



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.1021

Kiley Orchard

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	W. A. Fishbaugh Panama Canal Photograph Album
Date:	1905-1908.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1021
Creator:	Hunt, Mary Alice Minear Hunt, George Laird Fishbaugh, William Arthur Minear, A. Bruce
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Engineering and Industry
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
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.

Provenance

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

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

Processing Information

Processed by Kiley Orchard, intern, 2008; supervised by Vanessa Broussard- Simmons, archivist, 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 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 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.

Historical

On November 18, 1903, the United States and Panama negotiated the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, which granted the United States 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 United States history to that date, costing \$375,000,000.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a photograph album of one hundred 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:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Engineering and Industry

Places:

- Panama -- 1900-1910
- Panama Canal (Panama)