, Photograph Album, 1905-1907

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Animals -- Panama
Bullfights
Canals -- Panama
Cemeteries -- Panama
Hospitals -- Panama
Jungles -- Panama
Streets -- Panama
Villages -- Panama

Types of Materials:

Photograph albums -- 20th century
Photographs -- 1900-1910

Names:

Engineering and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI.

Geographic Names:

Panama -- 1900-1910
Panama Canal (Panama)